

GRAVE CONCERNS

The Newsletter of
The Friends of Linwood Cemetery
Bringing Linwood Cemetery Alive!

Issue 11, February 2016



Waking up to Change

As we move through the seasons in the cemetery, we accept changes in the shrubs, flowers and Monarch butterflies enjoying this wonderful greenspace.

We are seeing grave plots repaired, flowers left in memory of an ancestor and are learning that each single action of maintenance, however small, has a positive impact on the whole cemetery, the local community and shows pride in our heritage.

In the midst of change is the opportunity for a great deal of learning if you are willing to have vision and perspective and choose to become a stronger better version of who you are. The Christchurch Rebuild is teaching us this.

Change in Linwood Cemetery depends on those who connect with it - that is every one of us who uses the cemetery as a park, has ancestors buried there or want their local community to stay a pleasant and safe place to live near, so that rather than losing something good we gain something better.

on behalf of Craig Cormack, Chair FoLCCT

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From The Secretary

I moved into the Linwood area 9 years ago and became involved as a Trustee in July 2009. The group had already "tamed" the cemetery land, facilitated the *Conservation Plan*, new main gates, a bench, Block Markers and restoration of some headstones. So, some 6 months later, it was easy to accept the role of Secretary (by default).

Now it is time for me to leave NZ to attend to family matters in the UK, so I can no longer represent the Trust as Secretary. For most of you my e-mail presence will give no indication that I am so far away. I plan to keep involved in the administration side of the Trust and on projects that I can manage to work on via the internet.



I have found the whole experience as Secretary enriching, satisfying, nourishing and I am grateful for all the interesting and inspiring

friends I've made (and for the patience and continued support of any people I've unintentionally annoyed).

New Trustee



The Trust Board welcomed Shannon Hall as a Trustee at their October 2016 meeting. Shannon has a keen interest in history, especially social history. She loves the east side of the city and has lived in Linwood for nearly 4 years. Shannon is looking forward to working with the Trust.

The survival of the Friends relies on us attracting new Trustees. If you are willing to spare an hour on 4th Wednesday each month to attend a meeting to discuss operational issues, please contact us.

Richard Greenaway Archived!



Local Historian, Richard Greenaway is now working from home. He is available through *Family History Genies* (<http://familyhistorygenies.weebly.com>) for research requests.

or for talks and cemetery tours contact him on 03 260 0923 or richatdngreenaway@gmail.com

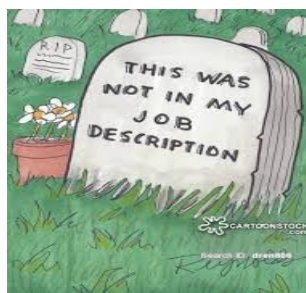
New Staff at CCC Cemeteries

We said farewell to Sally Miller, the Christchurch City Council (CCC) Cemeteries Administrator, in October 2015. We hope her new employers appreciate her pragmatic, common-sense approach as we certainly did.

Mark Todd, who replaced Sally on a temporary contract, has now moved onto a different role within the City Council.

The new CCC Cemeteries Co-ordinator is Steph Musso and Simon Daisley is the new Cemeteries Support Administrator.

The team were very gracious in spending time with us to find out the issues peculiar to the cemetery and showed a reassuring



commitment and understanding of its heritage value.

We wish everyone well in their new roles.

The Cemetery

Recreational Services (www.rs.kiwi.nz) are now the contractors for grass mowing and weed spraying in the cemetery replacing City Care who we found treated Linwood Cemetery with an appreciation of the heritage value of the cemetery when lawn mowing and weed spraying.

If you have any compliments or concerns about the ground maintenance, or find health and safety issues when in Linwood Cemetery, please let the CCC know either by contacting Customer Services on 03 941 8999, CCC_CustomerServices@ccc.govt.nz or using the *Snap Send Solve* app. The free app (downloaded from *Google Play* or *iTunes app store*) allows photos of CCC related issues to be added to a report and sent to them quickly and easily.

