

Grave Concerns

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

Issue 12, September 2016



Linwood Cemetery Unearthed

Not just a field of stone, grass and flowers; Linwood Cemetery is an important heritage site for Christchurch and New Zealand. Buried in the cemetery are over a dozen prominent decision makers at local and national level, 41 original settlers from the 'First Four Ships' and over 350 memorials to those who served in WW1 – the highest in any cemetery in Christchurch. Two hundred and fifty people have been identified to have signed the NZ suffrage petition and many more are 'first generation' New Zealanders.

By unearthing information about the people buried in the cemetery we can only be grateful for the valuable contributions the people buried in Linwood Cemetery made to shape our present-day lives. Their final resting place should, in turn, be cared for by us all as if a national treasure.



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From The Editor

Since our last issue in February, some of us have been dealing with loss within our own families and with those we have met through our role with the Trust. Dealing with my own grief and subsequent empathy for others going through the same emotional processes, has reminded me that the families of every one of the 20,000 people buried in Linwood Cemetery have gone through similar feelings of loss and had to deal with the impact of losing emotional and financial support, and friendship, changing their lives for ever.

Yet I have always found Linwood Cemetery a calm, warm, welcoming place and the more I put in the effort to get to know it, the more interesting, informative and part of me it has become. And of course, it is the same with people we meet throughout our lives.

It doesn't matter if you are physically close to a place or a person, memories and thoughts regenerate comforting feelings and for some moments there is no sense of loss at all.



The Cemetery

Brian continues to tidy up the fabric of the cemetery on his own to deter vandalism as best he can and helps visitors to the cemetery find their ancestors when he is on site. Shrubs and borders are kept in check by Judy.

The cemetery would not look as good as it does without these two stalwarts who donate hundreds of unpaid volunteer hours a year to keeping the 20-acres of the cemetery looking well maintained.

We no longer have the people-resources to hold Working Bees in the cemetery. We fulfil these requirements by historical research, helping people find their ancestors and aim to make our information publicly accessible.

The Christchurch City Council has disestablished the role of cemeteries gardener as part of its cost cutting programme.

Your help is needed more than ever:

Report any vandalism, compliments or concerns about the ground maintenance, or health and safety issues found when in Linwood Cemetery, either by contacting customer services on 03 941 8999, using the *Snap Send Solve* app or via email to CustomerServices@ccc.govt.nz

Reduce the need for chemical sprays in the cemetery by weeding your ancestors plot.

Help yourself to pine needles. A mulch of 7-8cm deep for paths and plants that like acidic soil [azaleas, rhododendron, strawberries, chrysanthemum, tomatoes, roses, onions, garlic and mint] should last 3 - 5 months before you need to think about adding more.

Join us as a Trustee on the evening of the 3rd Wednesday in the month to discuss operational issues and help keep the Trust going.

**No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.**
- Aesop

Restoration by Descendants

Maintenance, repair and restoration of a grave plot is the responsibility of the descendants. Before the earthquakes and the CCC budget cuts, the Trust had been able to raise funding for specific repairs. Those days are gone.

When a family maintains or repairs its ancestors plot, they are also helping the cemetery to look cared for which in turn injects pride into the local community.

There are three Monumental Masons approved by the CCC; Fraser Lawrence, Decra Art and Robertson's.

We always recommend you look at the Best Practice Guide on the HCCTNZ website and the guide to Plaques on the CCC website before planning work on a grave plot as there are many restrictions in place for maintaining public safety and contextual considerations.



"Thanks also for your advice prior to getting the headstone made. After organising a new headstone for my McCree G-G-Grandparents, I also organised a family gathering for the official unveiling in September last year. The day was very enjoyable and we had descendants travel from Hamilton, Wellington, Nelson, Timaru and various other parts of the country. If any of Edward and Sarah's descendants get in touch I would be happy to pass on information." Lynne McLennan

lynne.mclennan@paradise.net.nz

Record Your Story

You can now preserve your life story on a free publicly accessible website aimed to serve as a history resource for future generations. It works by uploading amateur footage of interviews with subjects. Go to Storyvault.com (ref : *Saga magazine, UK*)

Update - KERR's Angel

Thank you to those of you who have given us a donation to help us raise the angel. We are still far off from the target needed of \$10,000 so it will remain at the base of the plinth for a while longer. We are considering channelling all our remaining funds into this project but haven't made a decision about this yet. This will of course stifle any other global projects in the cemetery we had hoped to contribute to. 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

Update - Little Eddie HOWELL (B41P147 SWC)

Descendants of both the HOWELL and QUIGLEY families finally met in May. Sadly it was at the funeral of Ian QUIGLEY son of Irene QUIGLEY and nephew of Little Eddie HOWELL. Ian had served as a Labour MP for the Otago Central Electorate from 1972-1975 and as a Local Counsellor for Cromwell. The two families had been in regular touch by phone and email since the discovery of their genealogical connection and the date of the visit had been planned for some time. Even under the sad circumstances, the families bonded well and a lasting connection has been forged.

