



# Friends of Waikumete

Newsletter October 2013

We are working on repairing the foundations of the 'Wallis Angel' located in Presbyterian D. For this we need to raise funds.

We have a share certificate printed and wish people to "Take a Share!" in keeping our heritage.

Fresh Choice Supermarket in Glen Eden have donated \$500.00. We thank you!

We remind people that \$20.00 is the minimum that can be claimed for tax purposes.

How many \$5.00 cups of coffees can you sacrifice?

The family owned plots remain the responsibility of the family. If there is no family, the 60 year limit rule is invoked. We believe there is no immediate family who will undertake the repair of the foundations.

**Auckland Heritage Festival** offered walks around many Auckland Cemeteries.

It was a pleasure to listen to the local historians and genealogists who shared their knowledge.

**Symond St Cemetery** Venturing into the canopy of green bush, a quiet haven of nature and old head stones, surrounded by busy roads and motorways. David Verran shared an insight into colonial times. Many deaths were probably not recorded. Many babies died and if you could afford a stone headstone it was ordered by catalogue and imported. The names listed on the memorials of people disinterred to make way for the motorway still do not match the number of people believed to be buried.

**Hillsborough Cemetery** has a beautiful view overlooking the Manukau. Parts are very steep and it is a wonder how the gravediggers managed the ridges. Peter Nash, local genealogist is correcting and updating the data base. Unlike other cemeteries it is not sorted by religion although some religious orders have areas where they are buried together.

**Waikaraka Cemetery** has a large number of Heritage graves that reflect local wealth, sea captains, war veterans. It is still open for burials. I was deeply moved by the simplicity of the final resting place of our former Prime Minister, David Lange.

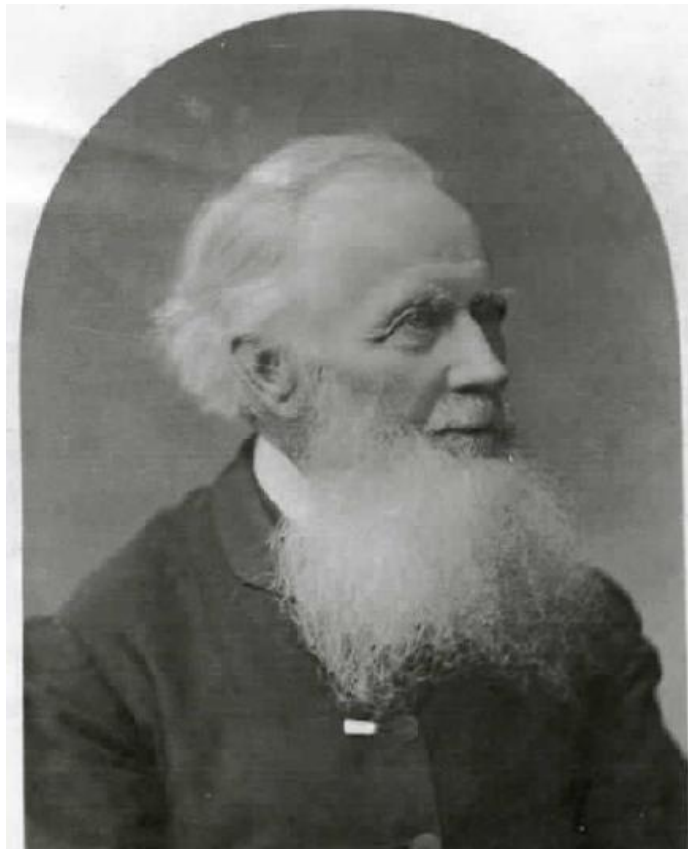
**St Ninians Churchyard**, treasured by local Avondale historians who hosted an open day. Lisa Truttman shared known scandals, tragedies from her creditable research. The cemetery has over 40 graves and is the second oldest in West Auckland.



**Waikumete Cemetery** John ensured that the team played their part in sharing heritage stories. Kath Kingswood related how she initially believed the flu graves were where the memorial is placed. Most people were buried there, ten years earlier. People were buried generally nearby. And cleverly in every second grave, which made it easier for mass burials of families.

**Grant Muir, The Manager of Waikumete Cemetery has informed us that 18 hectares of land has been allocated and approved for future burials.**

## Reverend James Wallis, a prominent colonist in Auckland



- Minister of the Established Church of Scotland
- Surgeon
- Scholar
- Politician

**1825** Born in Aberdeenshire Scotland

**1863** Arrived in New Zealand

**1868** Married Elizabeth Pook  
(1824-1904)

**1877-1881** Represented Auckland City  
West and House of  
Representatives

**1912** Died in Auckland,, Aged 86

*Photograph source: Sir George Grey special  
collections Auckland Libraries 4 -JDR7590*

Items about **Dr James Wallis, and Newton Kirk** were found in the newspapers. From October 1865, he was appointed to the charge of the outstation in Symond St and this was the time when Newton Kirk was built.

If you were in **Auckland circa 9 Nov 1872**, you may have listened to his sermon: "How to come to Christ" or "'The convert strengthening the Brethren."

