

- Draft History -

Mt Thompson Crematorium/former Brisbane Crematorium

The former Brisbane Crematorium at Nursery Road, Holland Park, comprising a brick chapel, mortuary, retort room, offices, columbarium garden, caretaker's house and landscaped gardens, was designed by Melbourne architects, Charles and Frank Heath and executed by Addison and Macdonald architects. It opened on 10 September 1934 as Queensland's first crematorium and incorporates artwork by noted Queensland sculptor Daphne Mayo.

Although cremation has been used for the disposal of the dead in many societies for millennia, its use in the Western world, dates from the second half of the nineteenth century. Before it was accepted as an appropriate means of disposal of the dead, theological arguments and tradition needed to be overcome. An early step in this process was the exhibition of a cremation chamber at the Vienna Exposition in 1873. In the following year the Cremation Society of England was formed by Queen Victoria's surgeon and other medical practitioners. Subsequently, the first crematoria were built in 1878 at Woking in England and Gotha in Germany. However, the first cremation in Britain in this period took place in 1884 when William Price cremated his son's body and subsequently won a court case establishing cremation as legal. Woking Crematorium conducted its first cremation on 26 March 1886.¹

In Australia, the cremation movement began in the late nineteenth century but only slowly gained favour. It campaigned for cremation on the basis of public health benefits, and economic and aesthetic grounds. In 1891 South Australia became the first colony to legalise cremation. It is claimed that South Australia was also the first colony to build a crematorium – at West Terrace Cemetery in 1903 – but a crematorium was built in 1892, for quarantine purposes, as part of the Point Nepean Defence and Quarantine Precinct in Victoria.² Nevertheless, the states were slow to follow with legislation for, and building of, crematoria not related to disease control. In Victoria a cremation bill was passed in 1903 formalising and regulating the practice and limiting it to approved cemeteries; however a crematorium did not follow quickly. In New South Wales a cremation bill was passed in 1925 and Rookwood Crematorium opened in the same year.³

In Queensland, interest in cremation was aroused after the outbreak of plague in the Brisbane in 1900. This occurrence focused attention on public health issues and resulted in Queensland's *Public Health Act 1902*. The cause was taken up by Brisbane physician Dr William Taylor, MLC who became a strong advocate. In 1912 he introduced his own Cremation Bill to the Legislative Council. This bill, closely based on the South Australian Act, was passed by both houses of parliament and received the Governor's assent on 14 November 1913.⁴

A crematorium in Queensland did not quickly follow. The outbreak of World War I reduced its priority for the government and the expense of building one under the terms of the Act was too large for any cemetery authority.

Consequently, the cremationists began to organise themselves in a similar manner to their interstate colleagues by forming the Brisbane Cremation Association, which held a preliminary meeting on 29 April 1915. This organisation comprised influential people: politicians, doctors, engineers and members of the Theosophical and Rationalist Societies, and the Modernist Association. Their arguments for cremation were based on economics (earth burial wasted good land and had high maintenance costs); sanitary issues (burial could lead to contamination, while cremation was clean); and that sentiment was insufficient reason to favour burial over cremation. They quoted scientific evidence and cremation statistics in their argument.⁵

Although the Brisbane City Council decided in 1925 to establish a crematorium for Brisbane, it took nearly nine years to find a suitable site. Eighteen months after the Cremation Society approached the city council it approved Anzac Park, Toowong as the site of the future crematorium. However, this site was not approved by the state government. It was then suggested that land be made available in Toowong cemetery, but this was not favoured by residents nearby. The Cremation Society then applied for two acres on the apex of the hill in Balmoral Recreation Reserve a few chains from the boundary of the Bulimba and Balmoral Cemetery. This also met with protest. In 1932 the Brisbane Crematorium Limited⁶ applied for a lease over a site in Lutwyche Cemetery. Residents objected strongly as the cemetery would be closing soon and people had built in the area on that basis. The site was approved by the BCC on 15 November 1932, however, it had no authority to grant any public land to a private company for such a purpose.⁷ Finally, on 25 October 1933, the Brisbane Courier announced that the Brisbane Crematorium Limited had chosen a site facing Nursery Road at Mt Thompson. It was situated 'past the old German Bridge Hotel'.⁸ The proposed building would be set back 327 feet [99.67 m] from the road, on foundations excavated into the hill. The contract for the excavations would include the construction of a road around an oval to permit one-way traffic.⁹

