



**FRIENDS of
BOLTON STREET
MEMORIAL PARK
INCORPORATED
PO BOX 2336 WELLINGTON**

NEWSLETTER No 55 June 2003

Editors: Nick Perrin and John Daniels

NOTICE OF 27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated Society is to be held on:

**Monday 7th July at 6:15 pm (refreshments served from 5:30 pm)
at Turnbull House, 25 Bowen Street, Wellington.**

Followed by guest speakers, **Ron & Lorraine Clare**, Convenors for the **Heritage Rose Society**, Wellington area. Their talk is entitled, "Heritage Roses in the Bolton St Cemetery".

AGENDA

Apologies
Minutes of 2002 AGM (as published in newsletter #54, March 03)
Matters arising from the minutes
Chairperson's report (refer elsewhere in this newsletter)
Treasurer's report and financial statements
Report by the Wellington City Council
Change of rules (refer elsewhere in this newsletter)
Election of committee
Appointment of auditor
General business.

Foundation member of the Friends retires

The 2002 annual general meeting saw the retirement from our committee (but not from membership of the Friends) of A.W. (Mac) McCormick. Mac was a foundation committee member when the Friends were formed in 1977 and has been on the committee from then until 2002 – a period of 25 years. During the 1980s he was the Friends treasurer. Mac turns 93 this month.

In his working life Mac was a chartered accountant and chartered secretary, holding the qualifications of ACA and ACIS. He has had a lifelong interest in history, particularly the history of Wellington. His research into historical topics, particularly on personalities buried in the cemetery, has been wide-ranging. Some of these topics have been the subject of articles in the Friends newsletter over the years. Mac has also been secretary/treasurer, and a long-time committee member, of the Onslow Historical Society. He has published articles in the Onslow Historian on local history.



Mac has always been an active member of the Friends as well as holding committee positions. He was always seen on work parties, and for a time maintained several graves in the lower cemetery. He has also guided visiting groups.

We thank Mac for his long and valued service on the committee and look forward to his continued involvement in the Friends.

Chairperson's Report 2002/03

The Friends have made quiet progress in the last year, which I hope will underpin tangible achievements in the forthcoming year. The Committee has met twice during the year to consider administrative and cemetery matters, and has published two newsletters (November 02 and March 03). At the time of writing we estimate a subscribing membership of 77, the majority of whom are fully financial up to 31 March 2004. We extend once again, our appreciation to members for their continued loyalty during the second part of our subscriptions catch up in March this year, which will return us to normality in April 2004.

We continue to maintain a dialogue with Wellington City Council on management of the burial list, Park promotion and other issues. The council have progressed with grave restorations with enthusiasm, in addition to their enormously important general maintenance and planting work that is appreciated by all Park users.

During the year we established first contact with the Dunedin based *Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand*. This may develop into a relationship that will help the Friends in conjunction with the WCC, to develop a conservation policy and guideline for the extent and nature of future restoration work to be undertaken on graves, memorials and other heritage items within the Park.

As previously reported, gifting of neighbouring land to the Park by the late Morva Williams is about to be finalised after two and a half years.

Our committee was strengthened at the last AGM with the addition of Judy and Karl Bale. My thanks also go to committee members Anne Brosnahan, Rachel Brown; Helen Carey, John Daniels; Warwick Greenwood and Nick Perrin, for their various valued contributions during the year.

David Dunsheath (Chairperson), May 2003

News flash

The WCC has confirmed the completion of transfer of gifted land to Bolton Street Memorial Park from a neighbouring garden as donated by the late Morva Williams. The Friends look forward to assisting Wellington City Council to publicly acknowledge this gifting and in the planning of its integration into the Park with suitable landscaping, etc.

Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust

We are pleased to note the advent of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand, a new national body based in Dunedin. This Trust has published a leaflet "Cemetery Conservation" which sets out useful guidelines for the maintenance and conservation of graves and monuments. This leaflet states that "one of the purposes of the Trust is to create awareness of cemeteries as an important part of New Zealand's heritage". The leaflet sets out useful and practical advice on such issues as how to identify materials used, maintenance of grave sites and markers, and how to decipher inscriptions. This leaflet would be useful to anyone caring for an older grave site.

The Trust is also preparing a standard conservation plan for cemeteries. This will provide useful guidance for local authorities, societies such as our own, and interested individuals.

The Trust's address is P O Box 1421, Dunedin.

Your 2002-03 Committee

David Dunsheath (Chair)	04 472 8405
Karl & Judy Bale	04 499 8588
Anne Brosnahan	04 472 1333
Rachel Brown	04 473 0482
Helen Carey	04 473 5746
John Daniels	04 938 7971
Warwick Greenwood	04 472 3495
Nick Perrin	04 472 3767

PROPOSED CHANGE OF RULES

Motion 1

Note: The Inland Revenue Department has recommended changes to our Incorporated Society's rules in order to retain Income Tax exemption as a charitable organisation.

“That, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of the Society, changes be made to the Rules of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated, as indicated below:

New Rule 2.11 be added under “Aims & Objects” to read:-

“2.11 To operate as a charitable society in the pursuit of the above charitable objects that are limited to within New Zealand only.”

New Rule 5.2 be added under “Rules of the Society” to read:-

“5.2 No addition to or alteration of the charitable objects, personal benefit clause or the Winding Up clause [clause 13] shall be approved without the approval of the Inland Revenue Department. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.”

New Rule 11.7 be added under “Powers” to read:-

“11.7 Any income, benefit or advantage shall be applied to the objectives of the organisation. No member of the organisation or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organisation in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit, of advantage whatsoever. Any such income shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's-length transaction (being open market value).”

