



**FRIENDS of  
BOLTON STREET  
MEMORIAL PARK** INCORPORATED  
PO BOX 2336 WELLINGTON  
<http://groups.msn.com/BoltonStCemetery>

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**NEWSLETTER No 59 June 2005** Editors: Nick Perrin and John Daniels

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**Notice of 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**5.45 pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005 (with refreshments from 5.15 pm)**  
**Turnbull House, 25 Bowen Street, Wellington**

Immediately following this AGM, Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Director of Art and Visual Culture at Te Papa, will speak on colonial New Zealand's Victorian ecclesiastical architecture, with special relevance to heritage cemeteries. Jonathan is a most interesting speaker with a strong interest in architectural and art history.



The Pudney/Dennis grave, location of the recent interment (refer to article page 3)



## Agenda

for the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2004 AGM (as published in newsletter #58 (Nov 2004))
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Chairperson's report (refer to page 8 of this newsletter)
5. Report by the Wellington City Council
6. Treasurer's report and financial statements
7. Subscriptions (see notice of motion below)
8. Election of Committee
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. General business

**Notice of Motion:** That in accordance with Clause 3.4 of the Society's Rules, the annual subscriptions effective from 1 April 2006, be set as follows:

- \* Individual member \$15
- \* Family member \$20
- \* Corporate member \$85

Note: The committee recommends this increase in subscriptions in order to build our society funds for future park conservation and historical projects.

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## Committee contact details

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## **A RECENT INTERMENT - CYRIL LOEBER**

On Wednesday 13 April 2005, the interment of Cyril Loeber's ashes took place at the Bolton St Memorial Park. These occasions are rare now, the last interment of ashes being Sheila Winn in the Hannah grave on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2001.

Cyril Loeber, a well-known Wellington dentist died aged 91 on 28th November 2004.

His wife, Mrs. Joan Loeber is a great grand daughter of Joseph Pudney who arrived in Petone on the Aurora in 1840. Joseph purchased one of the original Wellington Town Acres in the vicinity of Vivian St and Courtenay Place. Family legend recalls that he planted 1500 cabbages on his Town Acre. He travelled over a wide area of NZ including Dunedin and the Wairarapa looking for property investments.

He was a friend of Edward Gibbon Wakefield and this may be the reason why the Pudney grave is close by the Wakefield gravesite. Also interred at the site are members of the Dennis, Tucker, Coley and Swede families. The Pudney grave is situated in the old Church of England section just behind the Wakefield graves (plot 3320, C of E, grid L 14 25). Refer to front cover for photo.

His wife Joan and their two sons, David and Peter, survive Cyril. Cyril practiced as a dentist at his premises in Willis St, from 1946 until his retirement at age 72. He was also a JP and served in WW2 as a major in the Dental Corps. mostly with the field ambulance in the Greek Campaign.

Today interment of ashes is still permitted at Bolton St under the following conditions. Bookings need to be made through the sexton at Karori cemetery and a time and date arranged and confirmed. The interred has to be a relation of the original plot owner and permission of all parties with an interest in the plot must be sought.

We have come to think of the BSMP as a park but events like this remind us of its original purpose that needs to be respected as such.

Judy Bale

With thanks to Mrs Joan Loeber.

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## OPENING OF PARK EXTENSION

### INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS

On **Sunday 17 July at 12.30 pm** the Deputy Mayor, Alick Shaw, will formally open the new garden gifted to the Memorial Park by the late Morva Williams. We hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. The timing has been chosen so that the magnolia tree in the garden should be in flower. This generous bequest and its benefactor have been described in Newsletter No 56 of December 2003.

The garden is in the lowest part of the upper section of the Park. It is reached off Powles Path and is just behind the distinctive Stafford/Tucker memorial – No 20 on the Trail Map. There will be guides or signs at each of the three entrances to the upper Park which are in Easdale St (the closest) or by the Seddon tomb at the top, or at the top of the connecting bridge. Please be at these entrances no later than 12.15 pm to allow time to get to the garden.

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A giant macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*), probably about 150 years old, in Bolton Street Memorial Park. This tree had already dropped limbs that damaged graves, and has been pruned. Since this photo was taken in 2001, it has been pruned further after more branches fell. (See following article for more information about the tree problem).

