

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2020 11:50 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA request: Plaque and headstone restoration  
**Attachments:** Response - OIR - [REDACTED] - Plaque and headstone restoration.docx; Scan-to-Me from 172.30.5.8 2020-01-22 152849.pdf

Hello [REDACTED]

Please see the response to your query below. This has been vetted through our legal team.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T , M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



sign up to our newsletter

IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 5:21 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** LGOIMA request: Plaque and headstone restoration

Hi Shelley

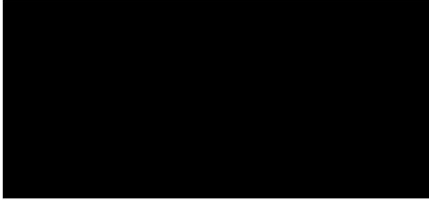
Can you please provide me with written, text and email communications within the Hutt City Council, regarding:

1. Policies pertaining to the maintenance and/or restoration of service plaques and headstones;
2. Simon Strombom, Bob Davies and the NZ Remembrance Army;
3. Council budget allocations for the maintenance of service plaques, headstones and plots within cemeteries in the Hutt City Council catchment area.

I look forward to your reply.

--

23 January 2020



Shelley Angus  
Parks and Recreation  
04 570 6666  
[shelley.angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:shelley.angus@huttcity.govt.nz)  
Our reference:<number>

Dear [REDACTED]

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

We refer to your request dated 04/12/2019 for information on maintenance of plaques and headstones in the Services Cemeteries in Lower Hutt and the budget for such, and correspondence including Simon Strombom, Bob Davies and the New Zealand Remembrance Army.

Your request has been processed according to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the "Act").

Veteran's Affairs make an annual payment to Council as a contribution towards the maintenance of Services areas within the Cemetery. This covers mowing, broadleaf weed spray, vertical edging, weeding, levelling, drainage and moss and lichen control.

Veteran's Affairs state that the rate they contribute is based on 75 cents per m2 for the first 5000m2, 50 cents per m2 for the next 2000m2 and 20 cents per m2 thereafter.

Taita Cemetery has 9658m2 with a grant value of \$6079.00 and the Wainuiomata Garden of Remembrance has 54m2 with a grant value of \$250.00.

With this funding, apart from general maintenance, we have added drainage to blocks 10 and 11 at Taita Cemetery and in the New Year we are treating all the head beams for moss and lichen in blocks 10, 11 and 12, ready for Veteran's Affairs to replace 504 concrete bases and re-fix another 140 bases to the head beams which have come loose. We have also treated the Memorial Court and the wall for moss, mould and lichen and repainted it.

In 2017/18 Veteran's Affairs gave qualified Stone Masons, Glover Memorials, funding to repaint all the granite headstones in the old services section of Taita Cemetery, and gave Council funding to re-inforce the retaining wall in the same section to remediate imminent failure in the future.

Families purchase bronze veteran's plaques through Veteran's Affairs Mew Zealand and these are placed on the correct plots by a qualified Stone Mason. Private families also contact and pay qualified Stone Masons to design, create and install headstones to commemorate loved ones (including Returned Service men and women) in the Cemetery. By law, this means that these headstones, plaques, monuments are the property of that family and are to be maintained by such.

The Burial and Cremation Removal of Monuments and Tablets Regulations 1967 gives Local Authorities the power to contact family to remove headstones, tablets (plaques) and monuments if they are dilapidated or neglected. If the family can't be found then the Local Authority is required to advertise in two newspapers at least twice, or in one local newspaper at least four times in the manner prescribed in the regulation, to find the family to request maintenance or removal.

If the family cannot be found then the Local Authority may remove any dilapidated or neglected monument or tablet if it has not been repaired or replaced to the satisfaction of the Authority in accordance with the Burial and Cremations Act 1964 and any bylaws of that Authority.

As owners of the cemetery, Council are the caretakers of the site and the property within.

As Cemeteries Manager for Hutt City Council, I have given permission to Bob Davies to undertake the restoration of two bronze plaques at Taita Cemetery as the families have given their permission to do so. He respected the position of the serviceman and the restoration was well executed. The second plaque was not able to be restored as the surface of the plaque was faulty (part of a faulty batch some 10 years ago) and he is liaising with Veteran's Affairs to have this replaced.

Any correspondence to, from or about Simon Strombom, Bob Davies and the New Zealand Remembrance Army as it relates to Hutt City Council are attached to this letter.

If you require any more assistance, please contact me. My contact details are at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Shelley Angus  
CEMETERIES MANAGER

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 1:14 PM  
**To:** Campbell Barry  
**Subject:** FW: Headstones

Hi Campbell

I note that an earlier email has been sent to you by Bob Davies. Please see the below I have sent to Simon Stromborn from the New Zealand Remembrance Army for clarification of work undertaken at Taita Cemetery.

As Chair of the New Zealand Cemeteries and Crematoria Collective, the national body supporting the death care industry and Councils, I have been liaising with Simon, Veteran's Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the Master Monumental Masons Association for over a year now regarding these restorations.

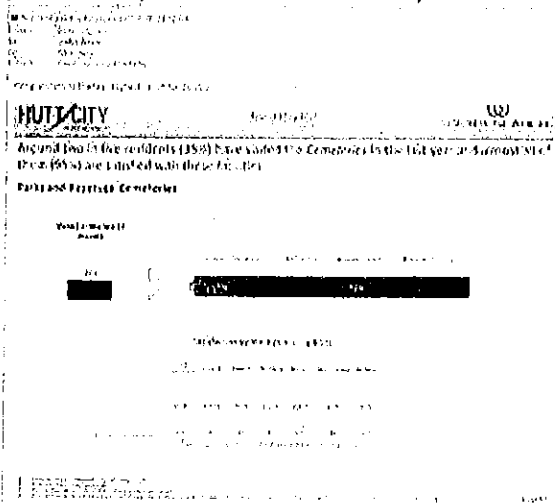
Whilst we are supportive of their intentions with the project and have been helping them to pave the way through other Councils, we have agreed that there is a process that needs to be followed and we have a draft MOU in place which Simon refuses to sign because he just wants to go in and get the work done. I can understand that, but under the Burial and Cremations Act, Volunteer Act and the Health and Safety in the Workplace Act, there are stipulations that the Remembrance Army (NZRA) have to abide by. One of these is that permission has to be granted by the family if any work is to be undertaken on their property, being the headstones and graves in the Cemeteries as they are owned by them. Council has to go through this process if work is required to be undertaken; for example three years ago I had to find the members of seven families to put right a mistake that Council made back in the 70's. This work took me full time 4 weeks to search and obtain – I had to go right back to the records of when the families came over on the ships from England as some had daughters and I had to trace the marriages so that I could get the current family name. I was successful in obtaining permission from six of these families with the seventh family ending with the deceased at the Cemetery.

I have discussed with NZRA that this process is onerous and takes time and that as part of the MOU Councils would be happy to advertise using Council social media and newspaper advertising along with NZRA to promote the work that they are doing and if family members would like their loved one's RSA headstone/plaque restored to contact NZRA and arrange permissions etc. This would be the easiest way to go about it and NZRA seemed to be happy with that.

The work that NZRA are undertaking, whilst their hearts are in the right place, pose a risk to Council when family permission is not sought as when a family that finds out that their loved ones headstone has been renovated without their knowledge, then it is the Council they come to, to complain and they have the view that Council has let them into the site to undertake this work and therefore Council is liable to remedy the work and to continue to maintain it at that standard. This has recently happened with Porirua City Council. The restoration method for the bronze plaques damages the head beams that are the property of Veteran's Affairs and the finished product is less than satisfactory. This is evident in Porirua Cemetery and if families complain about the work, it will come back to Council to replace the plaque as once this work has been undertaken you can't get the bronze back to factory standard. The Cemeteries Manager of Hamilton City Council has told NZRA that if any of them are to come onsite they will be trespassed and that if any work is undertaken, volunteers will be charged with vandalism. Porirua City Council is looking at the same. Wellington City Council will not let them onsite until they have family permission and have filled out the required work onsite forms, Waikumete Cemetery in Auckland don't allow them onsite to undertake any restoration work but are happy for them to undertake work that will help the cemetery. This seems to be working well. This is how strongly other Councils feel about the work.

With the amount of work I have put into helping them it is very disappointing to see that they are not keeping to their word and substandard restoration work is still occurring without permissions. As Cemeteries Manager for Hutt City Council I am the caretaker of the loved ones of the families of the Hutt Valley. I endeavour to maintain cemeteries of high standard within the city with the latest customer satisfaction survey for Hutt City coming in at

98% satisfied – the highest in Council. I have the best interest of my community at heart and that is why I take my job seriously – it is a difficult industry to be in emotionally and it takes it toll.



Happy to discuss this further if you need.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** Simon Stromborn; Bob Davies  
**Cc:** Leroy Forrester  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Simon

Thanks for your reply.

Firstly I would like to express that I support NZRA's good intentions with this project and it has been great to highlight areas in the services cemeteries where work is needing to be undertaken in terms of maintenance.

