



**FRIENDS of
BOLTON STREET
MEMORIAL PARK INCORPORATED**

PO BOX 2336 WELLINGTON

<http://communities.msn.co.nz/BoltonStCemetery>

NEWSLETTER No 57 June 2004 Editors: Nick Perrin and John Daniels

**NOTICE OF 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at Turnbull House, 25 Bowen Street, Wellington**

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated
is to be held on:

Monday 12th July at 5:45 pm (with refreshments from 5:15 pm)

Immediately following the AGM, Chris Cochran and Michael Kelly of *Four Decades Conservation* Group will speak on *protecting our cemetery heritage*. This topic is a current priority of your committee as outlined in "Conserving the cemetery's heritage" on page 2.



Hugh Alexander Fullarton, CMG

1908-2004. Past Chairman, Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery (see obituary on page 3)

Photo from Jillian Wellings

AGM AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of 2003 AGM (as published in newsletter #56, December 03)

Matters arising from minutes

Chairperson's report (refer to page 7)

Treasurer's report and financial statements

Report by the Wellington City Council

Resolution: That in accordance with Clause 3.4 of the Society's Rules, the annual subscriptions effective from 1 April 2004, be set as follows:

- Individual member, \$10
- Family member, \$10
- Corporate member, \$50.

Note: The committee recommends this modest increase in the Individual subscription from \$6, in order to build society funds for use in future projects together with simplification of subscription rates to a common value across Individual and Family classes.

Election of Honorary Life Members

Election of committee

Appointment of auditor

General Business

Conserving the cemetery's heritage

By John Daniels

Recently the Friends committee has been studying some recent documents setting out standards for the conservation of heritage cemeteries. These could give valuable guidance for work in our own memorial park, on such matters as the protection, repair and cleaning of monuments and headstones.

Wellington City Council has prepared a management plan for the Karori and Makara cemeteries. This plan contains sections on the recognition and conservation of the heritage aspects of Karori cemetery, which is now 114 years old. The plan is based on a conservation report by Four Decades Conservation. Their report deals with the assessment of heritage values, landscape planning, and methods of conserving monuments and headstones.

We have also recently acquired an excellent Australian publication by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), "Conserving Our Cemeteries". This publication contains very valuable guidance on cemetery conservation issues.

The existing management plan for Bolton Street does deal with these issues on a general level, but we think that these could benefit from a review in the light of the latest "best practice" shown in the more recent studies. The committee will be taking these matters up with the Wellington City Council.

Obituary – Hugh Alexander Fullarton, CMG

The Friends record with great regret the death on 1 June of former Friends Chairman Hugh Fullarton.

Hugh was Chairman during 1980-83, during which time he played a vital role in securing land in Mowbray Street for the Memorial Park. In his working life Hugh had been a distinguished engineer with the Ministry of Works, and before retirement had been District Commissioner of Works for Wellington. In this role he oversaw much of the planning and construction for the Wellington Urban Motorway. Having supervised the routing of the motorway through the Bolton Street Cemetery, he was determined to ensure that the compensatory works promised by the city council and government became reality. These works included an elevated piazza linking the upper and lower parts of the cemetery, and additional park land adjacent to Mowbray Street.

As time dragged on some of the planned projects such as the piazza were dropped, and personnel in council and government offices changed. The compensatory land for the cemetery's future tended to recede into the background and almost certainly would have been forgotten had it not been for the Friends under the knowledgeable and watchful eye of their chairperson. As District Commissioner of Works, Hugh Fullarton had known exactly what had been intended, but ensuring that the intentions were carried out two decades later proved to be a daunting and demanding task. Hugh spent his term as chairman tirelessly leading deputation after deputation of Friends to Ministers of the Crown, Members of Parliament, the National Roads Board, the Wellington City Council and the landowners. Several inadequate offers of compensation were rejected, but in 1981 the National Roads Board agreed to pay \$500,000 to the city council, plus \$50,000 to rebuild the mortuary chapel. This compromise enabled Fletcher Development & Construction to arrange a deal with the landowners, resulting in the addition of land known as the Early Settlers Memorial Park and the rebuilt chapel.

Hugh had a genuine concern for heritage, and had been a member of the Wellington Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust, representing the Ministry of Works. He was an excellent and well liked Chairman of the Friends, and a regular attendee at annual meetings until quite recently. He was aged 95 when he died. The Friends extend our sincere condolences to his wife Marjorie and family.

John Daniels

(Note: Material for this obituary has been drawn from Marjorie Alington's article "The Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park: The First 25 Years" in Friends Newsletter #52, July 2002.)

Would you like to become involved?

We can offer you the enjoyment and satisfaction of contributing your ideas and actions in support of Bolton Street Memorial Park and its inhabitants. We seek your helping hand and fresh perspectives. Particular roles and interests sought are:

Treasurer: Warwick Greenwood has established a sound basis for the new Treasurer to follow – training and guidance will be provided.

