

FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK INCORPORATED

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Editor: David Dunsheath

http://www.boltonoometowy.org.ng

http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz

NEWSLETTER No 65 JUNE 2008

NOTICE OF 32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5.45 pm WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2008 (with refreshments from 5.15 pm) at TURNBULL HOUSE, 25 BOWEN STREET, WELLINGTON immediately followed by AN ILLUSTRATED TALK by JILL TREVELYAN on RITA ANGUS and the BOLTON STREET CEMETERY

Jill Trevelyan is the author of the recently published comprehensive biography entitled *Rita Angus: An Artist's Life.* She is also co-curator of the centenary retrospective on Rita Angus which opens at Te Papa on 5 July. Jill has noted in a recent interview that when Rita died in 1970 she was in the middle of an amazing burst of creativity – works inspired by the demolition of the Bolton St Cemetery. These poignant works will be on show at Te Papa. Jill's talk is therefore very timely and will be a fascinating account of the famous artist's relationship with the historic cemetery. We hope as many members as possible will come.



The Alberic Barbier old French rambler rose responds to pruning by a late flowering in May, making a dramatic contrast against the dark slate tombstone of Caroline Head. See story on page 2.

Photo Priscilla Williams

VOLUNTEER GARDENER, ANNE PARKER

Below the Easdale Street entrance and above the gully leading into the Morva Williams garden, lies a group of graves that are often overlooked, as they are sandwiched between two sets of steps. In this area was a large elm tree which fell down in 2006 breaking several headstones which we hope will be repaired by the time this newsletter is published.

In 2007 Wellingtonian Anne Parker adopted the area as a gardening challenge and has put in many hours of hard but rewarding work since. She is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic gardener who does this task "for the love of it", enjoying the atmosphere and the history of the cemetery. Another reward is the positive feedback from those walking through on the Powles Path or stopping to use the seat facing out to the city. On the front cover is a photograph of a heritage rose which Anne has been caring for and is responding to her attention – Alberic Barbier which is grown frequently around Wellington but rarely in a setting as dramatic as this.

If you have not been to this part of the park for some time, it is worth a visit – to admire Anne's gardening skills, to see the repaired and slightly relocated gravestones and to explore the graves on the steep bank which is now being cleared, thanks to tree manager James Jones.

Furthermore, if you have gardening skills not fully satisfied by work in your own backyard, do join our working bees or contact a member of the committee to adopt a few graves of your own. But beware – it is hard work and addictive.

Priscilla Williams

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see cover for date and time)

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 31st AGM (see page 8 of this newsletter)
- 3. Matters arising from minutes
- 4. President'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 11)
- 7. Election of Committee
- 8. Appointment of Auditor
- 9. General business

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: JULY 2007 TO JUNE 08

There is no such thing as a dull year in the historic cemetery business. However after a series of major initiatives, it was a relief to spend much of the year under review consolidating our work programme and refining our data bases. The focus has continued to be on the protection and restoration of the historic graves. With an improved financial grant from the Council three large tombstones have been reerected and another eight or ten grave markers should be repaired before the end of the Council's financial year. Several of these are ones damaged by the elm tree fall in November 2006. (The November 2006 newsletter has a dramatic photograph of that damage.) The most exciting restoration project was that of the Turnbull tombstone, described elsewhere in this newsletter and one which was funded by the Friends of Turnbull Library. Our warm thanks to them for their generosity and also for their interest in developing other aspects of this project, such as a notice board and a seat.

All these repairs have been on masonry tombstones or bases, whether marble, sandstone, granite or concrete. We have been aware, however, that much more serious challenges lie ahead in the form of the unique wooden markers and the lovely ironwork which distinguish this cemetery from modern ones. To start the next stage, we have undertaken an audit of all the wooden grave markers in the cemetery and have found 27 in total. Some are small crosses still in-ground, including one newly discovered on a recently cleared bank. Others are large wooden slabs in-ground and several are in storage for better protection. Almost all need conservation urgently and most have already lost their lettering. An article elsewhere in this newsletter by John Daniels describes the problems and possible solutions and the Committee has decided that in the following financial year we should concentrate on restoring and conserving as many of these wooden items as our time and funds will allow. In this project we are assisted by the Maintenance and Repair Guidelines and also continue to draw on the invaluable advice of conservator Chris Cochran for whose support we are most grateful.

In one way the year has been particularly memorable. The large conifers which are so much a defining characteristic of the cemetery – and indeed other parts of Wellington – are reaching the end of their natural life, having been planted at an early stage of the city's history. Three macrocarpas near the Hort Lawn were removed a year ago and another two very large trees, both radiata pines near the motorway in the upper section of the park, were taken out in April. These removals inevitably change the landscape but we hope that tree plantings planned for this winter will further enhance the Park's natural features.