New Rule 13.3 be added under “Winding Up” to read:-

“13.3 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the organisation there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the organisation but shall be given or transferred to some other approved charitable organisation or body having objects similar to the objects of the first organisation - or for some other charitable purpose - within New Zealand.”

Motion 2

“That, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of the Society, changes be made to the Rules of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated, as indicated below:

Rule 2.8 be amended under “Aims and Objects” by replacement of:

“(a) At returning to the park suitably displayed, as many as possible of the memorials displaced by the motorway construction, land slippage, vandalism and other adverse events;

(b) At adequate display of those memorials which cannot and should not be accommodated in the park;”

with:

“(a) At returning to the park suitably displayed, memorials and other appropriate heritage material displaced by the motorway construction, land slippage, vandalism and other adverse events;

(b) At adequate display of those memorials and other appropriate heritage material which cannot or should not be accommodated in the park;”

Note: This rule change better reflects our current intentions to attempt a full recovery from any adverse event, including any residual work still to be done following the previous construction of the motorway, or a relocation for safe-keeping elsewhere of, for example, a fragile item.

Rule 3.3 be amended under “Membership” by replacement of “three classes” with “four classes”, and,

New Rule 3.3(d) be added to read:-

“3.3(d) Honorary Life Member - full membership rights to an individual existing member of the Society without further payment of a subscription following their nomination by the committee for outstanding previous contributions to the Society’s aims or objects and subsequent approval by an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting of the Society.”

Note: This rule change follows committee consideration of a suggestion made at the 2002 AGM to add a fourth class of membership in addition to existing ‘Ordinary’, ‘Family’ and ‘Corporate’ membership classes.

Nominations for Committee

Vital to the future of the Friends is an active committee with new enthusiasm. WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY YOUR HAND AT biographical research/writing/editing; tour guide; conservation/restoration guidance; publicity/promotion; minutes; and/or membership records?

Perhaps you would you like to participate in research, oral history, conservation and the like, but prefer not to be a committee member?

IF SO, please contact David Dunsheath or other committee members to find out more about these activities.

EARLY CEMETERY RECORDS

Amongst the documents held in the fireproof vault at the Karori Cemetery Sexton's office are those that relate to the burials in the three cemeteries now called Bolton Street Memorial Park. These include typed index cards, the Public Cemetery Register, and the so-called "Map Book".

These items are the chief sources of our computerised burial list, and all seem to have been initiated and largely compiled from the early 1930s up to the 1940s by Mr T.C. Southward, Acting Sexton. Whether or not he was the Thomas Charles Southward who married Rosina Lord in 1931, I have not yet managed to resolve.

It appears that the Public Cemetery Register held at Karori was compiled from an existing register that has now vanished, but we can expect that David Robertson had recorded burials in a register from 1857, and backdated it to include records going back to 1849. All the entries from 1849 to about the 1940s have all been written by the same hand, which matches the handwriting in comments signed by "TCS". At first I thought it was an acronym for "Town Cemetery Sexton", but it seems more likely to have been the initials of the Acting Sexton of the period.

Mr Southward seems to have undertaken the task of combining all the burial records with great dedication, going to the trouble of checking records against headstone transcriptions, and typing up the records onto index cards arranged alphabetically by surname. This would have been a great aid for checking the records. He also made index cards for the Church of England and Jewish burials, so making the first combined archive.

On the first page of the Register is the following-

"Note:-

In the year 1932 a record was taken of all names found on Headstones in the Sydney St Cemetery. These were checked with the respective entries in the original register, and approximately 160 names on the Headstones could not be found in the Register. These latter names have been inserted into this Register – Folios 238 and 240 to 245. It is possible that some of these refer to persons who have died and been interred elsewhere in the country, but their names have been inscribed on the Headstone in the Family Plot.

For the year 1902 there are only two interments recorded in the original register.

For the year 1921 no interments were found to have taken place from Warrants at the Town Hall.

T.C.S.”

Other notes in the register signed by “T.C.S.” include one dated October 8 1932, saying “218 plot locations inserted into the Register for Bolton St Cemetery, as a result of obtaining names from Headstones.”

On the last page of the Register he provides the following interesting facts-

Bolton St Cemetery		Sydney St Cemetery		Date
Total Interments	Plot locations known	Total Interments	Plot locations known	
4192	1434	3861	3076	1/10/32
4195	1437	3862	3077	31/3/33

Our computerisation of the records has enabled more thorough checking, and there are now many more interments with plot locations known, particularly in the Church of England (Bolton St) cemetery. Also, most of the additional names he recorded from headstones in 1932 did, indeed, prove to commemorate family members interred elsewhere, but his does not detract from the value of the work he did.

Another bold project to produce a complete record of the three cemeteries is the “Map Book” which seems to have been made during Southward’s term as Acting Sexton. It contains individual maps of each block or compartment with grave outlines shown, labelled with plot number and surname. Accompanying the maps are lists tabulating the plots with names and dates, and in some cases there are pages of data on individual graves with photographs and notes of removals of unidentified and dilapidated graves in 1938-1940.

Although the “Map Book” repeats the errors on the pre-1889 Church of England Map, and the (much fewer) errors on the 1928 map of the Public Cemetery, it is still an invaluable resource, and has helped solve a number of mysteries. It was obviously a “work in progress”, and never completed, but even so, it is a very useful document.

I feel we owe Mr Southward a debt of gratitude for his obvious enthusiasm and dedication, and I hope to find out more biographical details.

Nick Perrin, June 2003