However, what happened over the weekend is exactly the situation we have been trying to avoid and have been discussing over the last year, and I am very disappointed to see that this is still continuing despite your agreement it wouldn't.

Simon, as the founder and leader of NZRA, you need to be aware of all the work your volunteers are undertaking around the country, and advertising on the NZRA facebook page. You are responsible for all of your volunteers and their work and as such you need to ensure that they have sought and have been granted permission from the Cemetery Manager for the site to undertake this work before any work commences.

Below I have set out the examples of work undertaken at Taita Cemetery over the weekend and the issues I as Cemetery Manager have with the work. I did not give permission for any of this work to be undertaken, nor was permission sought from me.

One of the "restorations" undertaken on the weekend at Taita Cemetery is the bronze plaque of Andrew G. Warren. Bob is this the one you are going to talk to VA about? The work is very patchy. VA may not look to replace this now that unconsented work has been undertaken on the plaque. This is one of the photos on your Facebook page from the weekend. If your volunteers have a photo of what this looked like before can you please send it to me? I also need the family's permission in writing for this restoration.

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 1:20 PM  
**To:** Bob Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Thank you

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 1:16 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Thanks I'll keep you in the picture. Just tracking down Janelle's contact details and the family's feedback on Brian Hall's plaque I've already deleted.

Cheers

Bob

On Wed, 4 Dec 2019 at 13:04, Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi Bob

No I have no objection to that, and yes there was a period where the bronze foundry was producing substandard plaques. Like I said, happy for you to proceed with VA about this.

Kind regards

Shelley

**From:** Bob Davles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:29 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Cc:** Leroy Forrester; Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi Shelley

No I don't have another photo of Andrew's plaque. I'll be doing my best to get it replaced at public expense as it's manufacture is not up to standard as already advised. If I am unsuccessful with we will fund the replacement ourselves. Surely you could have no objection to that?

Cheers

Bob

On Wed, 4 Dec 2019 at 12:12, Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi Simon

Thanks for your reply.

Firstly I would like to express that I support NZRA's good intentions with this project and it has been great to highlight areas in the services cemeteries where work is needing to be undertaken in terms of maintenance.

However, what happened over the weekend is exactly the situation we have been trying to avoid and have been discussing over the last year, and I am very disappointed to see that this is still continuing despite your agreement it wouldn't.

Simon, as the founder and leader of NZRA, you need to be aware of all the work your volunteers are undertaking around the country, and advertising on the NZRA facebook page. You are responsible for all of your volunteers and their work and as such you need to ensure that they have sought and have been granted permission from the Cemetery Manager for the site to undertake this work before any work commences.

Below I have set out the examples of work undertaken at Taita Cemetery over the weekend and the issues I as Cemetery Manager have with the work. I did not give permission for any of this work to be undertaken, nor was permission sought from me.

One of the "restorations" undertaken on the weekend at Taita Cemetery is the bronze plaque of Andrew G. Warren. Bob is this the one you are going to talk to VA about? The work is very patchy. VA may not look to replace this now that unconsented work has been undertaken on the plaque. This is one of the photos on your Facebook page from the weekend. If your volunteers have a photo of what this looked like before can you please send it to me? I also need the family's permission in writing for this restoration.

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 2:50 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Ok Simon that sounds great. I know from experience, as I have had to do many, is that it will take considerable time in most cases. It would be a good test perhaps and then from the results we can look at more practical methods. As previously discussed I am happy to do promotion and advertising through Council channels to help find families. This is one of the fastest ways.

---

**From:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 2:23 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi there

We will go out and look for these families. I have asked our teams to record the time as it as a good benchmark to see the reach we can get, and then the time it takes per grave to find them. We have a few of our researchers onto this.

Regards

Simon

---

**From:** Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 1:12 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom <[REDACTED]>; Bob Davies <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Simon

Thanks for that, it is concerning. We will have to work better together to get the correct messages out there, and hopefully the MOU will be the vehicle for that. Appreciate that you will reiterate this with your team.

Can you please confirm that the families gave permission for this work to be undertaken?

I am very happy to work with Bob re our cemeteries and yes understand the issues around Andrew's plaque. As I said before, I am happy with Bob to work with VA on this.

Kind regards  
Shelley

---

**From:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:57 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus; Bob Davies



**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi Shelley

Sadly we cannot control 40 groups across New Zealand. We have asked people advise us yet sometimes we are just as surprised as you are. We don't keep memberships nor have an active sign up for our site. Most act independent working with local councils etc. I am sure this wont be the last time yet as the group grows, we hope it will become less. We will go out to our coords again with the message to work with councils. I have sent your details to the service personnel that did the granites below.

With respect to the plaque below, Andy was known to a lot of us and Bob served with him. I have seen the conversations about this plaque on the veterans sites and know why Bob did this work. I would see this an an exception but support Bobs efforts with the family.

Regards

Simon

---

**From:** Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:11 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]; Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Simon

Thanks for your reply.

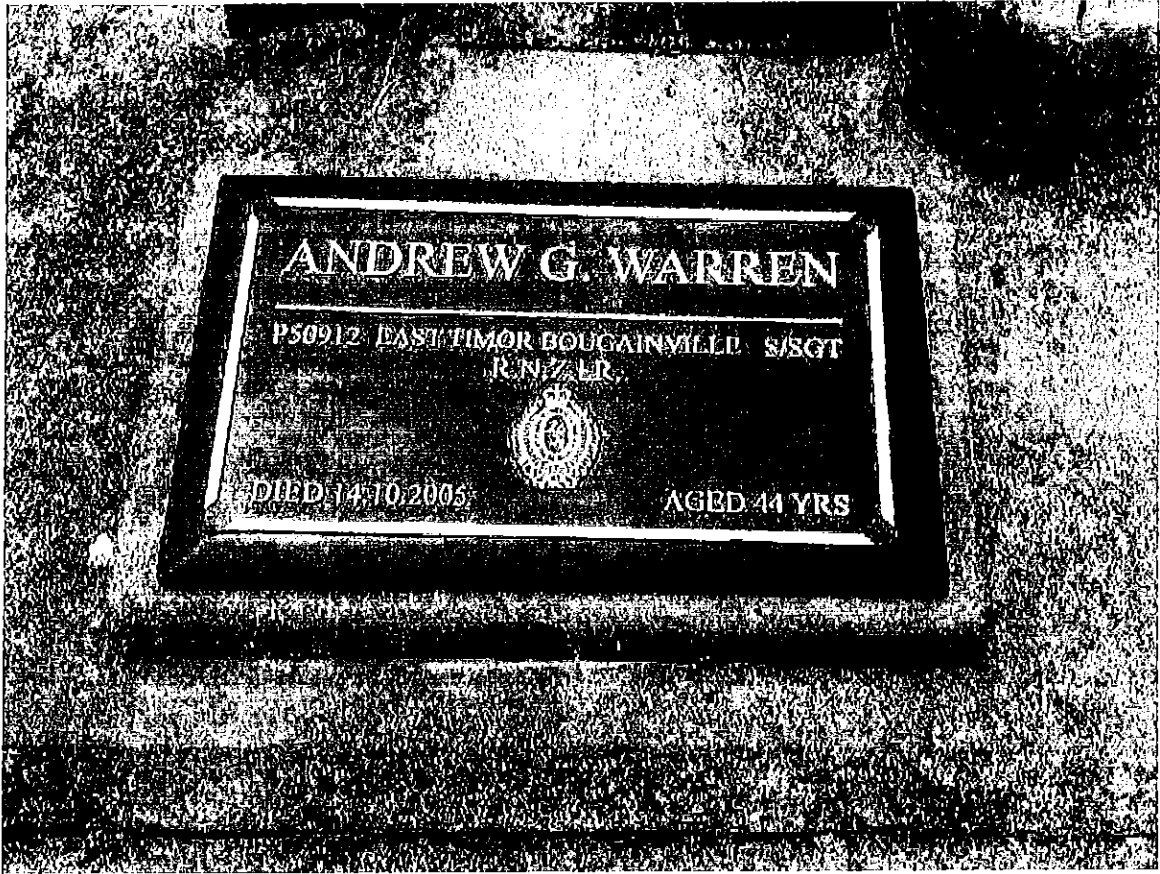
Firstly I would like to express that I support NZRA's good intentions with this project and it has been great to highlight areas in the services cemeteries where work is needing to be undertaken in terms of maintenance.

However, what happened over the weekend is exactly the situation we have been trying to avoid and have been discussing over the last year, and I am very disappointed to see that this is still continuing despite your agreement it wouldn't.

Simon, as the founder and leader of NZRA, you need to be aware of all the work your volunteers are undertaking around the country, and advertising on the NZRA facebook page. You are responsible for all of your volunteers and their work and as such you need to ensure that they have sought and have been granted permission from the Cemetery Manager for the site to undertake this work before any work commences.

Below I have set out the examples of work undertaken at Taita Cemetery over the weekend and the issues I as Cemetery Manager have with the work. I did not give permission for any of this work to be undertaken, nor was permission sought from me.

