



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

NEWSLETTER No 61, JUNE 2006

Editors: Nick Perrin & David Dunsheath

**Notice of 30th Annual General Meeting
5.45pm Monday 3 July 2006 (with refreshments from 5.15pm)
Turnbull House, 25 Bowen Street, Wellington**

Immediately following this AGM Stewart Harvey, Chairman of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand, will talk about the work of the Trust. Stewart has been invited to come from Dunedin to share his knowledge about the conservation and restoration of historic cemeteries in New Zealand. This is a rare opportunity to hear Stewart and all members are cordially invited to attend.



Photo: Judy Bale

Autumn in the park is a particularly lovely time to see the colours of the leaves, berries and rosehips. This scene shows the huge old oak in the lower section changing colour. This tree is believed to have been planted by Bishop Selwyn who first visited the cemetery in 1842.

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 30th annual general meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see cover for details).

- Apologies
 - Minutes of the 29th AGM (see page 6 of this newsletter)
 - Matters arising from Minutes
 - Chairperson's report (see page 3 of this newsletter)
 - Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council
 - Treasurer's report and financial statements (see page 10 of this newsletter)
 - Election of Committee
 - Appointment of Auditor
 - General business.
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GUIDED TOURS

The approach of winter has slowed down the tour schedule at the Park. A planned tour by the Petone Historical Society was cancelled due to cold, wet, windy weather on the day but will be re scheduled in the future.

The Friends took part in the Stepping Out Promotion, run by the WCC, and provided guides for a walk around the Bolton St Memorial Park in March. This was not well attended, and it was felt that more publicity of the event was needed to make it a success.

Due to the expanding list of members of the FoBSMP, it has been suggested that a special tour for members be planned.

This would an excellent chance for members to check out the wonderful and exciting recent restoration work done by the WCC staff and the Friends at its four recent working bees. Members who would like a hand to locate graves of interest to them could also be helped to do so on this occasion.

If you would like to be included on a tour for members, please ring one of the committee (refer to the committee list on page 9).

Judy Bale

SEMINARS ABOUT ROSES IN THE PARK

The Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden are holding two winter seminars about roses on the afternoons of Sundays 18 June and 16 July. Of particular interest to our members is the latter seminar which is about heritage roses in Bolton Street Memorial Park. This will cover a history of the plants, their management and cultivation as well as other information about heritage roses. It will be held in the Treehouse Visitor Centre, Botanic Garden from 1pm to 4.30pm. For further information ring the Treehouse on 499 1400.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2005-2006

This has been another busy year with diverse activities but the Committee has continued to focus on its main aims of preservation, conservation and interpretation. In this work, we have been greatly assisted by the positive support from the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, David Sole, his staff and other members of the Wellington City Council. We and they are conscious of the important civic heritage that this park contains. We are encouraged also by the continuing growth in membership, now standing at 110 and including four corporate members, a new category of membership introduced last year. We are actively continuing to engage those who have ancestors interred in the park and believe that there must be many more descendants that might still be located.

A highlight of the year has been the opening of a new park extension gifted by Morva Williams. The Newsletter of November 2005 provided a description of this event which took place on 17 July 05, to time with the flowering of the magnolia tree in the garden.

A report has been commissioned by the Council to provide maintenance and repair guidelines for graves and headstones. This guide should be completed soon and will be an invaluable asset for future work. Because of the cost of this commission and the need to await its outcomes, no repair work has been undertaken over the financial year 2005/06. The Committee has however begun a more regular programme of working bees to clear and clean gravestones, using guidelines and cleaning materials recommended by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand. Four have been held over the past year, including one adjacent to the new garden and three along the Reserves Path. In this process two totally buried tombstones have been uncovered, which inevitably prompts the question that there may be many other memorials that have been buried over the course of time and have yet to be found.

Another important undertaking by the Committee has been a comprehensive audit of every gravestone and burial plot in the entire park. This was done over the summer months with each Committee member examining a section of the Park and listing work to be done in tabulated form. The resulting BSMP Heritage Work Programme shows issues to be addressed as well as completed work and we hope it will be a useful guide for future planning. It should also be regarded as a living document which will be regularly revised and updated. A copy will be available at the AGM for members to see. It is daunting to note that there are currently 210 entries for proposed work. Though many of these relate to vegetation clearance, the amount of work needed to restore masonry, iron railings, and such rare items as the wooden and iron memorials, should not be underestimated. Nor should the extent of finance needed, especially if the level of conservation work is to be kept to an acceptable standard.