"Jigsaws"

We have now completed returning as many headstone fragments as we can to their correct location from an area in the centre of the cemetery where Blocks 32 and 35 meet near the Peacock Mausoleum.

The original idea to bring together fragments scattered around the cemetery was made with good intention over 10 years ago by those outside of the Trust at that time.



Since then, the pieces had become muddled and the original locations forgotten. Any hope of returning them to the correct plot needed a full photographic record of

the cemetery plots (taken by the Trust in 2013-14) and the *NZSG 1979 Headstone Transcripts* converted to a digitally searchable document which we did in July 2013.

From an initial 40 portions of headstone we could easily identify we became determined to clear all the fragments off the tops of the 16 grave plots they were on. We have now returned fragments to 196 plots.

The project has taken 2,300 volunteer hours to complete and cost the Trust \$15.35 per headstone. The area where the fragments had been left is now clear.

Identifying the headstones revealed 5 were for people killed in the first world war and 23 newly identified Early Settlers.

Future improvements in technology will help the unidentifiable pieces to be returned to their correct plots. In the meantime they are securely stored in 4 gabion seats at the end of Block 30.

A list of the "jigsaws" returned to their correct plots is on our website

(http://www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz/?page_id=3547).

Contact us if your ancestor is on the list we'll be happy to send you a photo by email.

Graffiti

Sadly, over the Christmas period graffiti vandalism occurred at either end of the cemetery and minor damage to headstones in the middle of the cemetery. These have all been reported to the CCC.

A Cemetery is classed as a public park and the CCC has a duty to deal with anything offensive appearing in a public place. This includes tagging a headstone. We are making sure they follow through with this commitment. Details on what can be reported can be found at:

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/services/graffiti/what-graffiti-the-council-removes/>

Please report any vandalism in the cemetery either by contacting customer services or using the *Snap Send Solve* app (see page 2).

Gardening

Essential weed spraying was carried out by the CCC contractors over Christmas and, at the Trust's recommendation, includes some spraying of grave plots. Help reduce the need for spray in the cemetery by weeding your ancestors plot.

As always, thanks to Judy for continuing to trim shrubs and weed borders.

Restoration by Descendants

Thank you for the restoration and preservation work being carried out by families. Honouring your ancestors in this way demonstrates the value of the cemetery to others, preserves our heritage and helps improve the look of our local area.

Update - KERR's Angel

We featured Charles Fraser KERR (Block 34 Plot 94) in our February 2014 newsletter to draw attention to the plight of "KERR's Angel" damaged during the February 2011 EQs.

Thank you to those of you who have given us donations to help us raise the angel. We are still far off from the target needed of \$10,000 so sadly the angel will remain at the base of the plinth for a while longer. If you can help us raise KERR's Angel, donations can be given to the Friends "Givealittle" page or sent to The Friends of Linwood Cemetery, c/- 32B Chelsea St, Christchurch 8062. Bank account details at www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz



Chinese Headstones

We are aware of only two headstones inscribed with Chinese script in our cemetery, both in Block 34 (Plots 244b and 204a). We were able to get them translated with the help of the NZ China Friendship Society (nzchinasociety.org.nz).



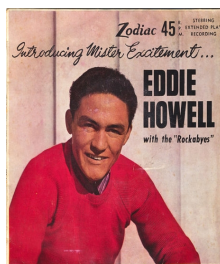
One is of SHAO Gongtai who was born in 1898 and died on 22nd March 1951. He came from Zeng Cheng.

The other is of Zhaoli YU who was born in 20th of the 8th Month of the tenth year

of Emperor Tongzhi reign and died aged 83 on 4th January of the 39th year of the Emperor Minguo's reign (1950), aged 83. He came from Taishan.

Both places are in Guangdong province which is in the south of China and adjoins Hong Kong. Formerly known as Canton, it was where most of the Chinese gold miners came from. If anyone has any more information about these two men please contact us.

