



# Friends of Waikumete

September 2015



A photo overlooking part of the Soldiers Area. The cenotaph is top centre.

Local Historian, Lisa Truttman, has begun working on a booklet uncovering Stories about

The Waikumete Soldiers Cemetery 1918-1945.

The City Engineer prepared a plan for the site by June 1917. Plan 4575 showed the laying out of 16 acres at the north eastern end of the cemetery.

The First burial in "Soldiers Area" was that of William Eli Johnston. January 1918 This makes Waikumete the First Soldiers Cemetery. Karori Cemetery had their first burial in July 1918

Up until 1918, military veterans were buried according to their denominations in the original area of the cemetery.

Lisa believes that George Hazell is the first person buried with a military record. The walks team are busy and excited to share his story on the October 11 walk. George, about 1834-1886) is lying in an unmarked grave. The Friends have a wish to ensure that he is memorialized in the future with a Headstone and this will be going on our "TO DO " List.

Interestingly, in George Hazell's life story, after his military quests, he became a fruiterer in Upper Symond St. Then he opened a Riding school in 1882. The Architect for the buildings he built was Edmond Bell, the father of Little Florence Lena Bell, The First Waikumete Burial.

Twenty years ago, the first major task for the Friends was to straighten and stabilize the grave of Charles Oliver Davis (Hare Rewiti) He was an interpreter at the Treaty of Waitangi in 1842 and spoke out against the NZ Land Wars. The Headstone is in the Maori and English language.

# Chairman's Report 2015

A mixed year for the Friends of Waikumete but more positive than negative. We have a good working relationship with the cemetery manager Roscoe Webb and are delighted the cemetery has a new sextant, Sherie Stout, who lives on site, which has an added bonus.

Things are going forward as to the Boyd Plinths, which are being returned to the cemetery from the museum. A big thankyou to Lady Barbara Harvey who has worked consistently as to the return of the plinths.

The walks sub-committee is getting good exposure with new initiatives under the guidance of Kath Kingswood. The Blue Moon evening walk was well attended and enjoyable. Thankyou to the members who participated and guided.

The newsletter produced by Noeline Erceg is always well received and informative as to what the FOW are doing and welcomes input from all members.

The Waitakere Local Board have collaborated with us to research and produce and publish the early history of soldiers pre World War 1 and WW1. Lisa Truttman has been contracted to research and work with a sub-committee of the FOW headed by Lady Barbara Harvey. The WW1 Commemoration is an important part of our history and the FOW held a successful open day in the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks as to this commemoration.

Carols in the Chapel will be in its third year this Christmas Season. Thankyou to Gayle Marshall and Leanne Appleby for their time to produce this festive production for the community.

As a team, we are working well, we are not financially rich and welcome donations or sponsorship. New members are welcome and there are areas of the friends that they may wish to work in. We are losing Colleen and Allan Ducker. Colleen has been a brick for the friends and has filled the position of treasurer and Secretary. Thankyou Colleen, we will hopefully keep you as a member of the FOW.

We need to remember that Waikumete is not just a cemetery but a memorial Park and as such be available to work with and keep up to date with developments happening or being proposed by Auckland Council.

## •Some of the achievements over the last financial year

- An exciting accomplishment being the restoration of the Wallis Angel.
- Negotiated the return of Boyd Plinths for display at the Waikumete Cemetery.
- A really well attended and interesting display on ANZAC Day in Chapel of Faith in the Oaks.
- Carols by Candle Light in the Chapel last December
- Organised "Find a Grave" assistance for Heritage Festival last year
- Quarterly newsletter
- Glen Eden Library Window displays
- Themed Walks in Waikumete Cemetery
- Set up Friends of Waikumete Face book
- Submissions for Council's Annual Plan and Cemetery Management Plan.

Thank you to all of the Committee for their time and interest in keeping History alive and available for the future.

Gary Marshall  
Chairman 2015

**Friends of Waikumete began 20 years ago in 1995** . In the Historical Walks, Early members researched this old soldier. His headstone RC A3 41b has been repaired by his family.



**James Quedley** Born in Somerset, England, in 1828. James enlisted with the 55<sup>th</sup> regiment in 1846. He was just 17.

He served with the regiment in the Crimea and Turkey and was awarded medals for both campaigns. Later, he received the King's Empire and Long Service medals. In 1856, while serving in Spain, Quedley married Mary Vegus, the daughter of a Spanish Count. She accompanied him to NZ, where he was sent with the 14<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment to battle the Maori in 1859. Quedley emerged unscathed from four years of warfare on several major battlefields, including Koheroa, Rangariri and Waikato Pa.

In 1867, the regiment was sent to Australia. Military records suggest that in order to stay in NZ, he transferred to the 18<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Regiment. A year later he was found medically unfit and discharged aged 40.

Quedley settled at Pakuranga and later Central Auckland, where he and his wife ran a number of boarding houses. The couple raised seven children. Mary died in 1906.

Twelve years later in 1918, influenza succeeded where musket ball and taiaha had previously failed. The old soldier died aged 90 years.

By Matthew Gray, Western Leader



**Twenty years ago**, Friends of Waikumete, was the inspiration of The Late Barry Shaw a retired journalist. It grew from a cemetery tour fundraising plan first proposed by Mayor Bob Harvey. Daphne Porter, Glen Eden Borough Councillor, chaired the first meetings. Audrey Lange, genealogist, became secretary. Leslie Haines and Kate Pereira knew about wild flowers, Linda Mason, Ross Dallow (Council), John Mackie ( Monumental Mason) The fundraising tour for a children's charity was very successful.

The Friends of Waikumete evolved.

"I see the cemetery as more than a graveyard. Rather a place that respects the dead and welcomes the living"

Barry Shaw

**Patrons**  
Bob Harvey  
Matthew Gray



**Co-Presidents**

Gary Marshall  
Gayle Marshall  
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Barbara Harvey  
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**Honorary Life Members**

Laurel North  
Cynthia Shirtcliffe,  
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**P.O Box 20109**  
Glen Eden  
Waitakere City

# Friends of Waikumete Walks

Kath Kingswood co-ordinator for 2015  
Enquiries ph8383356 check facebook

## Heritage Events and Walks Sunday 27 September 2pm

Meet outside Chapel of Faith in the Oaks  
Cost \$5.00 non members  
Topics include: famous, tragic, some life/death stories that deserve to be told.

## Sunday 11 October 2pm A Soldiers Life for Me!

Topics include: Military Funerals, Deaths in camps, influenza, Lives and deaths of former soldiers

## Heritage Event : Find a Grave Sunday 3 October 2015 1-3pm

We can help you find that grave.  
If it is unmarked we provide a simple white cross  
Find us at Chapel of Faith in the Oaks .  
This is a free event but any donations will go directly to grave restoration.

## Glenora Gold Card Day

Thursday 1st October 2015 10.30a.m  
Glen Ora Football Club  
View FOW Photo Display

## Carols in the Chapel

12 December 2015 7pm  
Christmas Spirit alive through music in a special setting

## New Executive

A very warm welcome to Elaine our new secretary and Leanne our new treasurer . We are very lucky to have these skilled and community minded people. We thank Gayle for her role in getting these positions filled.

**Friends of Waikumete: Membership \$15.00 single, \$25.00 couple**  
We Welcome your support