

Grave Concerns

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

Issue 14, September 2017



The Angel Has Risen!

He was the last remaining angel in Linwood Cemetery; a landmark that could be seen from the entrance gate across the flat land guiding people out to Bromley Park. Then the February 2011 earthquake brought him down.

A secondary symbol for the Trust, Kerr's Angel represented strength, durability and presence to us. Seeing him on the floor should have broken our reserve, but it didn't. We were determined to have him back in place.

Now he is back on his plinth we know we made the right decision. The angel's majesty is giving those who pass him a boost, not only a sense of direction in the 20-acre cemetery but, we hope also, pride in our community.

We are very grateful to those who gave donations to help us with this project and to those of you who have restored, and maintained your family grave plots in Linwood Cemetery. You are all showing the community and visitors that we bounce back, we respect the achievements of our ancestors and we are here to stay.

From the Trustees

Contents

The Cemetery Thanking Anne ANZAC Commemoration Event Know the Way Stewart
Harvey What's That Symbol? Beca Heritage Week Canterbury's First Polish Settlers
The Silver Grid Fire Did You Know? Richard Reflects Other News How You Can Help
Then and Now Database Search Tips Our Next Issue

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)

The Cemetery

The cemetery is looking tidy and spring flowers are appearing. The four gabion seats containing stone fragments are holding up well and feedback has been very positive. We haven't been able to do anything about detached iron work so far.

B34P94&95 Kerr's Angel

This grand monument was financed initially in 1914 by the public who were shocked at the untimely accidental death of Charles KERR.

In 1887, Charles and his brother, William, bought 50 acres on Wainoni Road and trained trotting horses there. They purchased United States imports, 'Wildwood' and 'Thelma'. Both won major races and produced valuable offspring.

Charles worked as a horse trainer, trap driver and jockey. On 16 May 1914, aged 53, he drove 'Admiral Wood' to victory in the Derby event at the New Brighton Trotting Club Course (later Queen Elizabeth II Park), afterwards celebrating at Woolston. On the way home, he lost control of his horse and gig, collided with a tramline pole and was thrown into the roadway. Kerr was carried to the public hospital where he died of his injuries on 22 May.

An obituary said of Charles Kerr:

"...Mr. Kerr was ...was popular in trotting circles and ... his stables were always full. He had a cheerful and genial nature, took his successes modestly and his reverses without grumbling."

So much money was donated for a tribute by the public and people in the sporting world across NZ and Australia that within a couple of weeks of his

death the fund had to be closed. The grandeur of the "Kerr's Angel" monument in Linwood Cemetery is a testament to the size of the fund.

Kerrs Road and Wildwood Avenue, both in Aranui and within walking distance of Linwood Cemetery are named in his honour.

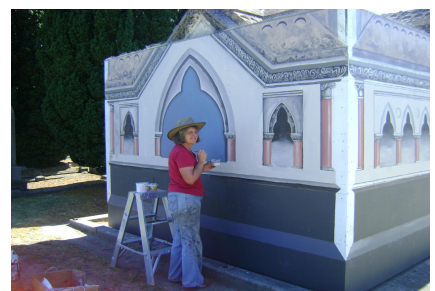
"When I saw him the sun was shining directly on him and he was glowing a beautiful pure white"

Shannon Hall on seeing the newly restored Kerr's Angel for the first time.

The Trust – Thanking Anne

The Trust said a huge thank you to Anne Holloway who left as a Trustee in April. Anne has been enthusiastically involved in the Friends since its inception as a Working Party in 2000. When the status changed to a Charitable Trust, in 2007, Anne took on the role of Secretary for 3 years taking over the role of Chair until 2012. Despite having moved to Amberley following the 2011 earthquakes, Anne continued to come to meetings and events. The Trust will miss her consistently positive view of life, her generosity in holding meetings

and the Christmas Social in her home, and her amazing baking



which has brightened our souls at the bleakest moments. Visitors to the cemetery will see evidence of Anne's talents and generosity as an artist at the Peacock Mausoleum as she painted the Tromp L'oeil.

The Trust ANZAC Commemoration Event

Sunday 23rd April 2017, 11am



It was a lovely sunny day for our annual commemoration of those who gave their life or youth to military service and are memorialised in Linwood Cemetery. This year's focus was on the **1917 Ypres / Passchendaele** campaign. About 20 people attended including Hon Ruth Dyson MP and representatives of the RSA. As usual we had piper to play a lament, but no buglers were available so for the first time we had to play a recording of *The Last Post*. "**Lest We Forget**".

