



**FRIENDS of
BOLTON STREET
MEMORIAL PARK INCORPORATED**
PO BOX 12 426, WELLINGTON, 6144, NEW ZEALAND
<http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz>

NEWSLETTER No 67 JUNE 2009

Editor: David Dunsheath

NOTICE OF 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5.45 pm WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2009 (*with refreshments from 5.15 pm*)
at TURNBULL HOUSE, 25 BOWEN STREET, WELLINGTON

Please bring this newsletter with you as it contains essential information about the AGM.

Followed by a talk by John Daniels
THIRTY YEARS ON: THE CEMETERY AND THE CITY

John Daniels has been on the Committee of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park for almost thirty years. He is now standing down from this position, to our great regret especially as he has been the main source of conservation advice in recent years. Before retirement John was Director of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust from 1971 to 1988. His memories of the cemetery go back to the 60s when from his Bowen Street office he could observe at first hand the beginnings of the construction of the motorway through the cemetery.

John has some fascinating recollections of the twists and turns of the cemetery's story from the time it was the controversial catalyst initiating the conservation movement in Wellington, until now when it is a well-loved part of the central city's heritage but still engenders fierce debate as to how it can best be preserved and protected.

This talk should provide members with an opportunity also to have their say on the cemetery's development.



John Daniels cleaning the Richardson and Waters monument at a recent working bee. (Refer also to back cover story)

Photo: David Dunsheath

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (*see the cover page for date, time and location*).

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 32nd AGM (see page 6 of this newsletter)
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. President's report (see page 3 of this newsletter)
5. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council
6. Treasurer's report and financial statements (see page 5 of this newsletter)
7. Election of Committee
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. General business

HANNAH MEMORIAL UNWRAPPED

As reported in the Minutes for the 2008 AGM, the removal of the clipped macrocarpa hedge around the Hannah grave has been very successful in opening up the view of this important tombstone. In the foreground is an example of the new style Memorial Trail marker pole (refer to page 11 for details).



The Robert and Hannah HANNAH memorial in June 2009

Photo: Priscilla Williams

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: JULY 2008 TO JUNE 2009

The focus of the Committee's work continues to be on the protection and restoration of the historic graves and on improving information about them. One major project was completed - a new **memorial trail** and accompanying map. The new trail has seven more stops than on the previous trail. More importantly it has provided an opportunity to clarify the trail by renumbering the route more consistently and through a map in full colour which shows the different path surfaces. The trail markers are also much clearer to find.

In a further effort to clarify routes through the cemetery, some new **path signs** have been installed, including those for the newly-named Alington Path and Friends Path. The Committee has also been working on new signs for two important points of interest: the Turnbull memorial and the Church of England Sexton's cottage. These should be installed shortly and will be in keeping with the other large signs identifying the Hort Lawn, the Sexton's cottage for the public cemetery and the Chapel Museum. Signage has also been provided for the Henry Preston tombstone now installed in the Chapel.

Sadly I am unable to report any significant progress on **repairs** this year. In last year's report, I highlighted the need to give priority to the 27 wooden grave markers in the cemetery, almost all of which need urgent conservation. The Committee has focussed its attention on these, itemising and recording them, while guidelines for the conservation work were commissioned. For reasons outside our control no work has been done on the markers themselves at the time of writing this report. The annual allocation from the Trust Fund for cemetery repairs is therefore expected to be under-used this financial year. On the positive side, there has been no serious damage to tombstones during the year from vandalism or falling trees so our list of around 120 graves waiting for repairs remains unchanged. Repairing the ironwork will in particular be a difficult and expensive challenge.

Underpinning the repair work is the **maintenance** of graves, tackled in our working bees. These are held about four times a year in the warmer months and are a great way to meet other members of this organisation. Through membership of Volunteer Wellington we also get occasional help from corporate bodies willing to lend staff for a few hours. Most of the badly over-grown areas have now been cleared and our aim to make all tombstones reasonably visible and accessible is becoming a reality.

Through membership and donations we have a healthy level of **funding** and have also been successful in securing money for specific projects. We look to complement the regular contribution from the WCC by paying for special one-off projects such as the GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) survey undertaken late last year.