Both our membership and our funds are in a healthy state. Using our money as a catalyst for one-off projects seems desirable and we are proposing for example to initiate another Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey to look at what may lie beneath the ground in some areas of uncertainty. One section requiring exploration is the lawn near the base of the overbridge.

Regular working bees are another opportunity to explore in detail specific areas and at times these resemble an archaeological dig as we discover buried and long forgotten grave markers. The working bees are proving to be a most enjoyable way of involving the wider membership. Thank you so much to all who have participated. Four more are planned for the coming year.

Our website, launched almost two years ago, is now a permanent feature of our work. The number of unique visitors to the site continues to increase and now averages around 700 to 800 a month. Most of these are reading the burial list and in response to an obvious demand we are gradually expanding the information on that section, for example to include the inscriptions on the grave markers. This is a long job and one funded from our own finances. Specific enquiries following up website searches are increasing and can take up considerable time. The Karori Cemetery has now published its burial list on the web which also includes data for the Bolton St and Sydney St cemeteries, but in a slightly different and more condensed form. We see this as a complementary asset.

Special thanks are due to David Sole, Manager Botanic Gardens, and his staff for their work, support and encouragement. Although David was seconded to another job for much of the year, he continued to engage with us and this extra outreach was greatly appreciated. Finally I should like to pay tribute yet again to all committee members¹ – a very special group who have dedicated their not inconsiderable talents over the past year in several fields of expertise. Without their services, no progress would be possible.

Priscilla Williams

FRAGILE HERITAGE – WOODEN HEADBOARDS

Looking at the cemetery today, one would think that most grave markers were of stone and/or concrete. However, in the nineteenth century (and perhaps even later) many markers were wooden. Over time, most of the wooden boards have disappeared, inevitably so considering natural deterioration and the overgrown state of the cemetery over many years.

As conservation of the cemetery came to the fore following the advent of the motorway, some of the more fragile headboards were removed, conserved, and installed in the rebuilt chapel. Others were relocated from the motorway area or left at their original sites.



Pike headboard after post-motorway relocation. Photo Priscilla Williams

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¹ Committee members are listed on page 10.

Recently the Friends committee has become increasingly concerned about the future of these boards. As a group they are a precious and at risk heritage resource.

Concern was in part sparked by the case of the Elizabeth Pike board. Descendants of Elizabeth raised the question of what should be done to conserve the board and renew the badly deteriorated lettering. The board had been relocated from the motorway area, and replaced straight into the ground (pictured on p 4). The base has rotted badly, leaving a jagged and fragile bottom edge (pictured below). The painted inscription is only partly legible and in parlous condition. On close examination it was seen that the inscription had been repainted at some early stage, so that traces of both inscriptions were visible. After some clever research by the family and the Friends, the original inscription was established. After consultation with architect Chris Cochran, a number of options for stabilising and re-erecting the board were put forward and these are being discussed with the family.

What to do about the old lettering? Naturally, the family would like to repaint this so that the inscription can be read again. An example of this approach is the repainted Dorset board in the lower area near the motorway wall. This raises some classic conservation issues. Covering the earlier lettering would lose interesting heritage

fabric. Another option would be to stabilise the old lettering as is, probably with a transparent sealer coat, but of course it would not be very readable. These options are also being discussed.

The Pike board prompted the committee to focus this fragile on wooden heritage. A survey has brought to light 27 of Their condition these. varies from fragile to fair. Problems range from splits and cracks, where moisture can enter and encourage rot and mould, to quite advanced rot and fungus infection. Some boards



Pike headboard deterioration. Photo Priscilla Williams

may need to be removed from the ground altogether, and others remounted. Others are sturdy wooden slabs (mostly totara) which, with simple wood conservation treatment, should be good for many years. Sadly, most of the original painted inscriptions have long ago disappeared, and it is unlikely that these would be repainted.

John Daniels

WILLIAM MCKINSTRY, 1860 - 1898

The tragic case of the death of William McKinstry due to a collision between two yachts during a race on Wellington Harbour on 29th January 1898, is recorded on his headstone, which reads:

'In Loving Memory of William McKinstry, who was drowned through collision of yacht "Novice" and "Iris", 29 January 1898, aged 38. "Gone but not forgotten". Also Rubina May, daughter of the above, died 23 February 1891, aged 3 months."



William was buried with his infant daughter on 12th February 1898, in plot 4713. Their grave was later disinterred for the motorway and their reinstated headstone is at grid D14 06.