Architects Charles and Frank Heath of Melbourne, in conjunction with GHM Addison and Son and HS Macdonald, Brisbane architects, prepared plans and specifications for the crematorium.¹⁰

The long-anticipated crematorium development featured regularly and extensively in Brisbane's major newspaper. In January 1934 the Brisbane Courier related that construction of the crematorium would begin immediately and that 'it will be a prominent and picturesque landmark [which] serves to emphasise the fact that the architecture of crematoria throughout the world frequently is noted for distinctiveness and invariably for charm'.¹¹ The following month a line drawing of the Brisbane Crematorium with a description of the building was published. The crematorium building was to be:

a brick structure, with porphyry stone base and facings of modern design, and would comprise chapel, mortuary, retort room, office, minister's room, columbarium garden, and all the usual offices. An imposing portico flanked by sandstone pillars will give access to the chapel off which is the mortuary and behind which will be the retort room. The chapel is designed to suit our climatic conditions, with large arched openings overlooking the columbarium garden. The walls of the chapel are to be lined to a height of 7ft [2.1m] with Queensland marble in black and dove grey tones. The floor is designed in Terrazzo with marble surrounds. A flight of two marble steps gives access from the chapel to the chancel, in which a handsome marble catafalque¹² will be built to receive the coffin. At the conclusion of the service the coffin will be conveyed automatically and silently from the catafalque through a curtained recess by means of an automatic conveyor to the retort room. The main feature of the chapel will be a mural decoration, 10ft high and 5ft wide [3m x 1.5m], built into the wall over the catafalque. This painting, representing the awakening from death, will be executed by Mr W[illiam] Bustard, Brisbane's well-known artist [entitled "Lifting the Veil of Convention"].¹³

The columbarium garden would be an Italian garden with a lily pond and fountain at one end surmounted by a sculptured figure.¹⁴

The exterior of the building was to have: '...dignified proportions without any undue ornamentation. The central feature of the front elevation is the stone portico, which is flanked on each side by two sculptured stone figures [by Daphne Mayo], which are to be carved in relief and are to be full size.... Imposing stairs will give access to the portico. The roof is to be covered with red terracotta tiles which will form a pleasant contrast to the brickwork of the building, which will have an imposing appearance.'¹⁵

Several methods of retaining the ashes of the departed were proposed. They 'may be sealed in a rustless container and placed in a niche in the wall of the "Garden of Remembrance", remaining there forever, securely cemented into the wall. Each of these niches will bear a bronze plate with the name and other particulars. Or they may be deposited in a decorative urn placed in a niche in the Columbarium. Another method available will be to bury the ashes beneath a memorial tree in the "Garden of Remembrance". This garden, which surrounds the crematorium, will be enhanced by fountains, fish ponds, statuary, memorial avenues, together with flower beds.¹⁶

Ten days later the *Morning Bulletin* stated that preparation of the site and formation of roadways had been completed. Architects, Addison and Macdonald, had contracted the Marberete Co Ltd to erect the crematorium building, which would be completed by May.¹⁷

Issuing of the company's licence was approved by the Executive Council of the Queensland Government in February 1934. It also approved regulations made under the Cremation Act and by-laws including the scale of fees applicable for the new crematorium. The regulations required that every crematorium be in good working order, be provided with a sufficient number of attendants and be kept constantly in a clean and orderly condition. A crematorium could be closed by order of the cremation authority on one month's notice.¹⁸

The interior and decoration of the Crematorium chapel was carefully described in June by *The Courier-Mail* mainly repeating its earlier description but adding some details.

