



# *Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors*

1853 - 2003

# 150

YEARS

SERVING THE BENDIGO COMMUNITY

MULQUEEN & SONS

Mulqueen Family  
Bendigo & District Funeral Services

# Foresight

## pre - paid funeral plan

### **Pre-paid funerals**

Many people are choosing to, either pre-pay, or pre-arrange their funerals as a means of ensuring that they have the type of funeral they want, while at the same time, removing the stress of decision making often left to family members or executors.

Pre-paid funerals give peace of mind

Pre-paid funerals offer peace of mind: the knowledge that all funeral arrangements have been written down, and the costs have been specified, and when paid are guaranteed.

### **Security**

When you arrange a pre-paid funeral with the Mulqueen Family, your funds are placed in a capital guaranteed Funeral Bond. Our 'Foresight Pre-paid Funeral Plan' is fully guaranteed and one of regional Victoria's largest pre-paid funeral plans.

### **What do I need to know?**

Funeral companies vary in the way they have set up their pre-paid funeral systems and as with many things, some are better than others. You should check them thoroughly by asking the following questions.

- Are your funds lodged in a Friendly Society Funeral Bond?
- Do you receive a copy of the Bond Certificate, numbered and in your name?

- Are the funds protected by the institution ensuring that no one (not even the funeral director) can obtain the funds until the time of death?
- Does the financial institution protect your funds in the event of your funeral director ceasing to operate?
- Is the fund exempt from taxation under the Income Tax Assessment Act?
- Is the fund approved by Centrelink as an exempt fund for the purposes of the Assets Test, Income Test and Deeming Provisions?
- Do you receive a written contract setting out all arrangements and guaranteeing they will be carried out without additional cost to you, your estate or your family?  
(Government Taxes and Charges excluded)
- Is your funeral director long established, reputable and highly regarded in your community?
- Does your estate or family receive any surplus funds not required for the conduct of your funeral arrangements as set out in the contract?
- Is your funeral director conversant with the laws governing pre-paid funerals?
  - Funerals (pre-paid money) Act 1993
  - GST laws relevant to pre-paid funerals.

At Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors the answer is 'yes' to all these questions, giving you peace of mind and the knowledge that everything will be taken care of as you would like and expect.



**Mulqueen Family**  
*Funeral Directors Since 1853*

Free Call 1800 300 445 15-25 Bridge St. Bendigo [www.mulqueen.com.au](http://www.mulqueen.com.au)

Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors is a 100% Australian owned family company  
Member: National Funeral Directors Association of Australia (NFDA), Victorian Independent Funeral Directors Association (VIFD)

# Memorable milestone marked



**A**s a fifth generation member of the family business, Simon Mulqueen takes great pride in the history of Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors, which this year celebrates 150 years of service.

"We are the largest funeral company in regional Victoria, and we have a long and proud history in this region. Managing Director, Simon Mulqueen said.

"There are very few family companies left in Bendigo with such history, and it was important to the company and the family that we celebrate this milestone," Simon said.

The business was started by Thomas Abell in 1853, and has been in Simon's direct family since Peter Fizelle joined William Oakley in 1886. Mr Fizelle's son-in-law Michael Mulqueen joined the firm in 1898, and the name Mulqueen's

has been synonymous with funeral service in the region since.

"In every generation at least one or two family members has decided to carry on the family tradition," Simon said.

Simon has worked for the company for the past 24 years, and has recently been joined by his younger brother Corey.

"Family members have never been pressured to work in the business, it's always been something we have wanted to do," Simon said.

"It is a very emotional type of business, yet it is still a business, so you have to be sensitive to both sides," he said.

This sensitivity is what the Mulqueen Family has come to be recognised for.

"We have always had a very personalised approach and that's something that can't be replaced or corporatised," he said.

"While we have become the



Mulqueen family members involved in the business today, Adele, Corey, Simon, John, Susan and Ruth Mulqueen

biggest funeral directing firm in regional Victoria, we still are very much a family business with strong links to the community," he said.

In 1853 the business was that of undertakers, in 2003 funeral directors are looked upon as people who offer comfort and organisation in a time of grief, but who also help to celebrate the life of the loved one lost.

"Funerals have changed dramatically in the 24 years I have worked here," Simon said.

"So there have obviously been major changes since the company first started," he said.

"When I started it was more regimented and along the lines of this is how your funeral will be," while today we encourage an individual celebration of life."

## N. B. SIMPSON ELECTRICAL

Thank you Simon and John for your consideration.

It has been a pleasure carrying out your electrical and maintenance work for the last 45 years.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future.

