



# Preservation Post

Newsletter of the  
**Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)**

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Issue 67 – March 2020

**“Looking to the future to preserve our past”**

**Christ Church Taita**

**Upcoming Events:**

**166th Annual Service**

**Sunday 3 May, 2.00 pm**

**Rev Colin Barnes, Minister at the time of the fire in 1989  
will share memories of that time**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 11 May, 7.30 pm**

**At the Church**

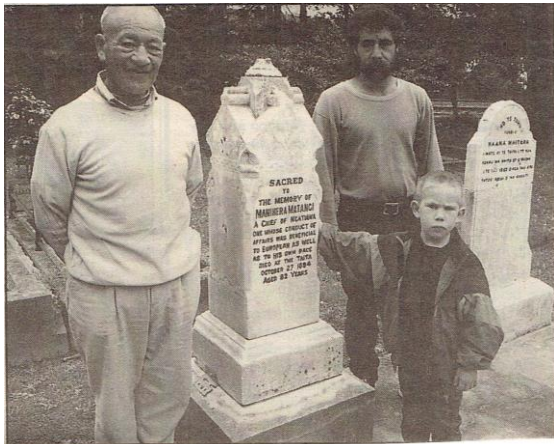


Descendants of the Matangi family gather around the grave of their ancestors on 30 November 2019

Matangi family descendants met with Christ Church members and committee of the Museum Trust on 30 November to talk about the proposed Visitor Centre at the Church. The iwi gave their blessing to the proposal and Rita Powick from Picton presented a comprehensive history of the family's connection to the Hutt Valley and Christ Church.

Courtesy of newspaper clips provided by Rev Colin Barnes, the following shows the late Aubrey Matangi

alongside the headstone of his grandparents. [Aubrey's ashes are now also interred in this grave]. While there is no date on the clip, it appears to have been around the time of the completion of the restoration in 1991.



*Aubrey Matangi (left) with the restored headstone of his grandfather, Manihera, and grandmother, Hoana. With him is his son Cervantes and grandson Komene Eric (5)*

### **Chief's headstone restored**

*Hutt man Aubrey Matangi is very pleased to see Christ Church restored to its former glory.*

*Aubrey was looking at the headstones in the church's cemetery some months ago when he discovered the memorial to his grandfather, Manihera Matangi, who was a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi.*

*The stone was one of those that had been knocked over by vandals, so with the minister's permission, Aubrey re-attached it to its plinth and restored the inscription. The words, which are in English and Maori, read: "Sacred to the memory of Manihera Matangi, a chief of Ngatiawa, one whose conduct of affairs was beneficial to European as well as to his own race. Died at Taita October 27, 1884, aged 82 years.*

## **Annual Service – Sunday 3 May**

Join us to hear Rev Colin Barnes talk about his time as Minister in Charge of Christ Church at the time of the fire in 1989. If anyone is in touch with people involved at that time it would be good to have them come along and share their memories. They can contact the Secretary at [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz).

## **Annual General Meeting – Monday 11 May, 7.30 pm**

You will be aware that our committee is very small and that a number of members do not live in the immediate area, which leaves the bulk of the work to the few. We would love to hear from friends of the Society who live locally and would be interested in joining our team. The Preservation Society is solely responsible for the upkeep of the church and its surroundings. We constantly receive favourable comments about how beautifully kept the church is. This doesn't happen by itself. It would be wonderful if our small committee could share the load of caring for this very important part of New Zealand's history for future generations. If you need more information, please contact the Secretary, [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz).

### **FROM THE TREASURER**

It is very pleasing to be able to report that our current financial position is sound, although ongoing maintenance of our taonga at Christ Church will continue to put pressure on our resources, both money and volunteers. We are in a strong position due to generous donations, good returns on investments and the voluntary work of a small number of members. In summary, for the past year we received:

Donations	\$12,422
Use of church	\$2,145
Subscriptions	\$782
Sales (incl ashes niches)	\$5,875
Investments	\$21,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,769</b>

#### **Our expenses have been**

Promotion	\$1,375
Utilities & security	\$5,146
Maintenance	\$14,369
Other	\$214

#### Features

A major upgrade of our alarm and sprinkler system control was undertaken during the year.