The building, which is of artistic design, will be a landmark of the district. A notable feature...is ... the chapel, which internally has a height of 22ft [6.6 m].... the marble [of the chapel's dado and floor] is being obtained from newly-opened quarries at Texas.... From this beautiful building, leadlight doors will lead to the columbarium garden, overlooking a lily-pond, at the end of which will be a sculptured figure of a boy, symbolic of Eternal Youth. This figure and two handsome stone reliefs on the front façade, to symbolise the survival of the spirit after death, are the work of the well-known Brisbane sculptress, Miss Daphne Mayo.... the crematorium buildings, carried out in brick, have porphyry facings.

Crude oil burning furnaces were installed by local manufacturer Evans Deakin and Co Ltd, engineers, and the heat generated by them could consume a body within 20 minutes.¹⁹ The grounds of the crematorium comprised 10 acres, laid out in gardens and sweeping drives. Within the grounds, a brick caretaker residence, built by Marberete Co Ltd and designed to harmonise with the architecture of the crematorium building, was erected in 1934.²⁰

In September, Winifred Moore, writer of 'The Women's World' section of *The Courier Mail* wrote an evocative article about the Brisbane Crematorium artwork when the building was approaching completion, saying there was a general impression of tranquillity created by the crematorium's simple design and that the natural setting was heightened by the silence. She went on to praise the setting and sculptures by Daphne Mayo:

Noon was approaching as we stood on the high, levelled ramp in front of the main entrance, and in a fresh westerly breeze the light filmy clouds sailed in a tender blue sky above the roof of the building. Lit by the September sunshine, every detail of the sculptured figures empanelled on either side of the entrance stood out clearly, the modelling of heads, limbs and bodies showing more distinctly for the fine shadows which filled the curves and hollows. On the left hand, a drooping figure with head bowed in the curved arm is the personification of Grief, while on the right, another figure with uplifted gaze, and attitude of eager expectancy, clearly signifies Hope.²¹

Mayo also sculptured a figure of a boy, 'sowing the seed' - symbolic of Eternal Youth, which was located in the columbarium.²²

Daphne Mayo (1895-1982) has been acknowledged as Australia's leading woman sculptor of the mid-20th century and as one of Australia's most important sculptors, particularly for her

large monumental works in Brisbane during the 1920s and 1930s. Her career spanned 50 years and produced over 200 sculptural works. She undertook commissions around Australia and had works acquired by public collections. She also exhibited widely and received awards for her work.²³

Mayo's return to Brisbane after six years studying sculpture in Europe coincided with the formation of Greater Brisbane, which created one of the world's largest municipalities and brought the city new prestige and wealth. A building boom was underway as the city was transforming *into a worthy capital*. For a decade from 1925 Mayo was busy with public and private commissions. These works included a bust of Sir Matthew Nathan, former Governor of Queensland (1920-5); a frieze and pilaster capitals for the new Tattersall's Club; the Brisbane City Hall tympanum; a tympanum and stations of the cross for the Church of the Holy Spirit, New Farm; the Queensland Women's War Memorial; stations of the cross for All Saints' Church, Brisbane; the Robert Travers Atkin Memorial lunettes²⁴ for St Margaret's Church, Sandgate; as well as the relief panels for the Brisbane Crematorium undertaken in 1934. She also completed commissions for works in other states: the Godfrey Rivers Memorial and statues of St Monica and St Anne for St David's Cathedral, Hobart; and bronze doors for the Public Library of New South Wales.²⁵

On 7 September 1934 the Brisbane Crematorium was reported as completed and about to be handed over by the contractors. Its 'total cost was just over £16,000 and nothing had been spared to give it that dignity which one expects from a place which will have hallowed associations for persons whose relatives find their last resting place in the Columbarium or the Wall of Memories, where the urns containing their ashes are deposited.'²⁶ *The Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson, inspected the Crematorium 'and was welcomed by officials who presented to him Miss Daphne Mayo, ... the architects, Messrs Addison and MacDonald and the manager for the Contractors, Mr F Freeman. The Governor was impressed with the beauty of the appointments.'*²⁷

The first two cremations took place on 11 September 1934 and were reported widely by the Queensland press.²⁸