The "Evening Post" of 31st January 1898 has details of the accident under the headline "A YACHT SUNK AND HER CAPTAIN DROWNED". It says the "Novice" was a yacht of 5 tons with a crew of 8, and was run into by the "Iris" (3 tons) during a race. The "Novice" sank in two minutes. Despite being a keen yachtsman, William could not swim, and possibly did not jump with the others because he was tangled in the rigging. The news story ends with the following biographical information:

"The late Mr M'Kinstry was about 37 years of age, and he left a widow (daughter of Mr G.W. Chandler of Wellington) and a family of three. In his youth he had followed the sea for a livelihood, but on reaching man's estate he obtained an appointment in the Wellington pilot service. Afterwards he became messenger in the Wellington branch of the Bank of New Zealand and remained there until about two or three years ago. Since then he has been employed as a painter in and about the city. He was an expert yachtsman, and very much liked. Great sympathy will be felt for Mrs M'Kinstry (who is in delicate health) and her children in their bereavement." (Note – she was seven months pregnant, hence "delicate health".)

His body was found washed up at Kau Bay on 11th February and identified by Mr Carrick, the owner of the "Novice". After an inquest the same day, his funeral took place on 12 February. Although it was found that the "Iris" was to blame for his death, no further action was taken and an out-of-court settlement was made.

As was common in the days before there was any sort of social welfare, the widow and children were assisted by fund-raising concerts and donations. Notably, concerts by the Wellington Garrison Band and Jupp's Private Band were staged to raise money to assist them, and the Wellington Naval Artillery Brigade also collected donations.

Nick Perrin, with thanks to Gail McKinstry for details, photographs and permission to publish

ALEXANDER CROWE

New Zealand Medal (2072 Sergeant, 65th Regiment), Imperial Volunteer Decoration (Lieutenant-Colonel, Unattached List 31/12/1888), NZ Long and Efficient Service Medal (Lieutenant-Colonel, Unattached Active List 1892).

Alexander Crowe was born in Ireland on 26th August 1825. He enlisted in the 65th Regiment with the number 2072 on 14th July 1843, and embarked for Australia on 10th December 1845. He arrived in Wellington on the 27th July 1846 on board the "Levant", and then trans-shipped onto HMS "Calliope" for the journey to the regiment's station at Porirua. Crowe served with his regiment right through to 24th April 1866², when he took his discharge. He was awarded the New Zealand Medal on the roll of the 65th Regiment.



Crowe entered the local military forces on 28th October 1867 when he enrolled in the Veteran Volunteer Corps with the rank of Colour-sergeant. On 14th June 1870 he was appointed Captain of the Wellington Veteran Rifle Volunteers, and on 6th May 1885 was promoted to the staff of the 1st Battalion, Wellington Rifle Volunteers with the rank of major. Promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel came on 8th October 1886 and command of the 1st Battalion. He was posted to the Retired List on 24th February 1903.



Headstone of A. Crowe, at Bolton St. Cemetery. Photo Nick Perrin

After his discharge from the Imperial forces in 1886, Crowe was employed as a clerk in the civil service and as assistant store-keeper of the Defence Department. He received both an Imperial pension and superannuation from the civil service. Crowe married a sister of Wellington prominent solicitor John Thompson and had a family of two sons and one daughter. Alexander Crowe died in Wellington, at the home of his daughter, on 19th May 1913 and is buried in Bolton Street Memorial Park just off the Madely Path in grid J15 01.

Our thanks to Phil Beattie for research, article and permission to publish this article

² Crowe's obituary gives his discharge date as 31st January 1866 (*Evening Post* 19 May 1913, p.7), as does the NZ medal roll.

MINUTES OF THE 31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held Monday 2 July 2007 at 5.45 Pm at Turnbull House, Wellington

1. PRESENT

23 members were present as well as about 12 members of the Henry Preston family.

2. APOLOGIES

David Sole, Diana Marsh & Francis Cooke, Malcolm McKinnon, Terry & Jocelyn Brandon, Joy Dunsheath, Vivienne Bogle.

3. MINUTES OF THE 30th AGM

There were no amendments. **Moved** (Kate Fortune/David Dunsheath) that the minutes of the 30th AGM held on Monday 3 July 2006 be approved as a true and correct record. *CARRIED*

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Margaret Alington asked whether the trees in the Park are regularly inspected by the Parks staff in view of the recent damage caused by a partially collapsing elm.

