



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

NEWSLETTER No 68 DECEMBER 2009

Editor: David Dunsheath

NEW MEMORIAL TRAIL READY FOR SUMMER

The final touches to the new Bolton Street Memorial Park ‘Memorial Trail’ have been completed after a series of delays due to the wet winter. All signs and directional arrows for the self-guided tour are now installed – just in time for the 2009-10 summer. See newsletter 67, June 09, for background and details of the trail and associated pamphlet.

Beautiful new descriptive panels have been installed by the Council – one is located on the Hort Lawn below the Seddon Memorial entrance. The other is in the nearby area once occupied by the Public Cemetery Sexton’s cottage.

In addition the Friends arranged for new explanatory signs in the lower cemetery. Two identical signs draw attention to the history of the Church of England



Sexton’s Cottage (26 Bolton Street). A third new sign records the significance of the relocated Turnbull family headstone.



We acknowledge with great pleasure the sponsorship of the Bolton Hotel for the *Sexton’s Cottage* signs, and of the Friends of the Turnbull Library for the *Alexander Turnbull’s Legacy* sign.

At last the Memorial Trail is fully completed.

*Article & photos:
Kate Fortune*

JOAN LOEBER MEMORIAL SEAT

On her death in 2007, Joan Loeber made a generous bequest to the Friends, as reported in newsletter 63, June 2007. The committee decided to use part of this bequest to place a memorial seat in the lower area of the Park. The inscription on the seat reads:

*“IN MEMORY OF JOAN LOEBER (1914 - 2007)
DESCENDANT OF EARLY SETTLER, JOSEPH PUDNEY”*

It is sited on Carr Path directly behind the Pudney grave (ref L 14) in which Joan’s ashes were placed. The site was chosen in an area free of unmarked graves.

The seat overlooks many early settler family plots including the Wakefields, for rest and contemplation in an area where no seating has previously existed.



Article & photo: Judy Bale

BECOME A TRAINED TOUR GUIDE

The Friends would love to be able to offer tours of the Park more often, and especially to approach schools and community groups to invite them to join a tour. At present, however, we don’t have enough guides! Committee members are happy to offer training to anyone willing to tackle the job of tour guide. If you think you may have spare time occasionally to take tours, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact Judy Bale, email: sommerfields@paradise.net.nz .

JOHN DANIELS ADDRESSES THE AGM (JULY 2009)

In 1962, at the start of that turbulent decade, I began my Public Service career with the Internal Affairs Department, in the initial intake into the Bowen State Building.

My first office was on the east side, and later I moved to the west overlooking the cemetery. I spent many lunch times in the cemetery. I had a favourite spot on a grassy area alongside the chapel. I often explored among the overgrown graves, although parts of the cemetery were completely overgrown and impenetrable.



Through my then interest in archaeology I came into contact with the Historic Places Trust's Wellington Regional Committee. Hugh Fullarton was the Ministry of Works representative on the committee. As District Commissioner, Hugh was in charge of the Wellington Motorway planning. The impact on the cemetery was a major issue, and a very sensitive one. Hugh saw that it was very important to get the HPT, as the official heritage agency, on side. Not that the Trust carried a great deal of weight, but if they could be neutralised then other opposition would be easier to overcome.

Attitudes to the cemetery were ambivalent. It had been shamefully neglected and many people saw it as an embarrassing eyesore.

There was a great deal of opposition to the Motorway going through, but it was not very focussed. Opinion ranged from bitter opposition to regret and uneasiness over the loss of heritage. HPT's stance was muted, as so often then and since. In the end it was more or less won over, with promises of mitigation work including the ill-fated piazza. Other opposition groups gave up the struggle or were neutralised.

The 1967 legislation enabling cemetery land to be taken for the Motorway was enacted. It included provision for a memorial including the names of all those to be disinterred, and for rebuilding the chapel. There was also to be a landscaped piazza incorporating historic buildings. In the same year the Government approved purchase of Old St Paul's to preserve it for the nation. Perhaps this gesture was some recompense for the loss of cemetery land.