**Mobile 0408 311 245**

## EAGLEHAWK NEWSAGENCY



**Congratulate Mulqueen Funeral Directors on 150 years service to the community.**

For all your needs this Christmas – don't miss our Christmas catalogue full of Christmas bargains, out now.

**EAGLEHAWK NEWSAGENCY**

27-29 High St, Eaglehawk  
Phone 5446-8202



Current Mulqueen Staff include Andrew Carlyon, Geoff Milward, Denise Nash, Joshua Ross and Alan Thomson

This can be seen in the types of funeral services, which are now held.

In days gone by there was almost always a church organist and hymns were sung, today the focus is on celebrating the life of the person who has died, and the service reflects this.

"A religious minister would still conduct 95 per cent of funerals, Simon said, "but they are not as traditional."

According to Simon, much of the mystery of death is no longer with us.

"Funerals are no longer seen as something morbid, and unlike many years ago, children are encouraged to attend," he said.

"Funerals now are more of a celebration, rather than a ritual." As a funeral director Simon said the most difficult part of his job is children's funerals.

"You are obviously affected by some funerals, and a child's would have to be the most difficult, particularly more so when you are a parent," he said.

"They can be very



emotionally draining, but as the funeral director you are there to help, guide and give comfort to the family."

For a large part of its 150-year history, the Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors has kept meticulous records and have details of every funeral service it has conducted since 1886.

"We are fairly history-minded and I think our records would have to be fairly unique," Simon said.

"As funeral directors we probably have links to most members of the community and

it's important we keep this history," he said.

"The community no doubts draws comfort from our history, from our solid background and it's an important component of who we are."

"We pride ourselves on the quality of our staff who show outstanding commitment to their work in this most sensitive field."

While Simon has taken on the role of managing director he sees his position with the family firm as continuing a family tradition, one he believes will continue for many years to come.

"I would like to think Mulqueens will still be here in 100 years time," he said.

"I wouldn't want future generations to take on this role out of a sense of duty, but because they really want to do it," Simon said.

"We have a very important role to play in the community and it's one we place much pride in and hopefully that will continue for years to come."



**FLORIST**  
5442 2112

**Congratulations  
on 150 years of  
service to the  
community**

*We are proud  
to be associated  
with the  
Mulqueen Family.*



**brian dunn**  
BENDIGO



*Brian Dunn Ford recognises the invaluable service Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors has provided to the Bendigo Community and congratulate them on reaching this milestone.*

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**Bridge Street, Bendigo  
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*Tony & Sue congratulate the  
Mulqueen Family on 150 years of service*



# Chronology of Mulqueen's funeral business

- 1851 Gold discovered on the Bendigo goldfields
- 1852 Thomas Abell arrives in Australia
- 1853 Abell establishes himself as a carpenter/builder and undertaker in Bendigo
- 1855 Abell acquires Crown grant of the property at Bridge and Cemetery

Streets, adjacent to the Sandhurst Burial Ground (now the car park at the rear of the Tom Flood Sports Centre, still named Cemetery Street still exists between the Chinese Museum and Mulqueen's)

- 1856 Abell sells the property to Joseph Beavor and the business to Thomas Oakley
- 1865 Thomas Oakley enters an agreement with Francis Bros (Bee-hive Stores) to operate the undertaking business as Francis Brothers Undertakers with Oakley as manager, with the business operating out of Pall Mall and Bridge Street. The agreement lasted about 12 months with Oakley reverting to trade under his own name in 1866

Scoties, &c, at his office, near kangaroo hotel, Market-square, and Fountain Hotel; White Hills.

## FRANCIS BROTHERS

HAVING completed their arrangements for conducting Funerals in a more efficient manner than has ever been attempted on Bendigo, are now prepared to execute any orders with which they may be honored.

No expense has been spared in procuring handsome and suitable Hearses, Coaches, Horses, &c, even the most minute detail has been considered and provided for.

Every requisite article can be supplied, and all arrangements will be made.

They have also determined, that while the style, efficiency, and completeness have never been attempted in the district, the prices will be very much more economical.

In connection with the above they have very greatly increased their

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Every article supplied for either Family or Complimentary Mourning.

Mourning orders of any extent promptly and economically executed.

A Gentleman's Mourning Suit made in six hours, if necessary.

BEEHIVE STORES,  
PALL MALL. 174

## FRANCIS BROTHERS

UNDERTAKERS, &c,

THOMAS OAKLEY, MANAGER.

BEE-HIVE STORES,

PALL MALL. 173

### Sandhurst Directory.

THOMAS WATT, from Quebec, watch and clockmaker, Bridge-street, opposite the Camp.

