



**FRIENDS of
BOLTON STREET
MEMORIAL PARK INCORPORATED**
PO BOX 2336, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND
<http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz>

NEWSLETTER No 63, JUNE 2007

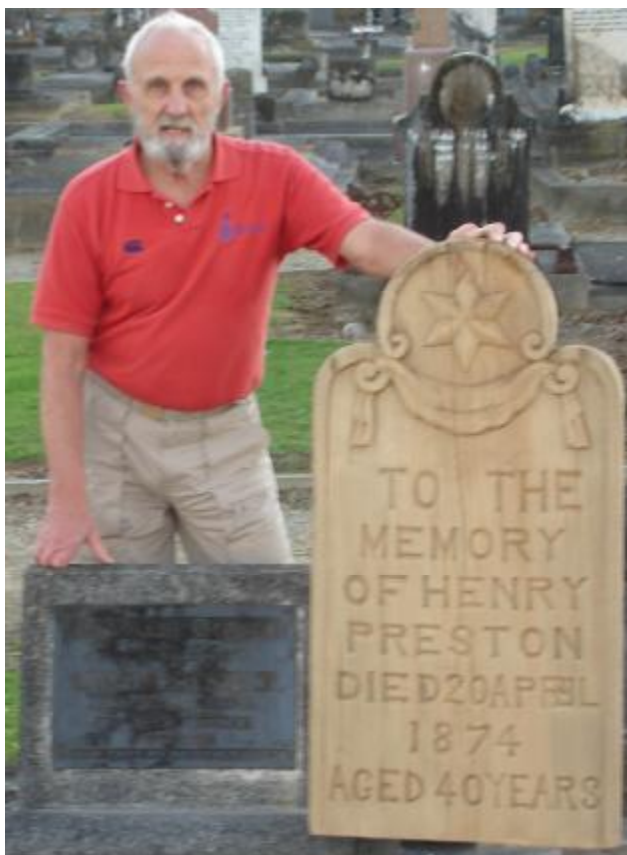
Editor: David Dunsheath

Notice of 31st Annual General Meeting
5.45 PM MONDAY, 2 JULY 2007 (*with refreshments from 5.15 pm*)
TURNBULL HOUSE, 25 BOWEN STREET, WELLINGTON

Refer to Agenda located inside front cover

Immediately following this AGM, Rodney Read (a former Supervisor, Heritage Rose Collection at the Memorial Park) will talk about his recent visit to the historic Northern Cemetery in Dunedin and what lessons we might draw from that conservation and other work.

Also, Donald MacKay will formally present to the Friends a remarkable, carved, heart totara memorial to Henry Preston's grave, which has been missing for about 38 years (see story: Henry Preston Memorial Rediscovered, page 7).



Donald with headboard at the Mangatainoka grave of Henry's wife, Ruth.

Photos: Donald MacKay

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see cover for date and time)

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 30th AGM (see page 8)
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. Chairman's report (see page 3)
5. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council
6. Treasurer's report and financial statements (see page 10)
7. Election of Committee (we invite members to participate in rewarding roles)
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Proposed rule amendments (see below for Motions 1 and 2)
10. General business

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Notice of Motion (1)

That in Clauses 8, 10 and 12.2, the word **Chairman** be replaced by **President** and in Clauses 8 and 12.2 the word **Deputy Chairman** be replaced by **Vice-President**.

Explanatory note: This change brings us into line with other similar Friends Organisations, such as the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden, and are terms customarily used nowadays as they are non-gender specific.

Notice of Motion (2)

That a new clause be inserted as 11.7 under Rule 11. Powers as follows:

To appoint **Honorary Patrons** from time to time.

Explanatory note: This change allows us to approach someone deemed suitable to hold the role of Honorary Patron at any stage, without restricting the term of appointment in any way.

