

GRAVE CONCERNS

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

Issue 8, September 2014



From the Chair

In 1884, Linwood Cemetery was being laid out in response to the public for the growing City to improve it's sanitary conditions and bury it's dead outside of the 'Four Avenues'. This landmark event for the City 130 years ago, had the cemetery described as '... a very pretty spot', and the local papers predicting it would be '...a notable feature of the district.'



Since then there have been events that we all use to mark a point in time such as '19th century', 'pre-the 1914-18 War', 'post-World War II ' and, more recently, 'Before The Earthquakes'. In the future, a

family will be looking at their ancestors' restored graves and say, "that crack occurred in the 2011 Earthquake." The cracks and broken headstones are part of Linwood Cemetery's new heritage.

Craig Cormack, Chair

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From the Secretary

I was honoured (surprised and stoked) to have received a totally unexpected Community Services Award from the Hagley Ferry Road Community Board at the beginning of July. It was inspiring and humbling to see what the other Volunteers being recognised at the ceremony had contributed to our local community. Sara Templeton, current Chair of the Board said *"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. .. when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."*

I vote for Linwood Cemetery to be regarded as one of the main heritage and greenspace attractions and 'must visit' places of Christchurch.



View 'up the hill' towards Hay St, 2005

(© photo: Dean Kozanic/Place In Time documentary project/CUP, 2005)

The Cemetery

Following recommendations in the *Conservation Plan* (2006) and the severe damage to the boundary trees of the cemetery in last year's snow and recent storms, professional arbourists have been evaluating the trees in the cemetery to ensure public safety. Several trees have had to be cut down 'up the hill' on the Butterfield Avenue side and the increase in light this has made has changed the feel of this space.

As always with any change, public opinion is divided. Linwood Cemetery is a much valued space for local birds. This is why all tree removal can only be done following assessment by professional arbourists. Take a walk 'up the hill' and see what you think about it's 'new look'.



View 'up the hill' towards Hay St, August 2014

Happy 130th Birthday Linwood Cemetery!

The Friends had to have some discussion about when we should start the 130th Anniversary of Linwood Cemetery. The Cemetery land was selected in 1883 and dedicated for burials on 19th December. However, we chose the date of the first burial which took place on 10th July 1884 as the start date of what will be an 'anniversary' that will go beyond the cemetery being declared as 'ready' on 21st October 1884 and stretch into 2016 to incorporate the anniversary of the first Tram into the cemetery. Special dates connected to the cemetery from 1884 are being announced on our Facebook page to coincide with their anniversaries. We have also updated our website's Key Dates page http://www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz/?page_id=2795. Richard Greenaway will be leading our 130th Anniversary Tour in the cemetery on Sunday 26th October at 4pm.

The Friends of Linwood Cemetery Charitable Trust
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Friends leave a tribute to the 130th Anniversary of the first burial in Linwood Cemetery - Sarah Anne Freeman (B2P1)

Hello, Hello, Hello!

As well as letting us know about a family plot that needs attention or is looking great, or if you are happy or 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.

Wiltshire-born Eliza Baker married Alfred J White a well known furniture dealer when she was 22. She was a nurse at the time. They had met on the passage over to New Zealand on the *Zealandia*. Before leaving the UK, a fortune teller had told her she would do well and be prosperous if she emigrated.

Eliza, brought up as Protestant, converted to her husband's Roman Catholic faith on her marriage, becoming a devout follower, ensuring that their seven daughters and one son were brought up as Catholic.

An astute business woman, Eliza owned a number of properties including *Rock Villa* in Nayland

Street, Sumner which stood until the February 2011 earthquake. She financed the buildings of the Sumner Borough Council, later to become the Sumner Museum and also lost in the earthquakes, and like her husband, was extremely generous to the Catholic Church.

Eliza was widowed in 1895. She helped with the original conversion of the Sumner Social Hall that had been gifted to the Right Rev Dr Grimes by her husband in 1894 into the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea. The new church was consecrated on New Year's Day 1897 after some delays and has also become unsafe due to the EQs.