T. ABELL, Undertaker, Bridge-street and High-street. 4078-1c

T. ABELL, Carpenter, Builder, and Turner, Bridge-street and High-street. 4077

UNITED KINGDOM HOTEL, Golden-square. H. I. Turner, Proprietor.

W. EDMONDSON, horse-dealer, Tattersall's Horse Repository, Criterion. Auction sales every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

WILLIAMS and SON'S Cutlery and Carpenter's Tool Store, Mundy-street, between



Congratulations to a Bendigo Family business serving the Bendigo Community for the past 150 years

2-4 Mclvor Road, Bendigo. 3550 Ph (03) 5443-5911

## BETHANY GALLERY

Congratulates  
**Mulqueen Family  
Funeral Directors**

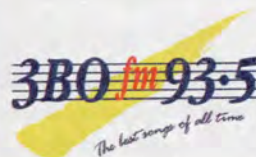
As they Celebrate 150 years of service to Bendigo

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Congratulations to the Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors on 150 years of outstanding service to Bendigo and Central Victoria.





**WILLIAM H. OAKLEY,  
UNDERTAKER,**

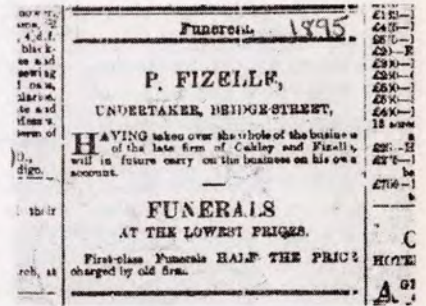


**BRIDGE ST., SANDHURST.**

ESTABLISHED 1853.

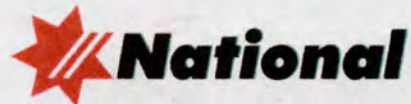
- 1885 December 16, Thomas Oakley dies
- 1886 January 8, Oakley's wife Jane dies. Business taken over in partnership by son William Henry Oakley and Peter Fizelle. Fizelle owned a livery of 200 horses and operated from McCrae Street
- 1888 Oakley and Fizelle purchase the building at Bridge Street
- 1891 Michael Mulqueen arrives in Australia on the SS Orotaba with his brother, John, and sister, Catherine. They make their way to Bendigo where Michael starts work at Cohn Brother's Brewery in Bridge Street
- 1894 Oakley sells his share of the property to Fizelle

- 1895 Partnership dissolved and Peter Fizelle starts to trade under his own name. Oakley establishes his own undertaking business at Howard Place
- 1898 Michael Mulqueen marries Peter Fizelle's daughter, Elizabeth and joins the funeral business
- 1900 Trading name becomes Fizelle and Mulqueen
- 1901 October 10, Peter Fizelle dies
- 1918 Michael's wife Elizabeth Mulqueen dies aged 48
- 1926 Mulqueen's purchase their first motor hearse



**BGA Architects**  
has served the  
**Bendigo Community for 30 years**  
and  
**Congratulates**  
**Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors**  
on their **150th Year Anniversary.**

**CNR WILLS & EDWARD STS, BENDIGO 3550**  
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**EMAIL: bga@bgaarchitects.com.au**



**National Australia Bank**  
**Bendigo Business Banking Centre**  
**congratulates**  
**The Mulqueen Family for their**  
**150 years service**  
**to the community of Bendigo.**

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BRIDGE STREET,

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170 Sydney Road, Brunswick—Telephone F W 1746  
235 High Street, St Kilda—Telephone Windsor 682  
247 Glenferrie Rd., Hawthorn—Telephone Hawthorn 809

*To the funeral expenses* *May 1947*  
*1957 of Frederick W. O'Brien decd*  
*Aug 2 To Account rendered* *179 13*

- 1930 Melbourne firm of Chas. P. Frilay, of Brunswick, purchased. The company now operating in Bendigo and Melbourne changes its name to Mulqueen and Sons Pty Ltd. Michael and family, except eldest son John, move to Melbourne. John becomes manager of Bendigo.
- 1935 Substantial new premises built on Sydney Road, Melbourne.
- 1938 Bendigo premises totally remodelled in the Art Deco-style of the era.
- 1950 John Mulqueen dies, aged 51.
- 1951 Bendigo and Melbourne business split into two separate companies. John's widow Irene and son, Peter, take control of the Bendigo business.
- 1954 Michael Mulqueen dies, aged 85.