Little Eddie HOWELL (B41P147 SWC)



Some of you may remember 1960s singer Eddie Howell, aka "Mr Excitement". His Whakatane whanau recently found they had an unknown ancestor in Linwood Cemetery and held a moving ceremony

in the cemetery on 3rd December welcoming him into the family. Little Eddie's sister was also missing from records but has since been found to have married into the QUIGLEY farming family in Leeston, N. Canterbury, sadly dying in 1937 at the age of 41 after a long illness. Descendants of both sides of the family have now been in touch and are starting to complete their genealogical jigsaw.

Catholic Archives (Christchurch)

When the south tower of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament collapsed during the 22 February 2011 EQs, it took with it the room that had been home to the Catholic Archives for many years. Prudently almost all the archives had just been packed and removed to temporary storage.

The new archive, at Cathedral House, has climate controlled storage, work and research rooms and it's own computer; all features the old room in the cathedral did not have.

Fifty-three years ago, the archives were simply a collection of documents in an old suitcase in the Cathedral presbytery garage. Over the years Diocesan Archivist Father Kevin Clark and volunteers have indexed the baptismal registers for the whole diocese and have sorted and catalogued many hundreds of photos and documents.

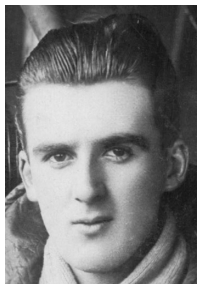
<http://www.chch.catholic.org.nz/>

Richard Reflects

A series of snippets about an interesting Cantabrian buried in Linwood Cemetery, from Local Historian and Trustee, Richard Greenaway.

Noel Lancelot St Elmo VALE (24 Dec 1897- 13 Oct 1981)

Noel VALE (Block 22 Plot 1) was the 72nd trained pilot in Canterbury. He gained his



flying "ticket" on 8th May 1918 at Harry Wigram's Canterbury Aviation School at Sockburn.

These days we take manned flight for granted but sustained, controlled flight first occurred in NZ in 1911 about 9 years after

Pearce, a Kiwi, and the USA's Wright brothers managed the first "long hops" in their self-built planes.

By the middle of WW1, NZ pilots had moved to flying in one or two-seater planes of tested designs to travel long distances. A pilot needed a car mechanic's engineering skills to fix and maintain the plane's engine.

NZ pilots could only serve in the war through the two NZ Flying Schools which made their own arrangements with the UK Government to train pilots for Royal Aero Club certificates on the understanding that they would then be accepted for commissions in the Royal Flying Corps. One of these was the Wigram Flying Training School. Under this scheme, VALE and 223 other pilots, sailed from NZ.

VALE arrived in Liverpool, UK on 31st August 1918 on the *SS Athenic* alongside 783 troops. But he didn't go into combat as Armistice was signed on 11th November 1918.

After WW1, VALE earned his living as a car sales manager. No doubt his reputation as a mechanical engineer and pilot helped him with his career. He continued flying and was a founding member of the Canterbury Aero Club which was created on 27th April 1928. He flew one of the planes that welcomed Kingsford Smith and Ulm's on completion of the first trans-Tasman flight on 11th September 1928.

On the morning of 14th October 1929, when flying over Christchurch, VALE's plane, landed in a ploughed paddock in Spreydon after developing engine trouble and turned completely over.

Residents of nearby houses immediately rescued him. He only had a cut above his eye; the plane, however, was a write off.

During WW2, VALE continued to play an active part in training pilots at Wigram for warfare, holding the rank of a Flying Officer.

On his death in 1981, VALE's family donated all Noel's flying equipment and diary to Wigram Air Museum.

IF YOU HAVE ANCESTORS IN LINWOOD CEMETERY, WE'D LOVE TO KNOW!

130 years ago.....

Corporation Line Tramway Is Off!

Following the laying of the first rail of the "Corporation Line" tramway in a ceremony on 26th November 1885 at Oxford Terrace, the line was laid the length of Worcester Street (as today) via the north side of Cathedral Square to what is now now Linwood Avenue via Cashel St. By 28th December 1885 the 5km of line had been laid as far as Buckley's Road with only a short distance needed to be laid along

Butterfield Ave and into Linwood Cemetery.

