

# GRAVE CONCERNS

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

Issue 3, March 2012



## From the Chair

Despite the damage caused by the earthquakes and the aftershocks, not to mention severe damage to our lovely seat through vandalism, the Friends continue to try and make a positive difference to the cemetery.

It's amazing what an impact a bit of tidying and pruning does to the look of the cemetery and, as I found out when spending quite a lot of time painting the plywood covering the Peacock Mausoleum, our work does not go unnoticed.

The cemetery is a popular place for people to exercise their dogs and I have been able to talk to many locals and made friends with various dogs in-between painting. It is gratifying to know that our efforts are appreciated. One person that walks through the cemetery just about every day, picks up rubbish on the way round and reckons he has picked up hundreds of bags of rubbish since he began.

I am also looking forward to Richard Greenaway's next tour. It has been a while since we had one and I hope that many of you will be able to join us on May 26<sup>th</sup> for this and the unveiling of the Peacock Mausoleum 'tromepe l'aille'.



Many thanks to the locals, Friends and Trustees for their efforts and contributions in keeping everything moving along so well and putting in many voluntary hours of work on our, and Linwood Cemetery's, behalf.

**Anne Holloway**

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## The Cemetery

We are very proud of Anne's work on the plywood surround of the Peacock Mausoleum and thank *Dulux* for their support of this project. It is wonderful to see the cemetery lifted by the amazingly realistic artwork and we hope that it is a welcome feature of the cemetery for years to come. The comments from those visiting the cemetery during the painting have been overwhelmingly positive. A protective coating will be put over the paint for ease of removal of any graffiti.

The intention of this project is as an interim measure whilst we wait for the City Council to produce a revised *Conservation Plan* for the cemetery and funds are raised for the very expensive restoration of this important heritage building. We are in no doubt



this will take many years! More information about John T. PEACOCK can be found on our website.

The completion of the project will be celebrated on Saturday 26th May 12pm-1pm followed by the 'Red Zone' Tour.

## Famous inhabitants

Mr SAYLES was an American Minstrel whose performances were really popular in Christchurch in the early 1900s. His untimely death in 1914

was a source of sadness to the City at the time.

We were excited to hear a snippet on Radio NZ about a play being performed on Waihiki Island about Irving SAYLES. You can read more about SAYLES on our website and hear the article from Radio NZ which we have posted on the page. He is buried in Block 20 Plot 261.



Minstrel Show on Beach (ref: available from the Trust)

## From Poland to Marshland

We were delighted to work with the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Shirley Branch, in putting on three opportunities to hear Martha Szymanska talk about her new book, *The History of Marshland : The Schimanski Brothers 1872-2011 Volume 1*, on the 28th March. The NZSG Shirley Branch came to our aid when Martha's first choice of venue, Marshland Hall, was unavailable due to earthquake damage. The launch was also used as an event to open the wonderful new post-earthquake NZSG Genealogy library at the back of Richmond School.

Martha's talks were attended by several distant relatives eager to see how they fitted into her family tree; people who had corresponded with her and she hadn't met; members of the Polish Association in Christchurch as well as

members of the NZSG and the Friends.  
A copy of Martha's book will be in the NZSG Shirley Branch Library. To purchase a copy, please contact us for details.



Martha Szymanska talks about early Polish settlers

## Good Sorts

The CCC engaged some student earthquake volunteers to carry out some essential weed-eating in the cemetery on the 21st September. We were really encouraged to see the interest in the grave plots by some of them. *Treetech* also were there and cleared the large number of branches that fell in the winter snow and were causing concern.

## ANZAC Search Update

When we started to make a note of the people in the cemetery who had served in the military, we didn't realise what we had let ourselves in for! We went from 55 distinctive 'true war graves', (known improperly as 'RSA headstones') to identifying 299 ex-service people. We are trying to get our Roll of Honour on our website up-to-date before our ANZAC Commemoration on 22nd April. Sarndra Lees has been busy all year researching people on the Roll and will continue with this mammoth task. The Wednesday Walkers have

been looking for the plots and nearly completed photographing them. Following the success of our first ANZAC event last year, our long-standing Trustee, Craig Cormack, has developed the ceremony and hopes to include a bugler to play the *Last Post*. We all feel it's so important to remember how many Christchurch men and women lost their lives, or sacrificed their youth for 'King and Country', and the devastating effect it left on the families they left behind. This was made even more poignant by recently finding a grave in the cemetery, of 5 spinster sisters all of whom would have been of marrying age during the First World War and either chose not to marry or were unable to find husbands due to the high number of men who never returned.



## [www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz](http://www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz)

A new page has been added to our website listing the Key Dates in the history of Linwood Cemetery. More dates will be added as we find them!!!! It is also interesting to realise that four years after the cemetery opened in 1884, Christchurch (and other parts of NZ) were affected by strong earthquakes - the Cathedral losing its spire.

## Oral History Project

Time's just slipped away from us this past year or



so. At last, we are in the process of applying for funding to complete the 2007 Oral History Project. We thank everyone who has already contacted us with contributions for their extreme patience with us. We hope to be in contact with you again soon.