Tony and Mandy would like to congratulate the Mulqueen family on their 150 years of service to the Bendigo and district community

51 View Street, Bendigo 3550  
AFSL No. 231093

Phone (03) 5442-5000  
Fax (03) 5443-5000  
www.kingbrokers.com.au



We congratulate Simon Mulqueen and his staff at Mulqueen Family Funerals for their commitment to the highest possible standard of service to everyone they serve.

At Beta Caskets we also strive to provide superior quality and service through our handcrafted coffins and caskets. We are proud that Mulqueen Family Funerals has chosen Beta Caskets to supply their funeral homes.

The longevity of Mulqueen Family Funerals has been earned through the dedication of many good people over the years. We wish Simon Mulqueen every success in continuing this worthwhile tradition of providing excellent service to the community.

**Beta Caskets**

Proudly Australian Owned  
(02) 9681-2355



- 1965 Peter's brother, John, joins the business.
- 1969 A new funeral home is built at 17 Bridge Street, and the additional trading name of Bendigo and District Funeral Services is introduced.
- 1972 Irene Mulqueen dies, aged 72.
- 1980 Simon Mulqueen joins the family business.
- 1981 The Bridge street premises enlarged and additional car parking provided.
- 1990 Ballarat firm F.W. Barnes and Son (est. 1895) acquired by Mulqueens.
- 1995 Simon appointed General Manager
- 1999 Peter Mulqueen dies, aged 69.
- 2000 Simon appointed Managing Director



**THE** Mulqueen offices in Brunswick, built in 1935

- 2001 Bridge Street premises remodelled and updated to reflect current standards.
- 2003 Corey Mulqueen, Simon's youngest brother, joins the family business. The business celebrates

150 years of operation and is now the largest funeral company in regional Victoria, providing the citizens of Bendigo and regional Victoria with the most well appointed funeral facilities.



## Macdonald's Nursery

88 Retreat Road, Spring Gully  
Phone 5443-4644

Established in 1888, Macdonald's nursery is one of only a handful of businesses operating for more than 100 years. Like any successful business, they have moved with the times to accommodate changing needs, tastes and the environment.

Today's gardener can choose from an amazing variety of plants, accessories and garden giftware.

An extensive range of glazed and terracotta pots will delight any garden lover, particularly those with only a small garden space.

Sculptures are another way to express yourself and turn your garden into an interesting place to be.

With 115 years behind them, Macdonalds are proud of their service, advice and the quality of their products.



# Some prominent funerals



DR H. Backhaus

Probably the most prominent funeral ever conducted by the firm was that of the late Dr Henry Backhaus in 1882.

Still regarded as probably the largest funeral ever held in Bendigo, it was said in the Bendigo

Advertiser of the time that 25,000 to 30,000 people lined the streets, greater than the population of the day as people came from far and wide to honour this pioneer priest. Some 3000 people followed the hearse from St Kilian's around the main block of the city then back to the specially prepared vault in the church grounds next to St Kilian's. Dr Backhaus was the first priest on the Bendigo goldfields. His hearse was drawn by four black horses followed by three mourning coaches. The first containing close friends of Dr Backhaus including Miss Halfpenny his loyal housekeeper and Mrs Oakley (Tom's wife).

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In the Advertiser article of September 9, 1882, the following reference was made; 'The coffins have been prepared by Mr. T. Oakley of Bridge Street (later Mulqueen's), who has charge of the Mortuary Arrangements'.

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Although Mulqueens conducted many thousands of funerals during the past 150 years some that may spring to mind include Bishop McCarthy in 1950; the exhumation and re-interment of the first three Bishops of Sandhurst - Crane, Reville and McCarthy in the Cathedral Vault in 1974, and famous citizens such as Dick Turner in 1987, fire brigade honours and held in the Bendigo Town Hall, and more recently the Hon. Michael John's state funeral, at St Pauls Cathedral to name just a few.



THE re-interment of the city's first three bishops



## BENDIGO CEMETERIES TRUST

Members and staff of the Bendigo Cemeteries Trust extend their congratulations to the Mulqueen Family on achieving 150 years of service to the community of Bendigo.

The trust is pleased to assist clients of the Mulqueen Family in the selection and placement of a various array of memorials to celebrate the life of a loved one.

Memorials of bronze stone and other products are on display at the Trust's office, 5 Victoria Street, Eaglehawk. To view the options including roses, memorials, rocks, shrubs and trees please call the office on 5446-1566 to arrange an appointment for a personal inspection.