The Brisbane Crematorium (known from 1934 as the Mt Thompson Crematorium) was immediately a success. In the first year of the company's operations there were 261 cremations, which were claimed to constitute a world record for the first year at any crematorium.²⁹ At the first annual meeting of the company the Chairman (Mr TL Jones) said that cremation was a much-needed reform, as shown by comparing the Sydney and Melbourne figures during their initial months with those of Brisbane. A total of 32 cremations were carried out at Mt Thompson in the first two months, which was the total for Melbourne's first seven months of operation in 1927. Sydney performed 58 cremations in its first 8 months, the monthly averages thus being: Brisbane 16; Sydney 7; and Melbourne 4.5.³⁰

Its early success was reflected by further building. In May 1936 a columbarium wall, to house approximately 3000 funeral urns containing the ashes of the dead, was erected. The wall – 132 feet in length and 15 feet in height [40.23m x 4.57m] – was of reinforced concrete and stone. A central arch in the wall led to terraced lawns in front of the entrance to the crematorium. The architects were again Addison and Macdonald, and the contractor was the Marberete Co. Ltd.³¹

In the following years the Mt Thompson Crematorium experienced further growth. It reached 1000 cremations on 9 May 1937.³² The directors reported satisfactory operations and financial returns. By the completion of the year ending 30 June 1937 the company had a paid capital of £6000 and assets of £25,516.³³ Again, in 1940 an increase in cremations over the previous five years was reported: the proportion of cremations to deaths in the Greater Brisbane area grew from 9% to 23%.³⁴ Total cremations increased by 171 during the year 1939-40 to 1063.³⁵

The percentage of cremations to deaths in the Greater Brisbane area increased from 25% to 27% in the year 1940-41'.³⁶ This trend continued to the point where in 1951-2 'Queensland had the highest proportion of cremations in the Western world.... About 25% of people who died in Queensland each year were cremated. Denmark was the next highest, with 23% and the UK next with nearly 20%. About 45% of those dying in the Brisbane metropolitan area were cremated'.³⁷ This amounted to over 2500 cremations at the Mt Thompson Crematorium per annum by 1951-2.³⁸ By the 1960s cremation in the Brisbane Registry District comprised over 52% of deaths.³⁹

The growing popularity of cremation resulted in more cremation facilities to meet demand in Brisbane and throughout Queensland over the ensuing decades. As early as 1937 the Brisbane Crematorium Ltd purchased a second site for a crematorium, of 10 acres, on the north-side of Brisbane off Rode Road between Nundah and Chermside, for possible future needs. It expected to build another crematorium there in two-three years' time.⁴⁰ However, the project did not proceed at this site. In October 1940, Mr TL Jones, company chairman, said it would soon be necessary to consider building a second chapel at Mt Thompson or establishing a second crematorium.⁴¹ Rather than build another crematorium, the company purchased 19 suburban lots adjacent to the crematorium site, fronting Crest Street and Nursery Road, between 1952 and 1960, for expansion. This land was used for additional memorial walls, car park and gardens. A second chapel was also built at the Mt Thompson site. This was designed by renowned Brisbane architect, Karl Langer, and opened in 1962.⁴² The company later opened its second crematorium at Albany Creek in 1964.

Other cities in Queensland had followed Brisbane in building crematoria. The state's second facility opened at Rockhampton in 1948, followed by Mackay and Townsville in the 1950s.⁴³ Similarly, in the 1950s the Brisbane City Council considered establishing a council-owned crematorium, as it believed Brisbane needed a second crematorium due to its growing population and the increasing popularity of cremation. It favoured a northern suburbs site. Consequently, provision was made for a 170 acre cemetery at Chermside-Aspley.⁴⁴ However, it was not until 1962 that the Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery opened at Bridgeman Downs on Brisbane's north-side, becoming the second crematorium in south-east Queensland.⁴⁵ Mt Gravatt Crematorium, also operated by the Brisbane City Council, dates from 1999.⁴⁶

In 2001, of the 128,500 people who died in Australia, 54% were cremated. Around the world, the percentage of the population cremated were: United Kingdom – 70.7%; United States of America – 27.12%; Japan – 99.41%; Italy – 6.62%; Ireland – 5.4% (estimate only); and Ghana – 1.78%.⁴⁷ In urban areas like Brisbane, the figure is almost 70%. In 2014 there are seven crematoria operating in Brisbane and a total of 27 in Queensland.⁴⁸