One of the "restorations" undertaken on the weekend at Taita Cemetery is the bronze plaque of Andrew G. Warren. Bob is this the one you are going to talk to VA about? The work is very patchy. VA may not look to replace this now that unconsented work has been undertaken on the plaque. This is one of the photos on your Facebook page from the weekend. If your volunteers have a photo of what this looked like before can you please send it to me? I also need the family's permission in writing for this restoration.

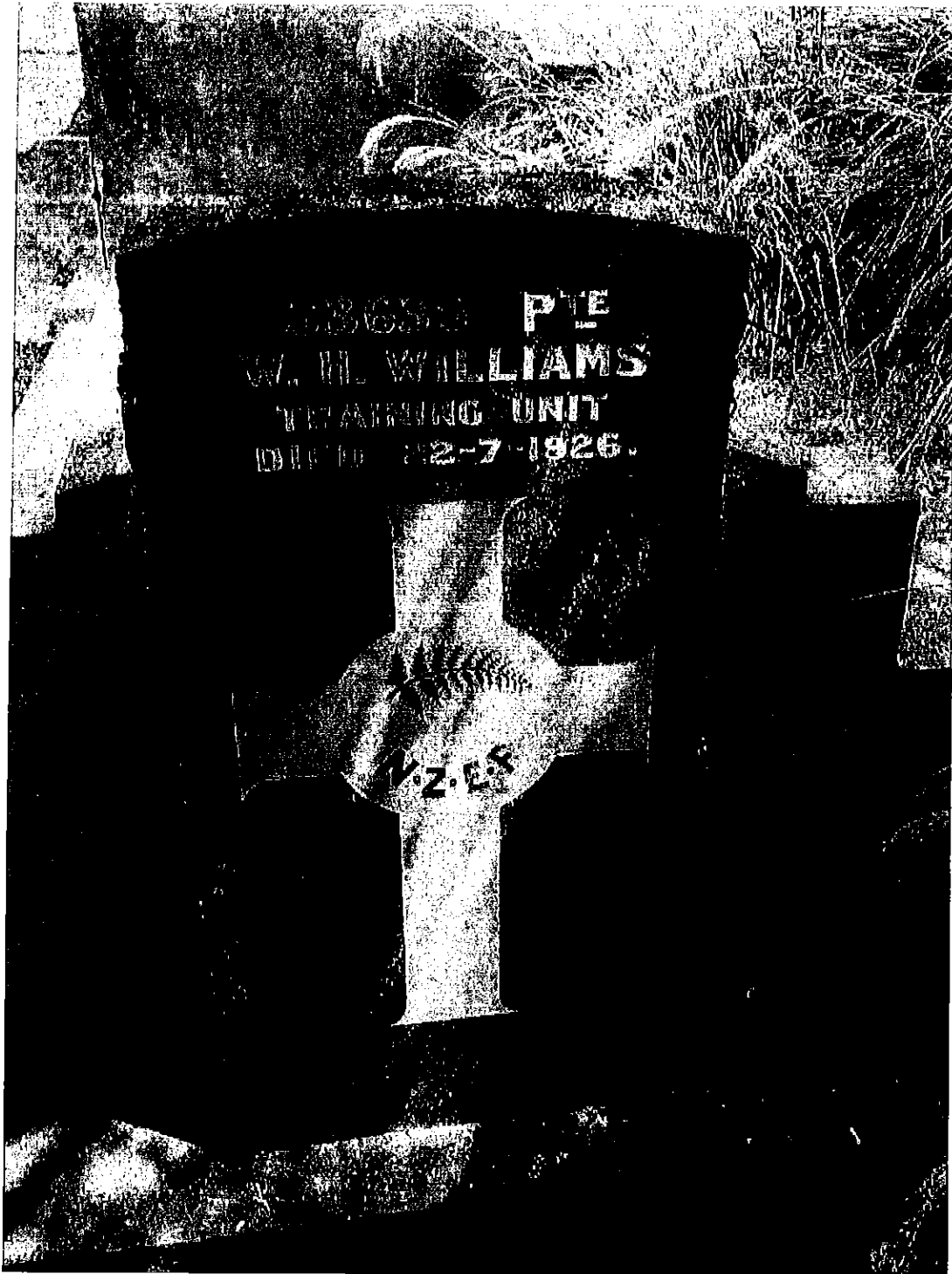






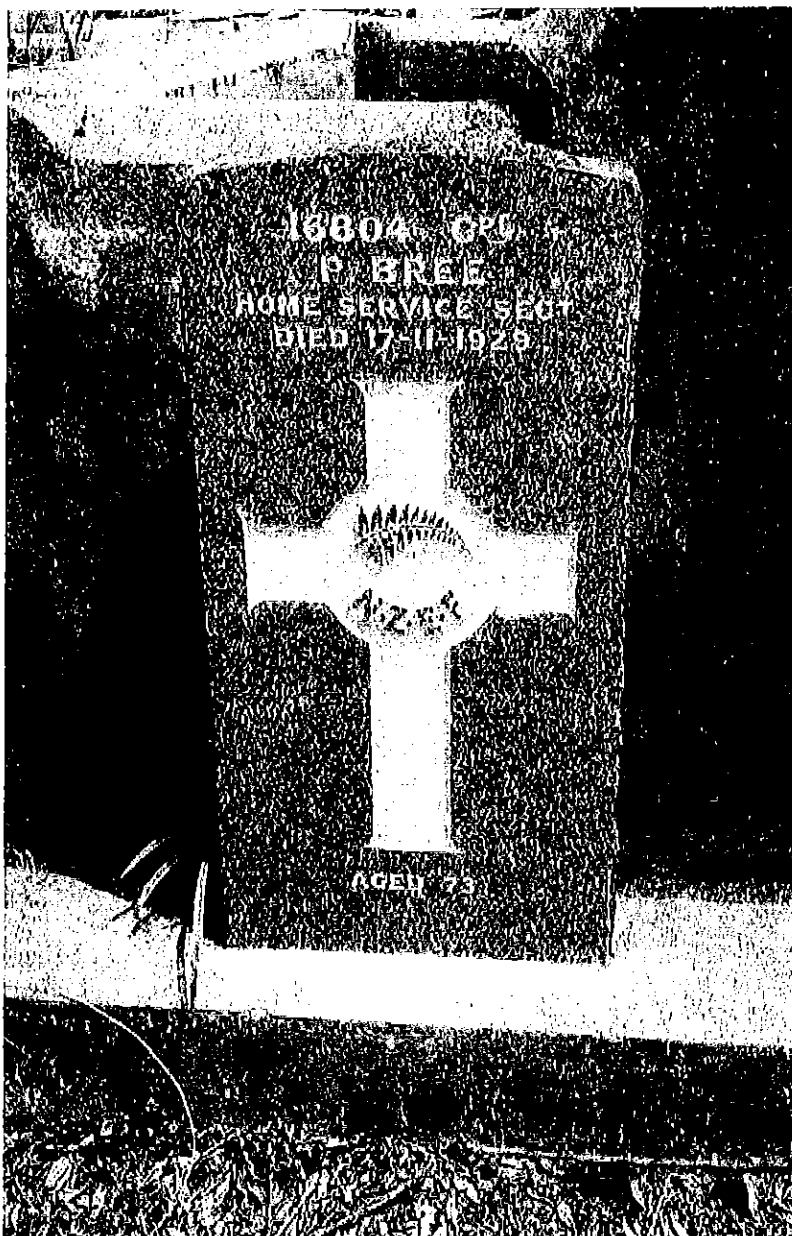
This headstone is not in the services cemetery and therefore not looked after by VA nor Council. It is in the public section of the cemetery and is therefore the responsibility of the family. Can you please confirm that permission granted by the family for this restoration? It is great to have the lichen off the headstone so it is readable. However; they have not used the agreed method of painting the black on before doing the white so that the white does not show up in the pits of the granite creating the hazing around the lettering as seen in the

photo. There is also white paint splattered on the concrete top of the grave and there is some scorching of some kind on the concrete below the headstone – caused by the cleaning fluids?





Again there is white hazing around the lettering and white paint splattered on the grave. This headstone is also a family responsibility not being in the services cemetery. Can you please confirm permission granted by the family for this work? Again, it is great to be able to read the headstone, but the right processes need to be followed.



No before shot of this one so I am not sure what it was like. A fairly good restoration done on this one and not too much white hazing. I am happy with this work, however again it is a family headstone so has permission been granted by them for this work?





This is a private family headstone and should never be touched unless permission has been granted by the family. Can you please confirm that the family gave permission for this work? Incorrect restoration method used as a lot of hazing of paint all over this one. Great to see it readable, however there is no before photo so I am not sure what it looked like before. It is not up to NZRA or Council to decide to work on these without family permission.

The below photo is not at Talta Cemetery, but there are concerns I need to raise about this one. Incorrect method of restoration resulting in hazing around the lettering, the white cross paint is patchy and all of the white paint splatter or white paint shavings that have not been cleaned up on the beam. Also if you look at the bottom corners of the granite it shows that these areas have not been cleaned, as shows the weathered surface of the granite; or is it just that the white has been over-painted so much it shows the areas that were not painted?



