

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 March 2017  
at St Ninian's, Newcombe Crescent, Karori  
at 7.30 pm.**

Our speaker this meeting is Mary McEwen who will tell us about her father in-law Jock:

***'If you want to have a good life, you do it helping other people.'***

Jock McEwen

Jock McEwen, administrator, historian, linguist, composer and master carver, was a well-known figure in the Māori world and the wider Pacific for over half a century.



Born near Feilding in 1915 Jock came into early contact with the Māori community at Aorangi, where he learned to speak fluent Māori and developed interests in whakapapa and tikanga Māori. A relative helped him develop his interest in Māori carving and its many regional variations.

In the mid-1930s Jock commenced his public service career in the Native Department which became Māori Affairs. He was a friend of Sir Apirana Ngata with whom he visited Māori communities throughout New Zealand. Jock was a founder member of both Ngāti Pōneke Young Maori Club and

later Māwai Hakona Māori Association. In 1953 he was appointed Resident Commissioner for Niue Island, followed later by appointments to head the Island Territories and Maori Affairs Departments.

During this time he travelled widely throughout New Zealand and the Pacific. He visited the United Nations several times on decolonisation matters affecting New Zealand's Pacific

territories, spoke at UN conferences in Brazil and Cameroon, and chaired a UN visiting mission to Papua-New Guinea.

In retirement Jock gave 35 years of voluntary service to the community including helping to establish Ōrongomai marae in Upper Hutt. He taught Māori carving to Māori trade trainees, inmates of Rimutaka prison and others, producing many of the carvings that adorn meeting houses, including those at Pipitea and Ōrongomai marae and in the Michael Fowler Centre.



**Mary McEwen** is a retired ecologist and writer. Married to Andrew McEwen since 1966, the couple have a daughter, son, two granddaughters and two grandsons. Mary's first biography, of her father Sir Charles Fleming, was a finalist in the 2006 Montana Book Awards.

During Jock McEwen's tangi, his daughter-in-law Mary, became fascinated by his remarkable life and decided to write his biography. The book gives many insights into the complex nature of this man and his times. It will appeal to all with an interest in the twentieth century history of Māori development and the decolonisation of New Zealand's Pacific Island territories.

Supper will be served after the talk.

### **December Speaker**

Our speaker in December was Gordon Tait, a long term Karori resident whose presentation was titled "Karori Cemetery Field Guide and Tour."

Gordon had prepared a number of handouts which he referred to during his talk.

The main handout covered the general layout of the Cemetery, the



different types of graves, i.e. Monumental, Lawn, Wall (niche) and the War Cemetery. Another interesting handout was a field guide to gravestone symbols and their meaning plus another being a series of 8 photographs taken around Karori designed to test general knowledge as to whether people could recognise their location.

A well-researched and presented delivery, the handouts being especially useful as an aid for those just walking through or exploring the cemetery grounds.

At the conclusion of his presentation Gordon was thanked by Jo Elworthy and given a book voucher in appreciation.

You can access Gordon's handouts via our Facebook page.

## KARORI CEMETERY TOUR



### Karori Kith & Kin

I am glad to let you know that Barbara Mulligan has designed a Karori Cemetery walking tour specially for members of the Karori Historical Society, which is scheduled on a one-off basis on **Sunday 12 March**, starting at 2.00pm.

The walk will take between 1.5 and 2 hours and will include the graves of a number of Karori residents of note, as well as some of those who are less well known. Parts of the route will be uneven underfoot and not suitable for those with limited mobility.

The meeting place will be the chapel on Rosehaugh Avenue where there is plenty of parking. In the event of rain or strong wind, the walk will be deferred until Sunday 19 March.

The tour will be free for society members; guests are welcome but there is a \$5 charge for non-members.

Barbara has room for up to 30 on the walk, so if you are keen email me at [inkagh@clear.net.nz](mailto:inkagh@clear.net.nz) with your details, or ring 04 973 2612 (I will apologise in advance, I will be away from home a lot in the next couple of weeks so you may well get the answer phone!). Please include contact details in case we do need to postpone, so we can get in touch. We will also hand a sheet round at our next meeting on 7 March for people interested in attending.

***Don't forget to check out our website and see what's new***

A reminder a wealth of information about the society and our activities can be found online at our website, <http://www.karorihistory.org.nz/>.

Here you can check previous newsletters and speakers see what is coming up at the next quarterly meeting, as well as viewing a selection of historic images held in our archive collection.

We are also on Facebook; check it out and contribute! <https://www.facebook.com/Karori-Historical-Society-184528484931598/>



Adrian Humphris  
President