



Friends of Waikumete

Newsletter December 2013



Carols by Candlelight

Chapel of Faith in the Oaks

Glen View Rd. Glen Eden

**Join the Friends of Waikumete
Celebrate the Festive Season**

14th December 7pm

Battery, Solar or Glo-Candles only

For Info ph. 818-5707





Christmas Time in Victoria St by George Mihaljevich

Christmas was fast approaching. Shops were full of gifts and all the decorations had been put in place to greet Santa. The big Farmers store in Hobson Street, Auckland beckoned shoppers to enter. As kids, we would go in most days after school and survey the scene. After all, we just lived around the corner in Victoria St. Wonderful things were on display at the farmers, just for the asking, at this special time of year. Last Christmas we didn't receive any presents. We were new to the city and possibly Santa had not heard of our arrival. Dad had died two years earlier and mum was known as "the widow" or "udovica" with four kids. We never quite knew how to take the word "widow". It had a sinister ring to it and seemed to be a word that should not be uttered in public or, if it had to be, should be whispered.

On the way from school one day, we began a discussion with our English playmates on the question of why we didn't get Christmas presents. "You have to write a letter to Santa and post it at the Farmers. Santa has a big box there and you just put your name and address on the letter and write down all the presents you want. And don't forget to put some food by the fireplace for him, as he gets hungry climbing up and down all the chimneys. On Christmas eve you put a big empty pillowcase at the end of your bed for Santa to put the presents into."

We thought it strange that Mum didn't seem to know about these things.

Acting upon this excellent advice, we sat down at home and each of us wrote letters to Santa. Helen and Frances, as was to be expected, wanted dolls, prams and lollies. My brother Joe and I asked for trolleys and bikes, not forgetting chewing gum and lollies. We trooped en masse down to the Farmers, up to the big post box and proudly dropped our letters inside.

Eventually, Christmas Eve arrived and we all went to bed early with our pillowcases hanging on each corner of the bed. This was a problem in itself. The four of us all slept in one large double bed, my brother and I at one end and my two sisters at the other end.

You had to be asleep before midnight, otherwise Santa wouldn't come. It was hard to go to sleep on such a night.

I must have not long fallen asleep, because I remember being half wakened by a shadowy figure in the near total darkness of the bedroom. Much too scared to look closer, I covered my face with the blankets and, after a while, fell asleep.

In the morning we all woke together. We scrambled for our presents! The pillowcases had something inside, but not dolls, trolleys and bikes. Silently, we opened up our pillowcases. Each of us received identical presents.-almonds, walnuts, dried figs, lollies and American chewing gum. No one uttered a word. The presents, we knew, had come from Yugoslav American Soldiers who were stationed in Auckland. They were always very good to mum, giving her presents for us-almonds, dried figs, nuts, chewing gum and lollies!

Our mother, who had nothing, tried to make our dreams come true in the only way she could. Mum has not changed, apart from growing older and wiser, and now with enough money to buy us the presents we yearned for as children. However, there is nothing that can ever match those gifts she gave us on the Christmas Eve of 1943 in Victoria St Auckland.

The full story can be found in **NZ Memories Issue 93 Dec/Jan 2012** or at **The Dalmatian Historical and Genealogy Society**. N.B. I have edited the story to keep with the Christmas theme. George's father, was a sharemilker in Tuakau. He died from Hydatids in 1941 aged 33 years and was buried at Waikumete. George's mother, Vergilija, remarried and died aged 91 in 2004. Her final resting place is with her second husband at Waikumete Cemetery.

People who died on December 25

And were buried in Waikumete Cemetery

1886	Margaret Adelaide Gray	Infant
1889	William Blood	81
1892	Robert Shaw	72
1892	Mabel Chatrine Sayers	2
1895	Agnes Lindrill	infant
1899	Mary Jane Finnaron	71
1900	James Huckstep	73
1902	Richard Henry Lawford	27
1903	Percival Mc Adam	25
1904	Alexander John Tait	infant
1905	John Cole	57
1906	Thomas Stephens	74
1906	Elizabeth Masefield	41
1908	Robert Frederick Gladding	53
1908	William Theodore Young	93
1909	John Davis	Infant
1914	Margaret Mercer	49
1918	Charles Restieux	53
1919	Benjamin Perry	06
1925	Sarah J Christmas	68
1929	Emma Florence Millington	58

120 years ago in 1893, A boat containing 14 men of the warship Katoomba capsized in Auckland Harbour near Bean Rock lighthouse. Two sailors died that day December 24. Henry Smith ,24 years, (Ang C2-2) and William Brisland, 31 years (Ang C2-2)

Dec 4 1918 Influenza Report

The position has so far improved that the city and suburban hotels were opened today. The embargo has also been lifted on theatres, billiard rooms, churches, meetings and auctions. The only restrictions remaining relate to Race meetings, exhibitions and School examinations. The burials during November totalled 498 at Waikumete and 250 at Waikaraka. (Papers Past 5 Dec 1918 Otago Daily)

Sarah J Christmas	died 25 Dec 1925
Joseph Fuller Christmas	died 31 Dec 1936
George James Christmas	died 19 Dec 1968

Tangiwai Rail Crash Christmas Eve 1952

Robert Hale, a 14 year old school boy, was a victim of the crash that took 151 lives
RC E7-42



Our Christmas Wish

Our Incorporated Society is contacting you to request support of our community project, being the preservation of the Wallis Angel. The angel is leaning badly and in jeopardy of falling and being irreparably broken. The cost to replace it would be prohibitive and we do not wish to lose this lovely angel.

