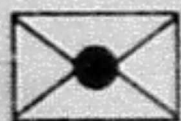


A little cross



IN 1946 the RSA advertised that it would supply an Anzac Day cross for every New Zealander killed in action. I sent my brother's name in and he joined the annual ranks of white crosses decorated with a red poppy.

For many years, the green grass opposite the Cenotaph was decorated with flowers on Anzac Day. They remained for a few days and many visitors slowly filed past in homage.

This year I was unable to attend on Anzac Day, but arrived the following day to find the lawn bare — just two bins overflowing with floral tributes. I held my own flowers in disbelief. All stripped bare in less than 24 hours — the first time in 54 years. Previously at least two more days were left for visiting.

A couple arrived to visit and were equally disgusted. Was it due to the fear of vandals? If this is so, then we have bred a repugnant race, who cannot respect the symbols of lives sacrificed for them.

JUDY VALINTINE

Tikorangi

New Plymouth RSA secretary-manager Trevor Wylde said the lawn was cleaned to prevent their desecration by vandals. However, the crosses had been displayed on the lawn for the week preceding Anzac Day.

EDITOR