We completed restoration of the church windows and replacement of glass

An upgrade of our website and completion of video walk-through of church and graveyard.

We have more than recovered the loss on investments made in the previous year. Net return over 3 years has been about \$33500 or about 33%. However, we cannot expect similar returns in the future.

These results highlight the fact that we are heavily dependent on donations and bequests and good returns on our investments through the AMSIF Fund administered by the Wellington Anglican Diocesan Trustees.

More importantly, a small number of volunteers oversee and actively work on the maintenance and administration of the church and grounds, assisted by the community service workers provided through the Corrections Department. Without these contributions our expenses would be considerably higher.

Our cash reserves are about \$184,000.

Full accounts will be presented at the AGM on 11 May and then posted on the Charities Register.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer John Stevens [jgstevens@outlook.com](mailto:jgstevens@outlook.com) if you have any queries.

#### **Remembering Wendy Routley**

Committee member Wendy Routley died peacefully on 10 December at home in Havelock North, after some 9 months battling cancer. Wendy grew up in the Hutt Valley and attended Chilton St James School. The family interred her ashes in the Ashes Wall at Christ Church on 22 February and presented the Society with the Chilton Rose which will be planted alongside the ashes wall. Wendy also requested a memorial seat which we will erect underneath the tree by the ashes wall.

#### **Virtual Walk Through of the Church and Graveyard**

A local company **HomePlan NZ Ltd** has recently completed a virtual 3D Walkthrough of the Church and Graveyard. This amazing tool has been added to our Website on the home page or you can view it under the "About our Church" menu:

<https://christ-church.org.nz/3d-walkthrough/>.

HomePlan have been great to work with and we thank them for their generous support of the Church.

#### **Renewing and securing the lead lettering on old graves.**

Mary Stevens recently went around the graveyard with Simon Lewis, who calls himself the Tombstone Doctor. Resident in Hawkes Bay, he tours the country renewing or securing loose

lead lettering on tombstones and replacing letters which have dropped out. He pointed out that many of our old graves had loose letters. If these are secured they will last this century and beyond.

If any members have descendant headstones in the graveyard with this type of lead lettering, Mary is happy to be contacted at [mhrstevens@gmail.com](mailto:mhrstevens@gmail.com). She will photograph the family tombstone and send it on to Simon for a quote

**“Arthur and Polly Hansell and their Three Daughters”** by Bob Stewart. Copies of this book are available by contacting Bob Stewart, email [stewart@sbp-journal.com](mailto:stewart@sbp-journal.com). Payment by way of koha which will be forwarded to Christ Church Preservation Society.

### **In Memoriam**

We record with sadness the deaths of the following life members and extend our thoughts and prayers to their families:

**Wendy Anne Routley** – on 10 December 2019.

**David McKinlay**, aged 84 (Hirst descendant)

**Mervyn Gaskin**, aged 90 years, on 11 January 2020.

### **Interment of ashes into family graves**

The Preservation Society is solely responsible for the care of our little church and its graveyard. Our very small committee takes this task very seriously. At times we find new headstones just ‘appear’ on existing graves. We want to be able to include any new interments into our graveyard list and this is made extremely difficult when we are not made aware of new

interments. The cost of interment of ashes into an existing grave in the churchyard is a very reasonable \$250 + GST. Please help us to make sure we are contacted regarding any new interments. Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons have also been asked to notify us.



### **Weddings**

**31 October**

***Rebekah Shelley to Duane Frew***

**7 December 2019**

***Bronwen Andrews to Brent Goodman***

**16 January**

***Sarah Therkleson to Jim Stevens***

**29 February**

***Elizabeth Mos to Jason Sartorelli***

**6 March**

***Sarah Banks to Ryan England***



***Wedding – Elizabeth Mos (Mabey family descendant) to Jason Sartorelli on 29 February 2020***

### **Interments**

***Wendy Routley***

*The Society is grateful to Brother International (NZ) Limited for printing this newsletter*

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