Currently, we do not have sufficient funds to save the Wallis Angel and so we are asking donations towards this project. No specific amount is being requested, as we believe you will support us to the level of your interest.

Our feathered friends like angels!



Angel
Anglican
B7

As a group, we are heavily involved in maintaining the integrity of the historic area of Waikumete Cemetery. We hold regular meetings, take walks in the cemetery and undertake grave and headstone cleaning in the historic area. Working with Council and Cemetery Management, we are able to be the voice of the community and have input regarding decisions pertaining to the cemetery and it's use. Our aim is to enhance the cemetery as a park enabling it to be well used and enjoyed by the community. We would like to see Waikumete appreciated as a park of tranquility and a space of reflection.

**Gary Marshall
President**

Patrons

Bob Harvey

Matthew Gray



Friends of Waikumete Walks

Contact John 021 457 490 or 818 4352

No booking required, cost \$5

President

Gary Marshall
818-5707

Vice President

Barbara Harvey
818-5629

Secretary/ Treasurer

Colleen Ducker
8384444

Committee

Colin Bradshaw
818-0413

Alan Ducker
8384444

Noeline Erceg (Newsletter)
838-5429

Leigh Kennaway

Kath Kingswood
8383356

Gayle Marshall
818-5707

John Snashall Walks
021-457-490

Ruth Snashall (minutes
secretary)
818-4352

Honorary Life Members

Laurel North

Cynthia Shirtcliffe,

Aranne Donald

P.O Box 20109

Glen Eden
Waitakere City

1	Sounds of Summer Meet: Top Gate at end of Sunhill Rd by water tower	Sunday January 5 th 2014	4:00 – 6:00pm
2	Murder! Meet:Cenotaph	Sunday February 2 nd 2014	4:00 – 6:00pm
3	Wild Wild West Meet:Chapel of Faith in the Oaks	Sunday 2 nd March , 2014	4:00 – 6:00pm
4	Soldiers Meet: Cenotaph	Sunday April 6 th 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm
5	ANZAC walk Meet Cenotaph	Sunday April 27 th 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm
6	Poets, Preachers, Gumdiggers Meet:Cenotaph c'nr Gt North Rd & Glen View Rd	Sunday May 4 th 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm

The best
grave
cleaning
times
during the
summer
are before
10am and
after 4pm
Be safe
from the
sun!

We enjoyed meeting The New Manager of Waikumete Cemetery , **Roscoe Webb**, and look forward to developing a good working relationship.

We also enjoyed meeting **Catherine Moore** who is the Overall Manager of Auckland Cemeteries. She oversees 55 cemeteries .

Bat Walks

The "friends " enjoyed the company of Ben Paris and searched for bats in the cemetery. There are batwalks after 6 Jan 2014 and would make a great holiday adventure. Bookings are essential. Ph. 366-2000 Meet at Cascade/Kauri carpark.end of Falls Rd Website www.aucklandcouncil.govt Meet at 8.30 and search at dusk for the reclusive creatures. After dark, you will head off down a bush track searching for other secretive creatures that inhabit the forest.. Adults: 5.00, chn: 2.00 Full instructions on what to bring is given when booking.



Friends of Waikumete Inc.

P.O Box 20-109

Glen Eden

Invitation to Join our membership

Our financial year is 30 June 2013-1 July 2014. As a member you will receive our newsletter and are welcome to our meetings.

Current membership fees are : \$10.00 Per single Person

Our 2013 AGM is 7 August at 7pm and our meetings are held at the:

GLEN EDEN COMMUNITY & RECREATION CENTRE, GLENDALE RD GLEN EDEN

In order for members to be able to vote, our constitution states the member must be a current financial member.

First names.....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Phone Home.....Work.....

Signed.....Date.....

Email.....

The above membership will be updated on our membership database and under the privacy act will not be given to any other persons or organisations.

A Direct Credit Payment can be made to: 06 0185 0169530 00

Please include your name in the reference field.

Phone 813-4104 or other contacts on newsletter for any queries.

Donations for Grave Restoration: Save the Angel

Please send to Friends of Waikumete Inc. P.O Box 20-109 Glen Eden.

Or Direct Credit Payment as above. For **receipt** purposes: Please send your name and address/email address to our secretary colleen.ducker@xtra.co.nz if you are not on our database.