



The Place To Be

# Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR HEPBURN CEMETERY TRUSTS

Hepburn Shire's cemeteries are set to benefit from a \$72,000 Brumby Government funding boost Geoff Howard MP, member for Ballarat East announced today.

The Brumby Government has provided the money for maintenance grants to small and medium-sized Victorian cemetery trusts, Mr Howard said.

Mr Howard said ten cemetery trusts State-wide will share \$72,776 in grants, including Franklindon Cemetery Trust which received \$2450 for the construction of a niche wall for cremated remains.

"These grants are for small rural cemeteries with little maintenance money and will be used for essential items such as equipment, general upkeep, facility renovations, fencing and tree and weed control," Mr Howard said.

Mr Howard said other grants made to small rural cemeteries range from \$596 for the maintenance of a fence at Buangor Cemetery Trust to \$10,000 for Greta Cemetery Trust to build a new rotunda..

Mr Howard said these grants also recognise the voluntary contribution of cemetery trust members.

"The Government was able to meet the majority of requests for maintenance through these grants," he said.

Applications were assessed on the nature of works, the size and viability of the cemetery trust, whether it had received a grant in recent years and on other financial considerations.

Mr Howard said the grants would be particularly helpful to small historical cemeteries in areas where populations had declined and there were few new burials.

"These grants will help maintain the integrity and structure of cemeteries which are often used for genealogical and historical research.

"Currently there are 522 cemetery trusts throughout Victoria managing 564 public cemeteries," Mr Howard said.

"The Brumby Government values the contribution of the thousands of volunteer members of small rural cemeteries across Victoria."

In 2008 the Government took action to support and maintain small volunteer cemetery trusts and ensure that these organisations could continue their valuable work.

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