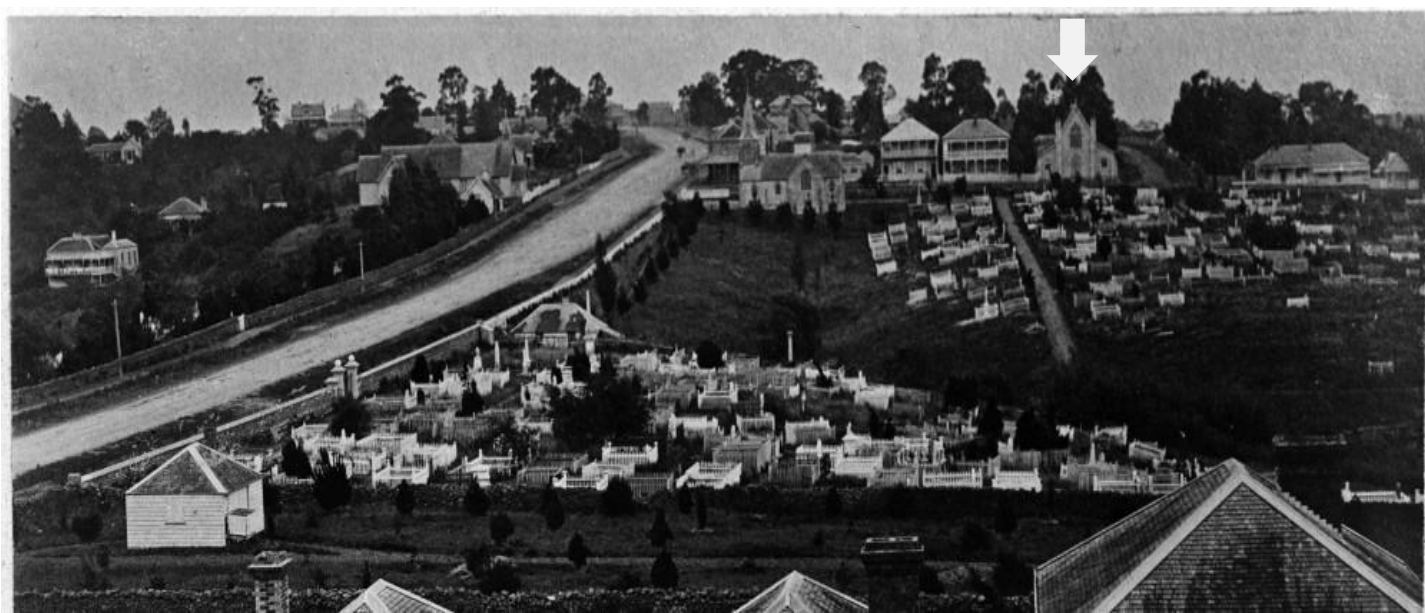
**29 Jan 1874, Newton Kirk Presbyterian School**, 120 scholars and 12 teachers had an event in a marquee in which " Mrs Wallis was there and exerting herself to the utmost in favour of the children" The children were running races for prizes. The prizes included, vases, pictures, fancy shells, china cups, drawings of flowers, images of Nelson, Napoleon and other heroes of sea and land.

**Newton Kirk Soiree, 23 Nov 1877** was an account of a large gathering to Welcome Dr Wallis back from Wellington and four months of politics. Elizabeth's name was top of a list of women who provided tea for the occasion. There were a number of speeches and musical items and hymns.

Dr Wallis spoke strongly against excluding the bible from public schools. He was "against converting the worship of God into a mere musical concert."

**Random Shots by Zaniel 21 August 1886** reports on the Robert Burns lecture given by James Wallis. He is referred to as ex parson and ex politician and speaks of Newton Kirk's Stormy history. The Presbyterians had subscribed to and built their church on Land owned by Dr Wallis. When they quarrelled with him, He held onto the land. His congregation faded away. It did not pay as a lecture hall, Sabbath school or Atheneum. It eventually sold to the Roman Catholics who were building St Benedict's Church.

*Source: Paperspast.natlib.govt.nz*



This photo shows Newton Kirk, where Rev Dr James Wallis preached for about 12 years. The election of Dr Wallis to parliament resulted in Newton Kirk being closed. In 1881 the foundation stone for the St Benedict's Catholic Church was laid on land next to Newton Kirk. Presbyterians went to St David's Church, Khyber Pass. After losing the elections, Dr Wallis, lectured and was a popular wedding celebrant particularly with people of mature years. This part of the Symond St Cemetery had to make way for the Auckland Motorway. The disinterred remains were cremated and there is a plaque at the entrance of Waikumete Cemetery where ashes have been buried.  
*Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 1-W245' and 4-995'*



**Patrons**



Bob Harvey

Matthew Gray

# Friends of Waikumete Walks

Meet at the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks  
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  
813-4104

**Committee**

Colin Bradshaw  
818-0413

Alan Ducker  
8134104

Noeline Erceg (Newsletter)  
838-5429

Leigh Kennaway

Kath Kingswood  
813-4104

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	Heritage Walk	Sunday October 6th	1:30 – 3:30pm
2	Wildflower and All Souls walk	Saturday November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1:30 – 3:30pm
3	Armistice Soldiers Walk	Sunday November 10 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 – 3:30pm
4	Tragic Christmas	Sunday December 1 <sup>st</sup>	1:30 – 3:30pm
5	More Tales from the City of the Dead	Sunday January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	4:00 – 6:00pm
6	More Tales from the City of the Dead	Sunday February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014	4:00 – 6:00pm
7	More Tales from the City of the Dead	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2014	4:00 – 6:00pm
8	More Tales from the City of the Dead	Sunday April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm
9	ANZAC walk	Sunday April 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm
10	More Tales from the City of the Dead	Sunday May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm

**Plan to enjoy the Christmas season with Xmas Carols At Chapel (Dec 14) (Dec 21) date to be confirmed**

Billboards decorate the cemetery boundary this month. We wish you well, Gayle.....as long as our meetings don't clash!





# 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](mailto:colleen.ducker@xtra.co.nz) if you are not on our database.