I look forward to receiving answers to my questions as soon as possible please.

Kind regards  
Shelley

---

**From:** Simon Strombom [mailto:simonstrombom@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 10:20 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus; Bob Davies  
**Cc:** Leroy Forrester  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi there

Looks like some serving guys got enthusiastic in their spare time.

We have told them its not been cleared.

Simon

---

**From:** Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 9:55 AM  
**To:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Bob

I hope this email finds you well?

I am aware of work that has been undertaken at Taita Cemetery over last weekend and it is being advertised on the Remembrance Army facebook page. Could you please tell me who authorised this work to be done and who undertook this work? I have not been asked, nor given permission for any work in Taita Cemetery to be undertaken.

As per your email below, no work is to be undertaken at Taita Cemetery until I had given you the green light.

Could you please clarify for me why work was undertaken?

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2019 10:10 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Ok. I won't do anything until we've consulted. I'll be in touch. Thanks

On Fri, 2 Aug 2019 at 09:56, Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Yeah the MOU will but the problem is it's a legal matter under the Burial and Cremations Act in terms of ownership. It is something we will have to try and work around.

Well since that plaque is in Taita and we have permission, perhaps it would be a good one to use as a sample. There are a number of things that we need to do to protect the surrounding areas from the materials used to clean, but it might be a good one to understand the process better and work together on.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2019 9:40 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

It's Bronze and at the Taita Services section. The problem with contacting family is the records are seldom up to date though and the older the more problematic? Does the MOU deal with that?

Regards

Bob

On Fri, 2 Aug 2019 at 09:06, Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

That sounds great Bob. This is exactly what we need which is permission from the family. That is one of the biggest hurdles.

Do you know if this headstone is granite or bronze and is it at Taita?

Thanks  
Shelley

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T, M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



sign up to our newsletter

IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2019 4:59 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Fwd: Headstones

Hi Shelley - For you information as discussed.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:**  
**Date:** Thu, 1 Aug 2019 at 14:19  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones  
**To:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]

Hi Bob

Lovely to hear from you and I hope you and your family are well.

We have been so appreciative of the support and love from the Vietnam Veteran community since losing Dad. Thank you very much. Mum and I would very much like for you and the team to include Dad's grave in your programme of refurbishment.

Thank you again Bob.

On Tue, Jul 9, 2019 at 4:35 PM Bob Davies [REDACTED] wrote:

Dea

I trust this finds you and your family well.

I live in the Hutt Valley and am the Remembrance Army coordinator in the Hutt for restoring veterans headstones and plaques. Here is the RSA's website explaining the project: <https://www.rsa.org.nz/nz-remembrance-army>. I have photographed Brian's plaque in the Taita services cemetery. As you can see it too would benefit from refurbishment:



I am also a Vietnam veteran and solemnly undertake to ensure any refurbishment will reflect the esteem and honour in which it is held by us all. All costs of refurbishment are met by the Remembrance Army.

I have forwarded the emails below as background.

I look forward to your positive response.

Kind regards

Bob Davies, MBE, JP

----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Tue, 9 Jul 2019 at 14:11

Subject: Headstones

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Bob Davies [REDACTED]

H

and I swap 'stink' Jokes.....I don't know whos' are the 'stinkest' though.

I've enclosed an article that I included in my April Sitrep.

### NZ Remembrance Army - Tolaga Bay

On the Saturday 6th April, 2019 volunteers from the New Zealand Remembrance Army (NZRA) cleaned and restored graves at Tolaga Bay. "I think it's important to be going back to our roots in recognising small communities and the contribution they have made to our military heritage" says Simon Strombom (NZRA lead coordinator).

Tolaga Bay locals have been tending to the cemetery for many years. When they heard of the New Zealand Remembrance Army, they were quick to put up their hand and get involved.

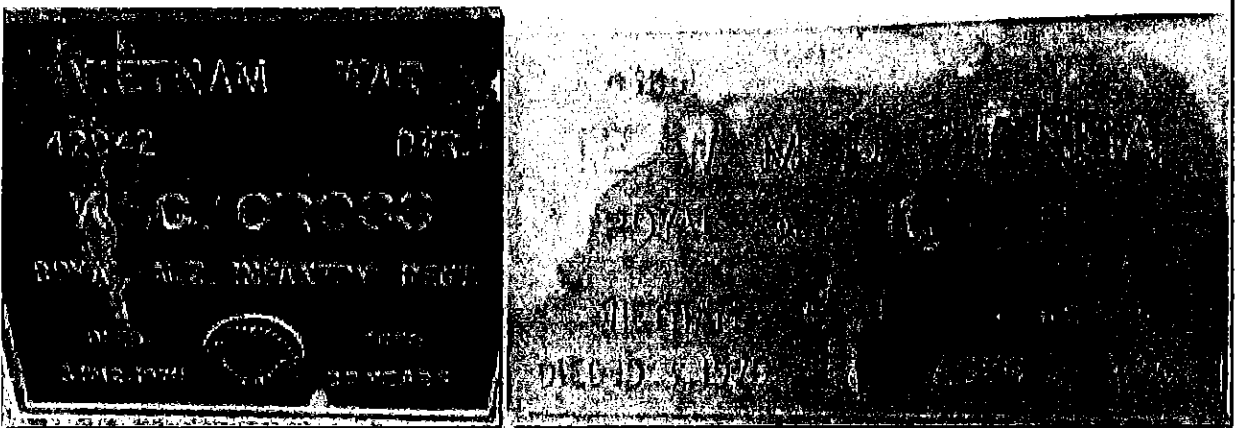


National news and television film crews covered the Tolaga Bay event which sets to show case just how easy it is for a small community to clean and restore these graves and make a huge impact.

Bob Derwin was at Tolaga Bay tending to Servicemen's plaques, including one of our own, 42942 Pte Kevin ('Bewtocks') Cross who died in a car accident on New Years' Eve after our RTNZ in Nov 1970.

Olly Taukamo, Goldy, Ruk, Bob Derwin, Fred Campbell and I attended his tangi.

Bob commented that Saturday 6th was 'very rewarding' and added that Matiu Rangiuiia (V3), Archie Kururangi (W Coy) and J A Poutu (V3) lay nearby.



Unfortunately, because of the rain, Kevin's plaque restoration was not completed on Saturday.

Mo Paenga is buried at Pouawa, approximately 15kms north of Gisborne.

Hope this is of some help.

Cheers

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Simon Strombom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 December 2019 8:19 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus; Bob Davies  
**Subject:** Post on those graves

Hi there

We have posted on all major Wellington sites, including the Lower Hutt Community site.

We have had 11000 views yet sadly no hits with families.

The last one we did looking for family was 57000 views, 400 shares and no hits with the 7 in Porirua. Smith re dedication grave last year was 10000 views with no hits despite him being from Titahi Bay and we knowing a huge amount about his family. Snelgrove is the only one to date we have found out.

We have worked out it can take around 10 hours to research post and follow up one grave with records, posting and updates. Snelgrove took over 20 hours work yet they are a prominent wellington family we found.

These graves are the ones we have done around dozen times before with soldiers buried from 1920 -1940 and who have died young. Many will not have family or have been forgotten.

Another good case study as why their graves and their family plots show little or not upkeep for nigh on coming up to a century.

Interesting one of the names in this group is very unique yet there is no one on Facebook has Stockley-Jones as a surname nor on google searches. He is the only hit on google from Auckland museum records.

Wood and Williams are also going to be hard to find as so common.

Regards

Simon



## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 January 2019 8:56 AM  
**To:** Bob Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Attention Shelley Angus: Military Graves Restoration - National Graves Project  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg.html

Hi Bob

Thanks for that. I will look into those. Our old RSA plots with the upright headstones have all been renovated for Anzac Day last year so they have all been cleaned off and re-painted. The other couple that are dotted around the old section of the cemetery are maintained by NZ War Graves. The headstones that you see covered in lichen are not for soldiers, unless you have found some that have slipped through the gaps.

Thank you for the information.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeterias Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T 04 570 6702, M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 January 2019 7:31 p.m.  
**To:** Cemetery Enquiries  
**Cc:** Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** Re: Attention Shelley Angus: Military Graves Restoration - National Graves Project

Hi Shelley

For plaques the products used can be found on this video link (along with the before and after views):  
<https://www.facebook.com/1375138592766371/posts/2314308898849331/>

For headstones the products used are:

- Wet and Forget or Bio-Shield
- Cuttlefish
- Water-based Enamel Gloss White Paint

The headstone restoration demonstration in Masterton on Saturday is here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/759933444372886/videos/2309470882664051/>

The before and after for the headstones (many like this in Taita):

x

Kind regards

Bob

On Mon, 28 Jan 2019 at 16:38, Cemetery Enquiries <[Cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Thanks Bob, that is interesting. Yes I have heard about the movement. I would like some more information on what products they are using to clean the headstones and in particular for the bronze plaques and repainting them and what they are using for that. Bronze is supposed to weather and get the natural patina on them. This is what makes part of the history of a historical cemetery.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Kind regards

Shelley

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 January 2019 8:07 a.m.  
**To:** Cemetery Enquiries  
**Subject:** Attention Shelley Angus: Military Graves Redtoration - National Graves Project

Hi Shelley

The item that was scheduled for Friday was bumped to Saturday night. In case you missed it here it is here:

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2019/01/gang-members-among-kiwis-restoring-old-war-graves.html>

See you Thursday.