Contact with the wider community is through the Friends' **website**, which continues to attract a steady number of readers, averaging just under 800 unique visitors each month. The most popular page is the burial list which has now been expanded to include tombstone inscriptions. In this age of cyberspace communications, it is

important that we continue to make the website both relevant and interesting. Spinning out from website visits are more detailed genealogical enquiries. While they are not strictly part of the Friends' tasks, we are fortunate to have an experienced Committee member who is willing to deal with these.

Guided **tours** of the cemetery are run on request and also as part of specific events such as the Botanic Gardens Spring Festival. We have had very few requests for tours over the past year and the Committee is aware of the need to be more pro-active in encouraging these. We hope that it will be possible to include a visit to the Anglican Sexton's cottage on these tours on occasions when it is not occupied. This building is an important part of our heritage, as it is probably the oldest house extant in Wellington City.

It would not be possible to achieve what we do without the work and support of David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Gardens, and his team. The Committee members themselves continue to be a very dedicated group of volunteers whose enthusiasm and hard work turn our various projects into reality.

Priscilla Williams (President)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2008-09

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
Nick Perrin	Biographical & burial research, tour guide	n.perrin@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 3767
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 Tel (04) 471 1483

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

As a new financial year opens, we are delighted to acknowledge the ongoing support of Friends, while welcoming eight new members since the start of the last financial year. Current membership stands at 115 individuals, families and corporate members, the highest total we have ever recorded.

The financial statements in this issue indicate the extent to which our activities this year have been assisted by three successful applications for support. The *Lion Foundation* provided \$2,000 towards the cost of the ground penetrating radar survey (see previous Newsletter 66); the *Wellington City Council General Grants – Social Pool* covered the costs of establishing a new Memorial Trail reported elsewhere; and a supply of free community post envelopes from *New Zealand Post* produced a significant savings in our postage & stationery expenditure.

Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009 (*subject to audit*)

	<u>31 Mar 09</u>	<u>31 Mar 08</u>
Income		
Bequest (Joan Loeber)	0	10,000
Book sales	32	32
Donations & tours	1,371	2,103
Grant from Lion Foundation	2,000	0
Grant from WCC – Social Pool	7,734	0
Interest	950	566
Subscriptions – current year	1,865	2,005
– in arrears	<u>40</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$13,960</u>	<u>\$14,706</u>
LESS Expenses		
Annual General Meeting	504	262
Cleaning products / hose	33	203
HCCTNZ subscription	90	90
Heritage Promotion Council	45	20
Volunteer Wellington	35	0
Chapel cabinet	787	75
GPR Survey	2,183	75
Memorial Trail	5,483	75
Library purchases	68	0
Postage	60	116
P O Box Rental	68	75
Printing, Stationery, Copying	495	816
Website	<u>230</u>	<u>577</u>
	<u>\$10,081</u>	<u>\$2,159</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>\$3,879</u>	<u>\$12,547</u>

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009 (subject to audit)**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Accumulated Funds – at start of year	16,853	4,306
Plus Surplus / less Deficit for the year	<u>3,879</u>	<u>12,547</u>
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>\$20,732</u>	<u>\$16,853</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2009 (subject to audit)**

	<u>31 Mar 09</u>	<u>31 Mar 08</u>
Accumulated Funds	<u>\$20,732</u>	<u>\$16,853</u>
Represented By:		
Current Assets		
Brandon Trust Fund	0	10,330
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	11,569	1,677
– Savings	<u>14,220</u>	<u>5,061</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$25,789</u>	<u>\$17,068</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in advance	35	50
Sundry Creditors	<u>5,022</u>	<u>165</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$5,057</u>	<u>\$215</u>
Net Assets and Working Capital	<u>\$20,732</u>	<u>\$16,853</u>

Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer) 2 June 09

MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at 5.45pm at Turnbull House, Wellington

1. Present

32 members were present. [list of attendees on file].

2. Apologies

Terry and Jocelyn Brandon, Alan Martin, Graham Small, Tom Earl, Nigel and Susan Isaacs, John McKinnon, Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon, Karl Bale, Ann Brosnahan, James Farnham, Warwick Greenwood.

