

# GRAVE CONCERNS

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

Issue 5, February 2013



## From the Chair

Happy New Year!

We start 2013 with a busy programme of events, a submission to the Revision of the CCC Bylaws and Cemetery Handbook and exciting research projects which we hope will all increase the awareness of Linwood Cemetery as being a valuable greenspace of important heritage value and encourage locals and descendants to continue to bring Linwood Cemetery alive with visits, general tidying and restorations.

Like most people in Christchurch, each of us is finding our volunteer hours strained by re-builds, growing families, aged parents and just getting around Christchurch - a constantly changing road system with an absence of landmarks but where parking is no longer a problem!



Sadly, Helen Munro and Maggie Rillstone have chosen to step down as Trustees because of other personal commitments. We thank them whole-heartedly for their involvement over the past year or so. This leaves a few vacancies on our Trust Board for anyone interested in contributing at a decision-making level.

Hopefully our events for the year will continue to be well attended and we will see you at one or more of them.

**Craig Cormack, Chair**

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## The Cemetery

The Friends made a lengthy submission to the *Proposed Revised Cemetery Bylaw, Cemetery Handbook* and *Master Plan* section for Linwood Cemetery and look forward to attending the Hearings Panel in March/April. The main thrust of our comments was to ask that descendants and the Trust receive every opportunity to get as much restored and preserved in the cemetery over a recommended period of 5-10 years. The damage by the earthquakes has created an exceptional situation that needs to be handled empathetically to the benefit of the community and those buried in the cemetery and their descendants. You can stay posted on progress via our website, *Facebook* and *Twitter*.

The earthquake cracks in the tar seal roads in the cemetery have been expertly patched by the CCC making using them safe again.

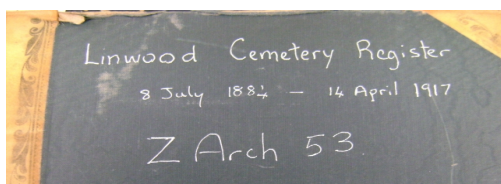
## Old Photos

Sarndra Lees has sent us links to a number of old pictures of plots in Linwood Cemetery in the National Archives. There was a second formal entrance and benches clearly on view! Go to our website for links to the pictures and more information on each of the articles in this newsletter.

If you have any photos of graves in Linwood Cemetery or the surrounding area from before the earthquakes (1884-2011) even if in the distance, we would be grateful to have copies.

## Cemetery Records

We are currently photographing the archived Council documents relating to Linwood Cemetery



**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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page by page. These documents are now housed near the airport at *Recall* and can be viewed by the public by appointment on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Contact: Eva Sullivan, CCC Archivist  
Phone (03) 941 8614 (M, W, F) Phone (03) 357 5682 (T,Th)

## A Rose By Any Other Name

Linwood Cemetery has had many names including the New Cemetery, Corporation Cemetery, Sandihills, Sandilands and finally Linwood Cemetery as the land was originally under the jurisdiction of Linwood Town Board.



Linwood Cemetery is in Bromley, next to Bromley Park which is very confusing when the later Bromley Cemetery (1918) borders Linwood Avenue.

Further confusion arises with Bromley Cemetery having Canterbury Crematorium opposite it's main gates with Woodlawn Memorial Gardens for ashes behind it.

This has led to a colloquial mix up of names; Bromley Cemetery being referred to as 'the old Linwood Cemetery'; Canterbury Crematorium as 'Linwood Crematorium'; Woodlawn Memorial Gardens as (the new) Linwood Cemetery and Linwood Cemetery as Bromley Cemetery.

It sounds obvious but if you find your ancestor is in one of these cemeteries make sure you check you have the right one before visiting! If you can't find your ancestors on the CCC Library Database but family knowledge tells you "they are buried in Linwood" it's worth checking if they have a memorial at Woodlawn. Owned by the Cremation Society of Canterbury Ltd, Woodlawn Memorial Gardens and Canterbury Crematorium can be contacted on 03 389 6282.

## Putting Some Light on the Subject

We are often asked why security lights and cameras aren't installed in the cemetery to reduce vandalism - especially near the Peacock Mausoleum. Even if the installation cost could be raised, reviewing the CCTV coverage and maintenance of the unit is not financially viable for the CCC or the Trust and lights going on and off in the cemetery at night could be disturbing to those living around the cemetery's perimeter.

