

# GRAVE CONCERNS

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

Issue 7, February 2014



## From the Chair

Over the summer I spent time walking through Linwood Cemetery again. Rather than seeing it as a morbid place of sorrow and grief, I find it interesting looking at the headstones, reading the often familiar names, reflecting on the dates and contemplating about the impact of the person's death on their family.

I noticed several people in the cemetery for a variety of reasons. People use the cemetery for their own recreational purposes; walking the dog, jogging, or enjoying the peaceful environment. Others are looking for the graves of family members, or leaving flowers for a loved one. We are lucky in the Bromley area with the amount of green spaces available, and unique in how much of it is cemeteries.



Local Artist Kelvyn Anderson

The Friends of Linwood Cemetery have been working over the past 14 years to improve the cemetery as an interesting and valuable greenspace for those visiting. Unfortunately there is always a lot of work to be done above that which the City Council provides, and we are now a small group. It is really important that the descendants of those buried in the cemetery take care of their ancestors' graves and that the community as a whole does what it can to re-develop pride in the area.

I encourage everyone to take time to visit Linwood Cemetery, for whatever reason, and share in the good experience that comes from being there.

**Craig Cormack, Chair**

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**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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## From the Secretary

From the Trust's roots of a Public Meeting in 2000 which 40 people attended to protest about the deplorable state of Linwood Cemetery, we have become a small group of active members, though we have a significant number of supporters descended from those buried in Linwood Cemetery or who live in the Bromley area who continue to validate our activities.



Despite the extensive earthquake damage, the cemetery now looks tidy and the flowers; some wild, some cultivated, have been a delight, though autumn is starting to show its presence.

As a Trust we are still feeling the impact of the earthquakes which are now a distant memory for many outside of our area. Our houses and those of our families, are still not repaired, our streets are still broken and abandoned houses still sit waiting for attention. Despite our weariness and continued concern for our neighbours the progress for others helps us to retain a sense of hope.

This year, despite it being the 130th Anniversary of the opening of Linwood Cemetery, the Trustees have reluctantly agreed to reduce their activities to help rejuvenate and maintain our enthusiasm. We will be focusing on finishing projects we have started and helping people find their ancestors. This work will constitute our Working Bees for this year. We are all agreed that our ANZAC Day Commemoration will continue each year for as long as there is someone

to read out the names and regardless of weather (see back page for details). Please join us if you can.

## The Cemetery

***The Cemetery By-laws, Cemetery Handbook and Master Plan 2013*** have now been adopted by the City Council and are available from CCC service Centres and [www.ccc.govt.nz](http://www.ccc.govt.nz).

Although we are disappointed that the *Conservation Plan for Linwood Cemetery* was not revised prior to its inclusion in the *Master Plan*, the CCC has agreed with us that "After 60 years the right of burial ... (on a Poor person's grave)... is waived so a Memorial may be placed on the grave." (p13) Placing a memorial is still subject to permit costs and must be organised through the CCC Cemeteries Administrator but it does mean that the fee for a Certificate of Right of Burial in these instances no longer has to be paid.

A new position of Gardener has also been created for the five cemeteries in the 'Dead Centre' of Christchurch.

Due to the size and resources available, weed spraying is a necessity for the maintenance of the Cemetery land. It is not everyone's ideal solution



They don't keep YOU on a leash because they WANT you to run away

and we have heard that people walking their dogs in the cemetery have abused City Care staff when weed spraying. It has been a Cemetery By-law for many years and is a condition of the dog license that dogs must be kept on a leash when in public spaces like the cemetery so please take this into consideration when walking your dog at spraying times.

**The CCC Make Safe programme** as it concerns Linwood Cemetery has been completed. Headstone pieces fallen off a grave plot have, where possible, been returned to the plot and any headstones positioned neatly, turned so they can be read and raised on wood.

**Make Safe** also evaluated the extent and cost of the earthquake damage to determine the scope of repair throughout CCC-managed cemeteries. We understand that due to the CCC overspend, there will be no money made available for this.

**Revision of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964** is under way. Public submissions have now closed. The work of volunteers like the Friends is acknowledged in the proposal (*para 4.52*) and it is recognised that the absence of the requirement for a Council to consult with or work collaboratively the groups are sometimes limited in the scope of the work they are permitted to undertake.

For Linwood Cemetery, the main impact could be the increase in power to the City Council for maintaining the law and the wider application of the Resource Management Act. See [www.lawcom.govt.nz/project/review-burial-and-cremation-law](http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/project/review-burial-and-cremation-law)

**Block Markers** were added to Linwood Cemetery by the CCC about 6 years ago to help show the location of Plots in this complex place that is also



laid out in a non-standardised way. It's a project that was never completely finished.

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of new volunteer Brian, many of the current Block Markers have been moved to

their correct place and we are once again in negotiation with the CCC to replace missing ones.

