

20th APRIL 2015



Honouring our Diggers



Dr Celestina Sagazio at the Springvale war cemetery.

Picture: SUSAN WINDMILLER

Cemetery is home to war history

A FREE walking tour on Anzac Day will invite people to appreciate the rich military history of the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Australian War Graves (Springvale war cemetery), located inside the Springvale Botanical Cemetery, is the principal war cemetery in Victoria.

Australian War Graves contains 607 Commonwealth burials of World War II, and four Dutch war burials.

Cemetery historian and cultural heritage manager Dr Celestina Sagazio said many did not know about the cemetery's history.

"There is no other place in Victoria where you find this comprehensive military grave history, and I think this is a good way to celebrate the centenary of Anzac Day," Dr Sagazio said.

Separate to the war graves, there are about 48 war dead from World War I, and 98 war dead from World War

II in different plots of the cemetery.

Eight Victoria Cross recipients are laid to rest in the Springvale Botanical Cemetery – more VC recipients than any other cemetery in Victoria.

"Scores of people come back to Springvale to pay their respects after attending a dawn service on Anzac Day and we would like to see more people appreciate how rich the military history is here," Dr Sagazio said.

The tour will also include the Australian War Memorial, the Victoria Cross Memorial Rock, and the Victorian Garden of Remembrance.

The cemetery walking tour will start at noon, on Saturday, April 25, at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, 600 Princes Highway, Springvale.

For bookings or more information, phone 8558 8210 or email celestina.sagazio@smct.org.au