

# Restored headstone rights a wrong at Makaraka Cemetery

by [Wynsley Wrigley](#)

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**HONOURING THE HAYES:** Great-granddaughter Kate Coleman (middle), her daughter Freya Burnett (left) and another great-granddaughter, Carol Way, honour their descendants of a century ago, Patrick and Margaret Hayes, with a new headstone to replace the original controversially removed from Makaraka Cemetery in the early 1970s.

Picture by Liam Clayton

Early colonial residents Patrick and Margaret Hayes can rest easily again in Makaraka Cemetery.

They are the latest long-deceased residents whose headstone has been restored and returned to its resting place after it was removed by Cook County Council in the early 1970s and buried in a trench in 1982.

Great-granddaughter Kate Coleman, who travelled from Auckland to attend her mother Joan

Coleman's 90th birthday on Saturday, said her mother had seen Gisborne Herald coverage of the historic headstones, and told her they had relatives whose headstone had also been removed.

Ms Coleman said the family wanted to right the wrong and honour William and Margaret.

Patrick died on October 17, 1913, and Margaret on July 1, 1920.

Margaret was born in Ireland in 1851 and came to New Zealand at the age of nine.

Patrick and Margaret married and lived in Thames and moved to Gisborne at some time around 1910.

They had six daughters and a son.

In Gisborne, they lived at 61 Wainui Road.

The house still stands today and was also the home of Ms Coleman and her parents Joan and the late Bill.

Carol Way, another great-granddaughter, also came to Gisborne from Thames for Mrs Coleman's birthday and to see the restored headstone. She is the granddaughter of one of the Hayes' daughters, Mary McLoughlin.

Mrs Way said she was concerned there were relatives who may not know their descendants lay in the cemetery without a headstone.

There might be others who could not afford to restore or buy a new headstone, said Ms Coleman.

The work carried out on their family headstone by stonemason Graeme Gedye was superb and made it look brand new, she said.

They wanted the Hayes to rest under a headstone and not be represented by a memorial wall.

The two women expressed their praise to Dot McCulloch from the Friends of Makaraka Cemetery Trust for her work and support of affected families such as themselves.

# Settler's headstone restored, returned

by [Wynsley Wrigley](#)

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BACK IN PLACE: Victor Romero (left) and his wife Ruth, great-great granddaughter of colonial settler James Barr, and Dot McCulloch and Gavin Bull of Friends of Makaraka Cemetery Trust, are glad to see Mr Barr's restored headstone returned to its rightful place in Makaraka Cemetery. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century settler and farmer died in 1894. Picture by Liam Clayton.

Scottish-born settler and East Coast farmer James Barr is the latest interred person whose buried headstone has been restored and returned to its gravesite in Makaraka Cemetery.

James Porteous Barr died of influenza in Kaiti in 1894 at the age of 57.

Mr Barr's great-great-granddaughter Ruth Romero and husband Victor, along with the Friends of Makaraka Cemetery Trust, worked to restore the headstone and return it to the gravesite.

Mrs Romero said her relative's headstone required little repair work. Rods from Composite Holdings were used to connect the headstone to the base.

Dot McCulloch, of the trust, said five Makaraka Cemetery headstones had so far been restored.



Three others were with monument masons and at least one was expected to be returned to its gravesite over Christmas-New Year, when descendants were in Gisborne.

Only two of the recovered 88 headstones removed and buried in the 1970s and 1980s have not been claimed, and it was unlikely they ever would be, Mrs McCulloch said.

One was for Jacobus Ivor Hoiby, who came from Bergen, today a city of 271,000 residents in Norway.

"No matter how we searched, we have not been able to find a contact," said Mrs McCulloch.

The other headstone is also for a Scandinavian, Charles Poulsen.

Mrs McCulloch said research had revealed a number of different spellings such as Paulson, Paulsen, Polsen, Poulsen, Poulson and Polson.

"There are so many possibilities, it is mind-boggling."

Mr Barr, born in Riccarton, Ayrshire in Scotland, had only been living in Gisborne for three years when he died in 1894.

He had moved from the South Island, 31 years after arriving in Lyttelton on the William Miles with wife Agnes, son John, aged one, and daughter, also Agnes, who was born on the voyage.

Mr Barr had worked as a miner in Britain and the family came to New Zealand as "assisted passengers" with most of the voyage costs being paid for by the Canterbury Provincial Government.

After farming in Canterbury, he worked as a sheep farmer on 30,000 acres of land at Tauwhareparae leased from the Gisborne Harbour Board.

The farming properties were known as Lowden Hills and Mangatoitoi Station.

The farms were recorded as supporting 17,000 sheep and 500 cattle in 1896.

The couple had nine more children in New Zealand.

After Mr Barr's death, his widow returned to Christchurch where she died on July 9, 1928.