Update – Edmonds Rotunda

Thomas Edmonds, the developer of “Sure To Rise” baking products, his wife and two sons are buried in Block 36 Plot 234.



“To mark his 50 years of business in Christchurch, Thomas John Edmonds embarked on a number of

philanthropic building projects, including the Theosophical Society building on Cambridge Terrace, the Radiant Hall on Kilmore Street and the famous Edmonds clock tower.

Outdoor brass bands were a popular form of entertainment in Christchurch and in 1929 Edmonds, himself a supporter of the Woolston Brass Band, donated the Band Rotunda to coincide with his own jubilee celebrations... The project is budgeted at approximately \$1.5 million, and is expected to get underway in early 2017..”

(Ref: Edmonds Rotunda Repairs -

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/newsline/show/941>)

Update - Papers Past re-vamped

Searching old newspapers can bring up a wealth of interesting biographical knowledge for the genealogist and social history researcher. *Papers Past* has been an amazing on-line resource for 15 years. Previously getting the most from the site was only gained by using the Advance Search feature cunningly hidden in the top right hand corner of the screen and written in very small pale letters – if you knew about it! At last the site has been overhauled. It is much easier to use, clearer to view and the collection now spans 1839-1945.

(Ref: paperspast.natlib.govt.nz)

Update - Zapraszamy wszystkich Polaków (Calling all Poles)

The Trust has championed the memory of the early Polish settlers to Christchurch who are buried in Linwood Cemetery since we heard about them from Sr Martha Szymanska descendant of the SZYMANSKI family buried in Block 43. The Polish settlers turned the Marshland area into arable farming land with hard work and determination. Like many who came to NZ, the ability to own their own land was beyond their dreams in their home countries where they also faced discrimination and persecution.



Early this August, the Polish Genealogical Society based in Taranaki celebrated the 140th anniversary of the arrival of the immigrant ship Fritz Reuter to NZ, with a series of events to coincide with the date the ship arrived in Wellington on 4 August 1876.

Barbara Scrivens has been working on a website cataloging the history of Polish peoples immigration to New Zealand and recording stories and materials from their descendants. We have donated copies of our photographic records of plots and other research to help with this important project.

(Ref: <http://polishhistorynewzealand.org/>)

Update Annual Report 2015/16 , Register of Friends and Future Aims

Completion of our Annual Report and aims for next operational year have been delayed. The Annual Report will be sent to Friends and DIA Charities Services when completed.

Support of our role 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.

Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery is a valuable space, There are

- 15 STEELES
- 8 Sylv(i)as
- 4 GOLDSMITHS
- 3 TINNEYS
- 1 GILT
- ! Stirling

and it still needs your help to preserve it.

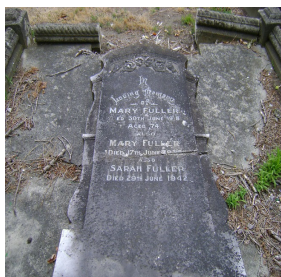
Richard Reflects

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

The FULLER sisters

Mary (circa 1871 - 17 June 1935) and Sarah (circa 1870 – 29 June 1942)

Mary and Sarah FULLER are buried in the Roman Catholic area of Linwood Cemetery (Block 44 Plot 167)



with their mother, also called Mary (nee McGRATH). Neither daughter married. The family of 5 sons and 2 daughters had lived in

Australia and Otago before settling in Christchurch. Their father, Frederick Richardson FULLER, originally from Suffolk, UK had sailed to South Australia in 1849. He became a taxidermist, and on moving to NZ worked for Sir Julius Haast collecting native animals and preparing them for museum collections. His uncredited work is still seen today in the displays of the Canterbury Museum.

The Fullers lived at 25 Haast Street, Linwood, though some brothers remained in Oamaru. Mrs. Fuller came from a humble, illiterate, working class, Irish-Catholic family. Her husband was of the Anglican faith.