Eliza continued to be a benefactor for the church, buying new carpet for the church in 1898 and funding further renovations for it in 1908. When she died in 1909, Eliza left money allowing the work to continue and the renovations were completed in 1913.



Rock Villa, Sumner before earthquake damage
http://www.sumnertofermyead.co.nz/photo_gallery.htm

In her Will, Eliza also left money for two orphanages, one for girls and another for boys. However, there was only enough money for the girls' orphanage; St. Joseph's, Halswell. Although the orphanage no longer exists, the Catholic Church still has an Eliza White Trust which assists children in need with support and housing.

See <http://www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz/?p=1613> Click on the links for more information.

Annual Report to 30 June 2014

Our Annual report for 2013-2014 is now finalised and will be sent to Friends with this newsletter. We have had to focus on our own personal EQ recovery this year, and see what we can do to improve the Trust's own infrastructure!

We continue to work on all of our projects whenever we can and, as always appreciate the patience of those still waiting on our efforts!



Register of Friends - update

We have decided it would be more manageable for us to have the Register of Friends all renewing at the same time. Please continue to support us by remaining on the Register when you receive your invitation to renew, if not already a Friend, consider supporting us by joining the Register of Friends. Have a voice in the preservation of Linwood Cemetery - an increasingly significant heritage space in Christchurch. Borrowing CERA's Recovery Strategy Vision, we also believe *the community is at the heart of the vision and the success of recovery*. **Join our Register of Friends.**

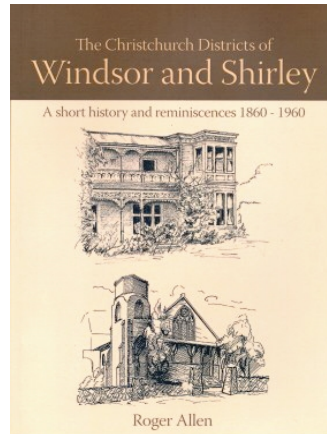
An Unusual Royal Connection

Roger Allen is the fifth generation to live on the land once owned by his great-grandfather Daniel Pankhurst. No mean feat since the population

shifts following the earthquakes.

"When my grandchildren stay here, it is 7 generations," Roger told us.

George Crockett (B29P299) was a former Principal of Bromley School and one of several of Roger's ancestors buried in Linwood



Cemetery. Roger's history of Shirley and Windsor also includes the story of James 'Piggy' Rowe (B32P13), breeder of pigs originally from Queen Victoria's Windsor estate, giving the name Windsor to the small district between Shirley

and Dallington. Roger's book is on sale in local bookshops or direct from the author for \$25. Contact Roger on 385 8418.

The Draped Urn

A series about interesting symbols on headstones in Linwood Cemetery.

Cremation was an early form of preparing the dead for burial. In some cultures, especially in classical times, it was more common than burial. The shape of



the container in which the ashes were placed may have taken the form of a simple box or a marble vase, but no matter what it looked like it was called an "urn," derived from the Latin *uro*, meaning "to burn." As burial became a more common-practice, the urn continued to be closely associated with death. The urn is

commonly believed to testify to the death of the body

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and the dust into which the dead body will change, while the spirit of the departed eternally rests with God.

The cloth draping the urn symbolically guarded the ashes. The shroud-draped urn is believed by some to mean that the soul has departed the shrouded body for its trip to heaven. Others say that the drape signifies the last partition between life and death.

http://genealogy.about.com/od/cemetery_records/ig/tombstone_symbols/draped_urn.htm

Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery has an interesting landscape?

It has

6 HILLS

4 STONES

2 FORESTS

2 LAWNS

3 PEBBLES

1 RIVER

1 ROCK



and looks forward to you discovering it!

My grandchildren and I walked through Linwood Cemetery the other day. It was looking so tidy. The children became really interested in the writing on the headstones and we talked a lot about the people buried there. They've asked me to take them back again soon!

Jen, Linwood

What's That Tree?