The "*Conditions and Particulars*" of the Tramway approved on 8th February 1886 required there to be two newly built passenger cars to carry a maximum of 48 passengers and a funeral car sufficient in size to carry 6 bodies. The funeral car was to convey bodies from any place within the four main Avenues to the cemetery.

The City Council had the sole right to use the tram from midnight to 5am to convey night soil and rubbish to the Corporation dump near the cemetery.

On 25 March 1886, the Mayor and other dignitaries were given a trial run. The Boon & McDonald carriage was drawn by 2 white horses. It got as far as the curve of the junction of Worcester St and Linwood Avenue and jumped the rails. The rest of the journey was continued by horse drawn bus, ending at the New Brighton beach for champagne.

THE CORPORATION TRAMWAY
WILL BE
OPENED FOR PUBLIC TRAFFIC
ON AND AFTER
TO-MORROW (GOOD FRIDAY).
Fares, 3d each way.
6149 CHARLES O'MALLEY.

On 22 April 1886 the Corporation Line was opened to the public and having a property close to the tram very quickly became a selling point.

Hit a Genealogical Brick Wall?

Have you tried the www.TradeMe.co.nz



Community Genealogical Message Board? There is a bunch of generous and helpful people visiting there.

Searching for SMITH? You may find helpful information on <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlscant/smith.htm>

What's that tree? - Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra Italica*)

A row of 31 Lombardy Poplars forms the unfenced boarder between Linwood Cemetery and Bromley Park. Two others are close to the site of the Sexton's Lodge. Those estimated to have been planted in the 1940s (possibly to replace an original *Macrocarpa* shelter belt) are close to the end of their 40-50 year natural life.



The black poplar [*Populus nigra*] is a species of cottonwood poplar, native to Europe, SW and central Asia, and NW Africa. Fast growing it is 20m-30m tall, a narrow column of about 3-4m of short, upward-pointing branches with a trunk up to 1.5m in diameter. The bark is grey/green on young trees and new growth, but becomes black, thickened, and furrowed on older, larger trunks like those in the cemetery.



The diamond-shaped leaves are bright green on both sides and turn to yellow in the autumn before dropping. The species has male and female flowers in catkins on different plants and pollinates by wind.

Poplars were first grown in NZ in the 1830s as ornamental trees, for shelter, screen or windbreak. Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) was especially favoured as it could be seen from a distance.

In about 1880 the Maori prophet Te Kooti planted a Poplar stem at Tamatea pā to symbolise his life taking a new pathway away from war and towards peace. Members of the Ringatū church, which he founded, likened the upright branches of this poplar to the uplifted hand – the central symbol of their faith.

Update - Moths & Butterflies of NZ Trust (MBNZT)

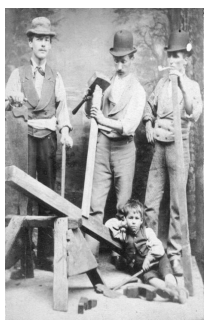


The 2016 Annual Conference and AGM of the MBNZT will be held on our doorstep!

On Sunday 27th March members of the Trust and the public are invited to Bromley Community Centre (close to Bromley and Ruru Cemeteries) at 1pm to find out "10 Things You Never Knew About Monarch Butterflies" and hear entomologist Brian Patrick of the S. Pacific Lepidopterist Society (www.lepsoc.org) speaking on "NZ Butterflies At Risk".

www.monarch.org.nz/Members/AGM

Did you know?



Linwood Cemetery keeps working. There are

251 SMITHs, 95 TAYLORs,
50 BAKERs, 44 COOKs,
25 MILLERs, 10 HAWKERs,
7 FARMERs, 6 CARPENTERs,
3 PEDLERs and it still needs
your help to preserve it.