The Brisbane Crematorium Ltd owned and operated the Mt Thompson Crematorium until 1993 when it was sold to Service Corporation International Australia Pty Ltd (SCIA). Its parent company, Service Corporation International (SCI), founded in 1962 by funeral director, Robert L Waltrip, was North America's largest provider of funeral and cemetery services in 2010. In 1993, the Company expanded outside North American by acquiring 'major death care companies' in Australia, the United Kingdom and France, and smaller holdings in other European countries and South America; including the Mt Thompson Crematorium. At the end of 1999, its global network comprised more than 4,500 funeral service locations, cemeteries and crematories in 20 countries.⁴⁹ In 2001 an investor syndicated led by the Macquarie Bank organised a 'joint venture transaction' of SCIA's operations acquiring 80% of the parent company, SCI. By late 2003, InvoCare Ltd, created through this corporate partnership was trading on the Australian Stock Exchange.⁵⁰ In this manner, InvoCare became the owner of the former Mt Thompson Crematorium (now Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens and Crematorium).

Refurbishment and extension of the Mt Thompson Crematorium has taken place periodically. In 1971, the Langer-designed Mt Thompson East Chapel was resurfaced and the exterior of the West Chapel repainted. The gardens have been maintained and improved, but not expanded.⁵¹ On 6 February 2008 Mt Thompson's West Chapel was officially re-opened after refurbishment. One article stated that the 'five month renovation successfully captured the original essence of the chapel's heritage, and returned to the Brisbane community a chapel that is a beautiful and calming place to visit with an authentic, historic ambience'.⁵² A replica of William Bustard's original mural 'Lifting the Veil of Convention' produced by Queensland-based studio artist Scott Christensen was installed as part of this refurbishment.⁵³

Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens and Crematorium celebrated its 75th Anniversary with an open day on 4 September 2009. Community leaders including Brisbane City Council members, clergy and RSL representatives were invited to celebrate with a service in the West Chapel followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens War Memorial. A classic car display, reminiscent of the era in which the park opened, was held and tours of the gardens and crematorium were conducted.⁵⁴

The former Brisbane Crematorium continues to operate in 2014 as the Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens and Crematorium. It is a place of social significance for many residents of Brisbane and south-east Queensland for whom it is the last resting place of family and friends.

¹ 'History of Cremation', www.crematorium.eu, Information about crematoria/crematorium in Europe. Accessed 24 Apr 2012; 'William Price (physician)', [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Price_\(physician\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Price_(physician)) accessed Aug 2012.

² 'Disposing of the dead-Cremation'. Australian Museum website. <[www.australianmuseum.net.au/Disposing of the dead-Cremation](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/Disposing_of_the_dead-Cremation)> accessed 19 Apr 2012; Point Nepean Defence and Quarantine Precinct, http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/#detail_places:3256 accessed 24 Apr 2012.

³ 'Disposing of the Dead – Cremation', <[www.australianmuseum.net.au/Disposing of the dead-Cremation](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/Disposing_of_the_dead-Cremation)> accessed 19 Apr 2012.

⁴ 'History of Cremation'; Nicol, *A Grave and Burning Question: A Centenary History of Cremation in Australia*, Adelaide Cemeteries Authority, Adelaide, 2003, pp. 169-171; Brisbane Crematorium, *Cremation: A Handbook of Information*, Brisbane, 1934, pp. 2-5.

⁵ Nicol, *A Grave and Burning Question*, pp. 171-2.

⁶ The Brisbane Crematorium Limited, was formed with a nominal capital of £20,000. Its shareholders from 22 September 1933 were Thomas Llewellyn Jones (50 shares), Maurice Stanley Herring (50 shares), William Nathaniel Robertson (50 shares), Wilfred Manning Hall (1 share), Charles Herbert Briggs (1 share), Robert Harold Cummings (1 share), George Alan Stewart Given (1 share). The first directors were Messrs. TL Jones (chairman) WM. L'Estrange, MS Herring and Dr WN Robertson with Mr W Morris as the secretary. Source: Brisbane Crematorium Ltd. *Cremation: A Handbook of Information*, p. 6 citing The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Brisbane Crematorium Ltd (22 Sep 1933); Brisbane Courier, 9 Feb 1934, p. 4.