Monterey Pine (*pinus radiata*, *pinus insignis*)

"...and when the... *Pinus insignis*... grow up the new cemetery will be a notable feature in the district." (Star, 11 Oct 1884, pg 3)

Planted around the boundary of Linwood Cemetery are a number of 'majestic pines'. In 2005, 42 were counted; some believed to be those

purchased from Kerr & Bennett's Stanmore Road Nursery in June 1884. They were part of a consignment of "1000 ornamental pines of sorts" and cost roughly equivalent to NZ\$3,600 today.



First introduced into New Zealand in 1859 it is known here as Radiata Pine and is our most common species of Christmas tree.

Only discovered in 1830, this coniferous evergreen tree native to California and Mexico, is now the most widely planted pine in the world. Radiata Pine is most extensively used in NZ because of its speedy growth and the quality of its wood for building and its pulp for paper.

Pinus radiata lives an average of 80 - 90 years. It is often planted to help control erosion and blowing soils and provides screening against wind, noise, and traffic.

The seeds of all pine species are edible. Native Americans ate pine nuts whole or pounded into flour for porridge or mixed with other foods. The needles of pines contain vitamin C and were brewed into a tea drunk to treat headaches. They also make a good mulch for home-grown strawberries. Pine resin was chewed to treat rheumatism or used as a salve on burns and sores and as glue or sealant. The young, male catkins are edible either raw or cooked.

When the area around a *Pinus radiata* is not managed, invasive wilding pines grow. In Linwood Cemetery these take hold in the cracks of grave plots and if not pulled out would grow at a rate of approx 1m per year further damaging the plot.



Wilding Pines growing in a grave plot (not after the photo was taken!)

Find out more at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinus_radiata
Conservation Plan for Linwood Cemetery, 2006.
<http://eol.org/pages/1061749/details>

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.

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.

Key dates 2014

130th Anniversary Tour - Linwood Cemetery

led by Richard Greenaway

Sunday 26th October 2014, 4pm

Meet Main Gates, Butterfield Avenue.

Release of Digitized Films of Linwood Heritage Group (1999-2004)

Friday 24th October 2014,

Board Room, Linwood Service Centre, Smith St.

Contact Linwood Resource Centre for details

ANZAC Commemoration Event

Sunday 19th April 2015, 11am

Linwood Cemetery, Butterfield Avenue

(Please check www.bethere.co.nz or contact the organisers for further details)

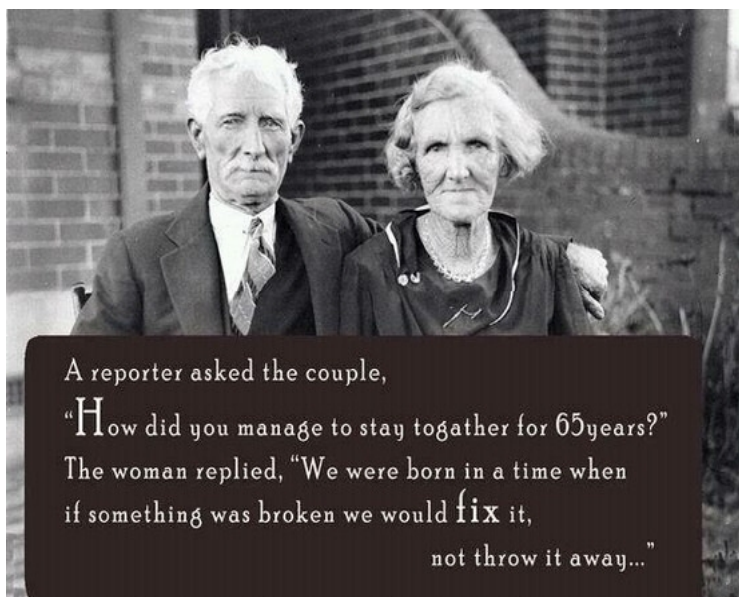
Trust Board Meetings

The Trust Board meets on the evening of the 3rd 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.

Further information on articles in the newsletter can be found on our website www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz

Our next issue

Issue 9 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for February 2015. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us by 20th January 2015.



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