IN MEMORIAM: MAC MCCORMICK (1910 – 2007)

The Friends record with great regret the death on 31 May 2007 of Mac (Archibald) McCormick. Mac was awarded honorary life membership of the Friends in 2004 for his 25 years as foundation committee member from 1977 until 2002. He held various roles including Treasurer and tour guide. He is well remembered for his untiring interest in research into personalities buried within the Park and his maintenance of graves (refer newsletters 55 & 58). We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Yvonne.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2006-2007

Although our financial year is from April to March, this report covers the year from our last AGM in early July until the time of writing in May/June, paralleling the annual report which is customarily provided at the AGM by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens. The July AGM forms a natural break as our activities slow down over the winter months.

Just over thirty years ago, in response to the motorway construction, the Friends' group was formed with the aim of "helping to preserve, protect and develop the wooded and historic atmosphere of the cemetery-park for the benefit of all". Over the past three decades have been many milestones such as the publication of the cemetery's history, settlement of the final land area, rebuilding of the chapel, formal opening of the park, compilation of the burial list, addition of the Morva Williams garden. In this past year, we can note two more milestones, the first of which is crucial to the heritage restoration work. *Bolton Street Memorial Park Maintenance and Repair Guidelines for Graves and Memorials*, commissioned by the Council, have now been produced by landscape architects Titchener Monzingo Aitken and conservation architect Chris Cochran. Input into the guidelines was made by the Friends over the past two years. This report is already proving a valuable reference work but it is also an evolving document since many repair projects provide fresh challenges and require new solutions.

With the report's completion, work has now started on restoration and we are delighted that in recent months ten graves, mainly masonry ones, have been repaired by a skilled restorer. This is a modest start and the scope of the task is put in context by our list of heritage restoration work which currently contains about 130 entries for graves and memorials needing repairs. The list grows through continued damage, of which the most dramatic in the past year was the fall of a large elm tree near the Easdale entrance, breaking about eight graves in the vicinity. The Committee has continued intensive work on compilation of the *Heritage Works Programme* using an assessment system contained in the guidelines. We hope that with the promise from the Council of increased funding, a greater number of repairs will be completed annually in coming years. These will become more complex to arrange, especially the fragile wooden structures and the traditional iron work.

The other important achievement has been the launch of a website by the Friends last August (www.boltoncemetery.org.nz). There are several hundred visits to the site each month which means we are now reaching a much wider audience than by the more traditional means. The most popular page on the website is the Burial List, presumably because of the many people researching their family genealogy. More work remains to be done in electronic recording of the Burial List in conjunction with Council records and in expanding the historical material under selected entries. Several enquiries are received each month about those buried in the cemetery; many of these enquiries are now generated from the website and it is obviously a popular tool, especially for those out of Wellington.

There is now a new pamphlet written by the Friends and produced by the Council which describes how to locate memorials and take care of them. Copies are kept in the chapel for public use. The trail map continues to be well used by local and foreign visitors to the park but will need updating soon. Tours are run regularly either in association with Botanic Garden events or in response to requests from groups. Again the website is a useful means of publicising tour arrangements and the donations we receive from participants help our funds.

The annual programme now includes working bees about four times a year each of which attracts typically about a dozen keen participants. These tackle the more overgrown areas of the cemetery where memorials are gradually disappearing from view. As grave cleaning is an important part of the working bees, we have to be within reach of piped water which presents an additional challenge because of the scarcity of taps in the cemetery. These working bees are very rewarding, especially when buried gravestones are unearthed or made legible.

Our membership grows modestly and steadily, especially through those who have ancestors interred in the park. I should like to acknowledge those who have helped with funding through general donations or ones specifically applied to burial sites. Mr Ian Stewart's contribution to the Wallace graves has been a notable contribution this year. Our special gratitude is due also to a most generous bequest from the late Mrs Loeber of \$10,000. The newsletter provides greater details on these and also on the exciting discovery by Donald MacKay of the long-missing wooden Preston grave marker.