My office on the 7th floor of the Bowen building overlooked the northern part of the cemetery. I was able to watch the first inroads as trees were felled and graves screened off prior to the disinterments. In the midst of this the Wahine storm and the Inangahua earthquake struck. It was as if nature was taking a hand and adding to the desolation. Access was barred and visits to my tranquil haunt came to an end.

Came the “dismal decade” of the 1970s and the Motorway edged inexorably along. The piazza project was dropped at Wellington City Council’s insistence, and the funding diverted to the waterfront, and possibly elsewhere.

‘Unquiet Earth’, commissioned by the Ministry of Works and written by historian Margaret Alington, was published in 1978, the same year the cemetery section of the Motorway was opened. The recording and transcription project, inspired and led by Margaret Alington, progressed and has left a lasting legacy.

The Friends were founded in 1977. The founders saw a need to revive and foster interest in the cemetery, and to keep pressure on to honour the promises to compensate for the damage done. Their dedication and persistence were to be sorely tested! I joined the committee in 1979, hence the title of my talk – ‘Thirty years on’.

By 1980 the Motorway was completed, but the compensation plans agreed in 1965 had hardly commenced. In fact, with the axing of the piazza they had gone backwards. With changes of personnel in WCC and the central Government, the undertakings receded into the background. It is likely they would have been forgotten altogether without the persistence of the Friends. The first two Chairmen, Helmut Einhorn and Hugh Fullarton, played key roles. It proved to be a “daunting and demanding task”. The Friends had to lobby hard and long. Sometimes they met with sympathy, but often with apathy and evasion. WCC’s role was ambiguous at times.

Hugh Fullarton took as his mission to see the 1960s Agreements honoured. It was a continuation of his 1960s role, but with a very different emphasis. There were some wry comments about this. Nevertheless, Hugh’s knowledge, contacts, and fine diplomatic sense were indispensable.

His reward was the agreement by the Government in 1981 that \$500,000 would be provided to WCC, and \$50,000 for rebuilding the chapel. The basic plan was to provide an underground car-park for the surrounding businesses, on top of which a new park area would be created.

Putting this solution into effect was yet another hill to climb.

- Funding was insufficient to carry out the plan
- Ownership of the land was fragmented between two producer boards, WCC, University Grants Committee, and Reserve Bank. Attitudes ranged from indifference to mild hostility.
- The land-owning organisations had mixed agendas.
- The chapel remnants had deteriorated beyond salvage.

Bernie Knowles, Managing Director of the Wool Board 1975-1985 and the Dairy Board 1986-90, was a key player. Hugh and he had a close relationship.

WCC saw the opportunity for a development project, and commissioned Fletcher Developments to come up with a scheme. The Friends had to accept that this was to be the way forward, but it was to mean a very difficult compromise. We were very fortunate in the choice of developers. Fletchers was sensitive to the situation and

really got involved to bring the parties together. In the end the landowners all agreed and the new building, together with a six-level underground car park, was the result.

The Friends played a key role, persuading, negotiating, vetting plans, and finally supporting the agreed solution. It was not easy. Many people could not accept that compromise was necessary and felt that the Friends had sold out. The Thorndon Society did its best to stop the project and some Friends members also dissented.

Key people who made it possible included Hugh Fullarton, Gerard McGreevy, John Murray from the Friends, Mike Geale and colleagues from Fletchers, Ian McCutcheon (Town Clerk) and Ken Clark (City Planner) from the WCC, and the Mayor Michael Fowler.

There will always be regrets that a better scheme might have been possible. For instance, the building could have been at the opposite end of the park area fronting Bolton Street, providing more sunlight onto the park. Energy spent on opposing the development might have been spent on getting a better result.

The new park complete with replica chapel, and office building were opened in 1990 – an historic occasion for the Friends. From then on emphasis changed from campaigning to management, and so a different relationship with WCC. It has been a rewarding and productive relationship all the way. My first experience was with Ian Galloway, then Richard Nansen, Mike Oates, Tony Williams, and now David Sole. There have been many changes but the relationship continues.

The Friends have changed their makeup too. The early grouping of interested people representing allied organisations has altered to a more neighbourhood-based group. I see this as a strength. Those living near the cemetery see it as part of their environment, and have an immediate stake in how the Memorial Park is managed.

