KARORI CEMETERY
Who met his death whilst skylarking
• www.karoricemetarytour.com

• www.facebook.com/karoricemetarywalk
THE CEMETERY

- 1891-1965
- 100 acres (40 hectares)
- c 85,000 interments
- 3 heritage listed structures
- 2 national monuments
- 6 Prime Ministers, many Mayors
Heritage values

• Plain, unadorned, “Bewildering range of grave types” – grey concrete

• “Unique assemblage of heritage, and a place of high cultural significance.”

• Corridor for native birds between Zealandia and Otari/Wilton’s Bush

• Recreational values – walking, cycling, running, orienteering, learning to drive, dog walking
Crematorium and Chapel

Constructed 1909. Designed by John Sydney Swan.
Stained glass windows An Tur Gloine (Tower of Glass) factory in Dublin commissioned by William Ferguson 1914-1934
Mortuary Chapel
Lychgate
1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT KARORI CEMETERY

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

- Killed
  - >50 million people worldwide
  - more men than women
  - people aged 20-50
  - c. 9,000 people in New Zealand
  - 750 people in Wellington Nov/Dec 1918
# KARORI CEMETERY BURIALS

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WHAT????????

- WHAT WAS IT?
- WHAT DID WE DO?
- WHAT HAPPENED?
- WHAT DID I LEARN?
- WHAT NEXT?
1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT
KARORI CEMETERY

• **Aims**
  1. Collective memory
  2. Heritage values
  3. Improve access

• **Activities**
  1. Working bees
  2. Family history research
  3. Seminars/workshops
  4. Friends of Karori Cemetery?
THE 1918 INFLUENZA PROJECT

• 2-years duration
  • Volunteer involvement
  • Partnership with WCC, KHS, Volunteer Centre, local genealogists

• Outputs
  • Website
  • Digital story book
  • Commemoration event
  • Interpretation panels
WHAT DID WE DO?

- 10 working bees
- 4-6 seminars/workshops
- Genealogical research
- Website
- Crosses installation
- Commemoration event
  - Mayor Justin Lester, Hon. Grant Robertson, Professor Geoffrey Rice
  - Tours
  - Heritage/info centre (Mortuary Chapel)
PUBLIC
(Gum Gully)
5th influenza death in Wellington

BEFORE

AFTER
WHAT HAPPENED?

• Facebook page “liked” by 226 people
• Website stats: between 1 Nov and 29 Nov 2018
  2,258 unique visitors
  7,222 page views
  25-35 unique visitors per day in previous months
  >180 stories researched, written & uploaded

• Featured in, and/or provided information for at least 8 newspaper items throughout the country
• TV news items and generated some air time on commercial and public radio.
• Approx. 450 graves/plots were worked on and tidied to a greater or lesser extent during the project, some more than once
WHAT DID I LEARN?

• Volunteers
• Simple idea/complex implementation
• Financial support
• Relationships
• Media, promotion
• Official response
• Generosity
• It’s not over till it’s over
• DON’T DO IT AGAIN
• Website
  www.1918influenzakaroride.webbbly.com

• Digital story book

• Interpretation panels

• Friends of Karori Cemetery (FOKC)
  friendskaroricemetary@gmail.com