## Carving Out A New Future



On the voyage to New Zealand in 1864, Michael MARTIN, a tailor from Terryglass near Tipperary, Ireland, carved himself a big wooden Celtic cross. His pride and joy, second to his

wife Mary (nee Boland) and his children, it was placed as his headstone in the Catholic Section in Linwood Cemetery (Block 39 Plot 41) to the right of the turning circle closest to Bromley Park. It is believed to have stood into the 1970s and would have been very prominent as one of only three plots with surrounds in this area of poor person's graves. Sadly it has since disappeared.

We are searching for any information about the disappearance of the MARTIN cross and any memories or photos anyone has of this fascinating memorial on behalf of his descendants.

Illus: The Last of England by Ford Madox Brown, 1855

## Ring, Ring, Ring

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.*

Peter and Margaret Kerr lived at Kerrs Reach on the Avon River. Scottish immigrants, they named a son Charles Fraser Kerr in honour of Christchurch's first Presbyterian minister, Charles Fraser.



Bill Kerr with Wildwood Jnr, son of Wildwood 1909

In 1887, Charles and his brother, William aka Bill, bought 50 acres on Wainoni Road and trained trotting horses there. They purchased a recent United States import, 'Wildwood' and also 'Thelma'. Both won major races and produced valuable offspring. In the 1950s, 'Thelma' was still rated 'the greatest colonial-bred brood mare of all time'.

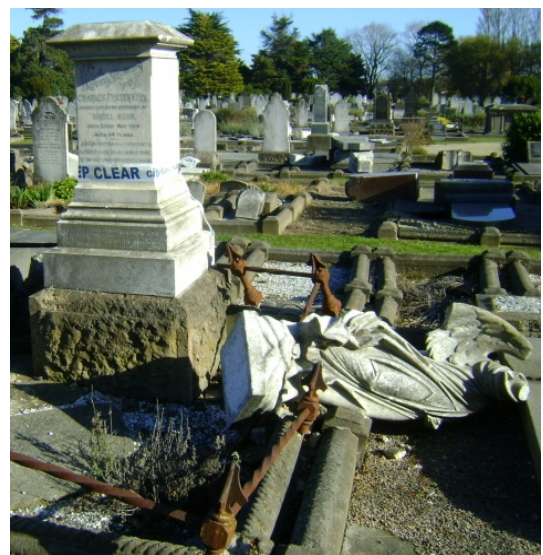
When the partnership with William came to an end, Charles worked as a public trainer, driver and jockey. On 16 May 1914, Charles, aged 53, drove 'Admiral Wood' to victory in the Derby event at the New Brighton Trotting Club Course (later Queen Elizabeth II Park), afterwards celebrating by consuming alcohol at Woolston. On the way home, he lost

control of his horse and gig. The gig collided with a tramline pole, the wheels came off and the driver 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."*

Charles' friends got together and paid for the erection of a monument to mark his grave in Linwood Cemetery (Block 34 Plot 94). The once magnificent angel, adopted as the motif of the Friends of Linwood Cemetery, came down in the February 2011 earthquake and, currently, lies in front of the tombstone awaiting restoration.



Earthquake damage to KERR's angel Feb 2011

## Oral History Project

*by Jen Goldsworthy*

Last year management of our Oral History project had to change hands unexpectedly and I elected to assist. It was very much a learning curve and has proved very challenging.

"Oral" meant we had to buy a recording device, a camera was eventually purchased after many hours of trying to get the best deal with the money we had been funded by the CCC. People were phoned and some cajoled into being filmed, appointments made and then the big moment came when after all our hours of planning we set out to do the filmed interviews.

Some interviews were filmed at the cemetery beside the family graves, others in their homes where we were made to feel so welcome. Some very old photos came to light which we copied or in a couple of cases they were held by the person as they were filmed.

All of the people were so patient with us and very understanding as we filmed and recorded all they had to say. It was all so interesting and in many cases held us spellbound. We learnt so much about the cemetery that we hadn't known. BUT we encountered a problem; the microphone didn't appear to be strong enough to record their speaking. This was so frustrating, options were looked at and tried which took many hours of our precious time for the project.

We still need to find time to put together what people have so generously contributed in the way of their memories of Linwood Cemetery and their family who are buried there. This is a project still in progress and yet to be finished, but we will keep you up to date via our newsletter.

## 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.**

## Cementing a Relationship

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



A hand or pair of hands carved on a headstone is quite common in older cemeteries, though it is now out of fashion. The pair of clasping hands at the end of distinctive cuffs is the hand symbol

most prevalent in Linwood Cemetery. Usually the left cuff has a frill representing a woman's blouse and on the right it is a man's shirt cuff. Chosen to symbolise the 'farewell' said between loved ones, in some countries it is also used as a Masonic and Independent Order of Foresters symbol.

