

1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT

KARORI CEMETERY

UPDATE AND REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

MAY-NOVEMBER 2017

Working bees finished in on 30 April, with a final tidy up of plots in the Catholic section. They resume on November 12, and the focus for the 2017/18 summer months will be on more than 250 plots in the Public section known as Gum Gully. This is the largest, most untidy area to work in, and care will be taken to allocate volunteers to specific areas during each working bee, to maximise their safety and the impact of their work.

Volunteers from **Datacom** have recently offered to assist with the project, and they will be doing some preliminary work in Gum Gully on Thursday 9 November, which will make access to headstones and plots easier for working bee volunteers on 12 November.

Three **seminars** were held during the winter months.

1. In March Gabor Toth, WCC Historian, was scheduled to make a presentation but he had to cancel and I did a presentation instead, at short notice.
2. In August four of the team of genealogy researchers presented stories of those who had died and been buried at Karori Cemetery.
3. In October Dr Ryan McLane was guest speaker, and provided a very informative overview of the influenza pandemic and specifically it's transmission in the Pacific.

All seminars attracted 30-40 attendees, and were held in the Community Room, Karori Recreation Centre, at no cost. The staff at the Centre have been obliging and helpful on each occasion.

A **website** was created and stories are being progressively uploaded.

As part of **Wellington City Heritage Week**, 23-29 October, a visit to three areas of the cemetery attracted 45 attendees. This event was free, and was well promoted through Heritage Week promotional materials and on Facebook etc. The sites toured were Soldiers, Catholic and Public2. Attendees enthusiastically signed up to receive information and updates.

The **database** of people with whom contact about the project is maintained now numbers 100 names and email addresses.

Three **newsletters** have been distributed (May, July & September) to everyone on the database, to keep them interested and updated on developments.

The project was thoroughly described during an interview on the **Kim Hill programme** on National Radio with Laura Spinney, who published a book about the worldwide pandemic in July/August.

Barbara Mulligan

Project Coordinator

2 November 2017