3. Minutes of the 31st AGM

Margaret Alington commented on the reference in the minutes about the work done by Mac McCormick who had died in 2007. She wished to have recorded in particular

his contribution during the negotiations over the compensatory land due to the cemetery. As a result of his persistence, half a million dollars was placed to the cemetery's credit. (NB. See also the obituary in Newsletter 63 of June 2007).

Moved (Sheila Williams/Kate Fortune) that the Minutes of the 31st AGM held on Monday 2 July 2007 be approved as a true and correct record. **CARRIED**

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Priscilla Williams asked those present whether there were any matters arising from the Minutes. There were none.

5. President's Report

Priscilla Williams' report, published in Newsletter 65, was taken as read.

Priscilla informed the meeting that the first group of corporate volunteers from Volunteer Wellington had recently completed work in the Bolton Street Memorial Park. A group of six people from the ANZ Bank worked for one day cleaning graves. The Committee sees this as a very worthwhile initiative.

Priscilla also commented that the Trail Map and markers are being revised which provides an opportunity to add more graves. For example the Turnbull headstone might now be included given its more accessible location. Priscilla invited members to convey to her or Kate Fortune or any other Committee member any views on the content of the Memorial Trail.

Priscilla invited comments on her report. Rachel Underwood, President of the Friends of Turnbull Library congratulated the Committee on the re-location of the Turnbull headstone and the way it will enhance the Bolton St Memorial Park.

Moved (Kate Fortune/Karen Adair) that the President's report be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens

David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Gardens, presented his annual report on the Bolton St Memorial Park. The full text of this report is published in Newsletter 66. David emphasised the major change in the landscape over the year, especially through the removal of the large macrocarpas. His report also referred to future tree management plans, dialogue on management of the "wild" area, headstone repairs, vegetation management, the Sexton's cottage upgrade, the artists-in-residence programme and future Council funding for restoration work.

Priscilla thanked David and invited comment either on David's report or views on the development of the landscape.

Carrick Lewis thanked the Council for the repairs to the Jewish headstones following the vandalism that occurred and commented on the very high quality of the repair work undertaken.

Margaret Cochran commented that the logo which she had designed for the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park incorporated a macrocarpa from a sketch by Rita

Angus. She said that the view from the Rita Angus cottage of the macrocarpas as depicted in her work still exists and she made a plea that those trees be retained. In response David Sole said that those macrocarpas are not presenting a hazard at the moment and there are no plans for their removal.

Graham Fortune commented that the recent removal of the clipped macrocarpa hedge around the Hannah grave had been very successful in opening up the view of this important tombstone.

7. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report previously published in Newsletter 65, and advised that the financial statements had now been audited. Kate noted the very generous bequest of \$10,000 from Joan Loeber. She said donations received totalled \$2103, and membership subscriptions were \$2005. Membership was now at a new high of 113.

Moved (Kate Fortune/Priscilla Williams) that the Treasurer's report be received.

CARRIED

Priscilla invited any comments or questions on the Treasurer's report. Carrick Lewis commended the Committee for its efficiency in obtaining registration under the Charities Act.

8. Election of Committee

The following were nominated for office and were elected:

Priscilla Williams, President (David Dunsheath/Kate Fortune)

David Dunsheath, Vice-President (Priscilla Williams/John Daniels)

Kate Fortune, Treasurer & Membership Secretary (Sheila Williams/Judy Bale)

Karen Adair, Minutes Secretary (Diana Marsh/Nick Perrin)

Committee Members: Judy Bale, Terry Brandon, John Daniels, Diana Marsh,
Nick Perrin (David Dunsheath/Sheila Williams)

Priscilla invited any further nominations for the Committee and noted we could accept others during the year. None were made at the meeting.

9. Appointment of Auditor

Priscilla asked Rachel Underwood to pass on her thanks to David Underwood for the voluntary work he does for the Committee in auditing the accounts. She informed the meeting that David was willing to undertake this role again.

Moved (Priscilla Williams/Kate Fortune) that David Underwood be re-appointed as auditor.