Kind regards

Bob Davies

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Davies** [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, 22 Jan 2019 at 21:20  
Subject: Military Graves Restoration: National Graves Project  
To: <cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz>  
Cc: Simon Strombom [REDACTED]

I am emailing to inform you of a nation-wide project to restore the graves of New Zealand military personnel. All cemeteries have service headstones or plaques that have deteriorated over the years and that would benefit from restoration, including those in the Hutt Valley. There is no one body in New Zealand that oversees all war graves. The responsibility for maintaining these graves remains largely that of the families and respective councils

The work is carried out by volunteers and is supported by the New Zealand Returned and Services Association: <https://www.rsa.org.nz/nz-remembrance-army>. While titled 'Remembrance Army', graves of Navy and Airforce personnel are also included in the project. No costs are incurred by local authorities.

I would be grateful if I could discuss this project with the appropriate Hutt City authority.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 January 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Re: Attention Shelley Angus: Military Graves Restoration - National Graves Project  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg.html

Hi Shelley

Yes, there's more than a few that have slipped through. Perhaps we could have a wander through at your convenience? Many lie outside the service part of the cemetery. Anyway, we can discuss on Thursday.

Kind regards

Bob

On Tue, 29 Jan 2019 at 08:55, Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi Bob

Thanks for that. I will look into those. Our old RSA plots with the upright headstones have all been renovated for Anzac Day last year so they have all been cleaned off and re-painted. The other couple that are dotted around the old section of the cemetery are maintained by NZ War Graves. The headstones that you see covered in lichen are not for soldiers, unless you have found some that have slipped through the gaps.

Thank you for the information.

Kind regards

Shelley

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T 04 570 6702, M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 January 2019 7:31 p.m.  
**To:** Cemetery Enquiries  
**Cc:** Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** Re: Attention Shelley Angus: Military Graves Restoration - National Graves Project

Hi Shelley

For plaques the products used can be found on this video link (along with the before and after views):

<https://www.facebook.com/1375138592766371/posts/2314308898849331/>

For headstones the products used are:

- Wet and Forget or Bio-Shield
- Cuttlefish
- Water-based Enamel Gloss White Paint

The headstone restoration demonstration in Masterton on Saturday is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/759933444372886/videos/2309470882664051/>

The before and after for the headstones (many like this in Taita):



Kind regards

Bob

On Mon, 28 Jan 2019 at 16:38, Cemetery Enquiries <[Cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Thanks Bob, that is interesting. Yes I have heard about the movement. I would like some more information on what products they are using to clean the headstones and in particular for the bronze plaques and repainting them and what they are using for that. Bronze is supposed to weather and get the natural patina on them. This is what makes part of the history of a historical cemetery.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Kind regards

Shelley

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 January 2019 8:07 a.m.  
**To:** Cemetery Enquiries  
**Subject:** Attention Shelley Angus: Military Graves Redtoration - National Graves Project

Hi Shelley

The item that was scheduled for Friday was bumped to Saturday night. In case you missed it here it is here:

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2019/01/gang-members-among-kiwis-restoring-old-war-graves.html>

See you Thursday.

Kind regards



Bob Davies

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bob Davies** [REDACTED] >  
Date: Tue, 22 Jan 2019 at 21:20  
Subject: Military Graves Restoration: National Graves Project  
To: <[cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:cemetery@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
Cc: Simon Strobom [REDACTED]

I am emailing to inform you of a nation-wide project to restore the graves of New Zealand military personnel. All cemeteries have service headstones or plaques that have deteriorated over the years and that would benefit from restoration, including those in the Hutt Valley. There is no one body in New Zealand that oversees all war graves. The responsibility for maintaining these graves remains largely that of the families and respective councils

The work is carried out by volunteers and is supported by the New Zealand Returned and Services Association: <https://www.rsa.org.nz/nz-remembrance-army>. While titled 'Remembrance Army', graves of Navy and Airforce personnel are also included in the project. No costs are incurred by local authorities.

I would be grateful if I could discuss this project with the appropriate Hutt City authority.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 January 2019 5:08 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Plaques

Hi Shelley

Good to meet you today. Just had a chat with Strombom. He thinks the plaques at both Porirua or Whenua Tapu will be ok for you to check out.

Be in touch.

Cheers

Bob

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 February 2019 3:14 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** RE: NZ Remembrance Army

Hi Simon

Thanks for your voice message. Marty from Veteran's Affairs has asked if I would be able to attend your meeting with them tomorrow, so we will be able to raise the issues then.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 February 2019 1:36 p.m.  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Cc:** Bob Davies; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: NZ Remembrance Army

Hi Shelley

We have had a chat with RSA NZ

We will cancel yet it will be public to a large number.ber of people and we would like to advise our people of your concerns.

If you can send these through and we will cancel and issue a statement on your site.

Regards

Simon

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

---

**From:** Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:10:25 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Bob Davies; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NZ Remembrance Army

Hello Simon

I am emailing you today with two hats on. One as Cemeteries Manager for Hutt City Council and the other as the Chair of the New Zealand Cemeteries and Crematoria Collective.

Firstly, as Cemeteries Manager for HCC, I have had a meeting with Bob Davies regarding the restoration of headstones and bronze plaques in the Taita Cemetery and Wainuiomata Garden of Remembrance. Bob advised me that he had organised a demonstration of the restoration process for Taita Cemetery for this Saturday. At the time I did ask for there not to be one for the bronze plaques but he could do one for the upright headstones. On second

thoughts, I would not like any demonstration to go ahead at Taita Cemetery this weekend until wider issues have been sorted out.

Can you please cancel the demonstration for this weekend.

From an NZCCC point of view, Hayden Parr has advised me that you have requested some help with your project from the NZCCC. This is also something that I offered to Bob when we met. NZCCC are supportive of your project in general and would like to help with a smooth operation nationwide. There are a number of wider issues that need to be discussed about this project and suggest that we get together for a meeting to discuss.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T 04 570 6702, M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



**IMPORTANT:** The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 February 2019 7:27 PM  
**To:** Bob Davies  
**Subject:** Re: Cemetery

That's excellent Bob, we are on the same page! we would really like to help you with this project bit it needs to be right so the whole country can take it up.

It w'll be a great journey that I am.sure we will both learn a lot out of.

Enjoy the sounds, beautiful weather for it.

Kind regards  
Shelley

Sent from my Samsung device

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T 04 570 6702, M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 13/02/19 19:06 (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Cemetery

Hi Shelley

I received a rundown on your meeting 🙏. I'm away sailing in the Sounds for a couple of weeks from next Thursday but will touch base on return. As long as I'm involved I undertake to work with you and HCC to satisfy the legitimate concerns you have. I see no reason why HCC and we old soldiers can't both benefit from this project.

Kind regards

Bob

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 February 2019 10:16 AM  
**To:** Bob Davies  
**Subject:** RE: NZ Remembrance Army

Thanks Bob.

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 February 2019 10:13 a.m.  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: NZ Remembrance Army

Hi Shelley - acknowledged.

Kind regards

Bob

On Tue, 12 Feb 2019 at 10:10, Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hello Simon

I am emailing you today with two hats on. One as Cemeteries Manager for Hutt City Council and the other as the Chair of the New Zealand Cemeteries and Crematoria Collective.

Firstly, as Cemeteries Manager for HCC, I have had a meeting with Bob Davies regarding the restoration of headstones and bronze plaques in the Taita Cemetery and Wainuiomata Garden of Remembrance. Bob advised me that he had organised a demonstration of the restoration process for Taita Cemetery for this Saturday. At the time I did ask for there not to be one for the bronze plaques but he could do one for the upright headstones. On second thoughts, I would not like any demonstration to go ahead at Taita Cemetery this weekend until wider issues have been sorted out.

Can you please cancel the demonstration for this weekend.

From an NZCCC point of view, Hayden Parr has advised me that you have requested some help with your project from the NZCCC. This is also something that I offered to Bob when we met. NZCCC are supportive of your project in general and would like to help with a smooth operation nationwide. There are a number of wider issues that need to be discussed about this project and suggest that we get together for a meeting to discuss.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T 04 570 6702, M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



**IMPORTANT:** The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 December 2019 7:41 AM  
**To:** Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Simon

I just wanted to thank you for trying to find the families of the Taita Cemetery headstones restored last weekend through your facebook page. I appreciate your understanding g on this matter.

Hopefully you will get success and we can use this as a test to see how well it works. If it doesnt we can explore other avenues together.

Kind regards  
Shelley

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Simon Strombom <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** 4/12/19 2:23 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi there

We will go out and look for these families. I have asked our teams to record the time as it as a good benchmark to see the reach we can get, and then the time it takes per grave to find them. We have a few of our researchers onto this.