## WILDERNESS OR CONSERVATION?

For many people, the charm of the Bolton Street Memorial Park lies in the wilderness areas. About a quarter of the park is in a wild state, especially along Observatory Path and down into the gully of the upper section, and around Madeley Path in the lower section. Other areas have been left partially cleared while throughout the park large trees have been allowed to knot around the gravestones and twist the iron railings.

The romantic nature of these areas is undeniable, and made more poignant by their proximity to a busy motorway and to the heart of the capital city. But there is also another aspect to be considered – the preservation of our heritage. This article looks at some aspects of this debate and current work in the cemetery.

At the time of European settlement, the designated cemetery area was mainly kanuka and manuka scrubland, which was cleared gradually for the burial plots. Family members also planted trees and flowers in and around the graves, especially exotic species which would remind them of their homelands. Victorians surrounded death with symbolism and their choice of plantings reflected these. A particular favourite was yew, which represented sorrow, also holly representing eternal life and cypress representing death or mourning. Ivy marked fidelity. Among the flowers roses symbolised love, rosemary was for remembrance and lilies for purity. The heritage rose collection in the park is based on the early plantings of these memorial roses.

There are two early tree plantings of particular interest. One is the “Selwyn Oaks”, so-called because they are believed to have been planted by Bishop Selwyn, the first Anglican Bishop of New Zealand, on one of his visits to Wellington in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. Whether or not this is correct, the huge and beautiful oak tree behind the memorial chapel is one of the oldest trees in the park. It is in healthy condition although the adjacent graves are affected by its extensive root structure.

The other important plantings are due to David Robertson, sexton of the public cemetery from 1857 to 1887. A gardener by training, he had a wide knowledge of plants and great interest in identification of native species. Throughout his thirty years at the cemetery, he planted extensively, both exotic and indigenous species, hoping to beautify the area and preserve the native plants. He is also responsible for the planting of conifers, mainly during the 1880s, which are now the largest trees in the park and, as in the adjacent Botanic Garden, are a dominant feature. Some conifers are reaching the end of their life span and a few trees or individual branches have recently been removed. A tree management programme has identified several trees in the park, mainly *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Pinus radiata*, which may need to be removed in the next few years.

After the cemetery's closure towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, haphazard revegetation took place, particularly in the main gully where secondary native regrowth occurred. Planning for the motorway some decades later occasioned an extensive botanical survey in 1965. This report stated somewhat damningly "From a tree point of view the grounds show a serious lack of planning in that trees have been planted with little regard to their growth and habit, effect on other trees or general appearance, so that there are now too many big trees crowded together and suppressing other more interesting plants. They have also been neglected to the extent that misshapen, suppressed and dying trees have not been cut out, dead limbs have not been treated and vines have not been controlled." Trees and plants were surveyed in that report and the data has formed the basis of later management plans for the park.

These plans have noted the dual nature of the cemetery, though not necessarily resolving the inherent contradictions between the two aims. For example the Wellington City Council's Combined Management Plan for the Botanic Garden, Anderson Park and the Bolton Street Memorial Park (January 2002) notes "The relaxed and informal character of the Memorial Park shall be maintained. In appropriate areas the "wild" garden theme of naturalised garden plants that were introduced during the nineteenth century shall be maintained, provided that graves and monuments are not damaged by vegetation....Vegetation around graves and monuments shall be managed to protect the graves and monuments from damage and to maintain adequate visual and physical access." Some practical recommendations follow, for example: "Some of these (tall) trees were planted too close to graves and memorials and are now causing damage. Smaller tree species should be considered for replanting in these areas. While the overgrown character is to be preserved, the protection of the historic and cultural features within the Park is to be the first consideration. Graves and memorials have been damaged by tree roots and by smaller plants such as valerian....These (wild garden and semi-wilderness) areas shall be maintained and managed so as to prevent unacceptable damage or destruction of graves and monuments."

It is doubtful whether the priority which seems to be given in the 2002 Plan to the heritage aspect has been reflected in some areas of the Park. An interesting evaluation of the problem was given by Stuart Harvey of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand, when he visited the Park in 2004. Writing in a newsletter after his visit, he said "A tour of Bolton Street Memorial Park with the Friends group was most interesting historically, yet worrying from a conservation perspective. Parts of Bolton Street are in good condition but some major areas have begun the slide back to nature. Grave sites are being reclaimed by rampant bush, tracks are dangerous, and misplaced and wilding vegetation needs urgent action."