We would prefer to continue to campaign for regular tree maintenance, removal of low hanging branches and keeping greenery in the cemetery low and 'airy'.

The current problem for the Friends is being able to dispose of any gardening debris. Judy, our Head Gardener has to take green waste home and put it in her green bin. Thank you, Judy.

## Dulux Helps Again

It wasn't long before our graffiti-resistant coating on the Peacock Mausoleum was put to the test. Thankfully *Dulux* NZ continued their support of the project by donating a large bottle of the correct graffiti remover so that the protective covering isn't damaged when removing graffiti. Hopefully we won't have to use it again!



## It's All About Numbers

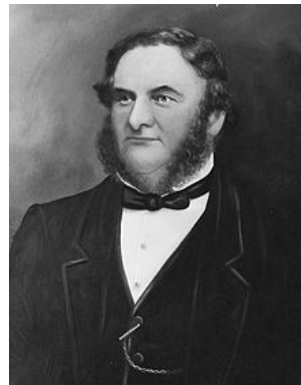
As well as letting us know about a family plot that needs attention, or if you are unhappy with the state of any part of Linwood Cemetery, please also report it to the CCC via their call centre on **941 8666** or email **CCC\_CustomerServices@ccc.govt.nz**.

## Richard Reflects

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

**William 'Cabbage' WILSON** was a nurseryman and Estate overseer from Scotland. He arrived in New Zealand in August 1850 at Port Chalmers on the ship *Mariner* and travelled to other developing towns before arriving in Lyttelton in late July 1851.

Wilson's first nursery in New Zealand, was Bricks Farm, next to The Bricks, the first Pioneer settlement in Christchurch. He made his fortune buying up land in sought-after areas for his nurseries and then operated them until the land became too valuable, subdividing it for development.



From 1864 Wilson became involved in local politics and in June 1868 was elected by his fellow Councillors as the Town's first Mayor. It is interesting that, although Canterbury was primarily an Anglican settlement, the first three mayors were all Presbyterian Scotsmen.

In 1876, Wilson lost a very public court case accusing him of fraud, ending his public life and active roles in clubs and societies. He died on 8 November 1897 and is buried in B22P162 in Linwood Cemetery. The headstone fell and broke in half during the February 2011 earthquake.

## Oral History Project

Following a generous donation from the CCC Discretionary Fund for equipment and travel expenses, we have re-started the Oral History Project. We will be focussing on those who originally put forward their interest in 2007 and follow this with anyone else who would like to be interviewed about their ancestors buried in Linwood Cemetery. As



technology has progressed, we now intend to put short videos on a persons' biography page but will also be accepting audio and written contributions. Contact us if you would like to be included in the project.

DATA SATISFY THE ANALYTICAL PART OF OUR BRAINS.  
BUT STORIES TOUCH OUR HEARTS.

## Register of Friends

Many of you will know Tom Adam of *City Care* who has done so much over the years to keep the City's cemeteries as well maintained as possible. He is as passionate about the preservation of Linwood Cemetery as The Friends are. So we felt it was about time we formally acknowledged his amazing contribution and have made him an Honorary Life-Time Friend of Linwood Cemetery.

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.**

## Early Settlers Project

The Early Settler Project was launched with a public Tour on Sunday 17th February 2013 followed by a picnic. Richard Greenaway gave illuminating talks on the lives of a few of the graves of Pioneers and Early Settlers to 65 visitors to the cemetery, the largest audience we have had. Eighteen members of the Early Settlers and Pilgrims Association Inc., attended the tour.

The Linwood Cemetery Early Settlers Project aims

to identify the Pioneers who settled in NZ before 1850, Pilgrims (those who came on the First Four Ships) and Early Settlers (those who settled in Canterbury before 3rd October 1876) who are buried in Linwood Cemetery.

We knew from headstone inscriptions that there are one or two Early Settlers buried in Linwood Cemetery, but have been delighted to find 30 from the First Four Ships and 24 from following two, as well as 5 Pioneers and 21 other Early Settlers. It is expected that the number of Early Settlers will grow considerably as the focus of the research turns to those slightly later arrivals.



