



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



JUNE 2024

James Richard Hill (1836-1898)

- Cemetery searches detailing the location of a grave of those interred in Waverley Cemetery and South Head General Cemetery can be found on the website.
- Waverley Cemeteries offers a service of grave planting sites with Gazania (prostrate ground cover with silver foliage and yellow flowers, as can be seen in banner). Contact Waverley Cemeteries office if you are interested in this and other services, such as annual maintenance of allotments.
- Waverley Cemeteries office is at the corner of Trafalgar Street and St Thomas Street, BRONTE NSW 2024
- P: (02) 9083 8899
F: (02) 9665 4785
Email: cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au



James Richard Hill, banker and financier, was born on 22 February 1836 in Sydney, the third of ten sons and one daughter of Richard Hill and his wife Henrietta, née Cox. He joined the Bank of New South Wales as a junior clerk on 23 May 1851 and worked at head office as clerk, ledger-keeper and teller until October 1856 when he took charge of the bank's agency at the Rocky River diggings near Armidale. In November 1857 he became manager in Tamworth and next August was transferred to the branch at Tarrangower (Maldon), Victoria.

In February 1862 he went to Dunedin, New Zealand, as superintendent of the bank's gold-buying agencies in Otago and in September became manager at Christchurch. In 1868 he was appointed



inspector for New South Wales and in 1870 investigated irregularities in New Zealand where in 1871 he became inspector. Finding the bank's affairs in a sorry state, Hill energetically worked to restore the position. His letters revealed him as touchy, cautious, hard-working and likeable, but his temper was fierce as recalcitrant branch managers discovered.

A hypochondriac prone to accident, he was thrown on his head from a Cobb & Co. coach, bitten by the only venomous creature in New Zealand and worked himself almost to a

breakdown in the 1870s. In the 1879 financial crisis he wrote to the general manager, Shepherd Smith, that 'downright hard work and the worry and anxiety which have accompanied it, have had a most telling effect on me ... it has aged me before my time', and sought permission to retire. However, he stayed on until 1882 when he took eighteen months' leave. He resigned in 1884 and went to Sydney to assume charge of the Wentworth and Cooper estates, to whose owners he was connected by marriage.

In 1886 Hill became a director of the bank and in 1894 was elected its first president to have

risen from junior clerk. Widely recognized as a shrewd financier, he was deputy-chairman of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, a director of Tooth's brewery, manager of the Australian interests of (Sir) Robert Tooth, a member of the Union Club and in 1884 a commissioner of fisheries.

Active in public charity, he was a director of Sydney Hospital and of the Aborigines Protection Association.

He died after a lingering illness at Vaucluse on 23 August 1898 and was buried in the family vault in the Anglican section of Waverley Cemetery. His will was sworn at under £11,000.

At St Michael's Church, Sydney, he had married on 9 February 1867 his cousin Sophia Helena, eldest daughter of George Hill. His wife and daughter survived him.

His funeral service was an elaborate affair by any accounts and in the style of the day the newspaper report listed not only the chief mourners but also notable attendees at the grave side service and the names of those who sent floral tributes.

(See Trove link below)

Citations

G. P. Walsh, 'Hill, James Richard (1836–1898)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hill-james-richard-494/text5949>, published first in hardcopy 1972, accessed online 26 May 2024.

[26 Aug 1898 - THE LATE MR. J. R. HILL - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

Take a tour

General History Tours A, B, C & D are held on Saturdays

01 June @ 09.00am (Greg) D
08 June @ 10.00am (Greg) A
15 June @ 09.00am (David) B
22 June @ 09.00am (Andrew) C
29 June @ 09.00am (Maggie) D

06 July @ 09.00am (Greg) A
13 July @ 09.00am (Greg) B
.....20 July @ 09.00am (David) C
.....25 July @ 09.00am (Andrew) D

Bookings for tours are essential.

Book through Eventbrite for
Waverley Cemetery's Saturday
Tours

[A Walking History Tour of
Waverley Cemetery gives a
glimpse into the past. Tickets,
Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)



Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

If you would like to become a Friend you are encouraged to contact the group through its email which is friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com

Members of the Friends' group are involved in leading tours, weeding and/or adopting graves, researching individuals interred in the cemetery or are involved in a major project to photograph every headstone in the cemetery.

To visit the FoWC Face Book Page which is updated every few days, go to <https://www.facebook.com/FoWCBronteNSW2024>

If you are interested in taking a midweek tour please email and we will attempt accommodate your request.

Probus Clubs and the like can be accommodated.

Gregory Ross President/Secretary