**LEFT:** Funeral at St Patrick's Melbourne, for Mr M. Cremean MP 1945, Michael Mulqueen Snr leading.

**BELOW:** Bishop McCarthy's funeral, 1950



**ABOVE:** An original Peter Fizelle morning coach c1895.

**LEFT:** Military funeral from Mulqueen's chapel c1970



**RIGHT:** Peter Mulqueen conducts a fireman's funeral c1960



**LEFT:** Horse drawn hearse c1890

**The Petal FACTORY**



We congratulate the Mulqueen family on this milestone and thank them for their ongoing support

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We congratulate them on 150 years of service to the Bendigo Community

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 Phone 5443-9977

**Congratulations to the Mulqueen Family on achieving 150 years.**

from  
**The Sheehan Family of the Rising Sun Hotel**  
 proudly celebrating 50 years.



**LEFT:** Top hat belonging to Michael Mulqueen c1930

**BELOW:** Simon Mulqueen enters horse drawn hearse in 2003 Easter parade. Awarded Most outstanding entry



**LEFT:** Document box and ledger belonging to Peter Fizzelle c1890

**BELOW:** Hearse sign c1940 and glass domed ceramic floral tributes c1920



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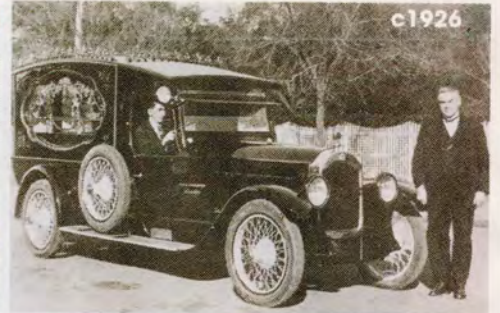
35 Charleston Place, Bendigo. Ph: 5440-7100



## Vehicles through the years



c1950



c1926



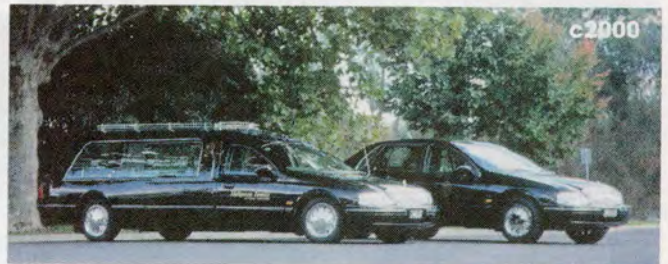
c1960



c1970



c1990



c2000



2/93 Williamson Street, Bendigo  
Phone 03 5441-7911

As the director of "O'Sheas", I welcome this opportunity to extend best wishes and congratulations in support of the celebrations by the "Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors" on their 150th anniversary of service and commitment to the community of Bendigo.

O'Sheas recognises and appreciates the fine efforts of Mulqueens in preserving and maintaining a long standing family business, dedicated to superior client support and care.

A wonderful achievement.

Mark O'Shea

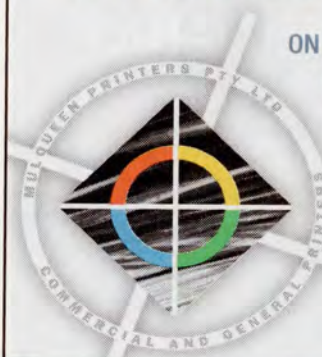


# MULQUEEN PRINTERS

*Congratulate*

## MULQUEEN FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ON THEIR **150** YEARS  
OF SERVICE TO THE  
BENDIGO COMMUNITY.



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## Welcome to the 150th club from The Advertiser.

Established in 1853 by Thomas Abell at Bridge and High streets, the Mulqueen funeral business forged an early relationship with the Bendigo Advertiser to advertise its services. This was the start of the continuous ownership by the Fizelle and Mulqueen family, now spanning five generations. Today, Mulqueens is one of the largest funeral companies in regional Victoria and this tradition continues.



Where would you be without the Adddy?

The Advertiser congratulates  
**Mulqueen Family Funeral Directors**  
on 150 years of service and  
care to the community.