Once again we have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, David Sole, and his staff, including the Rose Garden team headed by Rachel Solomon who has responsibility for the Memorial Park. We are conscious that David's task is not easy as he balances the various heritage and gardening issues but his positive and sensitive approach is greatly appreciated. Finally I should like to acknowledge the hard work of the committee, namely David Dunsheath (Deputy Chair, working bee convenor, works programme co-ordinator, newsletter editor), John Daniels (conservation, guide), Nick Perrin (research, history, guide), Judy Bale (tours manager, publicity, guide), Kate Fortune (treasurer, membership secretary, guide), Diana Marsh (minutes secretary, publicity, website), Terry Brandon (legal and constitutional issues) and Anne Brosnahan (distribution). Progress made during the year has been possible only because of their enthusiasm and hard work.

Priscilla Williams (Chairman) May 2007

THE LONGFELLOW POEM ON THE WALLACE GRAVES

Surely the most tragic set of graves in the Memorial Park is that belonging to the Wallace family, who lost six children from scarlet fever. Five of these died in May 1865 and one son three months later. The father, John Wallace, was co-author of a history on New Zealand and a trustee of the public cemetery. The extent of the family loss makes this set of four graves a noted stop during guided tours in the park (ref Memorial Trail marker 33 on Carr Path, grid L14-19). We like to draw attention also to the unusual iron markers which have individual plates for each child's death. Overlooked until recently was a large marble stone standing in the row with the two metal markers and one marble memorial. I am sure that many like me merely noticed that it had extensive carved lettering which was illegible.



Photo: David Dunsheath

Last year Mr Ian Stewart of Waikanae contacted us to express his concern about the state of this stone. He told us it contained the full text of a poem by Henry W. Longfellow entitled "*The Reaper and the Flowers*" and that he recalled being able to read this as a child, although even then it was not particularly clear. He wondered if he might have the stone restored to its original state. We were reluctant to agree immediately as the guidelines for restoration work had yet to be completed and we wished to see these in final form before deciding whether or how the poem stone might be restored. Ian, not easily deterred, arranged the necessary permit himself from the Karori Cemetery and then commissioned the work which included painting and sanding back the marble.

The result is striking as the lettering is now in black, standing out against the gleaming white marble. No-one on Carr Path can fail to notice the poem and it is read with great interest by visitors to the grave site. By modern standards the words are overly sentimental but they are a wonderful example of Victorian mourning literature and a moving testimonial to the parents' grief on the loss of their six children. We are most grateful to Ian for his initiative and his generosity in funding this work.

His action is all the more remarkable since his connection is not with the Wallace graves but the Chirnside family graves on the upper side of the motorway. Ian has written a lively family history entitled "*The Twigs of My Tree*" (2006). Of special interest to us is Ann Chirnside, Ian's aunt, who died in January 1967. She had stipulated she was to be buried in the family plot in the Sydney Street Cemetery. The timing was tight, because the motorway construction was starting, but the family insisted and she was thus buried and very soon after reinterred in the mass grave. The Chirnside headstone was re-erected on the bank near the top end of the footbridge. Beside it is a plaque recording that Ann Chirnside was the last person to be interred in the cemetery.

Priscilla Williams

IN MEMORIAM: JOAN LOEBER (1914-2007)

Joan Frances MacKenzie Loeber, a long-time member of the Friends of the Bolton Street Memorial Park, died on 25 March 2007. She left a generous bequest of \$10,000 to the Friends, in order to assist the conservation work which she strongly supported. In recent years the Loeber family paid for cleaning and repairs to the Pudney/Dennis grave in the Park. As noted in Newsletter No. 59, Cyril Loeber's ashes were interred there in April 2005.



A great-great-granddaughter of Joseph Pudney, who arrived in Petone on the Aurora in 1840, Joan Loeber (née Boyle) was born in 1914, the eldest of three children. She attended Auckland Girls Grammar School and was Runner-up to Dux in her final year. She trained as a registered nurse, achieving a gold medal for top marks when she graduated, and started work at Wellington Hospital in 1934. Nursing archives bear witness to her keen commitment to her nursing career, but the war destroyed her hopes for post-graduate study. In 1939 she married Cyril Charles Loeber, who established a successful restorative dentistry business in Wellington. While raising two sons, Joan supported him in every way – a great hostess and a cordon bleu cook. In later life, she returned to nursing at a diabetic clinic, and also managed Cyril's dental practice.

