

FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD

AUGUST 2017 ACTIONS:

241 – Poppy Trust

At the last community board meeting I reported that the Council was getting back to me regarding the Poppy Places Trust and the signs relating to WWI and II names. .

The Council, Paul Crimp, has now confirmed with the Poppy Place Trust that 5 of the 6 names originally identified meet with the Poppy Trust guidelines for signage. The five Streets are Birdwood Street, Camp Road, Churchill Crescent, Messines Way and Soldiers Settlement Road.

I would like the support of the community Board to further this by asking if I can approach the schools and seek permission for their students to research the history and photos so that the stories can be put together.

It is expected that on Armistice day 2018 with the unveiling of the memorial statue we can also launch the Poppy signs.



I would like to like to thank Paul Crimp for the work he put into finding this information.

Claire Bleakley
24/8/ 2017

Correspondence

From: Poppy Places [<mailto:info@poppyplaces.nz>] **Sent:** Tuesday, 22 August 2017 9:58 p.m. **To:** Paul Crimp - CEO **Subject:** RE: Roading names, Featherston WWI

The list of six streets I sent to you for Featherston may or may not be relevant but the names are of military origin therefore worth investigation. It is not unusual for Councils to be lacking in information especially from the 1920s era. In these cases there may not be a reason for naming on record and it could be that there is no local connection, just a decision by Council. Therefore when this situation arises it just requires Council to record that "Churchill" relates to Sir Winston Churchill of WW2 fame and not any local person of that name.

Birdwood Street. Field Marshall Birdwood was a Gallipoli campaign senior officer and there are 12 streets in NZ named Birdwood. If you can determine that the street was formed or named during or just after WW1 or thereabouts then in all likelihood this is him. If you have no information at all in Council records then it will only require Council to confirm by Minute that the street is named after FM Birdwood. It would be unlikely but not impossible that a certain local resident was named Birdwood lived in the region of the road. If the Council determines that the street is named after FM Birdwood then the other information will be geographical data and a history of the FM.

Camp Road. There cannot be any doubt here. Camp Road is by the old Camp and there is ample evidence that the camp and the POW site were military installations. If

you have no information then again it just requires the Council to determine that Camp road is relevant to the Featherston Military Camp (and not the local YMCA Camp or something else). There is heaps of information about the camp, the POW site and even the memorial in close vicinity, all part of a wonderful story.

Churchill Crescent. There are 44 streets named Churchill in NZ. Same as 1 above, approx. when was the street named, probably after WW1

Colonel Place. *If this street is named after Colonel Wakefield of the NZ Company fame in 1840 colonising NZ then this is **not a poppy place***

Messines Way. Messines is the sister city of Featherston, an unusual name and most likely a WW1 military link. Again the Council just needs to confirm the name as a link to the WW1 Belgium town and that will suffice for the poppy place to be confirmed.

Soldiers Settlement Road. There are other roads in NZ named Soldiers road and research to date has shown these roads are linked to military activity and are therefore poppy places. Usually soldiers farms were located within soldiers roads.

So in summary five of the above streets appear to meet the necessary criteria and therefore research would confirm that no records exist to prove otherwise and therefore it is assumed that the streets are military links to our overseas service and therefore poppy places.

The stories would detail the lack of evidence regarding the Council decisions for the naming but confirm that Birdwood for example is dedicated to WW1 and Field Marshall Birdwood etc.

The story would then include pictures and geographical data of the street, its original and current usage (commercial or residential) and a background to the name. FM Birdwood has a whole career on Wikipedia, details of Winston Churchill's career and life is in most libraries, Messines and the associated WW1 battles and NZ involvement will be part of the Messines story. If there are some descendants of the original farmers still living in Soldiers road that would be a wonderful story of how the settlement was achieved. Featherston Camp is an interesting story especially its size the thousands who passed through it and the POW story.

For Colonel Place there needs to be some background research to the name Wakefield.

Hope this helps we are always willing to assist. I'm in Upper Hutt so I can always pop over for a coffee and a chat to discuss in detail if that would help.

Kind Regards

Joe

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