

1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT KARORI CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018



**2017 Regional
Community
Awards**
Wellington City
Finalist

NEXT WORKING BEE SUNDAY 28 JANUARY, GUM GULLY

Great progress has been made so far in Gum Gully, with over 60 plots cleaned and cleared during the two working bees in November and December last year.

However, there's still plenty more to do, so do come along if you can. If the current hot weather continues please make sure to bring water to keep you hydrated as you work. The area we'll be working in is invaded by shrubs and small trees, but revealing and then cleaning previously obscured headstones and plaques is proving to be both interesting and rewarding.

Working bees are from **2.00pm – 4.00pm** on **Sundays**, as per the following schedule:

January	28
February	25
March	25
April	29
May	27

PROJECT WEBSITE

The genealogy research team has been making great progress and 61 stories have now been uploaded to the website, with more in the pipeline. The main page for following links to stories is "Remembering". All names of those who died in the epidemic in Wellington and were buried in Karori are now listed on the website – those in the areas where we are working (435 names); those in pre-existing family plots elsewhere (112 names); and soldiers in the Services area (100 names).

Project newsletters and information about working bees are also on the website (including "what to bring" advice for working bee participants).

www.1918influenzakarori.weebly.com.

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

On **7 February** University of Otago Wellington is holding a 1-day course "**The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and its lessons.**"

This one-day course will cover:

- The historical epidemiology of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, with the international picture, the contrasting pictures from NZ, Australia and South

Pacific Islands, and an extra focus on the impacts on different ethnic groups.

- Comparisons will be more recent influenza pandemics (1957, 1968, 2009) and comment on why 1918 was so severe, and what range of severity we can expect in future.
- Lessons from the 1918 pandemic for modern day pandemic planning.

Professor Geoffrey Rice, Dr Nick Wilson and Dr Ryan McLane are among the speakers. It costs \$400 to attend. However, there will be a **free** Public Lecture at the conclusion of this day, given by Professor Geoff Rice, from 5.15pm - 6.15pm. Venue is the University Campus at Wellington Hospital – I am waiting further details and will distribute these nearer the date.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/wellington/departments/publichealth/summerschool/otago665008.html>

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC CENTENARY

I plan to hold a forum for volunteers in the next month or so to discuss ways to best commemorate during the centenary period in November and December this year the

epidemic and those buried at Karori in 1918. So far, thinking is around holding free tours of the four areas from 19¹ November for 2-3 weeks. An information kiosk and resource centre will be set up in the Mortuary Chapel, and I am investigating installation of interpretation panels at each of the four sites. I will advise date and location for this forum within the next couple of weeks. Your input to this forum will be most welcome and is actively invited.

TV3 NEWS ITEM

Our project featured on a TV3 Newshub bulletin on 11 December, and gave us good coverage, showing everyone working away in Gum Gully on Sunday 10 December. The item put our efforts into the wider context of the epidemic. Thank you, Alex Baird, the reporter, who spent 1.5 hours with us.

You can view the clip here:

<https://youtu.be/ikbllq-RLzI?t=1258>

Barbara Mulligan
Project Coordinator
21 January 2018

¹ Avoiding commemorative events around Armistice Day 11 November 2018