The third of our booklets showing the WW1 memorials in Linwood Cemetery was released at the event. It focuses on the **1917 Ypres / Passchendaele** Campaign. Copies are available from the Trust as an e-mailed pdf document. Contact info@linwoodcemetery.org.nz

The fourth and final booklet in this series **1918 Return to the Somme** will be released at the **2018 ANZAC Commemoration on Sunday 22nd April 2018, 11am**

The Trust - Know the way

Confusion often arises over the locations of the 5 cemeteries in the "dead centre" of Christchurch and the Trustees do what they can to help people find the correct cemetery of their ancestors. At the beginning of last

year, the Trust asked Christchurch City Council to revise the yellow local direction signs to make the individual cemetery's locations clearer. Now the sign on Linwood Avenue which said "Ruru Cemetery" says "Cemeteries" and there are additional signs for individual cemeteries at the corner of Butterfield Ave and Hay Street which direct people to Linwood Cemetery.

Farewell to Stewart Harvey - Heritage Advocate

Stewart Harvey, heritage advocate and founder and Chair of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand died



following illness on 8th of May 2017 aged 77.

"Stewart inspired me to take on the work that I did with the Friends of Linwood Cemetery. He supported us from Dunedin, giving us

clarity and guidance. He deserved every accolade he received and I know he accepted them on behalf of the heritage he protected rather than his own endeavours."
Alexandra Gilbert

In 2006, Stewart initiated the first phase of restoring Larnach's tomb in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery, securing funding of \$130,000.

In 2012, he was awarded a New Zealand Historic Places Trust certificate of merit award and in 2013 received a QSM for services to heritage preservation. In 2015 he was made a Life-time Honorary Friend of Linwood Cemetery.

[Sources: <https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/dunedin-heritage-advocate-dies>

<http://tributes.co.nz/ViewMyTribute.aspx?id=12344>]

What's that symbol? – The Angel

The angel is a traditional Christian religious icon of a benevolent spiritual being that's been given the authority of God to wield His power, carry His messages and represent Him on earth. Usually shown in human form with large wings and a long robe, angels belong to the ninth and lowest order of the Christian hierarchy of heavenly beings. Despite their often feminine appearance in statues and paintings, every reference to angels in the original Greek Scripture is in the masculine form *angelos* - believed to be more a reference to their authority than to gender.

In common usage, "angel" is a noun for a person who acts with high standards of kindness, helpfulness and gentleness. When used on grave plots it denotes the person interred had those qualities.

There is also a symbolic "language" of cemetery angels. As with *Kerr's Angel*, an angel pointing upward is leading the soul toward heaven and it's reward of life after death. An angel with a trumpet represents the call to resurrection; with an extinguished torch, that life is extinguished; a rolled up scroll in his hand shows the deceased's life has been recorded; a star on the angel's crown - the deceased's spirit is rising to heaven.

[Sources :

<http://agraveinterest.blogspot.co.uk/2011/04/angels-in-cemetery.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/angels-male-female.html>]

What's On? - Beca Heritage Week



The theme of this years Beca Heritage week is *Plains, Port Hills & Peninsula – Finding Our Way*. Richard Greenaway

will be running his famous cemetery tours and you will find him in **Linwood Cemetery on Monday 23rd October at 2pm**. The full programme of events can be found on the Beca Heritage Week website

Cemetery Tours with Richard Greenaway

all start at 2 pm ending at either 4 pm or 5pm.

Burwood Anglican Cemetery, 13 October

Barbadoes Street Cemetery, 14 October

Halswell Anglican Cemetery, 15 October

Papanui Anglican Cemetery, 16 October

Avonside Anglican Cemetery, 17 October

Woolston Public Cemetery, 18 October

Bromley Public Cemetery, 19 October

Addington Public Cemetery, 20 October

Upper Riccarton Public Cemetery, 21 October

Spreydon Public Cemetery, 22 October

Linwood Public Cemetery, 23 October

What's On? - Between The Waters (1872-2017) Canterbury's First Polish Settlers



There are 27 grave plots of the first Polish Settlers buried in Linwood Cemetery that we know about - those plots may contain several family members across several generations. We do not know exactly how many having only been able to identify the grave plots with Polish sounding names. We are working with www.polishhistorynz.org to ensure that they have any information and research we have including our plot photographs for their website.

