

1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT KARORI CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

The turnout at the volunteer meeting on 19 August was low so this newsletter covers information presented.

PRESENTATION

This covered what had been happening April-August:

- WCC funding
- Karori Historical Society
- Letters to Jacinda, Ron & Grant
- Design work
- Commemoration days programme
- Volunteer Centre project
- Interpretation panels
- Stories, stories, stories
- Selection stories, developing tours

And moved on to what will happen Sept-November:

- Design & development of interpretation panels
- Design, development & distribution of promotional materials
- Talks
- Digital story book development
- Cemetery staff - mowing & spraying
- ORB (Contact Energy) volunteer day 24 October
- Preparing folders for guides; signage; displays & handouts for chapel
- Liaison with Mayor's office, etc.
- Development of parking management plan & associated activities
- Working bees, guide training, plot marking

The programme for Sunday 18 November has been finalised and there are two options:

- **Good weather:**
- **11.00am:** Opening presentation by Mayor Justin Lester
Location: Services Section
- **3.00pm:** Public presentation by

Professor Geoffrey Rice
Location: Main Chapel, Rosehaugh Avenue

- **Tours** – 11.45, 12.45, 1.45
- **Information Kiosk** open 11.00am-4.00pm (3.00pm?)
- **Bad weather:**
- **11.00am:** Opening presentation by Mayor Justin Lester
Location: Main Chapel, Rosehaugh Avenue
- **11.30am:** Public presentation by Professor Geoffrey Rice
Location: Main Chapel, Rosehaugh Avenue
- **Tours** – deferred to **2 December**
- **Information Kiosk** open 11.00am-12noon?

We are of course fervently hoping the "Good Weather" option will prevail!

I outlined the calendar of activities leading up to the commemoration days, focussing on November. The different activities and their associated volunteer roles were outlined and those present were asked to indicate their availability. The role descriptions and the calendar will be sent to all those on the project supporter's database shortly. Please review them and reply by email to indicate which role(s) you can offer to support, specifying your preferred times/date.

INFLUENZA STAGE PRODUCTION

Caitlin McAleece came along to the meeting and was invited to tell us about a production drama students at VUW are staging at Studio 77, the performance venue of the Victoria University Theatre Department, 77 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn, **9-17 October**. Caitlin will provide more information about the production shortly. Meantime, an item

in Stuff from 2013 explains a little about a previous manifestation of this production: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/culture/9335731/Bats-explores-the-1918-influenza-outbreak>

(PS – the memorial in the photo is for the Korokoro Catholic Cemetery not the pandemic. The headstones were removed in the 1950s and a memorial installed with all the names of those known to be buried there.)

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON PROJECT

Ann Hodson outlined the project being implemented by Volunteer Wellington/ Te Puna Tautoko, referred to in the previous of these newsletters. The project is researching the role of volunteers in Wellington during the 1918 epidemic, alongside the role of today's volunteers, especially those supporting the current project. A project leader supported by two researchers and with input from Ann are

producing the material for a 40-page booklet that Volunteer Wellington will publish to coincide with the centenary of the epidemic in November 2018.

SPEAKING PROGRAMME

Between now and 18 November I am scheduled to speak to 6 groups about the project – Kapiti Genealogy (pm 25 Sept), Karori Lions (pm 26 Sept), Wellington Host Lions (pm 2 October), Kilbirnie Genealogy Group (am 4 October), Maritime Friends (pm 8 October) Karori Rotary (pm 13 November). If you want to come along to any of them, email me for the details of time and location.

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NEXT MEETING

T.B.A.

Barbara Mulligan, Project Coordinator, 4 September 2018