



Friends of Waikumete

March 2014

We discovered some photos in the Sir George Grey Special Collection of the Auckland Public Libraries. A picture can speak louder than words.

The Waikumete Monument erected to Fallen Soldiers by Auckland Returned Soldiers Assoc was unveiled by Major General Sir Edward Chaytor on Anzac Day 1921



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN ON ANZAC DAY



Save the Angel Fund.

We have almost reached the minimum fundraising target to save the Wallis Angel from falling. We have actioned the foundation repair. We felt there was some urgency after witnessing a number of headstones falling as a result of ground movement due to the dry autumn,

Chapel of Faith in the Oaks

Our beautiful restored Historic Chapel was used as the venue for Christmas Carols in 2013. We are delighted that we can repeat this community event on 13 December 2014

The Chapel will be open on ANZAC DAY for quiet reflection.

Soldiers and ANZAC Walks

John and Ruth asked for help with their research of their next walk.

"We are trying to confirm the origins of the name Sabulite Rd. In Papers Past, there are some articles about a munitions factory in Waikumete. Among other explosives they also manufactured hand-grenades for the war effort. There doesn't seem to be much detail about this factory nor any photograph of it. Sabulite is the name of a type of explosive material. One of its components is the residue from the inside of Kilns. There were plenty of kilns around New Lynn and Whau River. Is Sabulite Rd named because the munitions factory was located there?" Come to their next walk to find out more!

We asked our local **Historian Lisa Truttman** and were delighted to learn so much from what she found. Lisa has a blog Timespanner that may develop this story.

Road name has Explosive Origin

Western leader Article by Peter Buffett. Date: 24 January 1987

West of the Whau River from New Lynn to Helensville the countryside was sparsely settled circa 1912. Families wrenched a living from scrubland or former bush country on small farms and orchards. The land also gave up the raw material for the region's few industries: clay, gum, flax, fruit and timber. The area became less isolated when the railway came in the 1880's and Great North Rd was much improved by 1912 with a yearly application of gravel.

For a group of Auckland businessmen looking for a place to produce industrial explosive, the region was ideal. It was away from nervous neighbours yet workers could walk to the factory in 15 minutes from Glen Eden Station. Those who wanted to work indoors rather than on farms, could also travel by road to the factory, situated between the Whau River and Gt North Rd, opposite Waikumete Cemetery. In 1912, the syndicate of four Aucklanders led by Cecil Whitney, bought the New Zealand rights to manufacture and market **Sabulite**, an explosive invented in Belgium.

Tests at the University of Sydney established the Belgian explosive had a power 10% greater than gelignite. **Sabulite** needed detonators to explode so could be carried by normal freight services. It did not freeze and was simple to manufacture. After use in mining operations, the explosive left few noxious fumes and was excellent anti-fire damp material for coal mining purposes. Only three relatively inexpensive chemicals were used in its manufacture, this cutting down the import costs for the 800 tons of explosive used in NZ at the time.

The **Sabulite** (NZ) Ltd registered as a company in 1912. This unusual industry closed permanently in 1924

Oral Histories

Reg Laurie's Oral History

In Tape 1, Reg recalls the Laurie Brother's brickworks, mentions working clay and the Hoffman kiln. He details his family and their connection to other families in the region- including the Laurie brothers (owners of a general store in Henderson) Reg details brick works and clay deposits on Hepburn Rd, as well as camping at Piha and the Piha mill. He recalls opening his garage in 1933 and mentions Span petrol. He recalls riding his Shetland pony to school. In Tape 2, Reg recalls corporal punishment at school and **the ammunition magazine in Sabulite Road**. He identifies land owners and builders in the district. Reg further describes the brickworks and mentions barging coal up the Whau River. He also talks about nearly drowning. He recalls taking the launch to Auckland, the first cremations, the influenza epidemic 1918-1919, bricks, clay and firing kilns and, an involvement with the Home guard.

Lyle Rogers' Oral History

Lyle detail s family life, recalls visiting Piha in 1921, hard drinking, the neighbours, the building of Nihtupu dam. **Sabulite Road Ammunition Magazine** and the building of WW2 tank traps. Lyle recalls work in the building trade and his first job at Archibald's Mill. He describes school and mentions corporal punishment and sugar-bag rugby jerseys. Lyle describes White Company (part of the Waikumete Methodist Church) and relates to WW2 photographs of the 15th North Auckland Infantry. He recalls seeing films, magic lantern shows and going to Toe H dances. Details of relief work during the depression: mentions roading gangs, finding work, discrimination against single men and people helping one another. Recalls local identities. Glen Eden families and their properties. He briefly mentions the Influenza Epidemic

December 2013 **Chapel of Faith in the Oaks** was a beautiful setting for Christmas Carols. **Lady Barbara Harvey** commemorated those who died at Christmas. The Historical listing was compiled by **Ruth Snashall**.



Thankyou: Production Manager: **Gayle Marshall** with **Leanne Appley**.
Soloist: **Lois McIvor** Keyboard: **Celia Wood-Calvert**



Thank you: **Christmas Cantata Choir** and **Auckland Children and Youth Choir**.
Directed by **Rhonda Garland**. Accompanist **Dorothy Jenkins**



Thankyou: Mandolin Musicians, **John Flaming**, **Stefan Erceg**, **Lynne Flaming**



Patrons
 Bob Harvey
 Matthew Gray



Friends of Waikumete Walks

Contact John 021 457 490 or 818 4352
 No booking required, cost \$5, members free

President
 Gary Marshall
 818-5707

Vice President
 Barbara Harvey
 818-5629

1	Soldiers Meet: Cenotaph	Sunday April 6 th 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm
2	ANZAC walk Meet Cenotaph	Sunday April 27 th 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm
3	Poets, Preachers, Gumdiggers Meet Cenotaph corner of Great North Rd and Glen View Rd	Sunday May 4 th 2014	1:30 – 3:30pm

Secretary/ Treasurer
 Colleen Ducker
 8384444

Committee
 Colin Bradshaw
 818-0413



Alan Ducker
 8384444

Noeline Erceg (Newsletter)
 838-5429

Leigh Kennaway
 8157475

Kath Kingswood
 8383356

George Percy Wallace, Anglican H Row 3 Plot 12. This Headstone has fallen since March 2nd 2014. The descendents need to be contacted in the hope that it may be repaired. Otherwise it will rest on the grave site. George died on 30/5/1921 at Auckland Hospital aged 37 years. He was an engine driver married to Nellie and lived in Henderson. The Auckland Star reported that the accident occurred 8.30 pm in the locomotive yard when a tank engine overturned into a turntable pit. Mr Wallace was severely scalded and died at 3.55 a.m. the next morning.

Gayle Marshall
 818-5707

John Snashall Walks
 027 535-1959

Ruth Snashall (minutes secretary)
 818-4352



Honorary Life Members
 Laurel North
 Cynthia Shirtcliffe,
 Aranne Donald

The Friends put on a photographic display for two busloads of people on a field trip and we hope to repeat this display in the future.

Chapel of Faith in the Oaks OPEN ON ANZAC DAY

P.O Box 20109
 Glen Eden
 Waitakere City

Check out Friends of Waikumete FACE BOOK Page
 Thanks Leigh Kennaway for setting this up.



Friends of Waikumete Inc.

P.O Box 20-109

Glen Eden

Invitation to Join our membership

Our next financial year is 30 June 2014-1 July 2015. As a member you will receive our newsletter. You are entitled to attend the Waikumete Walks Free of Charge.

Current membership fees are : \$10.00 Per single Person

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 838-4444 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.