



Friends of Waikumete

July 2016

The season with cough, colds and flu is upon us. The Flu injection and a drink of Lemon, Honey and Brandy has successfully kept the bugs at bay for me....so far.

Today, If you get an infection, you may be prescribed with antibiotics.

The 1918 Influenza epidemic remains New Zealand's worst recorded national disaster, both in terms of mortality and the extent of disruption to every day life. No other event has killed so many New Zealanders in so short a space of time. The First World War claimed the life of 16,688 New Zealand Soldiers over four years, while the influenza epidemic killed about a third of that number of civilians in less than two months. Final figures show that Auckland had the highest amount of deaths(1680) in the country. Altogether, 5471, lost their lives to the Influenza Epidemic which peaked in the third and fourth weeks of November.

GLEN EDEN RESIDENTS REMEMBER:

Mrs Nairn (nee Shepherd)

My aunt, Amy Shepherd and I went all around Glen Eden, visiting the sick. I was about twelve at the time. I used to wash their faces, sponge their hands, and feed them.

Selwyn Wither:

My uncle Wilson Rosier had the contract for carting the bodies on his dray. Just backwards and forwards he would go from the station to the cemetery, and they would spray him with disinfectant when he came back from a load-but he never got the slightest cold over the whole thing.

Sam Leadbeater:

My Dad went black all over when he got the flu. I remember mum saying "Dads gone black!" and she whipped the blankets off, and his feet were black too. He was carried off to hospital. He survived.

Mary Shaw (nee Whither)

We used to eat a terrible lot of lemons and the doctors used to give quinine and a type of medicinal wine to the children.

Mrs Fanch:

My mother nursed the flu victims all the way through, and before she went out every morning, we each had to have a teaspoon of sugar with a drop of kerosene in it.

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Bob Harvey
Matthew Gray



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

Barbara Harvey was celebrant at a funeral that I attended. She read this poem "When We Remember" which I felt was worth sharing.

Friends of Waikumete Annual General Meeting

28 August 2016

2pm

Glen Eden Community & Recreational Centre
Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

Are you a storyteller?
Do you like reading stories?
You may wish to take cemetery walks!
Please come to the AGM!

"When We Remember"

Unknown

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her and only that she's gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back or...
You can do what she'd want:

Smile,
Open your eyes,
Love
And go on.

Anzac Day 2016 At Dawn, we heard the Boom of Cannons, the Lone Bugle. The medals on the military was impressive. At the 11am service, the Mayor of Auckland, Len Brown was present. Sandra Coney spoke. Wreaths were laid and the Friends were represented by Gary Marshall. The Friends opened the Historic chapel and believe many enjoyed the ambiance. Our display included a simplistic version of what happened in 2016, an addition to our Gallipoli Focus.

**Winter at
Waikumete**





The Western Leader published this story by Matthew Gray

“War Hero had to deal with Grief”

A story illustrating how the judiciary dealt with this “Fallen Soldier”

War hero Henry Donald Coutts received one of the rarest military honours ever awarded to Commonwealth troops.

Just eight soldiers were awarded the Queen’s Scarf after distinguishing themselves during the Boer war 1899-1902

Coutts, was the only New Zealander among them and received the honour in front of 30,000 mounted troops at Pretoria in 1900.

The scarf was hand-knitted by Queen Victoria and the 34 year old got his for rescuing a wounded non-commissioned officer from the battlefield under enemy fire.

Army life continued until 1910 when he was retired as a Captain.

Coutts’ private life was marred by tragedy. He and his wife Margaret had four children and the first three failed to live longer than just a few days after birth.

Margaret was struck down by illness in 1912 and died at home in Mt Eden aged 42. Donald, her only child to survive infancy, also got sick and died in hospital a few months later. Coutts buried them both and struggled on as a carpenter. World War 1 broke out and two more years passed before the 50 year old cut 8 years off his true age and enlisted for action. He was sent to England where he remained in service for the duration of the war.

Coutts came home with ill health to add to his woes of myalgia and rheumatism. He struggled to find a job. He turned to the bottle in despair and while under the influence of alcohol, engaged in fraudulent activity which lead to his arrest in 1923. The judge presiding over the resulting trial acknowledged Coutt’s war service and good character, saying booze appeared to be at the root of his problems. He assigned a probation officer to the case and gave him the task of finding the defendant work.

Coutts moved to Dargaville where he opened a grocery store. The venture went belly up in 1930 and the 64 year old started heavily drinking again before attempting to bounce several cheques totalling over 16 pounds in a bid to pay off his debts. He hobbled into court in July that year, crippled by rheumatoid arthritis and vowing to make reparations. The judge looked on Coutts with pity and said he was reluctant to send him to jail. Coutts was convicted and let loose with a stern warning that he would be called up for sentence if he reoffended in the next 12 months. It seems he kept out of trouble for the remainder of his life and died in Greenlane Hospital aged 78 on April 30 1944. He was buried amongst other returned soldiers at Waikumete.

The Queen’s Scarf that earned Coutts a place in history is today in the National Army Museum at Waiouru.