Kate Fortune

RECENT TOURS

FoBSMP have arranged and guided three tours in recent months. One on Waitangi day, two during May and have another one booked for July.

The Waitangi Day Tour for the Onslow Historic Society attracted about 40 participants and due to a warm sunny day, it was enjoyed by all. John and Priscilla were the guides.



During May, Kate conducted a tour for a small group from Defence and Priscilla and Kate led a tour of 29 for the Hutt Probus Group.

We have another tour booked for July. The donations given for the tours all go towards the fund for restoring and maintaining the grave markers in the Park.

Hutt Probus tour – Photo: Jaye Howey

Judy Bale

HENRY PRESTON MEMORIAL REDISCOVERED

The wooden, heart totara, grave memorial of Henry Preston went 'absent without leave' shortly after Henry's grave was dismantled in 1969 and his remains had been re-interred in the mass grave prior to the motorway construction. But for the persistence of family historian Donald MacKay of Lower Hutt, it is highly likely it would have been lost forever. The sequence and timeliness of events leading to his rediscovery of this memorial is remarkable.

Henry Preston, a forty-year-old settler farmer, was killed instantly when buried under a fall of earth from an excavated bank face. Following an inquest, Henry was buried on 22 April 1874 in the original Public Cemetery area in a prominent position (recorded as plot 81.B) beside the steep main path from the Sydney Street entrance. Henry's grave was marked with a distinctive wooden memorial, consisting of his details carved into a solid totara timber slab, which stood over one meter out of the ground and almost 60 cm wide. (Refer to cover photos)

At the time of its dismantling this memorial was regarded as a real museum piece and a photo of it was included in a brochure put out by the cemetery organization, as well as a feature in the Alexander Turnbull Library's Bolton Street Cemetery records. It was significant enough to feature in Margaret Alington's book, *Unquiet Earth*, (1978) Wellington City Council and Ministry of Works and Development, (page 290), where it was noted as having unfortunately disappeared.

A grandson of Henry Preston apparently took possession of the totara headboard for safe keeping after its dismantling and from all accounts had passed it over to a museum, rumoured to be in the Wairarapa. By the late 1980s all those people who would have known its whereabouts had died and the memorial's whereabouts was unknown.

When Donald first learned that it was missing, he commenced his search that ended in March this year. In Donald's words, "After a period of almost 20 years of searching, the paranormal sequence of events that were to lead to Henry's reunification with Bolton Street Cemetery was to happen over a period of hours". "...Through a series of events that seems to have been co-ordinated by a supernatural power, [he] made contact with Bruce and Marilyn [Jamieson]." The latter were caring for the memorial in their Rotorua garden having saved it from a truck full of rubbish destined for the Rotorua tip. They had no idea about where it originated/belonged or knowledge of descendants.

Donald's long search throughout museums in the lower North Island eventually extended as far north as Rotorua. Within days of Donald permanently abandoning this 20-year quest because of work priorities, a remarkable series of communications and coincidences led to his solving of the puzzle.

We invite you to attend Donald's presentation of this memorial to the Friends, during our AGM evening (details on front cover). We aim to give you an account of his remarkable tale in our next newsletter.

Sourced from Donald MacKay

THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 3 July 2006 at 5.45 pm at Turnbull House, Wellington

1. PRESENT

28 members were present.

2. APOLOGIES

John & Jenny Daniels, David & Joy Dunsheath, Peter & Lynley Hyams, Judith Trotter, John Webster

3. MINUTES OF THE 29TH AGM

There were no amendments. Moved (Kate Fortune/Judy Bale) that minutes of the 29th AGM held 18 July 2005 be approved as a true and correct record. *CARRIED*

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES None

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Priscilla Williams' report, previously published in newsletter 61, was taken as read. At the meeting she reported that it had been a busy year with many positive outcomes. The 4 Decades Report was virtually completed, and this will be a considerable asset. There have been several working bees over the last year and these had resulted in uncovering two previously untraced gravestones.