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# The Advertiser

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# The original owners

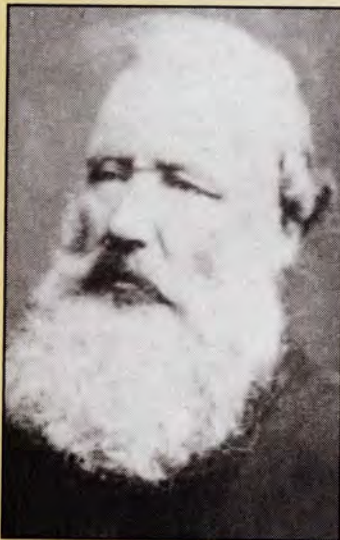
## Thomas Abell - founder of business 1853

- Born approx. 1826, Northampton, England, died Sandhurst April 9, 1892
- Married in Northampton in 1850 to Elizabeth Ann Clift
- Arrived in Australia in late 1852 or early 1853
- Commenced operations as a carpenter and undertaker in Bendigo in 1853
- By 1855 operated businesses from Bridge Street and High Street
- Sold the business in 1856 to Thomas Oakley and moved to Dunolly
- Moved to Ballarat by 1858
- Returned to Sandhurst in 1862
- He had 12 children
- Was residing at View Place, Sandhurst by 1872
- Died at home McIvor Street Bendigo. (Occupation listed as Fruiterer)



## William H. Oakley

- Born 1849
- Died 1899
- Aged 50 Years
- Eldest son of Thomas and Jane Oakley
- On the death of his father, took over the business in 1886 in partnership with Peter Fizelle.
- Left the partnership in 1895 having sold his share in the property a year earlier.



## Thomas Oakley

- Born in Chelsea, London approx. 1814
- Died Sandhurst in December, 1885
- Migrated to Australia in 1830, arriving in Sydney
- Married in 1846 to Jane Payne
- Arrived in Sandhurst in the early 1850's
- In 1856, acquired the funeral business of Thomas Abell
- Member of the Fire Brigade
- Described in the Advertiser of 1885 as "An unassuming man, kind husband and good father who left a widow and 10 grown up children."
- His remains were encased in three coffins the first of Deal, the second of lead and the third handsomely polished cedar.



Proud suppliers to  
Mulqueen Family Funerals

*We congratulate them on 150 years  
and wish them continued success*

**80 High Street, Eaglehawk. Ph 5446-9067**

## FLETCHER & JONES P/L SMASH REPAIRS

Est. 1947  
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**To the Mulqueen Family on 150 years of service.**

**Fletcher & Jones has had a close relationship  
with the Mulqueen family for nearly 60 years.**

***Congratulations from the Jones Family & Staff at  
Fletcher & Jones Panels.***

# The Mulqueen family



**PETER FIZELLE**  
Born 1840 County Limerick,  
Ireland.

**P**eter Fizelle, in 1859, emigrated to Australia. He departed the London Port of Liverpool on October 4, 1859, aboard the English ship, the Hilton with his brother, Henry, and sister, Jane. They arrived in Melbourne in January, 1860.

**MICHAEL MULQUEEN**  
Born 1870 County Clare,  
Ireland

**M**ichael is the patriarchal figure of the funeral directing family.

He was born near O'Callaghan's Mill, not far from Ennis on Ireland's west coast.

His parents Michael and Catherine (Lynch) Mulqueen were farmers and often struggled to support their large family.

Around the time of his 21st birthday, Michael, along with his brother John and sister

Peter, Henry and Jane made their way to Bendigo where Peter and Henry engaged in alluvial mining and labouring before establishing a livery and cab proprietorship in McCrae Street near the corner of Arnold Street. They hired out their horses, which at one point numbered 200, to many of the local businesses including the various undertakers of the district.

In 1862, Peter married Mary Liddy, at St Kilian's Church on July 13, with Dr Henry Backhaus officiating.

Peter and Mary were blessed with five children.

James died November 1886 aged 23 years; John died July

Catherine, decided to leave Ireland for the 'land of opportunity' in Australia.

On their arrival in Bendigo the boys were able to find work at the Cohn's Brothers Victoria Brewery in Bridge Street.

It was some years later that Michael met and married on April 26, 1898, Elizabeth Fizelle, daughter of a local undertaker, Peter Fizelle. Michael joined the Fizelle family business.

On March 18, 1918, Elizabeth died at the age of 48 years and was buried in the family grave at White Hills. Michael carried on with the task of running the business and raising his children. His

oldest son, John, had by this time started working with him. In 1930 Michael decided it was time to expand the business. He acquired the business of Chas P. Frilay in Melbourne and left the Bendigo business in the hands of John. Michael and the other five children moved to 28 Blyth Street, Brunswick. Soon after they built new premises at 170 Sydney Road and open a number of branch offices. The Bendigo premises were renovated in 1938. Although residing in Melbourne, Michael still spent a considerable amount of time in Bendigo. He was instrumental in saving the White Hills Cemetery from

closure to burials, fighting the bureaucrats 'tooth and nail.'

In 1954, at the age of 85 years, Michael passed away in Melbourne. His body was returned to Bendigo and buried with his wife in the Fizelle-Mulqueen family grave at the White Hills Cemetery.