A few years ago, we tried to put some weight behind a demand that the Preston's Road Housing Development, being built on the land the Marshland Poles reclaimed and successfully

farmed, is acknowledged in the road names. There has been a token of success in one road being named *Polish Settlers Place* which will have a memorial plaque installed in it.

In October there will be several events to celebrate 145 years of Polish Settlers, of which there were 241 who settled in Marshland and Banks Peninsular.

Friday 6th October 4-5pm – Civic function at Canterbury Museum – Unveiling of the commemorative plaque for (by invitation only).

Friday 6th October 7pm – Polish Cultural Concert, The Piano Arts Hall, Armagh Street, Christchurch. (Tickets available from Eventfinda.co.nz)

Saturday 7th October 12pm, Catholic Mass, St Patrick's Church Akaroa (all welcome)

Sunday 14th October 2pm – Polish Cultural Concert Memorial theatre Wellington University, Wellington (Tickets available from Eventfinda.co.nz)

December 2017 "Canterbury's First Polish Settler" - Canterbury Museum Exhibition. (free)

There is a Facebook page in support of the events <https://www.facebook.com/145-years-of-Polish-Settlement-in-NZ-1865974916749680/>

"Not only does this commemorate the journey of the Polish immigrants. It is also a time to remember with gratitude the Pioneers of the first ships coming to Lyttelton some years before the Poles and who gave the Polish immigrants accommodation, food and jobs with wages from which they thrived.

Sr Matha Szymanska

100 years ago - The Silver Grid Restaurant and Boarding House Fire

At 2.40pm on 19th November 1917 at 117 Manchester Street, between Tuam and St Asaph Streets, Christchurch, an already well-established fire was discovered. This was the *Silver Grid* – a two storey brick building, 12 years old, with a kitchen and restaurant on the ground floor and a boarding house of 18 rooms – mostly bedrooms – on the top floor. There was a small shop established in 1894, at the southern end of the building at 115 Manchester Street – a bookseller A. D. Smith. That building and business remained there as *Smith's Books* until the February 2011 earthquakes when it had to re-locate.

Once the fire was discovered, 3 fire engines and the whole of the Christchurch City fire brigade attended and on arrival found 6 metre high flames at the front of the building. The flames were so fierce they blistered the paint on the fire engines.

Of the 26 people sleeping on the upper floor, 6 died, three of whom are buried in Linwood Cemetery - Annie SMITH [B47P316], Henry Herbert BEERE [B46P163] and Ted GLEDHILL [B46P323] both tradesmen. The other three fatalities were buried in Sydenham Cemetery.



1917 – Photo of the burnt out Silver Grid showing the remains of the verandah.

Annie SMITH, the proprietor's wife, had fallen when trying to escape on the glass verandah at the front of the building. The only internal wooden stairs to the top floor were ablaze allowing escape only via the verandah or, for those with rooms at the back, 2 metal fire escapes.

The horrific fire changed the design of buildings in the city. Glass verandahs were no longer permitted and automatic fire alarms were to be installed in hotels and boarding houses. The inspection of hotels and boarding houses was made more efficient and stringent ensuring the buildings were of a suitable construction for their purpose.

[Sources: PapersPast and Sarns Lees. Photo: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19171129-42-3. Taken from the supplement to the Auckland Weekly News 29 November 1917 p042]

Other News

We now have 104 Early Settlers identified as buried in Linwood Cemetery.

The latest Christchurch Catholic Archives newsletter is now available contact archives@chch.catholic.org.nz

Decra Art have bought out Monumental Masons Fraser Lawrence bringing them under the same company with Robertson's.

Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery is full of the spice of life?
It has

3 PICKLES
15 PEPPERS
1 SALT
8 Basils
3 MACEs



13 DILL(ON)s
and 1 BAYLEE(F)

and we're in a stew if we don't get 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.

Fanny Buttery (“Beautrais”) COLE

Block 35 Plot 26



These days it is hard to realise that before the turn of the last century, New Zealand was a “wild west” sort of place. Many women believed there was a need for change. An organisation called the Women's Christian

Temperance Union (WCTU) arose from these concerns. Its motto was “For God and Hope and Humanity”.

