

OUR MEMORIAL GATES



Following discussions during the 125 year Jubilee Celebrations by various pupils on the state of the names on these gates, it was decided that re-etching of the names would be undertaken.

The work was undertaken during the Christmas Holidays and we can report that the names of those lost in the two World Wars will now remain for future generations. The gates have also been repainted.

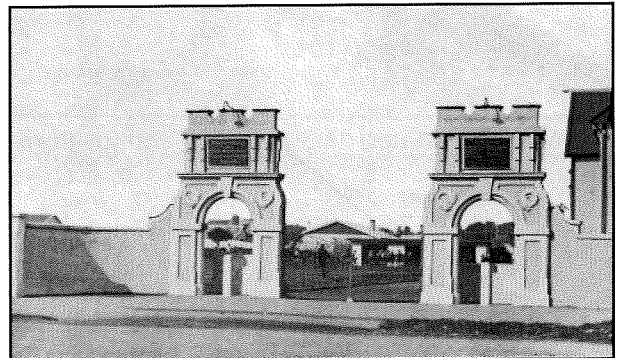
Memorial Gates after refurbishment 2007

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A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY ON THE GATES

The Memorial Gates designed by H. G. Moore, Education Board Architect, were erected in the memory of the old boys of the school who paid the supreme sacrifice in the Great War.

They were unveiled by Hon. Sir James Parr, the Minister of Education on Friday April 10th 1926, before a large gathering of residents of the District, the pupils of the school and residents of New Plymouth. Two companies of the High School Cadets, under Major Bertrand, from which was drawn firing party of 50 under Lieut Dyer, and a company of Technical College Cadets under Captain Moore were also in attendance.



During the speeches it was stated that it was hoped that when men and boys passed through the gateway they would pay tribute to the men in whose honour they were erected by baring their heads as they did so.

In 1957 the 75th Jubilee Committee decided that they would fund the placing of the names of the ex-pupils who gave their lives in World War 11 beside the names of their fellow ex-pupils who were so honoured in World War 1.

At a short, impressive but simple service held after the Jubilee Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 15th Sept 1957, the new Plaques were unveiled and dedicated. Mr Jack Joll, an ex-pupil and past President of the RSA, delivered a short and effective address, Mr W. Saunders, President of the RSA, read the list of names, and the Rev. Beaumont performed the Dedication and pronounced the benediction. Bandsman Smith of the Salvation Army band sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille"

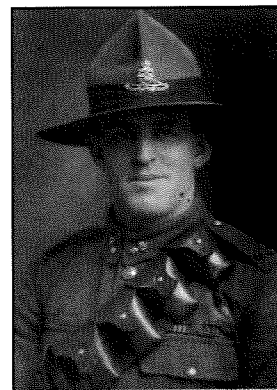
To celebrate the 115th year it was decided to reinstall a set of gates at the main entrance to the school based on those that were originally place and donations were taken to achieve this goal.

The inscription that many have asked about "Dulce et Decorum Est, Pro Patria Mori. "It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country". It is a well known quote from one of the "Odes" of Horace, the ancient Roman poet.

ONE OF THE SOLDIERS REMEMBERED

The late Andrew John Cosbrook, attended Fitzroy School around 1898, and his 10 brothers and sisters followed. He was awarded numerous medals one of them being the Croix de Guerre, which is equivalent to the British VC. According to archives there were 13 New Zealanders who won this on French soil.

Sergeant Cosbrook joined the New Zealand Field Artillery early in World War 1. He landed at Gallipoli, and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions on the Cape Helies front in June 1916. He then served on the Western front and in Sept. 1916 was MID (Mentioned in Despatches) and awarded the French Croix de Guerre for his actions in finding and rescuing a wounded officer. Cosbrook was killed in France on 3 Sept. 1918 just a few months before the end of the war.



The medals have been gifted to the Taranaki Museum by Anne Maxwell (Cosbrook) his niece, who also attended Fitzroy School.



Medals awarded to Sergeant A.J. Cosbrook.
 Military Medal
 1914-15 Star
 British War Medal
 Victory Medal with MID Oakleaf
 Croix de Guerre

Anzac Day Services

A ceremony was held by the school for Anzac Day for many years and a wreath laid by pupils. A service was usually held on the day before Anzac Day in the Hall, with a guest speaker, the children then all walked to the gates.



Anzac Day Service 1967

ROLL OF HONOUR

1914 – 1918

Cosbrook, A.J; Harvey, F.C.;
 Harding, A.R.F.; Kirton, C.I.;
 Petch, C. I.; Davidson, W.;
 Harvey, W ; Tanner, F; Tanner, W. H.;

1939 -1945

Barnitt, H.M.F.; Cave, K.H.;
 Crawford, H.H.; Davidson,G.;
 Flannigan, F.P.J.; Florence, R.;
 Harvey, D.M.; Harvey,I.K.;
 Hopkinson, R.J.; Jasper, J.W.;
 Kerr, A.M.; Kilpatrick, N.R.;
 Kinsella, O.D.; Lewis, K.;
 Mason, G.J.,; Page, G.; Prestige,C.E.;
 Pullen, C.G.; Richardson, G.W.;
 Williams, N.; Wooldridge, W.H.;