

GRAVE CONCERNS

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

Issue 2, October 2011



From the Chair

It has been a testing year for the FoLCT with considerable and heart-breaking damage caused to the cemetery by the February and June earthquakes.

It is now obvious it will take a very long time to repair the damage to graves, even if funds were available. Our aims now must be to try to limit further damage to headstones, ensure the cemetery looks cared for and continue with our work to publicise the need for families to be responsible for their ancestor's graves.

Despite the setbacks, we have been able to have successful working bees where we have been very happy to meet new people as well as get together with fellow 'Friends'.

The small ANZAC Day event was a first and we hope to continue with it each year. The number of people in the cemetery who served in the two world wars continues to grow as more are identified through our research.

Attempts to meet with the City Council representatives responsible for Linwood Cemetery, have been thwarted several times by unexpected circumstances.

Our thanks again must go to Alexandra for all the work she has put in to raise our profile this year. Thanks also to Jenny our Treasurer and Judy the Head Gardener as well as everyone who has supported us through the year and welcome to our new Trustees - Richard Greenaway and Maggie Rillstone.

Anne Holloway

When we chose the by-line *Bringing Linwood Cemetery Alive*, we didn't think Mother Nature would help us! The shakes of February and June's earthquakes have certainly given the cemetery the look of having moved! Its been very demoralising, but it could have been worse - no one was hurt and a lot still survives. Above all, people are beginning to include cemeteries in their discussions about the rebuild of Christchurch. More people have asked us for earthquake checks, more people seem to be coming from out of town to tidy their ancestor's graves and the media are making repair of cemeteries a hot heritage issue. Every cloud does have a silver lining!

Contents

From the Chair

Editorial

The Cemetery

Winners at a time of loss

Spreading the Word

Public enquiries

www.
linwoodcemetery.org.nz

Register of Friends

Successes - Funding

Successes - Events

2011 and beyond

Did you know?

How to Get Involved

Key Dates

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.*
c/- 45 Rudds Road, Christchurch 8062, New Zealand ☎ +64 3 381 4171
www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz ✉ info@linwoodcemetery.org.nz.

The Cemetery

Despite the shock and sadness of the earthquake damage the cemetery endured, there's been some amazing movement that beggars belief.



In a recent broadcast (*Morning Report*, Radio NZ, 27/9/2011) Malcolm Park, speaking for the Christchurch City Council, is reported as saying that where there are no remaining descendants the headstones will lie on the ground until the Council has decided what to do with them. The cemeteries have been added to a master list of Council assets that need repair. Priorities are being assessed as more damage is reported but it is too soon to say what steps the Council will take because the cost of re-mediation is so large it is important for there to be a clear strategy.

You can hear the full article at <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2498778/heritage-supports-want-christchurch-headstones-repaired>



Winners at a time of loss

The Trust is very excited to announce that we have been selected as one of 20 winners in

the NZ *Dulux* Community Projects competition. *Dulux* NZ will be giving us materials to paint a mural of what the Peacock Vault used to look like, on its plywood protective covering. We aim to go ahead in November. We hope this will attract interest in the restoration of the mausoleum and help us to raise funds for this mammoth task. Please contact us if you would like to donate funds for this project.

Public Enquiries

Of the twenty people who have contacted us to find out about the location or condition of their ancestor's grave(s) since our last issue in January; two were people who had come to Christchurch to help with the February EQ Recovery Phase. We were pleased to be able to inform a person from Australia that, contrary to what she had read, the whole of the Eastern suburbs were not being demolished and the cemetery was to remain.

Spreading the word

We have focused a lot on publicising the Trust this year; attending Community Fairs, giving talks, social networking via the web; making people aware of who we are and what we do. When we meet visitors in the cemetery we now have flyers about the Trust on hand.

We would like to thank all of those organisations that have invited us to their events or groups so that we can share our passion for 'our' cemetery.



Joyce and Dave, Christchurch

As more people ask us for information, the more complex the layout of Linwood Cemetery is revealed to us. The past year has been a bit of a drain on our personal time which, in turn, has eaten into our volunteer time. If you still haven't received information from us, you are on the list and we will be in touch soon.

www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz



In the past couple of months we have edited our website to reflect the recent environmental changes, new research and how to keep safe on a visit to the cemetery. We are still getting a satisfying number of hits from NZ and the rest of the world and we have a growing following on *Facebook* (*thefriendsoflinwoodcemetery*) and *Twitter* (*Linwood_Cem_Pal*). All these are great ways to keep

updated on our events and work.