Finally to the Friends - Keep up the good work! I mean to be part of it as a continuing member.

John Daniels

SPRING FESTIVAL TOURS 2009

Two “*Tiptoe through the Tombstones*” tours were held during Spring Festival, one on September 3 and the other on September 19. Both were very well attended with over 50 each time.

Interest in the tours was heightened by an article about Kate Fortune and her interest in her family members buried at Bolton St, which was published in the Saturday edition of the Dominion Post on 19 September 09.

The Friends thank Charmaine Scott of WCC for ensuring that the tours were well publicised in the Spring Festival brochure and on the WCC events website. Guides were Nick Perrin, Kate Fortune, Priscilla Williams and John Daniels.

Gold coin donations for the tours amounted to \$163.

Judy Bale

MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE AGM (JULY 2009)

In recent correspondence with your chairperson I was pointedly reminded that a year had passed since we had discussed some courses of action. She was of course correct though it seems like the conversations were only yesterday!

That said, there has been some progress this year

- The first of the macrocarpa hedges have been removed (the remaining next Monday)
- Path renaming has occurred following the recommendations of the last AGM
- The Memorial Trail pamphlet has been rewritten
- 'Horse steps' have eased the grade on Friends Path
- New and replacement path signage has been installed
- Stronger interpretive panels have been commissioned
- Dead trees have been removed
- A design for the rose frame on Bolton Street has been commissioned
- Hosted the Artists in Residence at the cottage
- The restoration of 6 wooden headboards has been commissioned after receiving Chris Cochran's conservation report
- Assistance of the Friends on Rose Pruning Day and with the Rose Festival

That we did not progress with the repairs over the last year is of frustration to both of our organisations and with hindsight suggests that our repair programme should be set and fixed at least 18 months in advance.

The completion of the Memorial Trail brochure was a good achievement after a long gestation and is not only a tribute to patience but also to the attention to detail by the Friends. Thank you for this and for the installation of the new marker posts.

Across the gardens cluster we have had a number of successes this year. The Botanic Garden Spring Festival is always a highlight, our partnership with Te Papa in promotion of the Monet exhibition was well received as was the creation of the Sensation Walk - Braille Trail. We were able to obtain funding from the Henderson Conservation Trust to undertake replanting around the house at Truby King Park and we made substantial progress towards completion of the Otari Landscape Development Plan.

Our team looking after Bolton Street Memorial Park has had a mixed year with staff. Michelle Finlay has extended her parental leave and Kirsten Lowe has stepped in to cover. James Jones returned to us from his secondment in late March and has been catching up throughout the garden and park since then. Rachel Solomon has recently attended the World Rose Congress in Vancouver which was assisted by the Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden

For the coming year you will be well aware of the changed financial environment. Council has approved a 3.7% rate rise which clearly has implications for operational capacity across council. For us? We will be focussing very much on our core activities, our high profile facilities and routes. The largest chunk of our Capital funding this year goes towards replacement of the Botanic Garden Nursery. Botanic

Garden and Otari interpretation will take the next largest sum with routine upgrades and renewals accounting for the rest.

Parks & Gardens is working with each community group across the city to develop a Memorandum of Understanding which is to outline our responsibilities to each other. I will be working with the Friends and Trust groups to put these in place over the coming year. We have concluded one recently with the Otari Wilton's Bush Trust and have had one in place for some time with the Truby King House & Garden Trust. Also, we will be looking at ways in which we can engage with specialist groups and volunteers to assist throughout the Botanic Gardens Cluster not only for their resource but to assist in strengthening and fostering interest in those groups.

It gives me pleasure to be able to once again thank the Friends for the work they have contributed to the Park this year. Despite the apparently glacial movement of some projects there remains an undercurrent of achievement and good will for which I and my staff are very grateful. Across the Friends and Trusts there has been a collective value of work in excess of \$250,000 which we could never have delivered without you. On behalf of the city, Paul Andrews and I, thank you.