## Suffrage Movement

An intern from Canterbury University joined us during Term 3 last year. Olivia did an awesome job of cross referencing all the names on the main suffrage petition that was submitted to Parliament in 1893 with the

database of people buried in Linwood Cemetery. We now know that at least 450 of the signatories are buried in Linwood Cemetery adding further to the cemetery's heritage value.



On 19th September 1893, NZ was the first modern, independent country to give votes to women following nearly 20 years of campaigning by women such as Kate Sheppard and

organisations such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Supporters felt that female voting would increase the morality of politics; their opponents argued that politics was outside women's 'natural sphere' of the home and family. Suffrage advocates countered that allowing women to vote would encourage policies which protected and nurtured families. Now something we all take for granted, a walk through Linwood Cemetery can remind us that the right to vote for many people had to be fought for.

## Did you know?

A visit to Linwood Cemetery is fruitful because it has



12 G(r)APES  
4 APPLE(BY)s  
3 ORANGEs  
2 LEMONs  
2 CHERRY(s)

2 PEACHEs, a PLUM, a Clemantine and a PEAR and Linwood Cemetery needs more Friends to help *preserve* it.

## What's That Plant?

**Ice Plant** (*Carpobrotus Edulis*) aka Highway Ice Plant, Pigface Fig, Hottentot Fig and Sour Fig, binds the sand of Linwood Cemetery at its hillocked borders with Bromley Park Car Park, MacGregors Road and Hay Street. It is a large thick ground-covering mat with succulent leaves and a show of yellow flowers from October through to February.



A South African plant, it naturalised in New Zealand in 1883 and was probably planted deliberately to keep the dunes of the cemetery from eroding. It is fire and

drought resistant, edible and has medicinal properties. On the other hand, it chokes out all other native plants, alters the soil composition and needs to be controlled so it doesn't become invasive as it is fast growing.

From March, the flowers are replaced by edible pulpy fruits retrieved by peeling off the outer slimy layer. The small seedy fruit inside is sweet and can be used to make a bitter jam.



The leaf juice is antiseptic and traditionally gargled to treat infections of the mouth and throat. It is also taken orally for dysentery, digestive troubles, tuberculosis and as a diuretic. It is highly astringent and applied externally to treat excema, wounds, mosquito and jellyfish stings and burns including sunburn. It is also said to be effective against toothache, earache and thrush. Though the local belief that it would cure warts persists, it is not true.



## 2014 and beyond

### Short term goals

- continue to act as self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery,
- secure operational funding for the 2014/2015 financial year,
- celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the opening of Linwood Cemetery in October 2014 during Heritage and Neighbourhood Weeks.

### Medium to long term goals

- preservation and restoration as permitted by the CCC
- complete a future-proofed digital record of grave plots that the public can access,
- complete current research projects
- develop curriculum based programmes for schools and youth groups.

*I really appreciate all your help. This has progressed my work greatly and I am thrilled. I can now forward this to other researchers in Australia, America and Poland. They don't have the luxury of being able to visit the areas where the family lived so will be pleased to get all this new information. Thanks again and all the best.*

*Daphne*

## Key dates 2014

### Friends of Linwood Cemetery Events

## ANZAC Commemoration

**Sunday 20 April 2014 (Easter Sunday) - 11am**

Whatever the weather, the names of the 300+ people that we have identified so far as giving their life or their youth to serve their country and are memorialised or buried in Linwood Cemetery will be read out. Please do join us. Bring a chair, rug up warm and make some time to reflect on your own ancestors. The Last Post and a piped Lament played by Josh Smith will end the event.



### End October 2014 - 130th Anniversary of the opening of Linwood Cemetery

A simple event to encourage descendants and the community to enjoy this wonderful heritage site and greenspace will also coincide with Heritage Week and Neighbourhood Week.

## Local Community Events Autumn 2014

**Saturday 1st March - Bromley Community Fair**, Bromley Community Centre. (11am-2pm)

**Saturday 1st March - Estuary Fest - Pleasant Day Out 2014. (2pm) McCormacks Bay**

**Sunday 2nd March - Streets Children's Day Event. (9am to 4pm.) Ferrymead Heritage Park**

**Saturday 8 March - Summer of Fun Community Fun Day (1 to 3pm). St John's Anglican Church. 10 St John's Street. Woolston.**

**Thursday 6th March - Victoria Square Heritage Talk by local historian and author Geoff Rice (10am). Central Library Peterborough**

**Sunday 9th March - Sumner Village Street Party**

**Saturday 22nd March - Woolston Gala (11am to 3pm) Woolston Park. Ferry Road. postponed to 24 March if wet.**

**April (Date TBC) - "It's great to live here" at Eastgate Mall**

(Please check [www.bethere.co.nz](http://www.bethere.co.nz) or contact the organisers for further details)

## Trustee Board Meetings

The Trustees meet on the evening of the 4th Wednesday of each month except 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.



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 8 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for August 2014. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us by 1st August 2014.

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