⁷ Brisbane Courier: 2 Feb 1927, pp. 14-5; 15 Nov 1927, p.12; 29 Nov 1927, p.20; 17 Apr 1928, p. 13; 25 April 1928, p. 5; 23 June 1932, p.10; 16 Nov 1932, p. 5; 11 Mar 1933, p. 9; 3 June 1933, p. 5.

⁸ Brisbane Courier, 30 Oct 1933, p. 12.

⁹ Brisbane Courier, 30 Oct 1933, p. 12.

¹⁰ Brisbane Courier, 30 Oct 1933, p. 12.

¹¹ Brisbane Courier, 5 Jan 1934, p. 5.

¹² A catafalque is a decorated platform or framework on which a coffin rests in state during a funeral. <The Free Dictionary.com>, accessed 5 Sep 13.

¹³ Brisbane Courier, 9 Feb 1934, p. 4.

¹⁴ Brisbane Courier, 9 Feb 1934, p. 4.

¹⁵ Brisbane Courier, 9 Feb 1934, p. 4.

¹⁶ Brisbane Courier, 9 Feb 1934, p. 4.

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- ¹⁷ Morning Bulletin, 19 Feb 1934, p. 5.
- ¹⁸ Brisbane Courier, 23 Feb 1934, p. 17; *CM*, 23 Feb 1934, p.17.
- ¹⁹ Courier Mail, 29 June 1934, p. 21.
- ²⁰ Courier Mail, 22 June 1934, p. 23; *CM*, 29 June 1934, p. 21.
- ²¹ Courier Mail, 6 Sep 1934, p. 20.
- ²² 'Daphne Mayo, Sculpture Trail, Brisbane suburbs', Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art flyer, 2012.
- ²³ Judith McKay, *Daphne Mayo: Let there be Sculpture*. Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, (Qld Govt): Brisbane, 2011, p. 17; The Daphne Mayo Collection, <www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/mayo>, accessed 18 April 2012.
- ²⁴ In architecture, a lunette (French *lunette*, "little moon") is a half-moon shaped space, either filled with recessed masonry or void. A lunette is formed when a horizontal [cornice](#) transects a round-headed [arch](#) at the level of the impost, where the arch springs. If a door is set within a round-headed arch, the space within the arch above the door, masonry or glass, is a lunette. If the door is a major access, and the lunette above is massive and deeply set, it may be called a [tympanum](#). ['Lunette' <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunette>> accessed 3 May 2012.]
- ²⁵ "A Significant Woman of her Time...", The Daphne Mayo Collection, pp, 19-23, <www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/mayo>, accessed 18 April 2012.
- ²⁶ Morning Bulletin, 7 Sep 1934, p. 12.
- ²⁷ Courier Mail, 8-9 September 1934; *BC*, 11 Sep 1934, p. 14.
- ²⁸ Courier Mail, 10 Sep 1934, p. 12; 11 Sep 1934, p. 14; 12 Sep 1934, p. 20; Sydney Morning Herald 10 Sep 1934, p. 11; Northern Miner (Charters Towers), 12 Sep 1934, p. 2; Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton), 12 Sep 1934, p. 7; Central Queensland Herald, 13 Sep 1934, p. 31; Queensland Times, 12 Sep 1934, p. 6; The West Australian, 10 Sep 1934, p. 15; The Argus (Melbourne), 10 Sep 1934, p. 10, Cairns Post: 10 Sep 1934, p. 6; 12 Sep 1934, p. 6; Townsville Daily Bulletin, 12 Sep 1934, p. 6; Worker, 19 Sep 1934, p. 6.
- ²⁹ 'First Year of Cremation – World's Record Claimed.' Courier Mail, 12 Sep 1935, p. 12; Courier Mail, 30 Aug 1934, p. 16.
- ³⁰ Courier Mail 13 Nov 1934, p. 17.
- ³¹ 'Columbarium Wall at Crematorium – Niches for 3,000 Urns', *CM*, 19 May 1936, p. 23.