David Sole, Manager, Botanic Gardens of Wellington

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2009-10

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Diana Marsh (recently resigned)	Website, Publicity	-

RENEWED INTEREST IN MOUNT STREET CEMETERY

Have you heard of the historic Mount Street Roman Catholic Cemetery which is located in Mount Street, Kelburn, adjacent to the University? Its early history parallels the other three central Wellington historic cemeteries now encapsulated within Bolton Street Memorial Park – the Public Cemetery (formerly known as Sydney St), the Church of England Cemetery (nearest to Bolton St) and the little Jewish Cemetery.

The Mount Street Cemetery was consecrated on 6 January 1841 during the first visit to Wellington of the French Bishop, Jean Baptist Francois Pompallier. He arrived in the small town of Wellington on Christmas Eve, 1840. By the end of 1841, the local Catholic community had defined the site and put up a fence around the cemetery. A presbytery was built on the site in 1846 for Wellington's first resident priest, Father Jeremiah Joseph O'Reilly. The original area was about three acres, compared to approximately one acre now.



Graves of the first resident Wellington priests
Fr O'Reilly, Fr Petitjean and Fr Sauzeau

The Cemetery remained open for 50 years and until its closure in 1891, was the main Catholic burial ground in Wellington. Burials within existing family plots continued to take place there until 1954. It has remained under the ownership and control of the Church ever since – unlike the other three pioneer cemeteries which were vested in and maintained by the Wellington City Council as a memorial park and part of the Botanic Gardens

complex. Maintenance of the Mount Street Cemetery has been an ongoing problem over the years and many causes have contributed to the disappearance of burial plots. These include soil erosion, unchecked vegetation, scrub fires, natural weathering and vandalism.

A Conservation Plan for the Cemetery was prepared by Ian Bowman in 2008. This was commissioned by the Archdiocese following a grant from the Wellington City Council and a contribution from Victoria University of Wellington. It revises and updates a Conservation Plan prepared in 1995 and lays out a number of recommendations surrounding appropriate conservation of the Cemetery.

The Archbishop has recently agreed to the establishment of a charitable incorporated society to obtain the resources and expertise to implement the Conservation Plan.

Karen Adair, one of our committee members, is coordinating the project. She is currently being assisted by others of the Friends committee since the problems of that cemetery are similar to ones we have encountered and documented. This is a start to improving this central city historic area.

If anyone is interested in helping at working bees over the summer in the Mount Street Cemetery, Karen would love to hear from you. If you are a descendant of someone buried at Mount Street, Karen would also be very interested in hearing from you. You can contact her at karen.adair@xtra.co.nz or telephone 473 1778.

Article and photo: Karen Adair

THOMAS YOUNG (1844 – 1879), NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST NATIVE-BORN JUDGE

Anne Parker, a volunteer gardener who works in the Easdale Street area of the Park, was recently amazed and delighted to uncover an old headstone. It lay flat and buried under soil and debris on top of the grave of Thomas Edward YOUNG. The presence of this stone had been forgotten for many years as no transcript for it exists.



Rediscovered headstone of John E.D. Young

Investigating this has yielded the interesting story of the first New Zealand-born judge, said to have been a “willing horse worked to death”.

Thomas Edward YOUNG was born about 1844, the youngest son of Captain William YOUNG, formerly of Hokianga. He entered the public service as recording clerk in the Native Office in Auckland, and moved to Wellington when the Capital was transferred. He was appointed first as an interpreter to the House of Assembly, and later as a Judge in the Native Land Court.

He married Laura Heseltine BOUGHTON in 1869, and their son John was born and died in January 1871. Three daughters were subsequently born, Mabel Florence in 1872, Ethel Mary in 1875 and Mary Elizabeth in 1878.

On the morning of 13th November 1879, Thomas Edward YOUNG died at Otaki while adjudicating on land claims. On 15th November “there was a large gathering of Maoris in the Government

Paddock at Tauranga, to commemorate the demise of the late Thomas Edward Young, one of the Judges of the Native Lands Court” (Hawkes Bay Herald, 25 November 1879). This is an indication of the esteem in which he was held by Maori in his capacity as a judge.