CARRIED

10. General Business

Priscilla informed those present of recent decisions on the naming of two new paths in the Bolton Street Memorial Park. These are recommendations made by the Committee which have been accepted by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens after consultation with the Historic Places Trust:

- the recently up-graded path that runs from the Reserves Path through to Trustees Crescent will be known as *Alington Path* to acknowledge the work by Margaret Alington, the cemetery's historian; and
- the steep path that leads off Hart Path near the over-bridge and links with Observatory Path will be known as *Friends Path* to acknowledge all the Friends of the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

The meeting indicated by applause its agreement with these names. Margaret Alington offered her thanks for the recognition in the naming of the new path.

There being no other business, Priscilla Williams declared the meeting closed at 6.20pm.

Guest Speaker

The formal AGM was followed by an address by Jill Trevelyn on Rita Angus and in particular the paintings she did in the cemetery during construction of the motorway.

NEW ADDITION TO THE CHAPEL

Following previous accounts (Newsletters 63 and 64) about the remarkable rediscovery of Henry Preston's totora headboard, the latter is now safely preserved within the Chapel. It is a rare example of its kind.

We thank Donald Mackay who, having sought out and relocated the headboard from Rotorua, then designed the new cabinet. Its construction was funded by Preston descendants.



Preston headboard (lower right)

Photo: David Dunsheath

FRIENDS' WEBSITE

Since the launch of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park website in 2006, there has been continued growth of visitors to and development of the site. Unique website visits have recently averaged 790 per month.

The most popular component is the searchable burial list with 8,679 names of those known to be buried within the Park plus a small number of other family members buried elsewhere but referred to on gravestone inscriptions. Each entry shows the related family name, the original cemetery of interment, and whether it is the original grave or relocated gravestone. Other information is being progressively added, including inscriptions, photographs and descriptions of graves, and biographical notes.

This burial list has proved a useful tool for many people wishing to research family members and for historical purposes.

If you have family members buried in the Park or have a general interest in its history, we urge you to visit the website and search the database. To do this you just need to enter the site www.boltoncemetery.org.nz and select the *Burial List* page, which directs you to the database. Each entry has its 'modern grid map' reference to identify where the burial plot or headstone is located. You can cross-reference this with the pamphlet "*How to Locate a Gravestone*", which can be downloaded from the *Tours and Maps* page of the website.

So whether it is to find out more about the Park, dates for tours or locating family members do take the time to visit the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park's website www.boltoncemetery.org.nz .

Diana Marsh

CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS

Readers may wish to note that our Post Office Box number has changed to P O Box 12 426 Wellington, 6144.

NEW MEMORIAL TRAIL

For a long time, the Friends' Committee has been concerned about the inadequacy of the Memorial Trail map and associated markers within the Park. The latter were hard to see while the pamphlet map was confusing and out-dated. The Botanic Gardens recently decided that an entirely new map should be published, this time in full colour to allow path surfaces to be more clearly delineated – an essential requirement for those with walking disabilities.

Priscilla and Kate took on the lengthy task of rewriting the pamphlet, reordering the route to make it easier to follow and checking the information for each entry. Seven more entries were added creating a total of 47 stops. These include some that are of interest for the design of the tombstone as much as the associated history, thus broadening the appeal of the trail. Relocated tombstones are included, notably Turnbull and the Fergusson baby. Obviously there are many more which were considered but we had to restrict our selection to ones on or near main paths.

Work on the new Memorial Trail was completed just after Easter, and already there has been considerable interest and favourable comment. The new trail markers comprise sturdy wooden posts which are easily seen without distracting from the tombstones. The marker number is displayed on an attractive white tile with a rose on marble design.

The Friends are pleased to acknowledge the generous funding from WCC Grant (Social Pool) which paid for the new markers and made the project possible. We also appreciate the contribution of many willing volunteers, whom we relied heavily upon to do much of the preparation and installation. The trail posts and final directional markers were installed in late March and April. We should particularly like to thank

Leanne Killalea at the Botanic Gardens who patiently and persistently worked through many draft iterations of the pamphlet to ensure an accurate outcome.

