

# GRAVE CONCERNS

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

Issue 4, September 2012



## From the Chair

### It's goodbye from her.....

I have lost track of how long I have been involved with The Friends. I have been a reluctant Chairperson for a while. Having now moved house some distance out of town, I am happy to hand the role of Chair over to Craig. I will continue as a Trustee and I will look forward to catching up with everyone at the Working Bees and special events.

**Anne Holloway**



### ...and it's hello from him

Taking the over the Chair of the Friends of Linwood Cemetery will be interesting. I must thank Anne for the time she was in the

role. The way ahead has it's challenges; vandalism and graffiti are on-going problems, as well as finding time to deal with funding and 'red tape'. It's great to be supported by the other Trustees who are all equally dedicated to maintaining and improving Linwood Cemetery as I am.

**Craig Cormack**

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historic Linwood Cemetery through active community involvement.*  
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## The Cemetery

*City Care* have re-laid the path going Up the Hill' with lime, making the rise very distinctive.



They have also been going through Christchurch's public cemeteries recording and evaluating earthquake damage. This will then be costed and a schedule of

safety repairs put together for *City Care* to carry out. During this assessment process, Tom Adam and his team have been putting headstone pieces onto the correct graves when it is easy to do so manually. Tom has a particular soft spot for Linwood Cemetery built up over many years of carrying out maintenance in the cemetery on grave plots for the CCC. As a Trust we are very grateful for his long term practical support and willingness to share his knowledge to keep Linwood Cemetery as best as we can.

Mid-August, Tom's *City Care* team were back in Linwood Cemetery testing some new lifting gear from Australia. One of the problems inhibiting lifting fallen headstones, has always been getting a crane into the middle of a row. The new mini-crawler is the width of the path between rows, and has a crane arm that folds into itself. Tom said "I brought the crane to Linwood Cemetery to test because I knew that if it could access and lift one of the large fallen stones there, it could do it anywhere."

Tom's *City Care* team will be starting in Sydenham Cemetery and will be instructed on which order to work their way round. Watch this space for news on Tom's progress!

Meanwhile, Judy our Head Gardener, continues to awe us all by systematically pruning all the shrubs and lavender bushes, come rain or shine. She has put in over 250 volunteer hours gardening the cemetery this year, which included planting 2 sacks of bulbs. Thank you Judy!

## Please Report Damage

As well as letting us know about a family plot that needs attention following the earthquakes, or are if you are unhappy with the state of any part of Linwood Cemetery, please report it to the CCC via their call centre on **941 8666** or email **CCC\_CustomerServices@ccc.govt.nz**.

## Youth Volunteers Help With Re-paint

Before we could get the Peacock Mausoleum sign-written and covered with a graffiti-resistant coating, it was vigorously tagged on 2 sides with less tagging on the other 2 sides. The disgust expressed by those who saw this incomprehensible and pointless act, and the moral support given to us, encouraged us through the arduous 18 person-hours it took to remove enough of the tagging to see the detail to repaint. The graffiti has been reported to the police.

The Army Youth Development Unit had already booked a timely Working Bee with us and we were delighted to be given a small detail of 18-25 year olds to help Anne paint over the remaining damage.



Digby Gemmell of **Gemsigns** offered to do the signwriting at no charge, and the protective coating was applied on 15th September at

our Spring Working Bee by some enthusiastic youngsters from Christchurch South Intermediate School. Thank you all.

## Elbow Grease vs Janola

It is very encouraging to see descendants working on their ancestor's grave plots. Often we get told of 'sure fire' chemicals which can be used to clean a headstone so it can be read. Sadly, chemicals can do permanent damage to the headstone which may not be visible when initially applied. Moss and lichen are best left



alone unless removal is absolutely necessary, and then only by using a soft brush and a solution of sugar soap. Be careful

not to dislodge any loose lead lettering. Best practice guidelines to conservation are found on the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ's web page [www.cemeteries.org.nz](http://www.cemeteries.org.nz). **Please** refer to them when considering grave plot cleaning.

## What a difference a year makes

We have just completed our sixth year of operating as a Trust, although we tended Linwood Cemetery as a Working Group for six years before that.

Compiling our Annual Report can feel like a chore, but it does make us realise just how much we, as volunteers, have done as a Trust in a year.

Between July 2011 and June 2012 the Trust

- financed a plaque to be installed on B2P1 FREEMAN; the first grave in the cemetery,
- took 1500 photographs,
- managed to fit 1833 volunteer hours into our busy lives,
- attended 3 Community Fairs,
- held 6 Working Bees,
- put on 9 public events,
- received enquiries from 28 people,

- completed the artwork on the Peacock Mausoleum,
- researched the lives of over 50 people connected to the cemetery,
- gave talks to other 2 groups.



The full Annual Report is circulated to Friends with this newsletter.

## Richard Reflects

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

William Anderson **TAYLOR** was born about 1883, in Aberdeen, Scotland, and emigrated with his family about 1891. He worked as a printer at the *Press*.

Taylor became interested in the history of Maori and European settlement in the South Island. He interviewed elderly Maori and Pakeha and cycled about the South Island, visiting and photographing historic sites. His notes were entered, in very neat writing, in exercise books. He asked that his family give him such items as Christmas and birthday presents.

Taylor's exercise books are now at the museum. So also are his photographs which record not only old Polynesian sites but also events which took place during his lifetime.

Taylor's articles on Maori subjects appeared under



the name 'Wi Tiera' in the *Ellesmere Guardian*, *Star* and, towards the end of his life, *The Plainsman*. His books included *Lore and History of the South Island Maori*; *Waihora*; *Maori Art in Canterbury*; and *Banks Peninsula, Picturesque and Historic*.

