

# 1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT KARORI CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018

WORKING BEE

SUNDAY 25



**2017 Regional  
Community  
Awards**  
Wellington City  
Finalist

## GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

A dozen or so people attended a workshop on Sunday 18 March to learn more about how to research the stories of those who died of influenza. Jenny Robertson, Max Kerr and Beverley Hamlin provided a comprehensive list of the resources they have been using and lots of information, from using the project template as a starting point to building up the information progressively. Thank you Max, Jenny and Beverley for both organising this event and conducting it with such thoroughness and competence.

## WORKING BEE SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY - REPORT

The planned programme for the February “working bee” got off to a bad start when my thumb got jammed in my car door & I ended up at the Plastic Unit at Hutt Hospital instead of running the planning session. Thanks to sterling efforts on the part of my husband David, who then did the presentation in my absence and facilitated the ensuing discussion, and our friend Leonie who managed to get the projector and slideshow up and running, a good session was held and the notes which accompany this Newsletter (compiled by Beverley Hamlin) cover all the points made. Many thanks to everyone who contributed so positively and constructively – and standby for the next iteration of a plan for events and activities leading up to and throughout the commemoration period 18 Nov-9 Dec 2018.

And as to the thumb – well, at least 6 stitches were needed, there was surgery under local anaesthetic, and ongoing bandaging but recovery has been straightforward and is progressing well. Thank you to everyone who assisted at the time and witnessed the event and the extremely loud swearing that ensued!!!!

## NEXT WORKING BEE - SUNDAY 25 MARCH

We're gathering again at the Karori Community Centre on **Sunday 25 March** to further develop and progress the plans for the commemoration programme so please do come along and contribute. The format and content of the gathering is being worked out at the moment, and further advice will be circulated in the next day or so. Meantime, note the date and time in your diary – Sunday 25 March at the Karori Community Centre 2-4.00pm.

## DATA

I have done an analysis of the number of plots worked on by project volunteers:

	<b>TOTAL PLOTS</b>	<b>Formed</b>	<b>Empty</b>	<b>Disinterred</b>	<b>Resold</b>	
Anglican	152	87	18	23	24	
Catholic	41	26	2	20	6	
Public	102	84	0	60		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>645</b>

## INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

David & I are going to be in the UK and France 27 March – 12 May, and we hope to meet with Laura Spinney in Paris (author of "Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World") and Hannah Mawdsley, a PhD student who is working on letters held at the Imperial War Museum in London from people who had experienced the influenza epidemic in 1918. About 200 of the letters are fascinating accounts from New Zealand. I look forward to reporting back on these meetings.

## OTHER

A **budget** for the project has been developed for consideration by the WCC from one of their funding windows. The closing date for applications is 31 March with decisions made in April/May. The budget covers the cost of designing and manufacturing four interpretation panels, genealogy certificates, PR and promotion materials etc. As the project is not a registered charity we have approached the Karori Historical Society (KHS) to come on board as partners, and for the project to become one of the activities of the Society. I hope to be able to report back positively on discussions with KHS on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>.

The **U3A** programme includes two talks of relevance to the project in the next few weeks: **Dr Ryan McLane** on Friday 20 April, and **Professor Geoffrey Rice** on Tuesday 1 May. Full details are in the attached notice submitted by John Boyd.

## PROJECT WEBSITE

More than 75 stories have been uploaded to the project website, and there are more in the pipeline.

[www.1918influenzakarori.weebly.com](http://www.1918influenzakarori.weebly.com).

Barbara Mulligan, Project Coordinator, 16 March 2018

