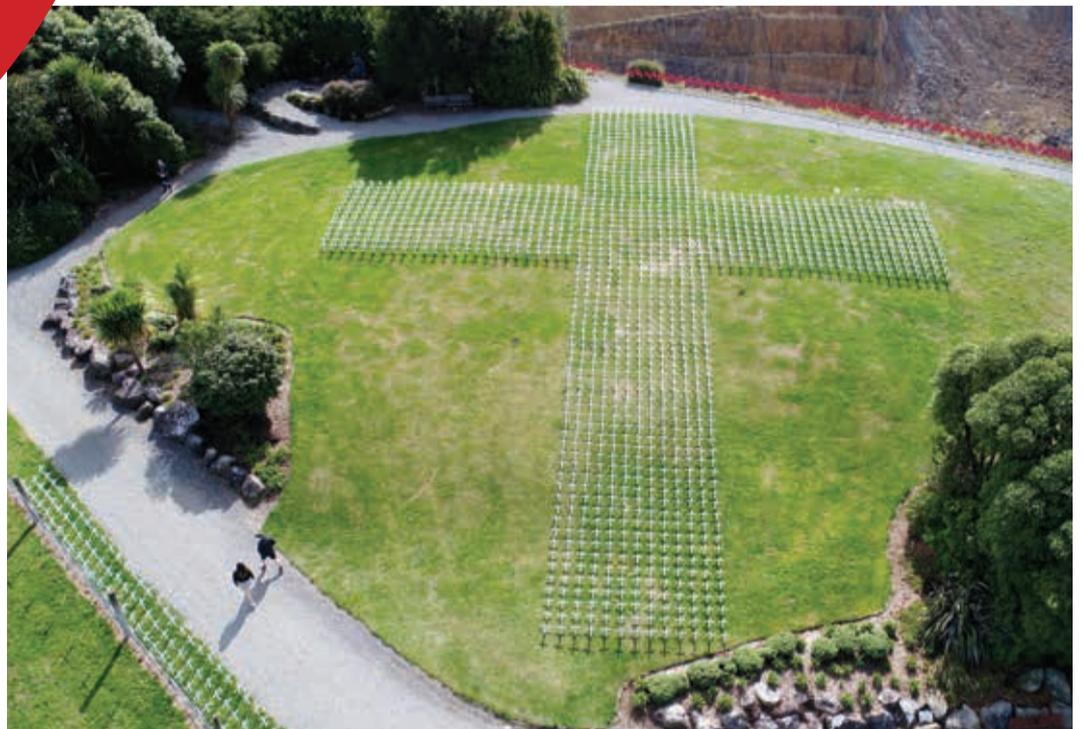




CROSS OF CROSSES

Waihi Heritage Vision members and Tunnellers' descendants started placing over 2,000 crosses in the hill next to the Cornish Pumphouse at the beginning of April. They have been encouraging local groups and individuals to join them for a few minutes to help them create a 'cross of crosses' in the lead up to Anzac Day. Organisers say the result has been tremendous, with tourists, local schools, and local people passing by all taking the time to place crosses. The Hauraki branch of the Patriots MC made a point of calling in to help. The Patriots are motorcycle riders who are past or present members of the armed forces. The large white 'Cross of Crosses' is visible from several parts of town and will remain until after Anzac Day.



ANZAC DAY ... and a visit from the Mayor of Arras

Tunnellers' descendants have organised an Anzac Day gathering at the Tunnellers' Memorial at 9.00am on 25 April. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. Two days later the Mayor of Arras will be in Waihi and will lay a wreath at the Memorial. You are also welcome to attend this event which is scheduled to start at 1.30pm on Saturday 27 April. The Mayor's visit is timed to coincide with the centennial of the return of the Tunnellers who came ashore in Auckland on 24 April 1919 then returned to their pre-war jobs. Many of them came back to Waihi and headed back underground.



Field of POPPIES

Local artist Rae Waterhouse is well known for her stunning paintings of flowers. Recently she has been working in a new position and a new medium. Rae has spent hours on her hands and knees painting on the concrete floor of Khaki Miners on the ground floor of the Education Centre. The four poppies, each a different colour, represent four ways of remembering the Great War: the French Bleuet, the British Poppy, the Belgian Daisy and the German Vergissmeinnicht. Each of these flowers has become the symbol of a nation's remembrance towards its veterans.



A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Each year members of the public are invited to join us for a walk through history. The walk, part of the ECHO Walking Festival, starts at the Martha open pit and follows the conveyor under Kenny Street to Union Hill. Here the walkers leave the conveyor and walk around the base of Union Hill. There are many stops along the way to look at historic mine artefacts before the walk resumes, ending at the Tunnellers' Memorial at Gilmour Reserve. The return journey retraces the same route.

We offer this walk on a Sunday and also a week day, and each year a maximum of 30 people take part on each day. This walk is possible on a week day while the Martha open pit is not working and the conveyor from the mine to the Process Plant at Baxter Road is not operating.

Walkers wear hardhats and hi viz vests while they are in the conveyor tunnel but leave these behind once they are off the mine site, to be picked up again on the return journey.

Over the years, almost all of the people who have joined this walk are from out of town. This year is no exception, with people coming from as far afield as Auckland to take part.