There are two areas where progress has stalled over the year. Updating of the full burial listing in the Memorial Book within the Chapel is still delayed because of the difficulties in reconciling our system of records with that used by the WCC cemetery staff. We are working towards a resolution of this issue in the near future which may then provide us with the foundation of a database on which to build up electronic records. The other disappointment has been that the pamphlet on identifying gravestones, which is needed by those visitors trying to find particular memorials, has still to be published by the Council. The other publication, a 'Trail Map' for the Park, is in considerable demand by the many tourists visiting the gardens.

During the year there have continued to be a regular flow of enquiries about the cemetery and its occupants. Replies have included genealogical and historical information as well as photographs in many cases. There is still much research to be done, as well as a need to provide a more comprehensive data storage and retrieval system.

Opportunities have been taken throughout the year to publicise the Park and the work of the Friends. We hope to develop a more systematic publicity programme over the coming year. An important part of this public relations activity is the walks programme. Guided tours continue to be taken and we welcome requests from groups who would be interested in these.

Finally my thanks is due to the hard work done by the committee, namely John Daniels (conservation, guide), David Dunsheath (working bee convenor, works programme audit co-ordinator), Nick Perrin (research, history, newsletter, guide), Judy Bale (tours manager, gifted land project, works programme, guide), Kate Fortune (treasurer, membership secretary, guide), Diana Marsh (minutes secretary, publicity), Terry Brandon (legal and constitutional issues) and Anne Brosnahan (newsletter). In particular I am grateful to them for the long hours put in to complete the Work Programme table and their enthusiasm in tackling a range of tasks from the working bees to the historical research. As we enter the 30th year of our Association, there continue to be many diverse challenges still ahead in order to preserve this important part of Wellington's history.

Priscilla Williams (Chairperson) June 2006.

CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER SEDDON

One hundred years ago, on 10 June 1906, Prime Minister Richard John Seddon unexpectedly died at sea when returning from Australia. Although the town cemetery had been closed since 1890, it was decided that special arrangements should be made for him to be buried there rather than at the Karori cemetery – arrangements which were to be duplicated on only one other occasion, at the death of Labour leader Henry Edmund Holland in 1933.

Seddon had dominated New Zealand politics during his premiership and a suitably impressive memorial was felt to be appropriate. Finding a large enough site in the town cemetery was not easy. The first choice was the upper lawn where the public cemetery sexton's cottage still stood, but its incumbent, the elderly Mrs Robertson, who had lived there for nearly fifty years, was unwell and it was felt unfitting that she should in her last days make way for the Memorial, even though it was for the Prime Minister. (She died a few days later on 14 June.)

The final choice for Seddon's tomb was the land on which the small time-service observatory stood. This was hastily demolished and a temporary grave was created for the interment. Work started almost immediately on the vault and subsequently on the memorial above it which was the design of the then Government Architect, John Campbell. It is a reinforced concrete column, fifty feet high, faced with Coromandel granite and surmounted by a bronze figure. The monument itself is quite plain, and adorned only with wreaths, scrolls and marble plaques; an early sketch showing lions at each corner was not implemented.

The bronze female figure was modelled at the London studio of Henry Poole and cast also in London. It is described as the State mourning for her dead. According to the *New Zealand Times*, writing when the statue was erected in 1910: "the wind-blown drapery being most appropriate for the breezy position . . . The gown has fallen from the left shoulder, which droops, and in the left hand is a wreath of mourning leaves. The right hand holds a scroll of State, with the seals dependent. The right foot rests on two books and a small twig breaks the hardness of the pedestal."

Within the vault, the Prime Minister, with his wife who died in 1931, lie in marble tombs in the centre and a daughter lies in a third tomb to one side. Both outside and inside are memorials to their eldest son, Richard John Spotswood Seddon, who was



killed in action on 21 August 1918. Other family members are also interred in the vault after an Act of Parliament permitting this was passed in 1924. Among the inscriptions on the monument are the well-known words contained in Seddon's last known public message as he left Australia: "Leaving tonight for God's own country".

The railed garden around the grave, which contains several heritage roses, is maintained by the Botanic Garden but the central Government has overall responsibility for the monument which is a dramatic focal point at the upper entrance to the Memorial Park.

Much of the above information has been drawn from the invaluable book "Unquiet Earth" by Margaret Alington.
Priscilla Williams

MINUTES OF THE 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park (Incorporated) held at Turnbull House, Wellington on Monday 18 July 2005

1. Present

Priscilla Williams	David Dunsheath (Chair)	Judith Trotter
John Daniels	Jenny Daniels	Joy Dunsheath
Margaret Alington	Bill Alington	Jane Aim
David Sole (WCC)	Chris Cochran	Sheila Williams
Nick Perrin	Kate Fortune	Heather Williams
Anne Brosnahan	James Farnan	David Luke
Viv Bogle	Judy Bale	Karl Bale
Rachel Brown (Minutes)	Phillip Porritt	Penny Porritt
Terry Brandon	Jocelyn Brandon	Diana Marsh
Jonathan Mane-Wheoki (guest speaker)		

David Dunsheath welcomed all to the AGM with particular mention of David Sole from WCC and guest speaker, Jonathan Mane-Wheoki from Te Papa.

