

St.Margaret's Cemetery Report TIRRA General Meeting Nov 15,2025

St. Margaret's Cemetery continues to fulfill its mission for the care and maintenance of the cemetery and to assist the bereaved at the time of interment.

This past summer saw the loss of several members of our community who supported the cemetery in different ways. Charlie and Marlene Fordham and Veronica Shelford. Charlie Fordham had been on the board of directors for the cemetery for a very long time. His generosity led to the donation by Capernwray Tournchbearers of a piece of land added to the old cemetery; he welcomed and supported requests the cemetery made to Capernwray such as placing a new entrance gate on their land. His knowledge and experience contributed to many decisions that the board had to make over the last few years. He always brought wit, intelligence and savour faire to our meetings. We are grateful for having had him with us all these years.

Veronica Shelford as an outstanding networker for communications on the island always supported the cemetery in whatever way she could but her most outstanding gift to us was to be her burial itself. Veronica was the first "official" natural burial on Thetis Island. As with all things first, there was much for us to negotiate in seeing to it that this burial went as beautifully as she deserved. And it did as the community turned out in full measure to celebrate and participate in her interment.

St. Margaret's is moving forward with its implementation of a natural burial practise. There has been a great deal of interest and support by the community for this.

Since spring we have had our annual general cleanup of the cemetery. In spring of 2026 we will begin a development project in the new undeveloped portion of the cemetery. In collaboration with Capernwray we will be cleaning out a huge patch of invasive Blackberries along the boundary between the two properties which are threatening to engulf the area. We will be setting up a meandering dry riverbed rain garden along the boundary between the two properties and re-naturalizing the area with native plants and grasses.

We remain grateful to Norm Kasting for cutting the grass and to TIRRA for their support. St.Margaret's is a registered charity. We welcome donations especially as we look forward to these development projects over the next few years.

Suzanne Sarioglu
Chair, St. Margaret's Cemetery