Membership Secretary: David Dunsheath has established a reliable spreadsheet and simple process for membership administration – training and guidance will be provided.

Heritage conservation: We seek further support/understudy to John Daniels (conservation management and practices - *refer to page 2 article*) and to David Dunsheath, Judy Bale and others (evaluation and recording of specific conservation requirements and achievements).

Biographical research: We seek interest to augment Priscilla Williams, Nick Perrin and others on biographical planning, research and presentation - *refer to page 5 article*.

Promotion & communications: We seek to fill a vacancy for simple promotion of the Friends and the Park, in coordination with WCC as relevant.

Website planning: We seek to explore exciting possibilities for better public access to information via the Internet, to complement WCC's new initiatives.

Archives: We seek to improve our identification of, and access to, the wealth of material held by various members and by Turnbull Library.

Please enquire to above-named individuals or to David Dunsheath, for more details about the committee.

Contact details

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Internet Website on Bolton Street Memorial Park

<http://communities.msn.co.nz/BoltonStCemetery>

Exploring Biographies

by Priscilla Williams

One of the irresistible charms of an old cemetery is the snapshot given of people's lives and the inevitable curiosity this arouses to know more than just the limited inscription on each tombstone. Although writing biographies has never been a main objective for the Friends of the Bolton St Memorial Park, recording its history and research into the burial records have produced some fascinating tales about the people buried there. Margaret Alington's book about the Memorial Park, entitled "Unquiet Earth", and the Friends' newsletters, produced since 1977, provide stories of about 70 people who have been buried in the old cemetery. This information has been researched by members, or offered to us by relatives of the deceased. These stories are only a tiny proportion of the total number of 8,500 people believed to have been buried there. This article looks at the groups of people selected to date for biographical research and the recording of data. It also contemplates future directions in this regard that could be taken by the Friends.

The most obvious group to consider first are those who have played an important part in New Zealand's history. The Wakefield family, Prime Minister Richard Seddon and Harry Holland, leader of the Labour Party, all have notable monuments or tombstones preserved in the Park and all have been well served by historians. There are others who have contributed to the development of New Zealand in the Nineteenth Century and whose work has been acknowledged by their inclusion in the comprehensive Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. These people include Samuel Duncan Parnell, instigator of the 8 hour day, Christian Julius Toxward, Danish architect, Charles Decimus Barraud, artist, and Alexander Turnbull, bibliophile and philanthropist. In all these cases, the Friends' focus of work has not been so much on biographical research, since this has been well covered elsewhere, but instead on ensuring that their memorials or tombstones are properly documented and displayed.

There are others who are less well-known on the national stage but who have contributed notably to the development of Wellington, such as Joseph Dransfield, its first mayor, successful businessmen including Henry Blundell, Robert Hannah, John Plimmer and James Smith, as well as Jewish merchants such as Abraham Hort and Lipman Levy. Reflecting the mores of the time, women's contributions outside the home are rarely mentioned but one interesting exception is Jessica Pharazyn, song-writer. For fame by association, there is Gwendoline Beauchamp, the baby sister of Katherine Mansfield, and Ellen Taylor, whose cousin Mary was a friend of Charlotte Bronte.

Another natural focus for biographic research centering on the cemetery has been the recording of unusual or violent deaths. In some cases the tombstone inscriptions have been the initial clue. Deaths recorded include: drowning in a storm, another drowning by negligence, death by sharkbite in the harbour, father and son killed by Maori while tree felling, death by exposure on a beach, a riding accident when a horse bolted, an officer killed in the New Zealand wars, a family group killed in the 1848 earthquake, another group drowned on the Lake Wairarapa ferry crossing, a mother and five children dying in a fire, three killed in a tunnelling accident near Pukerua Bay. The saddest records are perhaps those of young children succumbing to disease, for example the Wallace family who lost six children to scarlet fever within a few months and the Duff family who lost five children to diphtheria in 11 days. The high number of children buried in the cemetery is striking evidence of how precarious life was for the early settlers' families. These biographies of otherwise unknown people provide valuable insight into Wellington's early social history.

Interest has also centred on those memorials notable for design or aesthetic merit, or that are simply unusual. One of the most striking is the Stafford/ Tucker Masonic memorial. There are two statues and several bas-reliefs of angels, a cross with doves, and the only vault in the cemetery which all attract attention. Despite the heavy toll of vandalism, there are others noted by visitors because of their detailed carving or elaboration of detail. Biographic notes have been prepared on a number of such memorials, especially where relocation has made them more immediately visible.

The Friends have also been interested in the ethnic diversity of the cemetery. Their grouping into one area and their recent cleaning have made the Jewish memorials a notable feature. Less immediately obvious are the Maori graves, of which there are about 29 scattered in several locations. Some biographical details of chiefs such as Rira Porutu, a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi and uncle of the prophet Te Whiti, or Te Ropiha Moturoa, are available but tracing others is more difficult. There are fewer Chinese graves and even fewer records of their lives, especially prior to arrival in New Zealand.