2. Apologies

Warwick Greenwood, Carrick Lewis, Norina Lewis, David Loeber.

3. Minutes of the 2004 AGM

David Luke was incorrectly identified as David Leake in the minutes.

Moved (Judy Bale / Kate Fortune) that the minutes are a true and accurate record subject to the one correction above. **CARRIED**

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no substantive matters arising.

5. Chairperson's Report 2004-05

David Dunsheath's report, previously published in Newsletter 59, was taken as read.

Summary points made by David Dunsheath included:

- Strong growth in membership. It stands at more than 100 – the highest it has been in many years.
- There has been good liaison with David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Gardens throughout the year, who has attended each of our committee meetings in part.
- In this year FoBSMP has focussed on better conservation practices for the Memorial Park.
- Time has been spent on making the green gardeners' shed tidy and secure, with good identification of stored artefacts.
- There was a most useful dialogue with Stewart Harvey of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust when he visited Wellington.
- Ongoing technical problems with updating the memorial book need our urgent focus.
- There are regular enquiries for family research which Nick Perrin handles most admirably (guessed as averaging 50 enquiries each year).
- Our current focus on biographical records is to gather existing material into a single filing system.
- We have increased our involvement in publicity and promotion of the Park in conjunction with WCC.
- On 17 July, the land donated by Morva Williams was integrated into the Park with a small opening ceremony attended by about 30 people.
- David thanked the committee members for their conscientious work through the year.

Moved (Priscilla Williams / Margaret Alington) that the Chairperson's Report be accepted. CARRIED

6. WCC Report 2004-05

David Sole, Manager of Botanic Gardens, presented his report.

Moved (Priscilla Williams / Viv Bogle) that the WCC Report be accepted. The following was discussed:

- The Early Settlers' Fund will run out in 9 to 10 years at current rate of spending. It was used to fund the repairs to the vandalised Jewish headstones.
- The change in the growth pattern of the forest area – will it change further or be maintained? David Sole replied that further changes will not be drastic and acknowledged that keeping the balance will be hard. Motion CARRIED

7. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 March 2005. The year had steady growth in membership, which was reflected in increased income. There was a small surplus for the year of \$176.

There was one query about the cost of the audit fees – the surplus could double if the audit fees were negligible. It was suggested that the incoming committee look at this issue.

Kate then presented a paper on the Early Settlers' Fund outlining the history of the Fund and the recent expenditure from the Fund including the repair of the Jewish headstones. Clarification was sought that the money was not used for operational maintenance such as gardening activities. David Sole confirmed that it was not. The money does not accrue interest. Kate welcomes further comment.

Moved (John Daniels / Ann Brosnahan) that the Treasurer's report be accepted.
CARRIED

8. Subscriptions

Kate presented the previously advertised motion that the annual subscriptions be set as follows effective from 1 April 2006:

- Individual member at \$15 (up from \$10)
- Family member at \$20 (up from \$10)
- Corporate member at \$85 (up from \$50).

These increases will enable the Friends to build up funds for future activities and projects.

Discussion took place about the need for extra funding over existing funds not spent. An example project requiring substantial funding was suggested as a proposed Friends website with a database. It was suggested that a policy of reviewing subscriptions every two years was needed. The surplus made this year was because of the growth of members.

Moved (Kate Fortune / John Daniels) that the new subscription rates be accepted.
CARRIED

9. Election of Committee

The following have put themselves forward for the committee:

Priscilla Williams	Chair
John Daniels	Deputy Chair
Diana Marsh	Secretary
Kate Fortune	Treasurer
David Dunsheath	Immediate Past Chair
Nick Perrin	
Judy Bale	
Anne Brosnahan	
Terry Brandon	

Moved (John Daniels / Sheila Williams) that nominations be closed and this Committee be elected.
CARRIED

Rachel Brown was thanked for her work as Minutes Secretary during the 5 years she has served during her second term on the committee.

John Daniels spoke highly of the work that David Dunsheath gave in his time as chair, a period of seven years. He brought his training as an engineer to the tasks and developed systems for the Committee to follow. He noted in this period the relationship of the Friends with WCC has developed along more positive lines.

David Dunsheath thanked John Daniels for his praise and noted that it was Margaret Alington who prompted him onto the committee in the mid 1980s.