Taylor was not to see *Lore and History* (which was published in 1952) in print. He died, aged 68, on 20 June 1951 and is buried in Linwood Cemetery at Block 21 Plot 163. *Read the full story on our website.*

## **www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz**

Nearly 3000 people visited our website this year (3 times that of last year). Visitors to the site are still mainly from NZ, Australia, UK and USA but also an additional 35 countries around the world.

We have collected a large amount of biographies, mainly with the help from Trustees and Friends. These are stored digitally, patiently waiting for the new template to be finalised. We are still 'jumping through the hoops' with *PayPal* to have a secure account so we can collect money from overseas easier.

## **Oral History Project**

Our disappointment at not being able to secure funding to pay for some hours for two Trustees to complete the 2007 Oral History Project was outweighed by a generous offer from the History Department of the University of Canterbury.

Starting next academic year, we will be providing a community participation element for one of the Honors level BA courses. From that experience we hope to cement an on-going partnership with the University. This will help us to use our volunteer time more effectively as well as giving the students an opportunity to practice their

information gathering skills and honour those willing to contribute memories of their ancestors to our website. As we were given some money from the CCC Discretionary Fund for expenses for the Oral History Project, we will be piloting some interviewing first to work out what pitfalls there may be. Once more we thank everyone who has already contacted us for their continued patience, and we will be in contact with you again soon.

**It does not matter how slowly you go  
so long as you do not stop.**  
(Confucius)

## **Register of Friends**



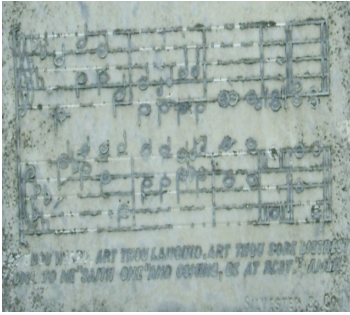
We are grateful to those Friends who have renewed their support for us for a further year and especially to those who generously included donations

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.**

## **Symbols, Staves and Treble Clefs**

*The first in a series about interesting symbols on headstones in Linwood Cemetery .*

The musicians amongst us have been delighted to find 4 headstones with music on them in Linwood Cemetery; a hymn, two names spelled out in musical notes and the musical symbol for a sustained pause. See if you can find them too!



This is Block 24 Plot 77 HORNE. Music is also at Block 21 Plot 209 GARRY, Block 23 Plot 2 POST and Block 21 Plot 167 BLOOMGREN.

*More information can be found on our website.*

## Working Bees

Three of our Working Bees this year focused on the area surrounding the Peacock Mausoleum. In July, 40 members of the Army Youth Development Unit based in Burnham, held an impromptu Working Bee in the cemetery for us. So much was achieved by these enthusiastic young people that we were inspired to carry on the edging of the grass spreading across the Tram Line, that they had started.

## Kids Fest 2012



As part of the TV3 Kid's Fest programme in July, we held four fully-subscribed sessions for children aged 5 -13 and their parents. Everyone had a great time. We were very humbled to see the focus and

intensity with which all the children engaged with the educational activities we put on for them. Decra Arts, CCC Off the Wall Project and Libraries Educational Unit sponsored our surprise goodie bags which were a huge hit. We hope the families will return to enjoy the daffodils they planted.

## Boredom Busting

Here's some fun things to do in Linwood Cemetery

at weekends and over the holidays:

- tidying and litter picking competitions,
- drawing, photographing or filming plots and headstones,
- looking at what headstones tell us,
- looking for your ancestors,
- looking for the famous Cantabrians on the three heritage boards,
- having a picnic,
- walking your dog,
- looking for the butterfly on the Peacock Mausoleum,
- identifying birds, trees and shrubs
- measuring the tramline in big footsteps
- looking for the headstone of the first person buried in Linwood Cemetery.

## What's That Tree?

In 1884, when Linwood Cemetery was laid out and



landscaped, one of the trees planted was the Yew. Historically, the Yew is associated with transformation and re-birth. It is believed that it

can connect people to their ancestors and the 'Other World'. Its tall, cylindrical shape is very distinctive.

Although poisonous, a chemical in the bark 'taxol', is being used to develop a treatment for breast cancer.

*More information can be found on our website.*

## 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 become self-funding,
- meet with the CCC Greenspace and Heritage Units to agree targets, processes and revisions to the *Conservation Plan for Linwood Cemetery*,
- complete the ANZAC Project and start the Early Settlers Project.

### Medium to long term goals

- earthquake recovery as guided by the CCC,
- complete the 2007 Oral History Project and expand to allow more people to contribute,
- complete the grave plot register on the website,
- celebrate the 130th Anniversary of Linwood Cemetery in 2014.

### Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery has

- 16 BUTTONS
- 10 BOOTS
- 5 PLIMSOLLS
- 4 WIGGS
- 3 SCARFFS
- 2 COATES
- 2 BAGGS



and Linwood Cemetery needs more Friends to help preserve it.

### 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).
- Help at 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

#### Trustee Board Meetings

The Trust has moved its meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of each month. We don't meet in 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.

#### Events in Linwood Cemetery

**Sunday 28th October (11.30am-2pm)** - Cemetery Anniversary Tour and Sausage Sizzle.

**December** - Early Settlers Tour (TBC)

**December** - Working Bee (TBC). Please bring your own basic gardening tools and wear appropriate clothing. Meet at Linwood Cemetery, Butterfield Avenue Car Park.

**Sunday 3rd March 2013** - Bromley Community Fair, Bromley Community Centre.

**Sunday 21 April 2013 (11am)** - ANZAC Commemoration Service, near cemetery car park, Butterfield Avenue.

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

#### Our next issue

Issue 5 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for March 2013. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us.