Finally the Friends aim to ensure that those closely associated with the cemetery are remembered and recorded. This group includes sextons such as David Robertson, Thomas Carr and James Futter whose names have been given to pathways through the Park, and also stonemasons such as Walter Helyer who carved many of the memorials.

Previous completion of the burial records into a single definitive listing marks a milestone in this work. Another milestone should be reached in the next few months when these records become accessible through the Wellington City Council's new website, and they are reliably reflected in the memorial book in the chapel. There will then be easy access for anyone to the names and locations of all those persons buried in the cemetery. The Memorial Trail leaflet, available at most entrances to the Park and in the Chapel, provides short notes on some of the most interesting sites. The next stage is to provide easier access to other biographical material held by the Friends, including cross-references to the rich Turnbull Library holdings, the DNZB, family genealogy and other resources. Other historic cemeteries in New Zealand and overseas have developed comprehensive web-sites which include photographic and biographic material. The Friends will be exploring the possibility of adapting this means of recording in easily accessible form, both for serious researchers and also for the casual visitors to the Park.

In the meantime, some biographic research can still be done. As virtually all of the deceased of immediate interest or for whom we have readily accessible information, have now been covered, this research will probably be in reaction to specific enquiries either about tombs or about particular families. The Friends are happy to receive and research such enquiries. We are also interested in receiving any information about material held which relates to people buried within the Memorial Park.

The Friends would like to acknowledge the authors of its valuable research work over the years. In addition to Margaret Alington mentioned earlier, contributors include Mac McCormick, Nick Perrin, John Daniels, the late Lady Margaret (Peg) Fleming, and Diane Comber. We would be grateful to learn from you of any omissions from this acknowledgment, for our records.

We are a charitable society

Further to the Rule changes passed at the 2002 AGM, the Inland Revenue Dept has approved our Society "for a charitable exemption" that qualifies us for various issues including:

- Donations over \$5 qualify for the personal taxation rebate (you must present your receipt at the time of claiming – your receipt will be mailed to you, typically with the subsequent newsletter when timing permits).
- An exemption from Gift Duty in relation to gifts to the Society [pursuant to section 73(1) of the Estate & Gift Duties Act 1986].

Report from the Chair (2003-2004)

I am pleased to report good progress through the year on various fronts. Your committee has met three times since my previous report, with much work achieved between meetings. Under Nick Perrin's guidance, various committee members conducted five Park tours including a very popular 'moonlight tour'. Unfortunately only one newsletter was published to our stable membership (78 members as at 31 March 04). Nick gave four presentations: to the National Library (for Heritage Month); to the Kilbirnie and Porirua branches of NZ Society of Genealogists, and to the AGM of the Wellington Branch of NZ Historic Places Trust. Inland Revenue confirmed the charitable status of our incorporated society thanks to Warwick Greenwood's stewardship.

Our main dialogue with Wellington City Council resumed following the appointment of David Sole to the position of Manager Botanic Gardens. The committee met with him in February and a 'walk-through' of the Park is scheduled in June. Liaison with WCC at other levels has been fragmented from changes of staff and other reasons.

We were pleased to learn that Karori Cemetery's procedures now include safeguards to the integrity of the Bolton Street Burial List when amendments to it are proposed. Nick Perrin has continued to process the trickle of correspondence from relatives and researchers about possible record discrepancies, inscriptions and accurate locations of plots. He submitted several recommendations for Burial List changes, to the Karori Sexton. WCC convened a meeting to determine requirements for the updating of the burial book located within the chapel but this has yet to eventuate.

John Daniels leads our examination of conservation management and practices for Bolton Street Memorial Park that we propose to share with Wellington City Council. Meanwhile, Judy Bale is coordinating our on-going audit and record keeping of specific conservation requirements as well as the on-going achievements completed by WCC. This listing may form a basis for WCC's development of a rolling 5-year programme of proposed maintenance and restoration work.

Priscilla Williams has initiated a timely re-examination of the Friends' role in biographical research and presentation. Priscilla and Nick are compiling a valuable listing of biographical information we already hold. A brief examination of websites of other cemeteries has raised interesting possibilities for the Friends to provide public access to a range of text and photographic information relating to the Park and its occupants.

I extend my sincere thanks to committee members for their continued work as mentioned above and as follows: Nick Perrin and John Daniels for co-editing newsletters; Judy Bale for coordinating park tours and compiling recommendations to WCC on future landscaping of the Morva Williams gifted land; Rachel Brown for minutes of meetings, the timeliness of which enables considerable progress between meetings; Anne Brosnahan for mailing of newsletters; Priscilla Williams for hosting our committee meetings; and Warwick Greenwood as Treasurer. It is with great reluctance that I accept Warwick's resignation to resume other charitable work, after 5 years valued service to the Friends.

The above provides an insight into the diverse range of interesting issues and opportunities for the Friends to further explore and to implement as appropriate. I invite your interest in joining the committee to enhance progress with these.

David Dunsheath (Chairperson) June 2004