Leanne Killalea, speaking on behalf of the Botanic Gardens staff, replied that the collapse was unexpected but that this sometimes occurs. Leanne confirmed that the damaged gravestones would be repaired.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Priscilla Williams' report, previously published in Newsletter 63, was taken as read.

Priscilla commented on the recent death of a Foundation Member of the Friends, Mac McCormick, who served on the Committee for many years, including as Treasurer. He has left a great deal of valuable written information related to the Park, some of which has still to be processed. Priscilla and others acknowledged his significant contribution.

Priscilla also noted that three large macrocarpas were felled the previous week and that this decision had been taken after considerable consultation, including with the Friends' Committee. In providing written confirmation of their agreement, the Committee noted that a priority must be to protect the remaining gravestones, as there are now only about 600 graves still in their original position. Two gravestones were damaged in the tree removal.

Hugh Templeton congratulated Priscilla on her report. **Moved** (Priscilla Williams/David Dunsheath) that Chairperson's report be accepted. *CARRIED*

6. REPORT BY THE MANAGER OF THE BOTANIC GARDENS, WCC.

Leanne Killalea Acting Manager of the Botanic Gardens, presented the annual report on the Bolton Street Memorial Park on behalf of the Manager, David Sole. She commented on improvements to the Sexton's Cottage, on vandalism, signage, grave repairs and tree removal. The full text of this report is published in Newsletter 64.

Hugh Templeton enquired as to the future use of the Sexton's cottage and Leanne confirmed that it will be used as an Artists-in-Residence accommodation.

Councillor Ian McKinnon explained that an anti graffiti flying squad has been set up by the WCC to combat the surge of graffiti in the City, and noted that graffiti should be reported to the Council as soon as it is noticed.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report previously published in Newsletter 63. She commented that subscriptions had increased this year although donations were less. Expenditure was similar to the previous year and a major new item had been the website which has been a great success and well worth the expenditure.

Kate noted that Joan Loeber, a long-standing member has left a bequest to the Friends of ten thousand dollars which is a most generous gift. **Moved** (Kate Fortune/Priscilla Williams) that the Treasurer's Report be received.

CARRIED

CARRIED

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following were nominated for office and were elected:

Priscilla Williams, Chairperson (David Dunsheath/ Kate Fortune)

David Dunsheath, Deputy Chairperson (Priscilla Williams/ Hugh Templeton)

Diana Marsh, Secretary (Judy Bale/ Kate Fortune)

Kate Fortune, Treasurer & Membership Secretary (Sheila Williams/ Judith Trotter)

Committee Members: (Sheila Williams/ Hugh Templeton)

Judy Bale, Terry Brandon, John Daniels, Nick Perrin

10. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Priscilla thanked David Underwood for his much appreciated voluntary work.

Moved (Priscilla Williams/Kate Fortune) that David Underwood be reappointed as auditor.

CARRIED

11. PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

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".

Priscilla Williams explained to the meeting that the proposed change brings Friends into line with other similar Friends organisations, such as Friends of the Wellington Botanic Gardens, and are terms often used nowadays as they are non-gender specific.

Moved Priscilla Williams / Natasha Templeton

CARRIED

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."

Priscilla Williams explained that the change allows Friends to approach someone deemed suitable to hold the role of Honorary Patron at any stage, without restricting the term of appointment in any way. **Moved** Kate Fortune/David Dunsheath *CARRIED*

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation of the Henry Preston grave marker by descendant Donald Mackay.

Twelve Preston family members were present as Donald related the story of how the marker had been missing and how he relocated it after 20 years of searching. The article in the June 2007 newsletter contains an account of this fascinating story³.

Donald formally presented the totara marker and his book relating the history of the search to the FoBSMP on behalf of the descendents present at the AGM. On behalf of the City Council, Councillor McKinnon thanked the family for contributing a treasure which is so valuable to the history of Wellington.

Priscilla noted the inclusion of the photograph of the Preston marker in Margaret Alington's book "Unquiet Earth". She thanked all concerned, especially Donald for his work and the Preston Family for their generous offer to pay for a display case in the chapel, in the hope that permission will be forthcoming to locate it there.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 6.35 pm.

Guest Speaker Rodney Read

The formal meeting was followed by an address by Rodney Read, past supervisor of the Bolton Street Memorial Park on his recent visit to Dunedin's Northern Cemetery⁴.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2007-08					
Priscilla Williams	President, policy, historical research, tour guide	priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 977 4667			
David Dunsheath	Vice President, working bees, newsletter editor	symbian@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 8405			
Kate Fortune	Membership Secretary, Treasurer, tour guide	kate.fortune@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 970 0024			
Karen Adair	Minutes secretary, heritage work programme database,	karen.adair@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 473 1778			
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Diana Marsh	Website, publicity	francis.diana@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 499 8860			
John Daniels	Conservation, tour guide	jr.daniels@clear.net.nz Tel (04) 938 7971			
Judy Bale	Tour coordination, publicity	Sommerfields@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 499 8588			
Terry Brandon	Legal & constitutional	terrybrandon@xtra.co.nz			

³ Refer also to Newsletter 64 for the second of two articles entitled '*Henry Preston Memorial Rediscovered*'.

