

# 1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT KARORI CEMETERY

**NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018**

There's been a protracted interlude since the last newsletter in March 2018, primarily because David & I were in the UK/France/Belgium for two months and then I went to the States for three weeks. The Project, however, has been ticking along in the background, and for the next three months there will be increasing activity in the lead up to the commemoration programme scheduled for 18 and 25 November.

## **GENEALOGISTS ACTIVITIES**

The genealogy team has been doing sterling work and the number of stories now uploaded and available on the website has increased to more than 130. This is a splendid effort, and the focus of their work now is to ensure we have good coverage across a range of people such as both men and women, children, sailors, soldiers, Chinese, etc. Where possible descendants/family members have been contacted and their assistance has been invaluable. The website attracts at least 20 unique visitors each day and it will become increasingly important as the key information source as we approach the centenary of the epidemic in November. [www.1918influenzakarori.weebly.com](http://www.1918influenzakarori.weebly.com)

**PROFESSOR RICE** recently gave a lecture in Christchurch where he examined the death rate in Wellington which was nearly twice that of Christchurch. The conclusions drawn are interesting and are to do with taking precautionary actions early, being

well organised from the early stages of the epidemic and treating most cases in the main hospital rather than dispersing treatment across temporary facilities. The transcript of his lecture will find its way onto the website shortly. He has very kindly provided an electronic copy to circulate as widely as possible.

## **COMMEMORATION ACTIVITY TIMETABLE**

After due deliberation a timetable for events on Sunday 18 and Sunday 25 November has been developed, and is now published on the project website under the "Events" tab. Please take a look and note the dates in your diaries. Your support will be needed on both days, so please consider what if any assistance you could provide. In particular, we will need people in the Information Kiosk 11-4 each day; traffic and parking management; and guides for each area where tours are scheduled. Training will be provided for everyone undertaking guiding.

## **COLLIER LETTERS**

While in London David & I had the opportunity to review letters held by the Imperial War Museum solicited from people worldwide in the 1970's recounting their memories of the epidemic. We selected and photographed a small number sent from New Zealand – a couple of them are especially interesting and there is an extract from one in the story of Ernest BARBER in the SOLDIERS list.

## **SPEAKING PROGRAMME**

I have been asked to speak by five groups who want to learn more about the project and will be making presentations to them during the next couple of months. Such engagements help to get the word out into the wider community and is a vital part of our promotion and publicity campaign. If you know any groups looking for speakers please ask them to contact me using the project email address – [flu1918karori@gmail.com](mailto:flu1918karori@gmail.com)

## **FUNDING/WCC**

Karori Historical Society (KHS) has become a key partner to our project and on our behalf submitted an application to the WCC for funding. The application was successful and \$5,000 was approved. An item about the project will be in the next KHS newsletter, and we look forward to Society members becoming more active in the project.

Other funding sources have been identified and applications to them are in the pipeline. The biggest expenditure item is the four interpretation panels which need to be

designed and installed in the Anglican, Catholic, Public and Services sections.

## **VOLUNTEER CENTRE PROJECT**

Thanks to Ann Hodson's involvement with the Wellington Volunteer Centre, they have decided to set up a project to research and write up the work of volunteers in Wellington during the epidemic. Their work will result in an A5 booklet which will be available before 18 November and will be promoted on our website. This project is running in parallel to the Influenza Project and will add value to the work we are doing in the Cemetery.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Sunday 19 August at 2.00pm** in the Karori Recreation Centre Meeting Room. We will consider the commemoration programme in detail, outline a programme for training guides, and discuss other needs and project matters.

Barbara Mulligan, Project Coordinator, 2 August 2018