Sarah was the older sister by about a year, despite the age given on her death certificate and in the cemeteries database, as her baptism is recorded at Holy Trinity, Avonside.



Sarah and Mary were day-boarders at St Joseph's Convent School in Christchurch, both winning prizes for drawing; Sarah appearing to be also more academically inclined. Study at the Canterbury College School of Art followed and both sisters are noted for their

achievements. Consequently the sisters placed work at the Annual Canterbury Society of Arts Exhibitions, the NZ Academy of Fine Arts and passed South Kensington Art Exams (Royal College of Art, UK) during their 20s.

The exhibition catalogues reveal many names familiar to Linwood Cemetery and show that drawing, painting and sculpture were popular activities where women were regarded on an equal footing to men.

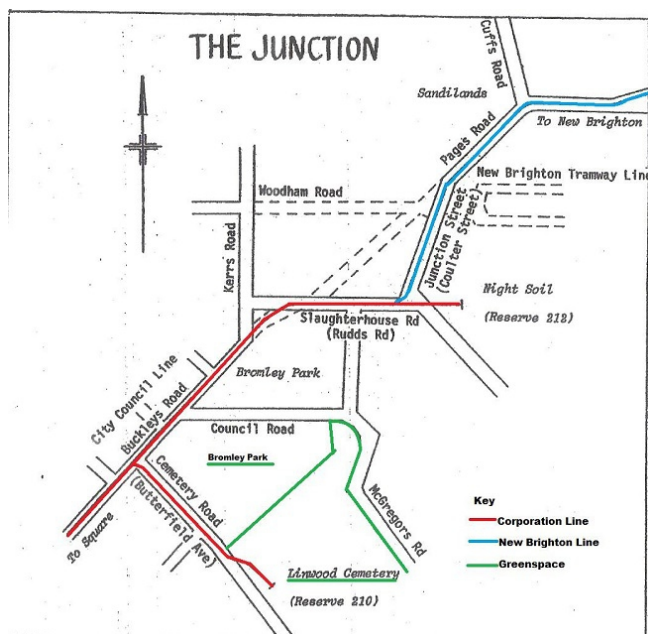
Mary also studied Pitman's shorthand at Miss Digby's Commercial School in 1919-20 when she was in her late 40s.

At least one of Mary's paintings has survived. Titled "Grey Ducks", it commanded an original price of £8 guineas (roughly NZ\$1,700 today). (<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/RichManPoorMan/FrederickRichardsonFuller/>
<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/Art/CanterburySocietyofArts/>)

Just a quick e-mail to say many thanks for the directions. Went armed with my printouts and they were spot on - had no trouble in finding my ancestors. ... Alison

130 years ago..... At the Junction

In June 1886, following its opening on 23rd April, the Corporation Tramway was being extended into the Worcester Street City Council yard where the carriages were kept when not in use.



Tram fare was 3d (approx NZ\$1.20 today) and the speed limit a rushing 16 kilometres per hour.

"The Linwood line, the Corporation tramway, that is, has been open for traffic only a few months, and has, we understand, already more than justified the anticipations of profitable patronage. If during the past few years Christchurch has not increased so much in density of population as could have been wished, it is yet amply large to provide big seaside contingents if the travelling facilities are forthcoming..." [Star 10 Sept 1886]

On 24th September 1886, it was widely reported that the plans originally discussed in December 1884 to join the city centre with New Brighton by tram were moving forward so that passengers would no longer have to change trams at "The Junction" which meant a walk of approx 200 metres between the two differently managed lines. Within a week, progress on levelling the sandy land was being made by the contractor Mr Holmes.

Tramway topics, page 32 – date and author unknown. Additions of colour by FoLCCT

What's that Plant? - Rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis, is a woody, perennial herb with fragrant, evergreen, needle-like leaves and white, pink, purple, or blue flowers. It is native to the Mediterranean region and Asia; growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Rosemary is reasonably hardy in cool climates. It can survive a severe lack of water for lengthy periods. Flowering in spring and summer, the plants can be in constant bloom in warm climates. It is easy to grow and pest-resistant.

Surprisingly, rosemary is a member of the mint family. Its name comes from the Latin for "dew" (*ros*) and "sea" (*marinus*), or "dew of the sea" and not "Rose of Mary" from the myth that the Virgin Mary spread her blue cloak over a white-blossomed rosemary bush when she was

resting, which turned the flowers blue.