A comprehensive work audit of the graves and headstones has been completed by the committee. There are at least 210 entries which have been divided into the types of work required, and then prioritised. These priorities will be addressed in accordance with the 4 Decades report. Progress with repairs last year was limited because of the commissioning of the 4 Decades report, while the previous year's budget was spent on restoration of the vandalised Jewish graves.

Priscilla thanked Nick Perrin for the website he has maintained on behalf of the Friends. The committee has now decided to develop a stand alone website which is nearly completed and should be on-line within the next few weeks. The website was not been mentioned in the Chairperson's printed report, as this initiative was undertaken after the report had been published.

Karl Bale congratulated the committee on the progress that had been made on the work audit of the park. Priscilla thanked David Dunsheath for his hard work in putting the database together.

Moved (Priscilla Williams/Karl Bale) that Chairperson's report be accepted.

CARRIED

6. REPORT BY THE MANAGER OF THE BOTANIC GARDENS, WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Gardens, presented his annual report on the Bolton Street Memorial Park commenting on various matters such as tree removal and relocation of the Turnbull headstone. The full text of his report will be published in newsletter 62.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report previously published in newsletter 61. She commented that accumulated funds had increased by 23%. This had been prior to the increase in subscriptions charges and reflects a growth in membership. Membership had increased numerically by 17% and in income by 20%. Corporate donors have increased from two to four.

Moved (Kate Fortune/ Anne Brosnahan) that the Treasurer's Report be approved.

CARRIED

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following were nominated for office and were elected as follows:

Priscilla Williams, Chairperson	(Kate Fortune/Judy Bale)
David Dunsheath, Deputy Chairperson	(Terry Brandon/Jane Aim)
Diana Marsh, Secretary	(Nick Perrin/Kate Fortune)
Kate Fortune, Treasurer & Membership Secretary	(Judy Bale/Sheila Williams)
Committee Members:	(Sheila Williams/Bill Alington)
Judy Bale, Terry Brandon, Anne Brosnahan, John Daniels, Nick Perrin.	

10. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Terence Leamy who has been the previous auditor was thanked for his excellent work and for his greatly reduced fee. David Underwood has been nominated as the new auditor and has generously agreed to do the work for no charge.

Moved (Kate Fortune/Priscilla Williams) that David Underwood be appointed as the new auditor of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park.

CARRIED

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

There being no further business, Priscilla Williams declared the meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Stewart Harvey, Chairman of the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand on the work of the Trust and problems in conserving the old gravestones around New Zealand.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2006-07

Priscilla Williams	Chairperson	priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 977 4667
David Dunsheath	Deputy Chairperson	symbian@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 8405
Kate Fortune	Treasurer & membership	kate.fortune@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 970 0024
Judy Bale	Tour coordination & publicity	Sommerfields@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 499 8588
Nick Perrin	Biographical & burial research	n.perrin@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 3767

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

		<u>31 Mar 07</u>	<u>31 Mar 06</u>
		\$	\$
Income	Donations & tours	843	2,418
	Interest	122	0
	Subscriptions – current year	1,805	1,020
	– in arrears	<u>110</u>	<u>50</u>
		<u>2,880</u>	<u>3,488</u>
LESS Expenses	Annual General Meeting	530	188
	Cleaning products / hose	182	59
	HCCTNZ subscription	90	90
	Memorial seat	0	1,400
	Postage	104	100
	P O Box Rental	62	62
	Printing, Stationery, Copying	736	572
	Storage cabinet / Shelving	0	191
	Website	<u>1,276</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>2,980</u>	<u>2,662</u>
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		<u>(100)</u>	<u>826</u>