It is worth quoting in full a letter sent in response by David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Garden:

1. Much of the Park was in poor condition from the time the cemetery was first established with recorded notes of the time indicating that graves were set amongst trees and tree roots. We are conscious of the damage and the potential damage the trees are causing and, as discussed during your visit, we are taking steps to minimise this. This will be one of the focal points in the development of the conservation plan.
2. The tracks are the original tracks from when the cemetery was established. We have an annual track maintenance programme and have been gradually recovering the tracks to a usable and increasingly to a safe state. This programme will continue on an annual basis.
3. The vegetation in the graves in the more closely tended part of the park, and some of the roses in particular, trace their existence back to the early days of the cemetery and are therefore an integral and historic part of the Park

Bolton Street Memorial Park is a living, historic and unique site in the centre of the city. Both Wellington City Council and the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park recognise this and are together striving to achieve an effective balance of maintenance, conservation and restoration which sustains the Park but does not compromise its historic integrity."

In a recent Botanic Bulletin, Mr Sole has commented "Bolton Street Memorial Park has seen work begun on releasing the grave sites and head stones from the most aggressive trees, which were causing substantial damage. The forest in the "wilderness" area of the cemetery will remain, but will be carefully managed to keep the compromise between the wild and the tended which makes this park so unique."

The tree clearing to which Mr Sole refers has taken place along Lyon, Strang, Hart and Madeley paths. These four paths have also been upgraded and visitors can now access graves in these areas in all weathers. Some people may feel too much clearing has been done; others may note the poor condition of the graves, their fences and railings, and feel much more clearance should be done to preserve these heritage items for generations to come. The fine balance between conservation and wilderness will continue to be a difficult and sensitive subject and one which will be given serious consideration both by the Botanic Gardens Management and by the Friends of the Park.

Priscilla Williams

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2004-2005

Your committee has enjoyed a busy year while addressing a diversity of activities. Membership now totals 93 following a net growth of 16 during the year, including our first two corporate members neighbouring the park. Newsletters were published in June and November 2004. Several tours of the park were conducted including two within the Wellington City Council's Spring Festival programme and one for a corporate member.

The sharing of information and opinions with Council on a broad range of topics has been enhanced by the regular attendance of David Sole, Manager Botanical Gardens, during part of each of our five committee meetings held this year.

We have for several years recognised the need for better conservation practices within the Park to safeguard its artefacts for greatest long-term benefit. From this has evolved a specific need for Council staff and contractors to follow best practices and standards for their operational and technical activities (refer June 04 newsletter). As a result we have assisted Council to clarify its requirements for the development of a conservation plan. This would address the specific needs of both maintained and wilderness areas respectively. On this same theme, members will recall the most interesting presentation by Four Decades Conservation Group following our AGM last year, about their conservation planning work for Karori and Makara cemeteries (refer Nov 04 newsletter).

Council has generously made available to the Friends, the green gardeners' shed within the upper park (Hort Lawn area). Here we have invested in robust shelving for safer storage of loose artefacts from unknown graves, for their future identification and possible reinstatement. Near to this shed was the horrific vandalism to sixteen graves in the Jewish Cemetery on 15 July 2004 that the Council has since had splendidly repaired (refer Nov 04 newsletter).

In November we hosted a visit from Stewart Harvey, Chairman of the Dunedin based *Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand* during which he toured the park, met with Council managers and met with the committee (refer Nov 04 newsletter). He offered very useful ideas and activities to the Friends and Council, respectively, for better protection and promotion of the heritage of the park.

Unfortunately the full burial listing in the 'Memorial Book' within the Bolton Street Chapel still awaits updating because of unforeseen technical difficulties that we will assist the Council to overcome.

A number of enquires about the cemetery and its occupants have been processed. In some cases we have responded with photos of relevant graves and headstones. It was decided that the committee will centralise its collection of more unique, biographical material provided by descendents and other sources over the years, as well as providing cross-references to information held and/or published elsewhere.