1896 aged 25 years; Mary Jane (White) died October 13, 1901 aged 34 years; Margaret (McCubbery) was the next of their children; and Elizabeth (Mulqueen) died March 18, 1918 aged 48 years.

A house fire during the 1890's destroyed the Fizelle home and many historical family records were lost including photos and personal effects.

It was in 1886, on the death of Thomas Oakley that Peter first became involved in the funeral business. He entered a partnership with Oakley's son, William, and in 1888 the pair bought the substantial double storey premises at the corner of Bridge and Cemetery Streets.

The partnership continued until 1895 when Peter Fizelle took over the business on his own account. This was the start of a business which now spans five generations of family involvement.

The business was renamed Fizelle and Mulqueen Undertakers in 1900 following the marriage of Elizabeth Fizelle to Michael Mulqueen.

Peter Fizelle died on October 10, 1901 aged 61 years.

The Fizelle family name was removed from the trading name following the establishment of Melbourne branches in 1931.



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**JOHN MICHAEL  
(JACK)  
MULQUEEN**

*Born at Bendigo on  
May 6, 1899.*

**J**ohn (Jack) was the eldest son of Michael Mulqueen and Elizabeth (Fizelle) Mulqueen.

Jack was educated at St Kilian's Primary School by the Mercy nuns, and at Marist Brothers College. He spent one day at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, but apparently after a number of altercations with other students, was back in Bendigo the next day.

His personality and approachability was to make him the best PR man the funeral business had ever seen.

He was a keen outdoors person and avid fisherman who had a brilliant knowledge of the inland

rivers of Victoria and New South Wales, and of the bush, which he loved. His love and knowledge of the outdoors and fishing was immense and he passed this knowledge on to his sons, Peter and John.

He also enjoyed a special affinity with the Chinese community of Bendigo which was not difficult as 'China Town' was adjacent to his residence in Bridge Street.

Jack married Louisa Irene Gerdson in 1925. They were blessed with four children, Frances (Cain), Bernice (Boromeo), Peter and John.

Jack entered the business with his father at a young age and in 1930 when the majority of his family moved to Melbourne he remained in Bendigo to manage the Bendigo side, although he did not enjoy good health for many years leading up to his death in 1950, aged 51. In fact his wife Rene and son Peter basically ran the business from 1948.

Jack's wife Rene continued her involvement in the business assisting Peter until the mid 1960's. After a number of years of ill health she died on August 16, 1972, aged 72.



**PETER JOHN  
MULQUEEN**

*Born 3rd April 1930,  
Bendigo*

**T**he eldest son of John and Irene Mulqueen, Peter was born at Sister Kerrin's Private Hospital in McKenzie Street, Bendigo in 1930.

His early education was by the Mercy nuns at St Kilian's Primary School and later at the Marist Brothers College before finishing his education at Xavier College in Kew, Melbourne.

While at school he was a keen athlete and excelled in high jump, undefeated as a junior in the Victorian Country competitions.

Peter's education was

interrupted at age 17, by the increasing ill health of his father. He finally left school in 1948 to return to Bendigo and take over the running of the family's funeral directing business.

Peter had an excellent grounding in the business. As a young lad he often went out with his father to arrange funerals. At the age of 15 he drove on his first funeral but most likely without an official drivers license!

During his time at Xavier College, Peter often helped his grandfather and uncles at

Mulqueens in Sydney Road, Brunswick. By the time he was 17 he had a strong grasp of funeral etiquette and the demands of the industry.

Like his father, Peter had a great love of the outdoors, in particular, fishing. He and his brother, John, enjoyed hundreds of trips to the inland rivers of Victoria and New South Wales.

Peter passed away in 1999, his funeral was held at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, was attended by almost 1000 mourners and was conducted by Bishop Noel Dale.



**MICHAEL JOHN  
FIZELLE MULQUEEN**

*Born 1934, to John and Irene*

**J**ohn was educated at St Kilian's School and the Marist Brothers College. His teenage years focused on sport, being heavily involved in both football and cricket teams associated with the Marist Bros. He was a foundation member of the Maristians cricket team and played in its first premierships side.

On leaving school he was apprenticed to Leigh Williamson a local builder and later worked for Keith House

before operating on his own for a number of years until he entered the family business.

Although heavily committed work wise, his employment taking him to all parts of the region, his sport never took a back seat. He played football for many years at YCW, South Bendigo and Northern United retiring on many occasions, and then finally at age 42 years, having played in 4 Premierships sides at United and having the distinction of coaching both the

senior and reserve sides to premierships in the same year - 1967. His football career which spanned some 30 years included about 500 games.