Regards

Simon

---

**From:** Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 1:12 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom <[REDACTED]>; Bob Davies <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Simon

Thanks for that, it is concerning. We will have to work better together to get the correct messages out there, and hopefully the MOU will be the vehicle for that. Appreciate that you will reiterate this with your team.



Can you please confirm that the families gave permission for this work to be undertaken?

I am very happy to work with Bob re our cemeteries and yes understand the issues around Andrew's plaque. As I said before, I am happy with Bob to work with VA on this.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:57 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus; Bob Davies  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi Shelley

Sadly we cannot control 40 groups across New Zealand. We have asked people advise us yet sometimes we are just as surprised as you are. We don't keep memberships nor have an active sign up for our site. Most act independent working with local councils etc. I am sure this wont be the last time yet as the group grows, we hope it will become less. We will go out to our coords again with the message to work with councils. I have sent your details to the service personnel that did the granites below.

With respect to the plaque below, Andy was known to a lot of us and Bob served with him. I have seen the conversations about this plaque on the veterans sites and know why Bob did this work. I would see this an an exception but support Bobs efforts with the family.

Regards

Simon

---

**From:** Shelley Angus <Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:11 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED] Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Simon

Thanks for your reply.

Firstly I would like to express that I support NZRA's good intentions with this project and it has been great to highlight areas in the services cemeteries where work is needing to be undertaken in terms of maintenance.

However, what happened over the weekend is exactly the situation we have been trying to avoid and have been discussing over the last year, and I am very disappointed to see that this is still continuing despite your agreement it wouldn't.

Simon, as the founder and leader of NZRA, you need to be aware of all the work your volunteers are undertaking around the country, and advertising on the NZRA facebook page. You are responsible for all of your volunteers and their work and as such you need to ensure that they have sought and have been granted permission from the Cemetery Manager for the site to undertake this work before any work commences.

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 April 2019 4:07 PM  
**To:** Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** Re: TVNZ interview

Hi Simon

Thanks for that. we will be having our own Anzac Day celebrations there so as long as it does not coincide with that it should be fine.

Thanks  
Shelley

Sent from my Samsung device

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T , M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



sign up to our newsletter

IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Simon Strombom <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** 12/04/19 15:50 (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** TVNZ interview

Hi Shelley

TVNZ requested an interview at Taita around Anzac day as a back up to Noreswood.

Just wanted to tell you in case your staff see film crews.

Regards

Simon

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

## Shelley Angus

---

**From:** Shelley Angus  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** 'Simon Strombom'  
**Cc:** Bob Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Update on the grave search in Taita

Hi Simon

Thanks for those stats. Let's look into this in the New Year.

I hope you both have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. I will be on leave from Saturday through to just after the New Year.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 December 2019 12:04 PM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Cc:** Bob Davies  
**Subject:** Update on the grave search in Taita

Hi Shelley,

We had 8,100 hits with 39 shares on the 5 graves in Taita without any family found.

We are looking for family for the one in Karori and Poi Poi. As a comparison they were:

Karori it was 25,000 with 120 shares:  
Poi Poi was 11,000 with 89 shares.

To date we have not had any hits on families of the above.

Of the 18 WW1 servicemen to date we have found the family's twice. In both circumstances they have had unique last names ( Snelgrove and Goldsmith) and family in the area.

The average search takes our people around 14 hours of work ( putting post together, photographing grave, pulling files and researching and sharing across NZ).

It gives you some good metrics as to the time and the size if we are to get written permission. We have calculated that it could be decades in Taita.

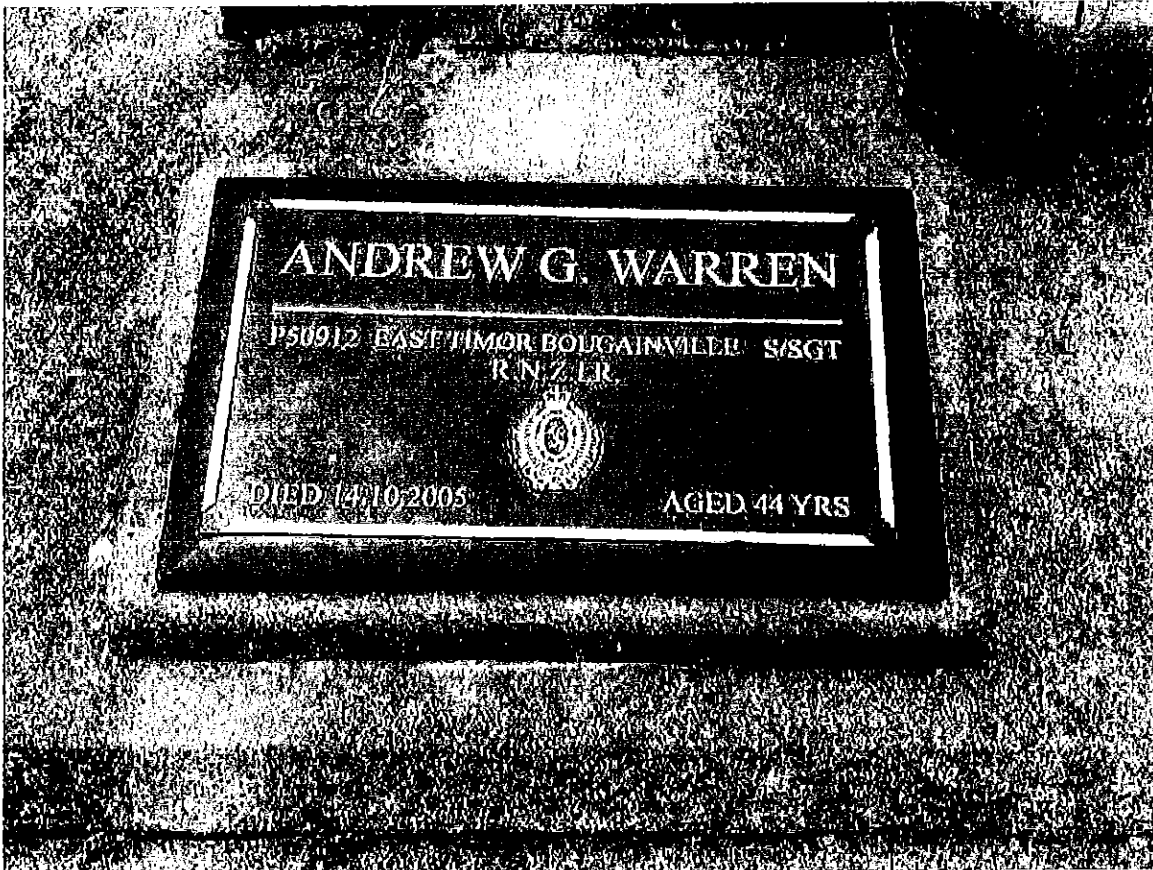
I would be interested if you have any luck in searching for these families as council.