Rosemary has a reputation for improving memory and has been used as a symbol for remembrance during war commemorations and funerals in European-based cultures which is why it is seen in cemeteries. In Australia, sprigs of rosemary are worn on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day;

Rosemary can be used fresh or dried in cooking roasted or barbecued with meats or vegetables to



add a distinct flavour, it also has properties to help the stomach digest red meat,

As an essential oil with antioxidant and antiseptic properties, rosemary is used as an industrial food preservative as well as a perfume in shampoos, soap, room scents and as a decongestant inhalant.

Burning rosemary oil increases concentration, stimulates mental activity and is a good remedy for depression, mental fatigue and forgetfulness. It may slow down Alzheimer's disease in its early stages.

Inhaling rosemary oil and lavender oil for five minutes significantly reduces the levels of cortisol in saliva, Cortisol is released into the blood by the body as a response to stress. Excess cortisol badly affects hormonal balance and the efficiency of the metabolism.

Regular massaging of the scalp with rosemary oil helps to slow down the onset of baldness and removes dandruff.

(Ref:<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosemary>)

Update - Moths & Butterflies of NZ Trust (MBNZT) www.monarch.org.nz

FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLIES film in 3D

will be shown at the following cinemas on

Tuesday 18th October 2016

at 6.30pm

Tickets are \$18

Book at <http://www.monarch.org.nz/movie/>

Readings The Palms, Christchurch

Hoyts Botany, Auckland - Cinema 3

Hoyts Wairua, Auckland - Cinema 4

Reading's Lynn Mall, Auckland - Cinema 6

Cathay Cinema's, Keri Keri (6pm start)

This year the AGM of the Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust was held in Bromley Community Centre, Christchurch. The cemeteries are safe havens for Monarch butterflies to breed.

Monarch caterpillars are under threat from pesticide on plants and a lack of food sources. Annual garden planting of Swan Plant (aka milkweed) and allowing it to grow for at least a year before the butterflies settle is a way to help. Information sheets and an on-line course about raising monarch butterflies is at www.monarch.org.nz.



The MBNZT 2017 Calendar is now for sale for \$15, from <http://www.monarch.org.nz/items-for-sale/calendar-sale/>

Lest We Forget



LED BY IWM

The second of our booklets showing the WW1 memorials in Linwood Cemetery was released at our ANZAC Commemoration in April. It focuses on the 1916 Somme Campaign. Copies are available from the Trust as an e-mailed pdf document. Contact info@linwoodcemetery.org.nz

What's on in Linwood Cemetery?

Beca Heritage Week

This year's Heritage Week (**14-24th October**) theme is "Our Stories Unearthed". Richard will once again be giving his "Spirited Cemetery



Tours". Biographical notes will be available for a gold coin donation. Sensible shoes required.

14 October, 2pm-4pm

Burwood Anglican Churchyard, 305 New Brighton Road.

15 October, 2pm-5pm

Barbadoes Street Cemetery, 384 Barbadoes St. *Meet at lych gate, Cambridge Terrace.*

16 October, 2pm-4pm

Halswell Anglican Cemetery, 329 Halswell Rd.

17 October, 2pm-4pm

Papanui Anglican Cemetery, 1 Harewood Rd.

18 October, 2pm-4pm

Avonside Anglican Cemetery, 168 Stanmore Rd.

19 October, 2pm-4pm

Woolston-Heathcote Cemetery, Rutherford St.

20 October, 2pm-5pm

Bromley Public Cemetery, Linwood Avenue.
Meet at cemetery, opposite Crematorium.

21 October, 2pm-5pm

Addington Public Cemetery, 402-418 Selwyn St. *Meet - east side of Selwyn St nr Moorhouse Ave.*

22 October, 2pm-5pm

Upper Riccarton Anglican Cemetery, 23 Yaldhurst Rd.

23 October, 2pm-5pm

Sydenham Public Cemetery, 1 Simeon Street.
Meet at cemetery on Roker Street.

24 October, 2pm-5pm

Linwood Public Cemetery, 31 Butterfield Avenue.

Richard can be contacted on 03 260 0923 or richatdIngreenaway@gmail.com

ANZAC Commemoration Event

Sunday 23rd April 2017, 11am



Commemoration of those who gave their life or youth to military service and are memorialised in Linwood Cemetery with a focus on the **1917 Ypres** campaign. "Lest We Forget".

If a musician played his own musical work backwards - would he be de-composing?



Our next issue

Issue 13 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for February 2017. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us by 9th January 2017.