Lest We Forget



The second of our booklets showing the WW1 memorials in Linwood Cemetery will be released at our ANZAC Commemoration in April, and focuses on the 1916 Somme Campaign. Copies will be available from the Trust as an e-mailed pdf document or printed version for a \$5 donation to our project fund.

Beca Heritage Week

Beca Heritage Week took place during October last year with a theme of "Arrivals and Departures – the journeys that shaped us".

Our Arrivals - Early Settlers tours were the most popular of the eight we programmed and Richard Greenaway undertook 11 "Spirited Tours" of different cemeteries.

Register of Friends - update

Thanks For
STICKING
With Us!



We need 75 financial supporters to cover one year's operational costs and help provide evidence that we are "needed by the community" to retain our charitable status. Your support of our work as "self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery" is only NZ\$5 and as we are a Charitable Trust, the amount you give is tax deductible for NZ tax payers if you request a receipt.

Annual Report 2014/15

Our Annual Report has been sent to Friends and DIA Charities Services. If you would like to receive copy, please contact us.

During our 9th year of operation our 6 serving members met 10 times.

- Judy (Head Gardener) was awarded a Kiwi Local Hero Medal.
- Alexandra (Secretary) was awarded a Hagley/Ferrymead Ward Community Services Award.
- Total Volunteer hours approx 2500

Restoration and Maintenance

- B18P227 DOBSON (Sir Arthur Dudley)
- B3P1&2 HULBERT re-pinned
- B34P14 KERR' plinth repaired
- Block Markers - audit and re-positioning
- "Jigsaw pieces" - 40 returned to plots
- B47P245-250 & 319-324 Community of the Sacred Name - plot dug over and planted with perennials
- Photographing of every plot completed
- Requested replacement of tap at Block 12 (on-going discussion)
- Mulched borders with donated tree bark.

The Friends of Linwood Cemetery Charitable Trust
Working towards the enhancement and preservation of the historic Linwood Cemetery through active community involvement.
www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz info@linwoodcemetery.org.nz
Facebook ([thefriendsofLinwoodCemetery](https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsofLinwoodCemetery)) (Linwood_Cem_Pal)

Community Involvement

- Assisted families to find their ancestors
- Assisting Freemasons
- Have contact with 146 descendants
- Mentored University of Canterbury interns
- Public Tour October 2014 for 60 people
- ANZAC Commemoration - 43 people
- Assisted Stephen Deed author of *Unearthly Landscapes*
- Attended 6 community events
- Asked for street names in the new Prestons Development to reflect the early Polish settlers of Marshland

Publicity

- New branded safety shirts
- 2 Newsletters
- 6 newspaper articles
- 1 booklet
- 198 Likes on Facebook
- Trade Me Genealogical Message Board
- Entries on 5 community publications

Register of Friends

- 42 supporters

2016 and beyond

Preservation

- Block 1 Retaining Wall - McGregors Rd
- B34P92 KERR
- B9P5 GUTHRIE
- B32P252 BEAUCHAMP

Maintenance

- Block Markers
- Stray stone and ironwork
- Reporting of vandalism

Plot Records

- Publicly accessible future-proofed digital record of grave plots
- Complete current research projects including oral history contributions

Education

- Heritage value and issues facing Linwood Cemetery and their solutions
- Curriculum based programmes for schools and youth groups

What's on in Linwood Cemetery?

ANZAC Commemoration Event

Sunday 24th April 2016, 11am



Commemoration of those who gave their life or youth to military service and are memorialised in Linwood Cemetery with a focus on the **1916 Somme** campaign.

Hear the names of those memorialised in Linwood Cemetery followed by a

bag-piped lament and the Last Post. Please join us "Lest We Forget".

Heritage Week 2016 Tours - October (TBC)



We value the additional help and support we have received from Avon Electric Ltd, BECA Heritage Week, CCC Discretionary Fund, Christchurch Mail, Decra Art, Fraser Lawrence, Kim, Vulcan Steel.

Our next issue

Issue 12 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for September 2016. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us by 3rd August 2016.