10. Appointment of Auditor

There was discussion about the costs of the Auditor given that the financial accounts are not extensive.

Moved (Karl Bale / Sheila Williams) that an auditor not be appointed at this AGM and that the new committee seek the volunteer services of a suitably experienced alternative person.

Discussion then followed as to whether the Rules required an appointment at the AGM.

Motion NOT CARRIED

Moved (Terry Brandon / Kate Fortune) that Terence Leamy be reappointed as auditor for the year 2005/06 unless the committee is able to seek the volunteer services of a suitably experienced alternative person to be Auditor. CARRIED

11. General Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Jonathan Mane-Wheoki, Director Art and Visual Culture at Te Papa, on New Zealand's Victorian ecclesiastical architecture, with special reference to heritage cemeteries and tomb monuments.

YOUR OUTGOING COMMITTEE:

Priscilla Williams (Chair): tel 977 4667, priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz

Diana Marsh (Minutes Secretary): tel 499 8860, francis.diana@xtra.co.nz

Kate Fortune (Treasurer & Membership Secretary):

tel 970 0024, kate.fortune@paradise.net.nz

Judy Bale (Tours coordinator): tel 499 8588, sommerfields@paradise.net.nz

Terry Brandon: tel 471 1483, terrybrandon@xtra.co.nz

Anne Brosnahan: tel 472 1333

John Daniels: tel 938 7971, jr.daniels@xtra.co.nz

David Dunsheath: tel 472 8405, symbian@xtra.co.nz

Nick Perrin: tel 472 3767, n.perrin@xtra.co.nz

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

		31 March <u>2006</u> \$	31 March <u>2005</u> \$
Income	Donations* & tours	2,418	570
	Subscriptions – current year	1,020	816
	– in arrears	<u>50</u>	<u>12</u>
		<u>3,488</u>	<u>1,398</u>
LESS Expenses			
	Audit Fee	0	150
	Annual General Meeting	188	138
	Cleaning products	59	0
	HCCTNZ subscription	90	0
	Memorial seat*	1,400	0
	Postage	100	132
	P O Box Rental	62	63
	Printing, Stationery, Copying	572	269
	Storage cabinet / Shelving	<u>191</u>	<u>416</u>
		<u>2,662</u>	<u>1,222</u>
	Surplus for the year	<u>826</u>	<u>176</u>

* Note: Donations include an amount of \$500 towards the cost of a memorial seat and plaque installed in the gifted extension to the Park.

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

	<u>2006</u> \$	<u>2005</u> \$
Accumulated Funds – at start of year	3,580	3,404
ADD Surplus for the year	<u>826</u>	<u>176</u>
	<u>\$ 4,406</u>	<u>\$ 3,580</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2006

	31 March <u>2006</u>	31 March <u>2005</u>
	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds	<u>\$4,406</u>	<u>\$3,580</u>
Represented By:		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	1,436	823
– Savings	3,000	3,000
Subscriptions owing	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>
	<u>4,436</u>	<u>3,843</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in advance	30	50
Sundry Creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>213</u>
	<u>30</u>	<u>263</u>
<u>Net Assets and Working Capital</u>	<u>\$4,406</u>	<u>\$3,580</u>

Please note: These financial statements are subject to audit.

Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer) 31 May 2006

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Bolton Street Memorial Park:

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

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

Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand

<http://www.cemeteries.org.nz>

Dunedin's Northern Cemetery

<http://www.southernheritage.org.nz/northerncemetery/home.html>

WORKING-BEES

The unearthing (literally) of the undamaged, white tiled top to the grave of John Beck [grid reference G10 01] was a great reward for our working-bee volunteers. This occurred on 18 February when we focussed on the area adjacent to The Goat Track and Trustees Crescent paths. The work comprised clearing historic graves of intrusive and damaging vegetation, and cleaning headstones.

This particular grave was so overgrown that it gave no advance clues as to what would be discovered.

With amazement, volunteers at the following working bee (20 May) helped our sleuth, Nick Perrin, discover a completely hidden grave belonging to William and Isabella Munro and Annie Barraud [grid reference F09 16]. This was in the vicinity of the previous working bee. Prior to this occasion we emailed an invitation for members to join in, with some acceptances.

These two working bees follow two held last year as reported in our November 05 newsletter. We propose to schedule more starting this September. If you are interested to receive advance notifications, please indicate as such on your subscription renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. The work is immensely rewarding as the results are immediately obvious. This is a great way to meet new people and learn more about the history and topography of the Park. No skills are needed except for enthusiasm.



The uncovered Beck grave: Left to right are Judy Bale, Kate Fortune, John Daniels and Rosy Fenwicke.

David Dunsheath