On 15th November 1879, the Bay of Plenty Times recorded “...*that since Mr Young’s elevation to the position of judge he has been kept hard at work, in fact, to make use of a familiar expression, he has had no easy time of it. We are afraid that his death has been accelerated in consequence of heavy duties he was called upon to perform, and it is only another instance of the fact that a willing horse is as a rule worked to death. It appears singular that Mr Young was the first “young New-Zealander” promoted to the Judgeship; he was the last judge appointed (sic. latest?), and the first to meet with his death.*”

The same newspaper report records the fact that he left a widow and three children. His wife Laura died at the age of 91 in 1943, and joined her husband and son in this grave, followed in October 1952 by daughter Mabel Florence, aged 78, who had been a schoolteacher.

Records for the YOUNG grave, plot 2301 in the Church of England Cemetery (grid C12 02) list the following burials (ages from ‘Births, Deaths and Marriages Online’, (refer to website: <https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/>)

- John Edward Davis Young, died 30 January 1871, aged less than 1 month
- Thomas Edward Young, died 13 November 1879, aged 35 years
- Laura Heseltine Young, died 12 May 1943, aged 91 years
- Mabel Florence Young, died 13 November 1952, aged 78 years.

The standing headstone on this grave refers only to Thomas: “*Sacred to the memory of THOMAS EDWARD YOUNG, late Judge of the Native Land Court of New Zealand, died at Otaki, Wellington, 13th November 1879, in the 35th year of his age. This stone is erected by a number of his friends as a token of the esteem in which he was held.*”

The newly-discovered loose stone reads (partly illegible): “[Sacred to the memory?] of John Edward Davis YOUNG, [son of?] T E YOUNG, died 30th January 1871” and a few other illegible lines.

So it is likely that John Edward Davis YOUNG’s headstone was laid flat on the grave in 1952 and lost from view for the last 57 years.

Article and photo: Nick Perrin

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

At the end of November 2009, our membership is the same as last year at a total of 114 individuals, families and corporate members. Our finances continue to look very healthy, assisted by generous individual donations of more than \$1,400 so far this year. The committee is also pleased to acknowledge the support of NZ Post, in our successful application to Community Post for 100 free postage paid envelopes.

SPRING WORKING BEES *[continued from back cover]*

Priority was given to the highest point of the cemetery around the main grave of the first Wellington priests (see Mount Street Cemetery article on page 8). While only a few graves could be cleared, the results were striking. We are most grateful to the BNZ for releasing their staff and to the staff themselves for their hard work and enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to work with them.



Hellen Valster (foreground) and other members

Photo: Kate Fortune

The next Friends working bees will be held in mid/late summer. If your name is not already on the mailing list and you might be interested in joining us in future, please contact Jennifer, email: jennifer.robinson@ccdhb.org.nz, to be put on the contact list. You will then receive emailed advice regarding each future working bee nearer to each date. No experience is required – just a bucket, a brush and a pair of rubber gloves. There is no obligation to come, even if you are on the list, but it is a great way to meet other members and do something practical in the Park. All help is greatly appreciated.

Jennifer Robinson

SPRING WORKING BEES MAKE GOOD PROGRESS

Despite the recent unseasonable weather, the Friends have managed to hold two regular working bees. The first on Sunday 11 October, tackled the area next to the shed on Hort Lawn. About twelve workers turned up to do headstone cleaning.

The bench beside the shed was repaired so that weary gardeners (and Friends) can now sit and contemplate work in progress or future tasks. The second one, on Saturday 14 November, worked lower down the main path where at the same time we were able to enjoy the roses and other spring flowers which look quite stunning. We had instituted the occasional Saturday working bee to meet the wishes of those with fixed Sunday commitments but the difficulties with parking means we may need to reconsider this arrangement.



Some of the group of Bank of New Zealand volunteers

Photo: Kate Fortune

A working bee with a difference was held on Wednesday 4 November when the Bank of New Zealand “closed for good” to help volunteer groups throughout the country. We were successful in our request for ten BNZ volunteers who cleaned headstones to the west of Robertson Way, with enthusiasm and energy.

Another four BNZ volunteers were deployed to the Mount Street Cemetery. But by lunch time it was realised that more than these four very able bodied men were needed to make an impact on the extensive under-growth. So our ten volunteers and some Committee members transferred from Bolton Street for the afternoon to help.

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