Regards

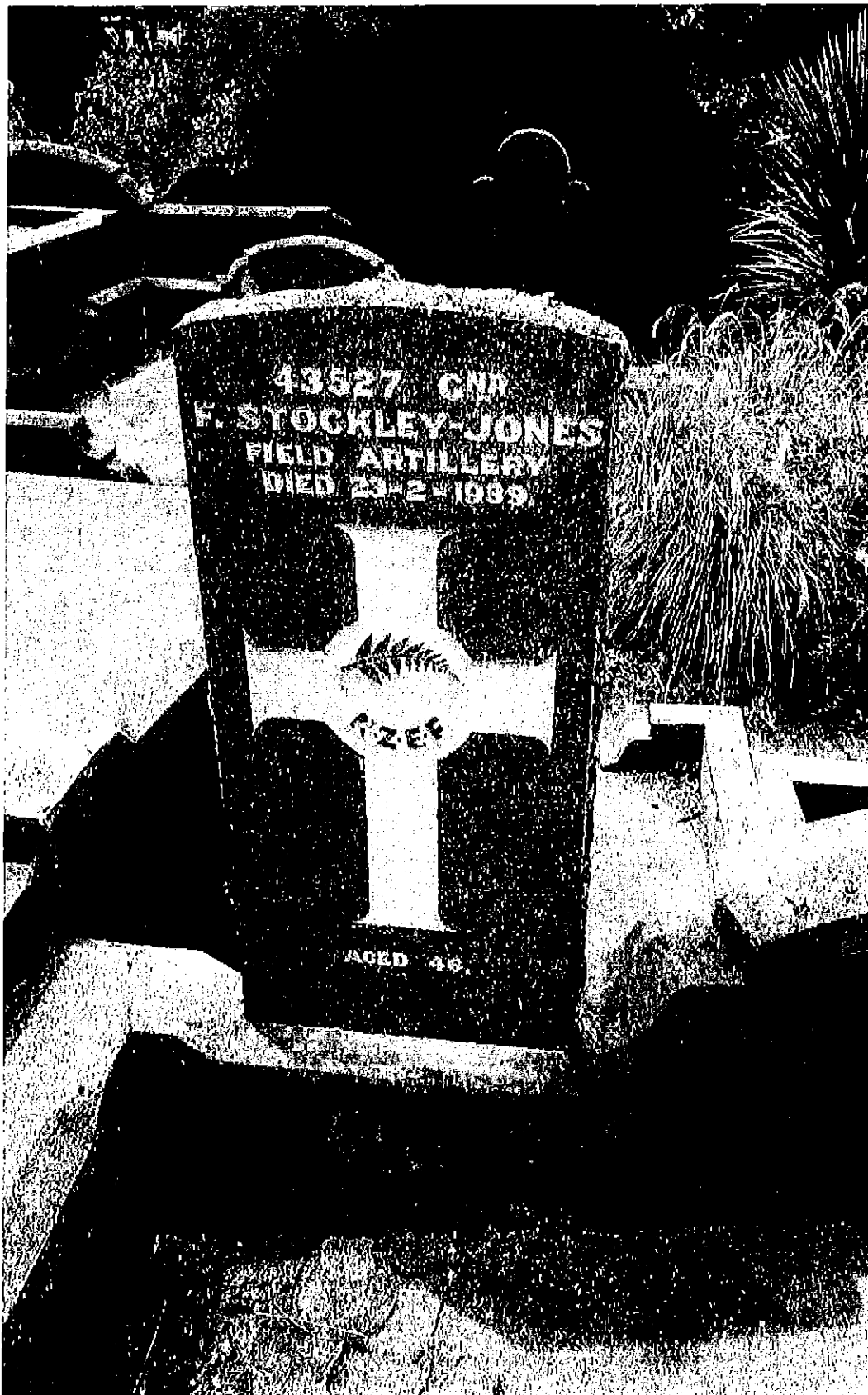
Simon

Below I have set out the examples of work undertaken at Taita Cemetery over the weekend and the issues I as Cemetery Manager have with the work. I did not give permission for any of this work to be undertaken, nor was permission sought from me.

One of the "restorations" undertaken on the weekend at Taita Cemetery is the bronze plaque of Andrew G. Warren. Bob is this the one you are going to talk to VA about? The work is very patchy. VA may not look to replace this now that unconsented work has been undertaken on the plaque. This is one of the photos on your Facebook page from the weekend. If your volunteers have a photo of what this looked like before can you please send it to me? I also need the family's permission in writing for this restoration.



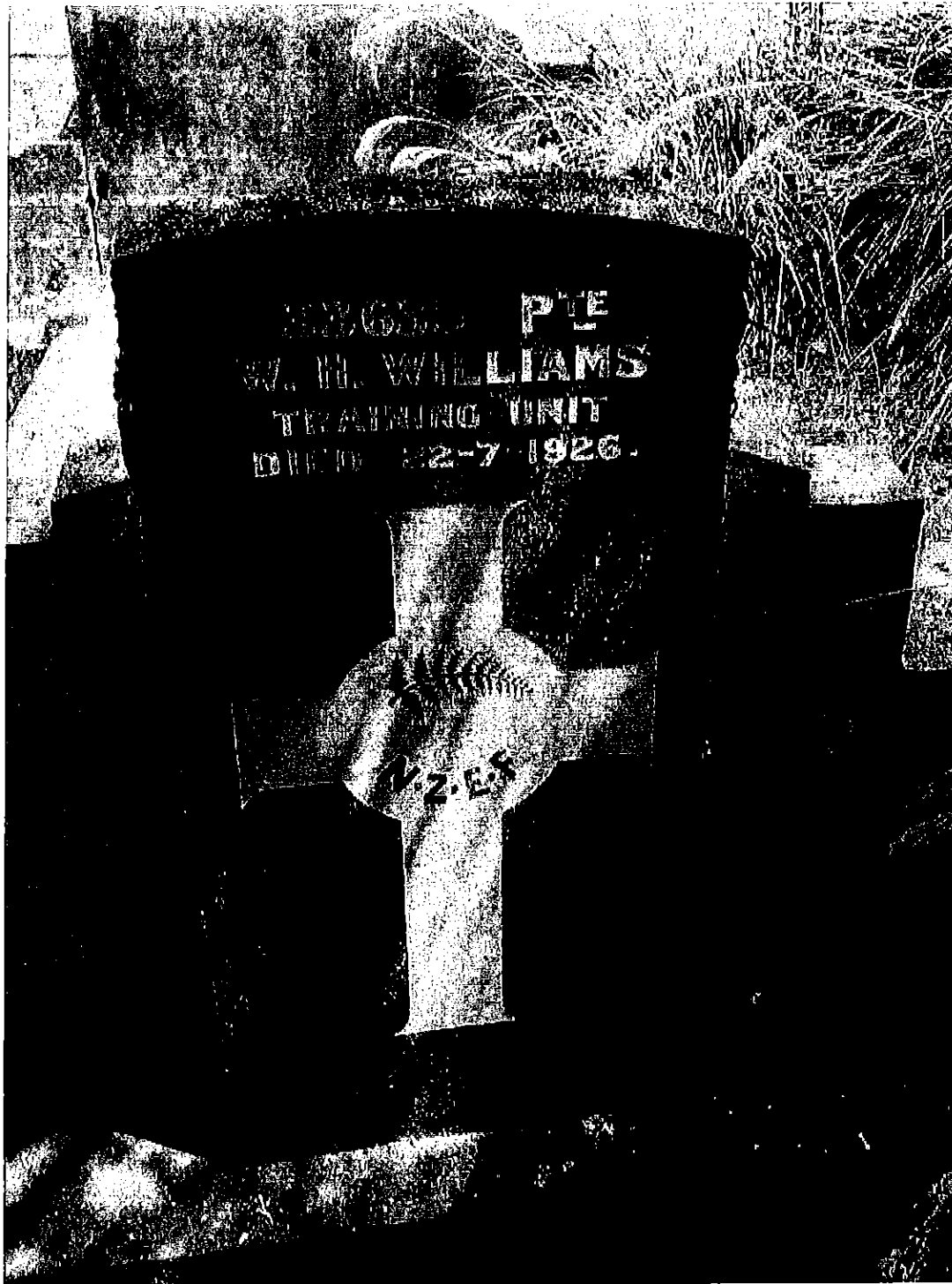




This headstone is not in the services cemetery and therefore not looked after by VA nor Council. It is in the public section of the cemetery and is therefore the responsibility of the family. Can you please confirm that permission granted by the family for this restoration? It is great to have the lichen off the headstone so it is readable. However; they have not used the agreed method of painting the black on before doing the white so that the white does not show up in the pits of the granite creating the hazing around the lettering as seen in the

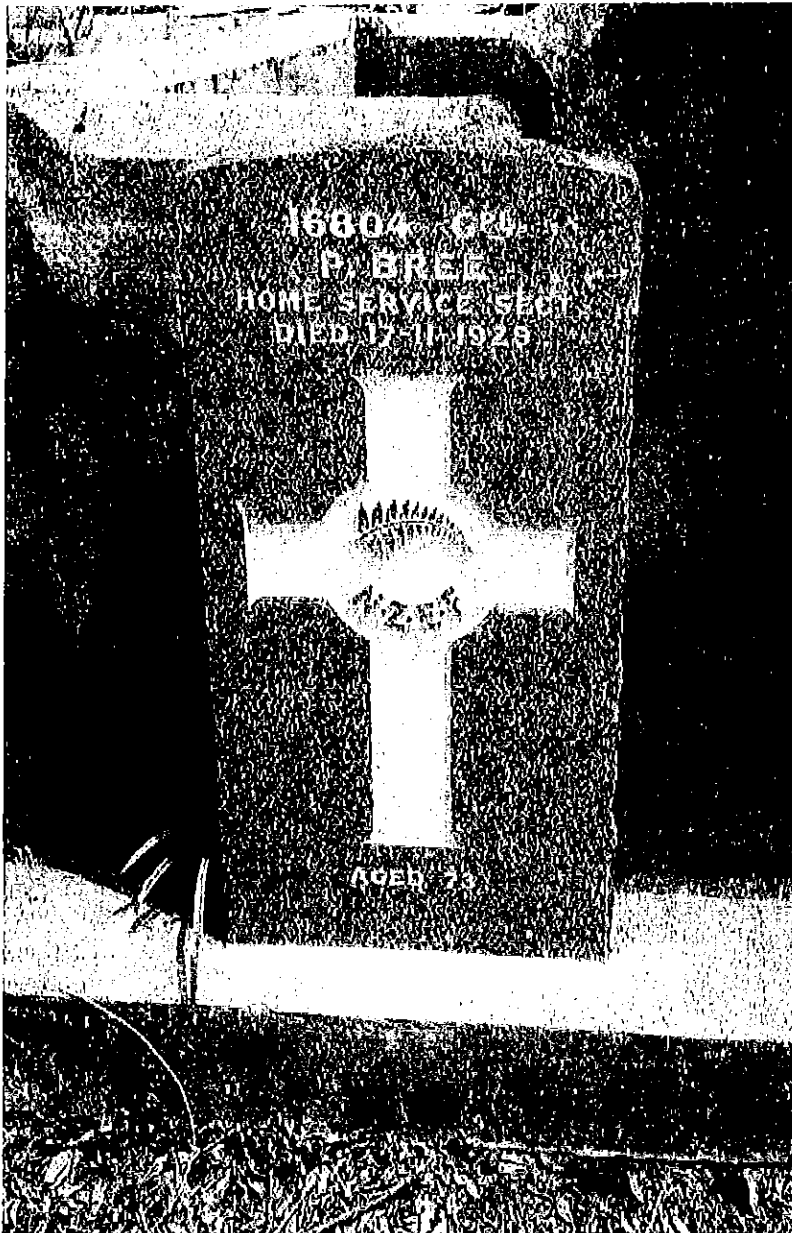
photo. There is also white paint splattered on the concrete top of the grave and there is some scorching of some kind on the concrete below the headstone – caused by the cleaning fluids?







