

## Inaugural Nundah Historic Cemetery Ghost Tour

Chairman:

Councillor FLESSER.

Councillor FLESSER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to talk about a blood curdling scream that came from the council's Nundah Historic Cemetery on Saturday night.

Now that I've got everyone's attention... Last Saturday night, of course, was Halloween. That was the night of the inaugural ghost tour of the council's Nundah Historic Cemetery. It was organised by the Nundah District Development Association. In particular, I'd like to thank Mrs Anne Reed, who did a lot of work towards the great night, towards the ghost tours night.

There were over 100 local residents who attended in three groups during the night. And it was conducted by Jack Sims Ghost Tours. I understand that these ghost tours are conducted in other Brisbane cemeteries. I think they're at Balmoral and Dutton Park. And it was a very, very successful evening.

The guides were very professional. They had really done their homework. They'd done a lot of research into the history of the Nundah Historic Cemetery. I know that they'd used a lot of the research that had been compiled by a local resident, Mr Joe Egan, a number of years ago.

We went around, looking at various gravesites and they did a very professional job at explaining the history of the cemetery. The cemetery started just after 1838, when Queensland's first free settlers arrived in Queensland. And they settled at Nundah, at Zion Hill, right next to where the cemetery is.

There's about 700 gravesites that are able to be seen today. But apparently about 4000 people have been buried there. And there are stories that the Turrbal people used the area for burials as well.

Many of the gravesites bear the names of very well known families in the Northgate ward. Local streets are named after people or families that have lived in the area all their lives and, of course, many of them have loved ones that were buried in the cemetery.

The night was very interesting. There were stories of murder, mayhem and mystery and even reported sightings of ghosts at the Nundah Cemetery. Of course, being Halloween night, it certainly added to the intrigue. I went on the 11 o'clock tour. And many of the 30 people that I was on the tour with, clearly felt a bit on edge as they quietly tiptoed between the gravesites and listened to the stories of the graves.

But onto the blood curdling scream.

I'd like councillors to picture this. It had just turned midnight. We were walking single file between some of the historical gravesites. Maybe we should turn off the lights in the Chamber? Each person had a small flashlight to guide their way. The fog was rising from the concrete pathways, as there'd been an earlier shower. And the full moon – full moon was directly overhead. But suddenly, it was darkened by a menacing cloud.

As we were walking through the graves, in single file, all of a sudden, towards the front of the tour group, there was a terrifying blood curdling scream. The hairs on the back of my neck stood up. Torches flashed in every direction. Some people didn't hold their nerve.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor FLESSER:

Some people didn't hold their nerve and they ran for their lives. But I was the local councillor. People on the tour knew I was the local councillor. I needed to show some leadership. I didn't believe in ghosts. I didn't believe in ghosts. I didn't want to squib it by running off into the distance. So I inched forward towards the small group of people who were just behind the tour guide, where the scream emanated from. And I thought to myself, I'm not scared of ghosts.

As I inched forward, I saw that there was a young woman standing there, in the group. She was petrified, shaking with fear. Why Madam Chair? Why was she standing there, petrified, shaking with fear?

Well...she had been bailed up by the largest toad that had ever escaped from the cane fields of North Queensland!

Chairman: Further general business