Are you descended from a Pilgrim or Early Settler buried in Linwood Cemetery? - **Let us know!**

## Brotherhoods Beyond the Grave

*A series about interesting symbols on headstones in Linwood Cemetery.*



The meaning of this roughly hewn symbol on B21P221 SMITH kept us wondering for quite sometime until we asked Friends if anyone could de-code it. Identified as the Freemasonry symbol

for Euclid's 47th Proposition (or Pythagorus' Theorem), this drew our attention to a number of different but obviously masonic symbols on grave plots in Linwood Cemetery. Eventually we will identify them all and discover more about the role *The Craft* played in their lives. The first Grand

Master of the Freemasons of NZ, Henry Thomson is also buried in Linwood Cemetery (B14P4), so we would be interested in hearing from anyone who has a grounding in the history of Christchurch Freemasonry and would like to lead a **Power Pod** (see below) and research this topic for us.

*"I will strive to live with love and care  
Upon the level, by the square. 1507"*

*Found inscribed on a brass square at Ball's Bridge Limerick, Ireland*

## Power Pods

The Trust has had to turn down offers from prospective volunteers because the Trustees are not available to support them. To be able to use this generous and much needed resource, we have developed a volunteering model called **Power Pods**. We hope that this will enable more people to donate hours and skills to us. Please contact the Trust if you are interested in donating some time in researching or gardening for us. The scheme is outlined on our website.



## Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery has

- 39 Minnies
- 4 SMALLs
- 15 LITTLEs
- 5 LARGEs
- 5 BIGGS
- 1 HEAVYSIDE
- 2 LIGHTS

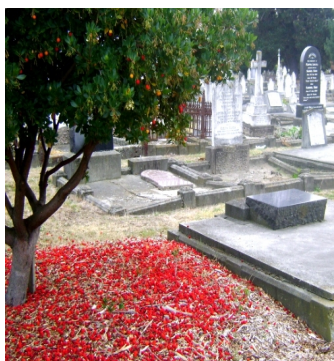
and Linwood Cemetery needs more Friends to help preserve it.

## Boredom Busting

Here are 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 tram line in big footsteps
- looking for the headstone of the first person buried in Linwood Cemetery.

## What's That Tree?



Each May, Linwood Cemetery is brightened by carpets of bright red berries from the Strawberry Trees dotted around the outer perimeter.

*Arbutus unedo* is an evergreen native to the Mediterranean regions, France and Ireland. Due to its strange presence in Ireland, it is sometimes referred to as the Killarney strawberry tree. The red fruit have a rough surface and tend not to be eaten raw, as they have a bland mealy taste, but are often used to make jams and liqueurs. *Arbutus unedo* serves as a bee plant for honey production, and the fruits are food for birds. In folk medicine, the plant has been used for antiseptic, astringent, intoxicant, rheumatism, and tonic purposes.

## 2013 and beyond - Short term goals

- continue to tidy, garden and act as self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery,
- secure operational funding for the 2013/2014 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 2007 Oral History Project and expand it to allow more people to contribute.

## Medium to long term goals

- earthquake recovery as guided by the CCC,
- complete the grave plot register on the website,
- develop curriculum based programmes for schools and youth groups.
- celebrate the 130th Anniversary of Linwood Cemetery in 2014.

## Get involved - Please:

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.

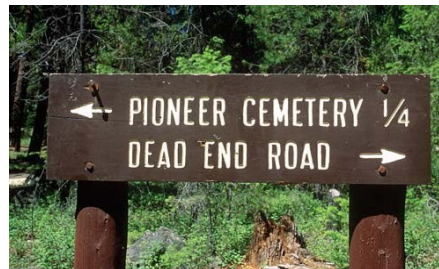
Become a Friend of Linwood Cemetery.

Give The Friends of Linwood Cemetery a donation.

## Key dates 2013

### Trustee Board Meetings

The Trust meeting on 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 research, add data to our website and garden the cemetery.



### Events

**Saturday 2nd March 2013** - Bromley Community Fair, Bromley Community Centre. (11am-2pm)

**Sunday 3rd March 2013** - **CANCELLED** Children's Day Commemoration in Linwood Cemetery.

**Saturday 16th March 2013** - **Working Bee** (10am-noon). Please bring your own basic gardening tools and wear appropriate clothing. Meet at Linwood Cemetery, Butterfield Avenue Car Park.

**Saturday 23rd March 2013** - Woolston Community Gala, Woolston Park 11am-3pm

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

**June** - Working Bee (TBC)

**13th-27th July 2013** - **TV3KidsFest** - Discover Linwood Cemetery Activities for Kids (TBC)

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

**Further information on articles in the newsletter can be found on our website [www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz](http://www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz)**

### Our next issue

Issue 6 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for September 2013. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us.