Again there is white hazing around the lettering and white paint splattered on the grave. This headstone is also a family responsibility not being in the services cemetery. Can you please confirm permission granted by the family for this work? Again, it is great to be able to read the headstone, but the right processes need to be followed.



No before shot of this one so I am not sure what it was like. A fairly good restoration done on this one and not too much white hazing. I am happy with this work, however again it is a family headstone so has permission been granted by them for this work?



This is a private family headstone and should never be touched unless permission has been granted by the family. Can you please confirm that the family gave permission for this work? Incorrect restoration method used as a lot of hazing of paint all over this one. Great to see it readable, however there is no before photo so I am not sure what it looked like before. It is not up to NZRA or Council to decide to work on these without family permission.

The below photo is not at Taita Cemetery, but there are concerns I need to raise about this one. Incorrect method of restoration resulting in hazing around the lettering, the white cross paint is patchy and all of the white paint splatter or white paint shavings that have not been cleaned up on the beam. Also if you look at the bottom corners of the granite it shows that these areas have not been cleaned, as shows the weathered surface of the granite; or is it just that the white has been over-painted so much it shows the areas that were not painted?



I look forward to receiving answers to my questions as soon as possible please.

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 10:20 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus; Bob Davies  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Hi there

Looks like some serving guys got enthusiastic in their spare time.

We have told them its not been cleared.

Simon

---

**From:** Shelley Angus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2019 9:55 AM  
**To:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Simon Strombom [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Headstones

Hi Bob

I hope this email finds you well?

I am aware of work that has been undertaken at Taita Cemetery over last weekend and it is being advertised on the Remembrance Army facebook page. Could you please tell me who authorised this work to be done and who undertook this work? I have not been asked, nor given permission for any work in Taita Cemetery to be undertaken.

As per your email below, no work is to be undertaken at Taita Cemetery until I had given you the green light.

Could you please clarify for me why work was undertaken?

Kind regards  
Shelley

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2019 10:10 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Simon Strombom  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

Ok. I won't do anything until we've consulted. I'll be in touch. Thanks

On Fri, 2 Aug 2019 at 09:56, Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Yeah the MOU will but the problem is it's a legal matter under the Burial and Cremations Act in terms of ownership. It is something we will have to try and work around.

Well since that plaque is in Taita and we have permission, perhaps it would be a good one to use as a sample. There are a number of things that we need to do to protect the surrounding areas from the materials used to clean, but it might be a good one to understand the process better and work together on.

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2019 9:40 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones

It's Bronze and at the Taita Services section. The problem with contacting family is the records are seldom up to date though and the older the more problematic? Does the MOU deal with that?

Regards

Bob

On Fri, 2 Aug 2019 at 09:06, Shelley Angus <[Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Shelley.Angus@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

That sounds great Bob. This is exactly what we need which is permission from the family. That is one of the biggest hurdles.

Do you know if this headstone is granite or bronze and is it at Taita?

Thanks  
Shelley

**Shelley Angus**  
Cemeteries Manager

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
T , M 027 4363210, W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



sign up to our newsletter

IMPORTANT: The information contained in this e-mail message may be legally privileged or confidential. The information is intended only for the recipient named in the e-mail message. If the reader of this e-mail message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender immediately. Thank you.

**From:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2019 4:59 AM  
**To:** Shelley Angus  
**Subject:** Fwd: Headstones

Hi Shelley - For you information as discussed.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:**  
**Date:** Thu, 1 Aug 2019 at 14:19  
**Subject:** Re: Headstones  
**To:** Bob Davies [REDACTED]

Hi Bob

Lovely to hear from you and I hope you and your family are well.

We have been so appreciative of the support and love from the Vietnam Veteran community since losing Dad. Thank you very much. Mum and I would very much like for you and the team to include Dad's grave in your programme of refurbishment.

Thank you again Bob.

On Tue, Jul 9, 2019 at 4:35 PM Bob Davies <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dea

I trust this finds you and your family well.

I live in the Hutt Valley and am the Remembrance Army coordinator in the Hutt for restoring veterans headstones and plaques. Here is the RSA's website explaining the project: <https://www.rsa.org.nz/nz-remembrance-army>. I have photographed Brian's plaque in the Taita services cemetery. As you can see it too would benefit from refurbishment:



I am also a Vietnam veteran and solemnly undertake to ensure any refurbishment will reflect the esteem and honour in which veterans are held by us all. All costs of refurbishment are met by the Remembrance Army.

I have forwarded the emails below as background.

I look forward to your positive response.

Kind regards

Bob Davies, MBE, JP

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 9 Jul 2019 at 14:11

Subject: Headstones

To:

Bob Davies <[REDACTED]>

and I swap 'stink' Jokes.....I don't know whos' are the 'stinkest' though.

I've enclosed an article that I included in my April Sitrep.

### NZ Remembrance Army - Tolaga Bay

On the Saturday 6th April, 2019 volunteers from the New Zealand Remembrance Army (NZRA) cleaned and restored graves at Tolaga Bay.

"I think it's important to be going back to our roots in recognising small communities and the contribution they have made to our military heritage" says Simon Strombom (NZRA lead coordinator).



Tolaga Bay locals have been tending to the cemetery for many years. When they heard of the New Zealand Remembrance Army, they were quick to put up their hand and get involved.

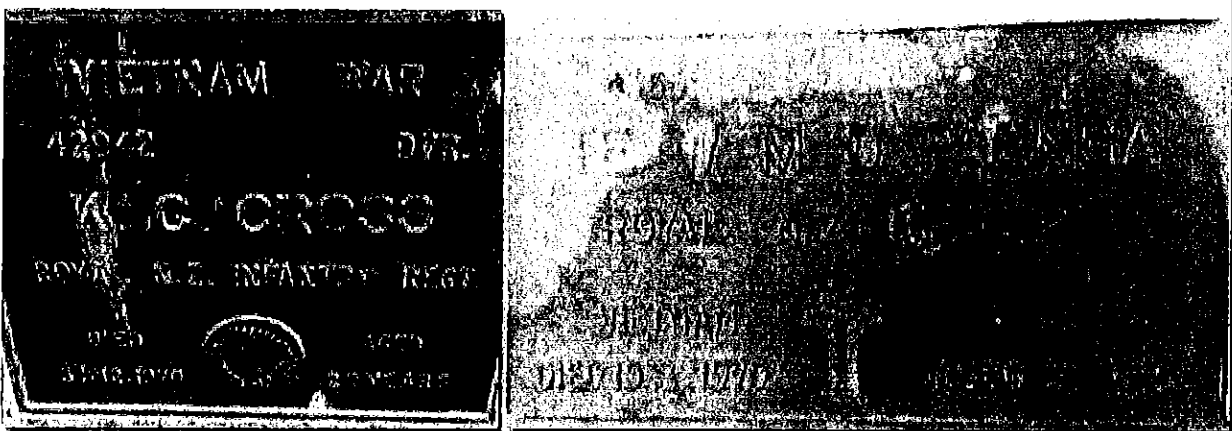


National news and television film crews covered the Tolaga Bay event which sets to show case just how easy it is for a small community to clean and restore these graves and make a huge impact.

Bob Derwin was at Tolaga Bay tending to Servicemen's plaques, including one of our own, 42942 Pte Kevin ('Bewtocks') Cross who died in a car accident on New Years' Eve after our RTNZ in Nov 1970.

Olly Taukamo, Goldy, Ruk, Bob Derwin, Fred Campbell and I attended his tangi.

Bob commented that Saturday 6th was 'very rewarding' and added that Matiu Rangiua (V3), Archie Kururangi (W Coy) and J A Poutu (V3) lay nearby.



Unfortunately, because of the rain, Kevin's plaque restoration was not completed on Saturday.

Mo Paenga is buried at Pouawa, approximately 15kms north of Gisborne.

Hope this is of some help.

Cheers



Sunday, 1 December 2019

**D** Nzra have been at Taita, check one of their latest posts with pictures on fb. 4:26 PM

5:02 PM

Ok will do thanks.

Tuesday, 3 December 2019

**D** How'd it go with Simon? 5:01 PM

Saturday, 14 December 2019

**D** Hey good stuff getting those trees out in gate 2 that were too close to the graves! Looks way better and much more open. Was just up there today looking at more graves for research. 3:56 PM