

4TH COMMEMORATION SERVICE OF THE
BATTLE OF AYUN KARA,
ISRAEL



AT BETHLEHEM COLLEGE CHAPEL
SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2022. 2PM - 4PM



**Remembering the sacrifice of 18,000 NZ Soldiers who served in Egypt and Israel,
but specifically the Battle at Ayun Kara. WW1. But specifically: 1916-1918.**

Co-ordinated by the NZ Israel Friendship Association.







THE BATTLE OF AYUN KARA

On November 14th 1917 – the three regiments of the New Zealand Brigade fought an entrenched Ottoman division at a place called Ayun Kara (a site near Ness Ziona). This battle cost the New Zealanders 53 dead and 140 wounded and is counted by both Israeli and New Zealand historians as New Zealand's greatest, and most costly victory in the Palestine campaign.

Following the battle, a friendship developed between the New Zealanders and the Jewish communities of Rishon LeZion and Ness Ziona.

In 1918 a wooden memorial obelisk was built for the first anniversary of the battle to commemorate the soldiers who had fallen in the battle. This has sadly perished and it's time to make a permanent monument.

Members of the Jewish communities undertook to maintain the graves and the memorial. These soldiers were later re-interred in the British Commonwealth War Cemetery at Ramleh and the original obelisk was eventually lost.

The New Zealand Mounted Rifles riding through the streets of Cairo (1915)



MILITARY BACKGROUND

The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade (NZMR) was made up of 3 New Zealand mounted regiments: the Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury Mounted Regiments which sailed from New Zealand as part of the main body of 6000 men and 4000 horses in October, 1914.

In April 1916, four months after withdrawing from Gallipoli in December 1915, the Australia and NZ Mounted Division was created in Egypt.

It included the New Zealand Brigade and two Australian Light Horse brigades. The division pursued the German and Ottoman forces across the Northern Sinai, and into Palestine from 1916 to 1918.

After the Ottoman Army was defeated at Beersheba on October 31 1917, the Turks withdrew into the Judean Hills pursued by the Mounted brigades up the Coastal Plains towards Jaffa.

PROGRAMME FOR THE CEREMONY

Guests please gather outside the Chapel.

*Enjoy some music and fellowship. The Reveille and the call of the Shofar,
is a call to move into the Chapel.*

WELCOME

Opening prayer and speech by The Hon. Alfred Ngaro

FORMALITIES

Mr Graham Preston

ANTHEMS

Anthems sung accompanied by Mr Dominic Lee (cello)

Ha Tikvah (Hebrew)

God Defend New Zealand (both Maori and English)

SPEECHES

Mr Kelvin Clout

Hon Todd Muller MP – Bay of Plenty, 2014 to present

Mr Warren Dawson

CONCLUSION

Pukaea – Pastor Steve Trim

A call to move outside to assemble facing the Chapel

The Ode – Mr Warren Dawson

Prayer – Mr Graham Preston

THE LAST POST FELLOWSHIP OVER AFTERNOON TEA

HA TIKVA (THE HOPE)

*Kol od ba'le'vav p'nima, Nefesh
yehudi ho'miyah.
U'lefa-atei mizrach kadimah,
Ayin le'Tziyyon tzofiyah.*

*Od lo avda tikva-teinu,
Ha'tikvah bat sh'not al-payim
Lih-yot am chofshi b'ar-tzeinu
Eretz Tziyyon v'Yerushalayim.*

GOD DEFEND NEW ZEALAND

(NZ'S NATIONAL ANTHEM)

*God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.*

*Men of every creed and race,
Gather here before Thy face,
Asking Thee to bless this place,
God defend our free land.
From dissension, envy, hate,
And corruption guard our state,
Make our country good and great,
God defend New Zealand.*

*Peace, not war, shall be our boast,
But, should foes assail our coast,
Make us then a mighty host,
God defend our free land.*

*Lord of battles in Thy might,
Put our enemies to flight,
Let our cause be just and right,
God defend New Zealand.*

*Let our love for Thee increase,
May Thy blessings never cease,
Give us plenty, give us peace,
God defend our free land.
From dishonour and from shame,
Guard our country's spotless name,
Crown her with immortal fame,
God defend New Zealand.*

*May our mountains ever be
Freedom's ramparts on the sea,
Make us faithful unto Thee,
God defend our free land.
Guide her in the nations' van,
Preaching love and truth to man,
Working out Thy glorious plan,
God defend New Zealand.*

THE ODE

*They shall grow not old,
As we are left to grow;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn;*

*At the goin down of the sun
And in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*



A SILVER FERN MEMORIAL

In late 2019, a suggestion was made that New Zealand might like to contribute towards building a replica of a memorial obelisk which once commemorated the men who died at Ayun Kara.