Register of Friends

We are delighted at the growing interest in Linwood Cemetery and the work of the Trust. Our Register of Friends boasts 15 new members in the past 9 months - two of which are community groups. We thank our Friends for their help at working bees, with research and validating our work by believing in what we are doing. Its been of special value to us in the challenging months since February 22nd.

Please think of future generations. We need them to continue our work. **Join our Register of Friends.**

Successes - funding

This past year we were able to secure funding for operational costs, for which we are extremely grateful, from CCC Small Grants Fund, COGS, NZ Post, BP. *Remington Products NZ Ltd* gave us a good deal on camera batteries - needed to re-photograph the damage to the cemetery, and *Images Unlimited* waived the design fees for our eye-catching new banner.



We also have to thank *Plant Me* for extending the time we can have to sell seeds. We have an excellent selection of

McGregor's seeds available for \$3 per packet.

Please buy your seeds from us for your spring planting - we get \$1 for every packet sold. Details on our website or from Alexandra 03 381 4171.

Successes - events

Working Bees

Our March Working Bee was a team walk (for moral support) through the cemetery to inspect earthquake

damage. In May we tidied 'up the hill' in Blocks 1-4 and most recently we combined a working bee with Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week at the end of August. Each Working Bee is reported on our website in more detail.

Children's Holiday Programmes this year were cancelled due to concerns about safety in the cemetery. Despite the City Council cancelling Heritage Week in October, there was a tour in the cemetery by Richard Greenaway on 29th October and our Neighbourhood Event will be on 5th November (see below for details) We always look forward to these opportunities to meet you.

If you can't find an ancestor in Linwood Cemetery - have you lost the plot?

2011 and beyond

Short term goals

- continue to tidy, garden and act as self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery,
- ensure operational funding for the 2011/2012 financial year,
- continue to publicise the work of The Friends, expand the Register of Friends to generate independent income,
- meet with the City Council Greenspace and Heritage Units to agree targets, processes and revisions to the *Conservation Plan for Linwood Cemetery*.

Medium to long term goals

- earthquake recovery as guided by the City Council,
- complete the grave plot register on the website.



Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery has buried in it

- 290 memorials to service personnel
- 14 former Christchurch Mayors
- 3 members of Parliament
- 1 American Black Minstrel

and Linwood Cemetery needs more Friends to help preserve it.

How to get involved!

- Pick up after yourself, your dog and other people. Put rubbish in the car park bins or take it home.
- Report graffiti (03 941 8666) / 0800 VANDAL.
- If you have ancestors in the cemetery, visit them often and tidy their plot (staying safe).
- Come to our Working Bees.
- Take home a bag of pine needles to mulch your strawberries or paths.
- Share information about your ancestors on our website.
- Ask a Master Stonemason about restoring your ancestor's grave.
- Become a Friend of Linwood Cemetery.
- Give The Friends of Linwood Cemetery a donation.

Key dates 2011

(Contact us for details , sign up to *Facebook* or *Twitter* or check our website in case of cancellations)

Trustees Board Meetings

1st Wednesday of each month except January.

We would welcome hearing from you if you are interested in supporting us at a decision-making level, or maybe you have an area of expertise that you could donate to us. We particularly need people to add data to our website and garden the cemetery.

Next Working Bee - Saturday 10th December

10am-12noon - see website for details.

Neighbourhood Event

- Saturday 5th November 11am - 2pm
Sausage Sizzle and Guided Tour with Richard.
Meet Butterfield Ave car park.

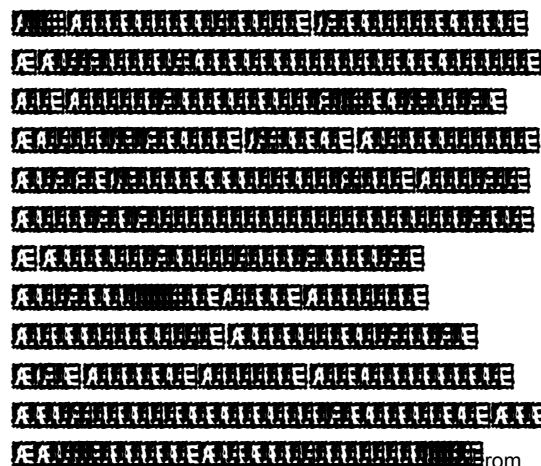


Community Fairs & Galas

- Bromley Community Fair, Bromley Community Centre - Sunday 20th November 2011 11am-2pm
- Riccarton Garden Gala - Thursday 16th February 2012 11am-2pm

ANZAC Memorial Event

- Sunday 22 April 2012 (TBC)



NG 26/6/2011



Our next issue

Issue 3 of Grave Concerns is scheduled for January 2012.

If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us.