- ³² *Cairns Post*, 11 May 1937, p. 5.
- ³³ Brisbane Crematorium Results', Courier Mail, 23 Sep 1937, p. 7.
- ³⁴ 'Cremations Increase', Courier Mail, 15 Oct 1940, p. 3.
- ³⁵ Courier Mail, 11 Oct 1941, p. 6.
- ³⁶ 'Cremation Increase', Courier Mail 21 Oct 1941, p. 8.
- ³⁷ 'Queensland's 25 pc Cremation "Highest in West"', Courier Mail, 22 Aug 1953, p. 3.
- ³⁸ 'Queensland's 25 pc Cremation "Highest in West"', Courier Mail, 22 Aug 1953, p. 3.
- ³⁹ Brisbane Crematorium Ltd, Directors' Report for 1970/71.
- ⁴⁰ 'Bought for Future Needs – New Crematorium Site' Courier Mail, 29 June 1937, p. 13.
- ⁴¹ 'Cremations Increase', Courier Mail 15 Oct 1940, p. 3.
- ⁴² Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation - Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens & Crematorium: West Chapel, Columbarium No 1 & Area No 1, Columbarium No 2 & stairs, 1 & Area No 1, Columbarium No 2 & stairs, 1946 Entrance road, 2 concrete storage bays <www.heritage.brisbane.qld.gov.au/heritage_register> accessed 24 Apr 2012.
- ⁴³ Courier-Mail, 7 June 1948, p. 3; The Northern Miner, 8 Sep 1948, p. 2; Townsville Daily Bulletin, 25 Jun 1949, p.5; Central Queensland Herald, 30 Aug 1951, p.19; Cairns Post, 1 June 1953, p. 3.
- ⁴⁴ 'Council may establish crematorium', Courier Mail, 27 Aug 1953, p. 3.
- ⁴⁵ Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium, <<http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-and-venues/cemeteries/pinnaroo-cemetery-and-crematorium/index.htm>>, accessed 6 June 2012
- ⁴⁶ 'BCC Mt Gravatt Cemetery and Crematorium', <<http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-and-venues/cemeteries/mount-gravatt-cemetery-and-crematorium/index.htm>>, accessed 3 September 2013.
- ⁴⁷ Source: Pharos International – Winter 2002 'International Cremation Statistics' (based on 2001 figures) cited by Disposing of the dead – Cremation – Australian Museum.
- ⁴⁸ 'Crematorium', www.whitepages.com.au accessed 5 June 2012; 'Cremation explained', <www.mtthompsoncrem.com.au/driver.asp?page=our+services/understanding+the+cremation+proce>

ss> accessed 18 April 2012; 'Anton Brown Funerals',
<<http://www.antonbrownfunerals.com.au/cemet.htm>> accessed 5 June 2012.

⁴⁹ Service Corporation International history, <<http://www.sci-corp.com/SCICORP/History.aspx?alias=0103>> accessed 6 February 2014.

⁵⁰ Service Corporation International – History. <www.sci-corp/SCICORP/History.aspx?alia+0103> accessed 6 Feb 2014; DNRM, Titles; Drew Cottle and Angela Keys, 'The Monopolisation of the Australian Funeral Industry?', *Journal of Australian Political Economy*, 54, p. 40.
<http://media.wix.com/ugd/b629ee_86642c07340b3e5b5e512d64dc8eb06a.pdf> accessed 6 February 2014.

⁵¹ Brisbane Crematorium Ltd, Directors' Report for 1970/71.

⁵² 'Mt Thompson's West Chapel Re-Opens Her Doors', *Involve INVO*, issue 13 May 2008, p. 10.

⁵³ 'Mt Thompson's West Chapel Re-Opens Her Doors', *Involve INVO*, issue 13 May 2008, p. 10.

⁵⁴ www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/mt-thompson-75th-anniversary-open-day accessed 3 May 2012.