

War Remembrance and Reconciliation Part 1

# Dorothy Brown Memorial Lecture

2015

## The Supreme Sacrifice? New Zealand Chaplains and Churches and the Construction of Death in the First World War.



### Reverend Dr Allan Davidson ONZM

Presbyterian Minister, historian, lecturer in Church History, St John's Theological College, for 27 years, author of many books including *Christianity in Aotearoa: A History of Church and Society in New Zealand* and 72 academic papers.

During the First World War New Zealand confronted death on an unprecedented scale. For chaplains at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, dealing with death, burials, and writing letters to grieving family in New Zealand was a regular part of their duties. Churches and their ministers in New Zealand, with their well developed theology and rituals around death, during the war were faced with dealing with personal and public grief without either the soldiers' bodies or traditional funeral rites. This lecture will examine how war rhetoric, the pastoral concerns of chaplains in Europe and ministers in New Zealand, along with societal pressure, helped shape the language, theology and practices around death during war and the legacy they left.

Dorothy Brown was a woman with a vision for the establishment in New Zealand of a Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. In association with fellow Anglican pacifists she formed the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Centre Trust in 2005. In partnership with the Rekohu Māori Trust and with the assistance of many groups and individuals of goodwill, the Trust was able to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Otago University to endow a chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and to initiate a National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. The Trust has continued to support the Centre which now has six full time staff. Dorothy died in 2011.

Auckland War Memorial Museum Auditorium  
6th November 2015, 7.30 pm

Arranged by Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust, and supported by the Auckland War Memorial Museum. No charge for Lecture. For catering purposes please book before 2nd November: <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/whats-on/remembrance-and-commemoration/war-remembrance-and-reconciliation>