John and Peter always had a keen interest in fishing and made an annual pilgrimage to the Darling, Edwards or Murray Rivers.

John joined the Funeral Business in 1965 and has been an integral part of the business since.

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## SIMON ANTHONY MULQUEEN

*Born at Mt. Alvernia Hospital Bendigo April 14, 1963*

Simon is the third eldest son of Peter and Adele (Johnson) Mulqueen of Bridge Street Bendigo, and a fifth generation funeral director. He was educated at St Killian's School and Marist Brothers College as was his father and grandfather before him.

Having shown an interest in the family business from the age of 12, helping wherever possible and gaining an insight into the funeral industry and after considerable discussion with his father Peter, he was finally allowed to join the firm, commencing on February 3, 1980. Initially his tasks included cleaning cars and general maintenance duties. It wasn't long before he became an arranger and conductor of funerals. In 1981, at the age of 18, he arranged his first funeral involving the repatriation of a deceased gentleman to England.

Simon has enjoyed being involved in the community, he was a member of the

Bicentennial Community Consultative Committee for two years, a foundation member of the Bendigo Tourism Board and a member of the Bendigo Easter Fair Committee of Management from 1984 to 1991 and 2000 - 2002, serving as president from 2000 - 2002.

In 1985 he called together a number of country funeral directors to form the Victorian Independent Funeral Directors Association which now consists of more than 20 country and smaller metropolitan firms. He is now secretary of the National Funeral Directors Association of Australia.

Simons thirst for family history was quenched in 1987, to a degree, when Simon visited England and Ireland, it was a great opportunity to research family history and catch up with family still living in both countries.

In 1990 he was instrumental in the move by the family to acquire the Ballarat Funeral firm of F.W. Barnes and Son. At the start of 1995, after 15 years with the company, he assumed the role of general manager of the businesses. Since 1985, he has controlled and guided the development of the pre-paid funeral division and was heavily involved in discussions held with the Liberal government

and previous Labor government in regards to legislation involving the industry, in particular the Funerals (Pre-Paid Money) Act 1993, and the Cemeteries Act Review Committee. He was appointed managing director of the funeral group in 2000. The group is now the largest funeral company in regional Victoria.

In 2003 he was awarded a Centenary Medal for his service to the Bendigo Community as well as a life membership by the Bendigo Easter Fair.

In 1992 Simon married local Southern Cross TV presenter and publicist Susan Hogarth. The couple now have four children.



## COREY MULQUEEN

*Born in 1975*


Corey Mulqueen, 28, is the recent addition to the family company joining them to work, in the area of administration and as group pre-paid funerals manager.

Completing VCE studies in 1992 at Catholic College Bendigo, Corey commenced university studies at La Trobe Bendigo in 1993.

He then worked for the National Australia Bank in rural, business and retail banking for almost 10 years.

Currently playing A grade domestic basketball, Corey also worked as a Basketball Referees Development Officer in south-east Queensland for about 12 months.





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# The Ballarat Connection

*F.W. Barnes & Son is Ballarat's oldest funeral company, acquired in 1990 by the Mulqueen Family.*

Established in 1895 as Jordan & Tippett Furnishing Undertakers, the name was changed to F.W. Barnes & Son when Frederick Barnes acquired the business in 1913. The Barnes family were involved in funeral directing as early as the 1860's when Thomas C. Barnes operated as a general store proprietor and undertaker in Learmonth. Frederick had spent many years with the Ballarat funeral firm of Charles Morris and Son before acquiring the Jordan and Tippett business which at that time operated in Armstrong Street South. Fred's son Doug followed in his footsteps operating the firm until the early 1960's when it was purchased by Les Lillingston. In 1990, one of regional Victoria's oldest established funeral families, the Mulqueen Family, acquired the business, after Mr Lillingston took ill, continuing the tradition of family service.

The hallmark of the business over this long history has been its desire to provide quality service to our client families.

Today this is done from the company's Pleasant Street South premises which boasts Ballarat's newest and largest funeral home - seating up to 200 and standing an additional 300 indoors. All of this has been achieved while maintaining reasonable and realistic prices.

The firm is managed by Bendigo born Adrian O'Shea, who has been employed by Mulqueens for 11 years.



**FREDERICK Barnes**



THE F.W. Barnes building c1895

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The Bendigo Funeral Bond (an investment product of the Australian Friendly Society) is a secure savings and investment plan designed solely to accumulate funds to finance the cost of your funeral.

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For more information call into your nearest branch of Bendigo Bank or phone Client Services on 1800 803 173.

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