## Register of Friends

We are grateful for those Friends who have renewed their support for us for a further year and generously included donations for our operational costs. Please consider joining them in supporting us and having a voice in the preservation of Linwood Cemetery as an increasingly significant heritage space in Christchurch. Please think of future generations. We need them to continue our work. **Join our Register of Friends.**



Headstone found in Mexican cemetery (Anon)

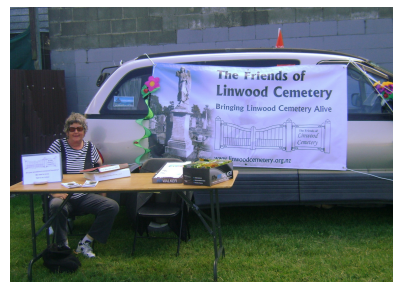
## Successes - funding

The *Plant Me* McGregor's seeds fund-raiser is now finished. We sold 81 packets of seed and made \$1 from each sale for our operational funds. We are in no doubt that we would have sold more if 'Mother Nature' hadn't intervened! We thank everyone who bought seeds and *Plant Me* for their understanding.

Best sellers were dwarf beans, cottage garden mix and swan plant. 'Worst in Show' were calendular and nasturtium.

## Successes - events

We had information stalls at the much awaited Bromley Community Fair and the Riccarton Garden Gala. This was our second time attending these events.



Maggie at our stall at Bromley Community Fair

The weather was glorious on both occasions and it's always a joy to see people enjoying the entertainment and, whatever the age, joining in with *Zumba*! We had several enquiries and our new banner was much admired. We are grateful to the Riccarton / Wigram Community Board for giving us a donation for being at the Riccarton Gala, and for all the energetic CCC event organisers who set up and break down these events for us all.

## Working Bees

Both Working Bees in December and March, focused on the area around the Peacock Mausoleum. It was looking more shabby as the Mausoleum looked more spectacular! This area has suffered much damage and, having our bench there, is a place where many people congregate.



Thank you to the Friends and general public who helped us.

## Children's Holiday Programmes

As part of the *TV3 Kid's Fest* programme this July, we are having another Discovery Trail. We think it important to teach people how to be safe in the earthquake damaged cemeteries in Christchurch so they can still enjoy these wonderful areas that are rich with opportunities for all sorts of discovery.



Kids Fest 2010

## 2012 and beyond

### Short term goals

- continue to tidy, garden and act as self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery,
- secure operational funding for the 2012/2013 financial year,
- continue to publicise the work of The Friends and expand the Register of Friends to generate independent income,
- meet with the CCC Greenspace and Heritage Units to agree targets, processes and revisions to the *Conservation Plan for Linwood Cemetery*.

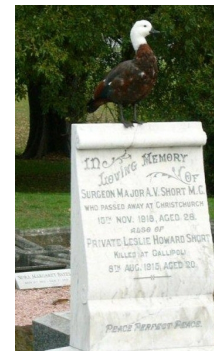
### Medium to long term goals

- earthquake recovery as guided by the City Council,
- complete the grave plot register on the website,
- celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Linwood Cemetery in 2014.

## Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery has

- 1 PIGEON
- 2 SPARROWS
- 3 SWANS
- 6 BIRDS
- 10 PEACOCKS
- 13 PARTRIDGES



Goose on headstone (Maggie)

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 2012

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

## Trustee Board Meetings

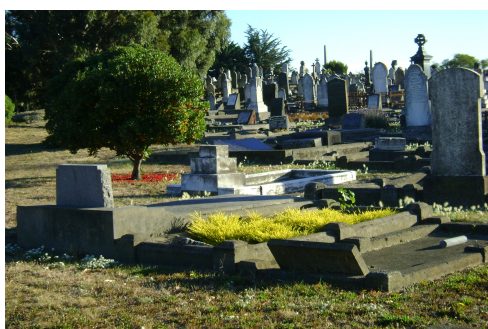
1st Wednesday of each month except January.

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.

## Tours

Cantabrians may have lost much of their physical heritage by the demolition of properties in the CBD Red Zone, but many of the people who proposed, supported, designed, financed and worked in those buildings are buried in Linwood Cemetery making it an increasingly valuable heritage site for our City. Come along to our 'Red Zone Tour' and hear about some of the people that made pre-earthquake Christchurch what it was. **Saturday 26th May, 1-3pm** (after the unveiling of the Peacock Mausoleum trompe l'oeil). Meet at Linwood Cemetery Car Park, Butterfield Avenue.



Autumn in Linwood Cemetery

## Talks

We will be giving a talk to the Canterbury Pilgrims Association on Sunday 20th May at 2pm as we run up to the start of our next research project identifying the Early Settlers buried in Linwood Cemetery. Would you like us to talk to your group? Would you like to contribute to this new research project? **Contact us!**

## Events in Linwood Cemetery



ANZAC Commemoration Service 2011

### ANZAC Commemoration Service

- Sunday 22 April 2012, 11am, near cemetery car park, Butterfield Avenue. (*Free. Poppies available for a donation*)

### 'Red Zone' Tour

- Saturday 26th May 1-3pm (*Gold coin donation*)

### TV3 Kids Fest

- Sundays 1st and 8th July. 10am-noon; 2pm-4pm (*\$2 per child, accompanying adults Free*)
- Wednesdays 4th and 11th July. 10am-noon; 2pm-4pm (*\$2 per child, accompanying adults Free*)

**Next Working Bee** - Saturday 23rd June from 10am to noon. Please bring your own basic tools and wear appropriate clothing. Meet at Linwood Cemetery, Butterfield Avenue Car Park.

### Community Fairs & Galas we'll be at

- Woolston Gala, Saturday 14th April 2012, 11am-3pm, Woolston Park, Ferry Road.

## Our next issue

Issue 4 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for September 2012. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us.



Butterfly on Block Marker,  
courtesy of Eileen Smith

**The Friends of Linwood Cemetery Charitable Trust**  
*Working towards the enhancement and preservation of the  
historic Linwood Cemetery through active community involvement.*  
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