We have commenced a review to improve publicity and promotion of the park,



which will include suggestions for the Council's two pamphlets and recently redesigned website. The Friends' membership pamphlet has been further revised and has successfully attracted new members from stocks held at selected locations. *[A copy is enclosed with this newsletter for passing on to potential members]*.

We look forward to the completion of the new garden and its integration into the park. This garden area was gifted to the City by deceased Easdale Street resident, Morva Williams (refer Dec 03 newsletter).

I extend my sincere thanks to committee members John Daniels (conservation, newsletter, guide), Nick Perrin (research, history, newsletter, guide), Judy Bale (events management, gifted land project, conservation, guide), Priscilla Williams (publicity, history, conservation, guide), Kate Fortune (Treasurer & Membership Secretary, guide), Rachel Brown (Minutes Secretary) and Anne Brosnahan (newsletter) for their loyalty and energy through this year.

We have been challenged by a diverse range of interesting issues and opportunities. Several new activities are, since April 05, in train or planned which I feel sure the incoming committee will wish to pursue with vigour. I invite your nomination to stand for the committee to actively enhance our progress.

David Dunsheath (Chairperson) June 2005

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## CORRECTION

In our previous newsletter (Nov 04), it was incorrectly stated on page 2 that the cemetery survey had been commissioned. On the contrary, upon realising the inadequacies of Mr Shotter's (the sexton) existing photographic records of memorials and inscriptions, Margaret Alington formed a team of dedicated volunteers drawn from the Historic Places Trust, the National Council of Women and the Federation of University Women. Their mission was to compile an effective new record of all memorials and inscriptions in order to safeguard their survival during the motorway construction period.

Margaret was however, commissioned to write a history of the cemetery that is now published as *'Unquiet Earth: A History of the Bolton Street Cemetery'* (Wellington City Council and Ministry of Works & Development, 1978).

## **BOTANIC GARDEN SPRING FESTIVAL**

The Spring Festival which includes Tulip Week puts the spotlight on Wellington's wonderful Botanic Garden. This year it will be held from 24 September to 9 October and overlaps with the World of Wearable Art Awards, so Wellington will be in festive mood. The Friends of the Bolton Street Memorial Park will be offering a daytime and an evening guided tour during the Festival and will be encouraging photographers in the photo contest to explore the Memorial Park for photo opportunities. We also hope to offer a quiz for primary school children which will test their orienteering abilities.

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### **Internet Websites on Bolton Street Memorial Park**

<http://groups.msn.com/BoltonStCemetery>

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/gardens>

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### **Other Websites of Interest**

Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand  
<http://www.cemeteries.org.nz>

Dunedin's Northern Cemetery  
<http://www.southernheritage.org.nz/northerncemetery/home.html>

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# FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK INCORPORATED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2005

	31 March <u>2005</u> \$	31 March <u>2004</u> \$
Accumulated Fund	<u>\$3,580</u>	<u>\$3,404</u>
Represented By:		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	823	584
– Savings	3,000	3,000
Subscriptions owing	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,843</u>	<u>3,584</u>
<u>LESS Current Liabilities</u>		
Subscriptions in advance	50	30
Sundry Creditors	<u>213</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>263</u>	<u>180</u>
<u>Net Assets and Working Capital</u>	<u>\$3,580</u>	<u>\$3,404</u>

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Kate Fortune  
Honorary Treasurer

7 June 2005



**FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK  
INCORPORATED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005**

	31 March <u>2005</u> \$	31 March <u>2004</u> \$
Income:		
Donations & tours	570	534
Subscriptions – current year	816	520
– in arrears	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>1,398</u>	<u>1,058</u>
LESS Expenses:		
Audit Fee	150	150
Bank Charge		2
Annual General Meeting	138	108
Hire of Meeting Room	54	60
Library Maintenance	-	41
Postage	132	206
P O Box Rental	63	62
Printing, Stationery, Copying	269	141
Shelving	416	-
Taxation Advisory	<u>-</u>	<u>126</u>
	<u>1,222</u>	<u>900</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>176</u>	\$ <u>158</u>

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005**

	<u>2005</u> \$	<u>2004</u> \$
Accumulated Funds – at start of year	3,404	3,246
ADD Surplus for the year	<u>176</u>	<u>158</u>
Accumulated Funds at end of year	<u>\$3,580</u>	<u>\$3,404</u>