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Tel (04) 471 1483

⁴ Refer to Newsletter 64 for article 'Dunedin's Northern Cemetery'.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (SUBJECT TO AUDIT)

	MARCH 2008 (SUBJECT	IUAUI	<i>)</i> [1])				
	`		31 Mar 08	31 Mar 07			
Income	Bequest (Joan Loeber)	10,000	_ 	0			
meome	Book sales	32		0			
	Donations & tours	2,103		843			
	Interest	566		122			
	Subscriptions – current year	2,005		1,805			
	– in arrears	0		1,003 110			
	- in arrears	<u>U</u>	\$14,706	\$2,880			
I FSC Evnonces			\$14,700	\$2,880			
LESS Expenses Annual General Meeting 2				530			
	Annual General Meeting						
	Cleaning products / hose			182			
HCCTNZ subscription		90		90			
Heritage Promotion Council		20		0			
	Postage	116		104			
P O Box Rental		75		62			
	Printing, Stationery, Copying	816		736			
	Website	<u>577</u>		<u>1,276</u>			
			\$2,159	\$2,980			
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year			\$12,547	<u>(\$100)</u>			
	STATEMENT OF MOVEMI		-				
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (SUBJECT TO AUDIT)							
			2008	2007			
Accumulated Funds – at start of year			4,306	4,406			
Plus Surplus / less Deficit for the year			12,547	(100)			
Accumulated Funds – at end of year			\$16,853	\$ 4,306			
	•						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2008							
			31 Mar 08	31 Mar 07			
A compulated Funds			\$16,853	\$4,306			
Accumulated Funds Represented By:			\$10,033	<u>\$4,500</u>			
-	•						
CURRENT ASSETS			10.220	0			
Brandon Trust Fund			10,330	0			
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current			1,677	700			
	- Savings	5	<u>5,061</u>	3,666			
	Total Current Assets		<u>\$17,068</u>	<u>\$4,366</u>			
	urrent Liabilities						
Subscriptions in advance			50	60			
Sundry Creditors			<u>165</u>	<u>0</u>			
	Total Current Liabilities		<u>\$215</u>	<u>\$60</u>			
Net Asso	ets and Working Capital	\$1 6,853	\$4, 306				
Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer) 20 May 200							
		,	- /	-			

RELOCATING TURNBULL'S HEADSTONE

Alexander Turnbull, born in Wellington in 1868, established a successful trading business and began to amass a huge collection of books, manuscripts and paintings concerning New Zealand. When he died in 1918, just weeks before his 50th birthday, he left his library of 55,000 books and other items to the nation to be 'a ... Reference library in the city of Wellington, ... the contents ... kept together as the nucleus of a

New Zealand National Collection'.

His legacy is the Alexander Turnbull Library, which continues to fulfill his intentions, collecting every publication written about New Zealand and enriching the printed collection with letters, diaries, business archives, drawings, engravings, paintings, maps and photographs. The Library adds about 10,000 items each year, through legal deposit, purchase and donation.

Alexander was buried in the Bolton Street Cemetery in the family plot that



Contractors prepare to move Turnbull memorial, 5 Dec 07. Photo Kate Fortune

already contained his parents, Walter and Alexandrina Turnbull, and an infant brother, John. Another brother, Robert, was interred there in 1923. Years later, with the construction of the urban motorway in the late 1960s, the Turnbull grave was part of the upheaval. The remains of the Turnbull family were removed and buried in the mass grave, and the Turnbull headstone placed in a new site, on a steep slope above the motorway.



In December 2007 the Turnbull headstone was relocated for second time following consultation between the Friends of the Bolton Street Memorial Park, the Friends of the Turnbull Library, staff of the Wellington City Council, and descendants of the Turnbull family. It now occupies a much more accessible site in the lower section of the Park on Robertson Way (grid O-15). This is just a stone's throw from the fine old house in Bowen Street which was Alexander's home and which subsequently housed his library for many years. The relocation project - including restoration work on the lead lettering – was funded by the Friends of the Turnbull Library.

The memorial in its new location, after restoration work in February 2008. Photo Kate Fortune