Many people have been taking the self-guided tour (using pamphlets displayed in boxes at entrances to the Park). Recreational use of the Memorial Park has always been high among tourists, neighbouring residents, school pupils and city workers, and we are confident that this recreational activity will continue to grow strongly, thanks to the new Trail. **Kate Fortune and Priscilla Williams**



Graham Fortune

Photo: David Dunsheath



Thom Brown and Lucy Chapman (students) work with Graham Fortune.

Photo: Kate Fortune

THE RITA ANGUS DOVE REDISCOVERED

“Flight”, one of the most evocative paintings by Rita Angus features tombstones, fishing boats and a dove. The tombstones and dove were known to be from sketches she had made of memorials removed from the then named Bolton Street Cemetery for the motorway excavation. They were temporarily stored near her home in Sydney Street West (as it was then called). Studies of the dove and various tombstones appear in one of her sketch books and a number can be easily identified (e.g. the Flyger statue of liberty, and Thomas Kennedy Macdonald’s angel amongst others). But identification of the dove has proved more difficult.

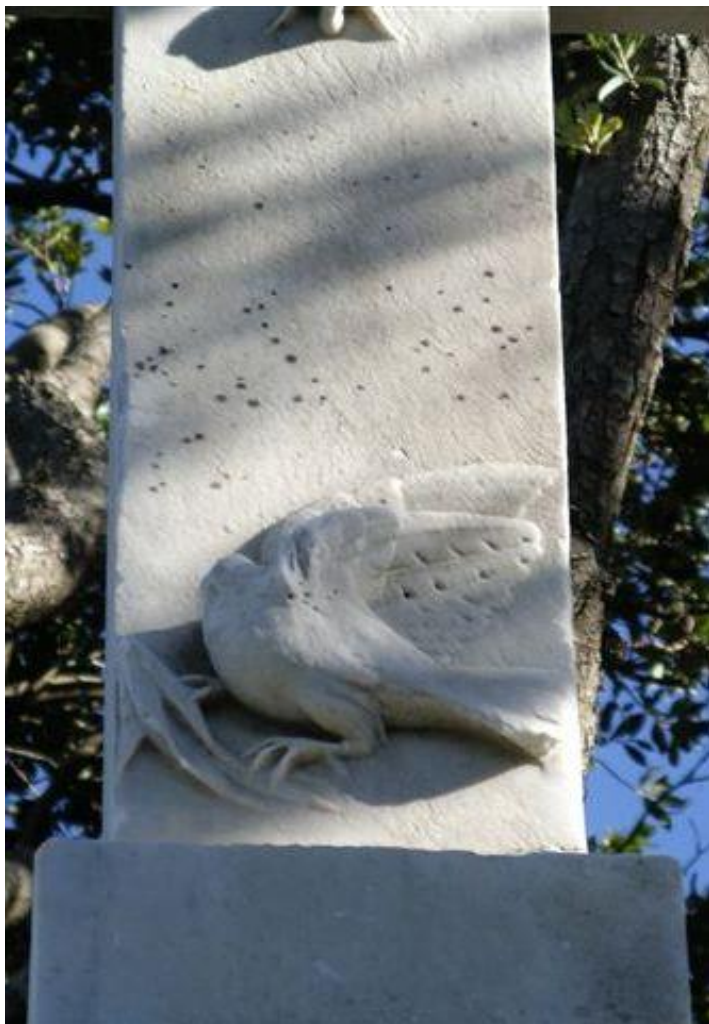


Photo: Priscilla Williams

During a Friends’ working bee in the Park in March 2009, the dove was recognised high up on the Richardson/ Waters reinstated monument while it was being cleaned. Unfortunately the dove has been damaged, as can be seen in the photo, but it is undoubtedly the one from her sketchbook that was displayed at the 2008 exhibition of her work at Te Papa.

The dove can be seen close to the main path (Robertson Way) on the right when descending from the upper Seddon Memorial entrance. It is behind the large pohutukawa just before Gardener’s Path. Its location is number 11 on the Memorial Trail and grid K08 04.

Nick Perrin

Refer also to the cover picture.