Founded in May 1885 from an American model, it was an organisation which spread rapidly throughout the country. Members worked tirelessly to promote prohibition and the health benefits of abstinence from alcohol. Fanny COLE was directly empowered by the group to canvas the government for “scientific temperance” to be included in the State school curriculum. There were Temperance Hotels and Tea Houses, a musical Band of Hope and individual districts of the country voted to ‘go dry’, but New Zealand as a whole never did adopt the total prohibition of alcohol.

National Secretary of the WCTU from 1897, Mrs COLE became the National President of the WCTU from 1906 until her death at age 52 on 25th May 1913. She is buried in Linwood Cemetery.



Alongside its move for temperance, the WCTU involved itself in a variety of social reforms, quickly realising that if women didn't get the vote, their influence in changing existing legislation would be very limited

Fanny COLE and other members – including Kate Shepherd and the Lovell-Smiths - advocated strongly for the necessity of women's involvement at all levels of the country's social law and representation where women were affected.

In 26 Mar 1906, Fanny COLE *“expressed the confident opinion that there would be Women legislators in the near future, many of whom would be more capable than the men at present in office.”*

Although Mrs Cole did not see the first woman in Parliament in 1933, she helped Kate Shepherd get the vote for NZ women in 1893.

Today we take for granted the legislation the WCTU led by Mrs COLE fought for, as it is now the norm in NZ Law, and hard to imagine what NZ life would be like without it. It included

- raising of the age of sexual consent and the age of marriage,
- pension rights for women,
- equal rights for mothers for the guardianship of their children,

- the appointment of women police,
- the registering, monitoring and inspection of child care, fostering and adoption of children to stop “baby farming”
- changing the focus to control the spread of venereal disease by punishing prostitutes but not their male customers to providing treatment to women which was free from reporting to the police.
- prison reform by having women appointed as justices of the peace so they could be official visitors to prisons, ensuring women's prisons had women doctors and women prison guards in charge of “violent or incorrigible female prisoners”.

Richard Greenaway can be contacted at richatdngreenaway@gmail.com

[Sources: <http://blog.underoverarch.co.nz/tag/fanny-cole/>
<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-SimWome-t1-body-d6.html>]



Another restraining order. This was the last time he'd try to plan a family reunion.

How You Can Help Linwood Cemetery

Please help the cemetery by;
reporting any vandalism, compliments or concerns about ground maintenance, or health

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) (Linwood_Cem_Pal)

and safety issues found when in Linwood Cemetery, to CCC Customer Services. 03 941 8999, using the *Snap Send Solve* app or email to CustomerServices@ccc.govt.nz

reducing the need for chemical sprays by weeding your ancestors plot.

helping yourself to pine needles to mulch around your garden plants that like acidic soil.

contacting a CCC approved Monumental Mason to discuss restoration and repair options and costs; Fraser Lawrence, Decra Art and Robertson's.

reading the Best Practice Guide on www.cemeteries.org.nz before planning work on a grave plot.

joining us as a Friend to show your support for the Trust for \$5 per year. We are a Charitable Trust so, the amount you give is tax deductible for NZ tax payers if you request a receipt.

joining us as a Trustee.

Contact info@linwoodcemetery.org.nz for further details.

Then and Now - Block 20 Plot 30 WHITTON

1911

2014



natlibgovtnz 30115397

Database Search Tips

We are still helping people find their ancestors. Email only to info@linwoodcemetery.org.nz.

All those buried in Linwood Cemetery are listed on the CCC Cemetery Database.

<http://heritage.christchurchcitylibraries.com/Cemeteries/>

If a record is not coming up when you search -

- Know the cemetery? Filter the search to select the cemetery by clicking on **Advanced Search**.
- Try different ways to spell the names.
- Leave out the Forename(s). Your ancestor may have been known by a different name from their officially registered name.
- Put in fewer letters to get a wider search – you don't need to put the full Surname in.
- Use the date filter if you are getting too many results - the exact date if you know it, or guesstimate a date range.
- Don't give up!

Still can't find your Christchurch ancestor and they died 1936 or later? They may have been cremated. Contact Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, 455 Linwood Avenue, Christchurch www.cremsoc.nz. As a private concern, their records are not on the internet.

Our next issue

Issue 15 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for February 2018. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us by 15th January 2018.