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds – at start of year	4,406	3,580
Less Deficit /plus Surplus for the year	<u>(100)</u>	<u>826</u>
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>\$ 4,306</u>	<u>\$ 4,406</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2007

		<u>31 Mar 07</u>	<u>31 Mar 06</u>
		\$	\$
Accumulated Funds		4,306	4,406
Represented By:			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation	- Current	700	1,436
	- Savings	<u>3,666</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>4,366</u>	<u>4,436</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions in advance		60	30
Sundry Creditors		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>60</u>	<u>30</u>
NET ASSETS AND WORKING CAPITAL		<u>\$4,306</u>	<u>\$4,406</u>

Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer) 11 May 2007

The Auditor's Report dated 20 May 2007 has been received with the qualified opinion: "In common with other organisations of similar nature, control over revenues from donations prior to being recorded is limited".

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The recently completed *Bolton Street Memorial Park: Maintenance and Repair Guidelines for Graves and Memorials* booklet is greatly welcomed by the committee. It was commissioned by the Council from our urgings of several years ago, and produced by landscape architects Titchener Monzingo Aitken and conservation architect Chris Cochran. It provides a critically important layer of detailed planning and practical information to underpin the high-level *Management Plan* for the Park. The committee has worked closely with David Sole of the Council and the authors, to ensure these guidelines are relevant and workable for those that will need to use them. We recognise it as a dynamic work-in-progress that will need periodic updating as new issues arise and more information is gathered.

Working bees (Maintenance)

Two working bees have been held since last newsletter, making a total of four for the 2006/07 season. A small group of members armed with scrubbing brushes and gardening equipment attended each. We continued our maintenance work in the 'wilderness' area of the park at the lower ends of Powles and Observatory Paths adjacent to the west side of the motorway. A couple of memorials were unearthed and fragments found, many others were gently cleaned to make inscriptions more legible, and yet others were cleared of vegetation and surrounding branches that had obscured them from passers-by.

The extent and nature of our maintenance work is now guided by the above *Guidelines*, to ensure we DO AS MUCH AS NECESSARY BUT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, to balance present maintenance needs with our responsibility to extend the lives of these fragile artefacts for future generations. For example, the gentle cleaning of an inscription with appropriate techniques might allow it to be once again readable whereas over-zealous cleaning may do irreparable damage. More detailed information is available via links from our website www.boltoncemetery.org.nz.

By popular demand we will, in future, alternate between Saturday and Sunday mornings. Advertising of working bee dates has been by broadcast emails to the many Wellington, and sometimes all members, who have offered an email address on their subscription renewal forms. Other means of advertising have not been pursued at this stage. Next seasons' working bees are tentatively scheduled 9:30 to 11:30 am on the following dates - for your diaries:

- Saturday 13 October 07
- Sunday 18 November 07
- Saturday 16 February 08
- Sunday 16 March 08

Assembly points and other guidance to participants, e.g. tools to bring with you, will be provided via broadcast email sent approx 3 weeks prior to each date. Enquiries are also most welcome - please contact me or other committee members.

Heritage Work (repairs and restoration)

As reported in previous newsletters, your committee continues to refine its survey of artefacts within the Park to identify and prioritise repair work considered necessary and feasible to reduce risk of damage, arrest decay, restore or reconstruct specific graves and memorials. Findings are recorded in our *Heritage Work Programme* which currently contains approx 130 entries in categories to indicate the type of expertise needed. Example categories are: ‘masonry’ (50 entries); ‘metal’ (36); ‘wood’ (28). A number of graves have more than one categorised entry to address the overall extent of work required for each. Importantly, we have also recorded repair work completed by the Council’s contractors in recent years.

Our initial prioritisation scoring scheme enabled us for the first time, to directly assist the Council in its choice of ten graves that were repaired by contractor this year ending June 2007. An improved prioritisation scoring scheme has since been adopted from the recently completed *Guidelines* (refer page 11). *David Dunsheath*



Repair of the Widdop memorial (grid F10-1) on Trustees Crescent path.

Photo: Priscilla Williams