In agreement with the community of Ness Ziona the New Zealand Israel Friendship Association (NZILFA) initiated a project to donate a unique, New Zealand Silver Fern sculpture to replace the lost obelisk as a fitting memorial to the 18,000 New Zealanders who served in the Mounted Rifles Brigade during WW1.

A similar sculpture stands as a feature for Sarona Park Estate, Omanawa in the Bay of Plenty. In agreement with the designer of the original fern sculpture, Mr Warren Dawson, fundraising began at the end of 2019. The Fern sculpture will also celebrate the historical connection between the Jewish communities of Ness Ziona, Israel and New Zealand.

It is envisaged that a series of information plaques will be placed around the sculpture which will explain the role played by the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade in Egypt and the Holy Land from 1916–1918. The text on the plaques will be in English and Hebrew.



THE SILVER FERN PROJECT



The Silver Fern has been a national symbol of New Zealand for over a century.

A stainless steel sculpture of the Silver Fern has been commissioned by the New Zealand Israel Friendship Association (NZILFA) on behalf of all New Zealanders, to commemorate the New Zealand soldiers who served in the Sinai Desert and in the Holy Land during WW1.

Standing approximately 4.8m high, this sculpture will be prominently displayed near the battle site. It will be supported with information resources, in both Hebrew and English, which tell the story of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade from 1916–1918.

Funding for the sculpture is coming from donations by individuals, families, organisations and corporate sponsors. When you have determined to make a donation, please follow the instructions on the last page.

AN AWAKENING RELATIONSHIP

During 2017 a group of New Zealanders attended the centenary commemorations of the Battle of Ayun Kara in Ness Ziona. This visit was reciprocated by Mr Joseph (Yossi) Eshed and his wife Michal who came to NZ twice in 2018.

On their second visit the Esheds connected with Mr Warren Dawson whose grandfather served in the WW1 campaign. Warren and Robyn were invited to Israel and Warren spoke at commemorations about his grandfather's experience during WW1.

Mr Eshed who is co-chair of the Israel NZ Friendship Association will oversee the Fern Project in Israel.

(below) Christopher and Betty Archer with Yossi and Michal Eshed in Tauranga NZ.





(above) Warren and Robyn Dawson in the Hall of the Founders, Ness Ziona
 (below) An Israel newspaper report of the visits.

29 **דליית**

אין ספק, ניו זילנד ונס ציונה, שראשי התיבות של שתיהן הן N.Z. מהדקות את הקשר יש למה לצפות.

גולד בנין העירייה: מרמן מנחם אשד, כריס ארצ'ר, ג'יל אנטקוב, אלמירד גאורד, מיקה גבאיר, ניסן קרויסמן

אירוח מכובד באיוור נס ציונה - ראשון לציון - 10.10.2019. יחד עם ההיסטוריון כריס ארצ'ר שחזר שנית לביקור בישראל עם רעייתו בטי. כארדה של משפחת אשד, עוד חבר מכובד נוסף לרשימת "ידידי עין קרא".

המשימה הבאה היא ביקור של שגרירת ניו זילנד בישראל בביקור רשמי בנס ציונה בשנת 2020. השגרירה שמוקים מושבה הקבוע הוא אנקרה ומבוקר בישראל שלוש פעמים בשנה. כבר קיימה

ביקור פריטי בנס ציונה אצל משפחת אשד והבטיחה להגיע בשנת 2020 לביקור רשמי.

צילום קבוצתי על מדרגות בית משפחת קלאוט בטאורנגה



DONATING TO THE FERN PROJECT

The goal of the Silver Fern Project is to raise \$50,000 which will meet the following items:

1. Supplying CAD drawings and engineer's report for the Municipality of Ness Ziona
2. The construction of the sculpture
3. Creating the memorial plaques to accompany the sculpture
4. Contribution towards the installation costs in Israel, in partnership with the Municipality by-laws. This project is sponsored by The New Zealand Israel Friendship Association (NZILFA) in partnership with the Israel New Zealand Friendship Association (INZFA). Zion Ministries Trust will receipt all donations made to the following account:

All donations will be receipted by the NZILFA.

All donations will be banked and receipted by the respective Associations.

The NZILFA Account Number is : 06-0491-0282881-00

Donations with the by-line 'Fern Project' may be made by bank transfer

For further information concerning the project, and to obtain details concerning membership of NZILFA people can register their contact details at israelfern2021@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (NZILFA) TEAM

Patron: Hon. Alfred Ngaro

Co-Chairs: Christopher Archer

Warren Dawson

Executive: Graham Preston

Kelvin Clout

Alan Taylor

Warren Young

Peter Bolot

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