



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

NEWSLETTER No 69 MAY 2010

Editor: David Dunsheath

NOTICE OF 34TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5.45 pm WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2010 (with refreshments from 5.15 pm)
at TURNBULL HOUSE, 25 BOWEN STREET, WELLINGTON

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

**The AGM will be followed by a talk by DETLEF KLEIN on
CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND CONSERVING BSMP
WOODEN MEMORIALS**



Detlef Klein is a leading conservator, based in Palmerston North. Because of his experience in wooden conservation work he has been commissioned to restore some of the rare wooden memorials in the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

Using illustrations from his own experience he will talk about general conservation policy and practices, but will also tell us of the work he is doing on the seven memorials from our cemetery, which are now in his workshop.

Wooden memorial, Holdsworth family (P11 05)

Photo: Judy Bale

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see cover for date and time)

1. Apologies
 2. Minutes of the 33rd AGM (see page 7 of this newsletter)
 3. Matters arising from Minutes
 4. President's report (see page 5)
 5. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council
 6. Treasurer's report and financial statements (to be tabled)
 7. Election of Committee
 8. Appointment of Auditor
 9. Proposed amendments to the Constitution (refer to Notice of Motions (1) and (2) following)
 10. General business
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NOTICE OF MOTION (1)

That, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of the Society, Rule 2 of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated be replaced with the following text (*P Williams / D Dunsheath*):

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aim of the Society is to preserve, protect and enhance for the public benefit the three Wellington historic cemeteries now known collectively as the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

To further this aim, the Society shall pursue the following objectives:

2.2 Assist the Wellington City Council in its efforts to:

- (a) Protect and restore the heritage graves to develop the area as an historic cemetery-park with preserved heritage values.
- (b) Develop and maintain the content of and access to reliable burial records.
- (c) Preserve and maintain the Sexton's cottage, the replica chapel and interpretive displays.
- (d) Make the Park an aesthetic focal point for passive recreation, contemplation and relaxation.

2.3 Encourage families, business and professional groups and others to:

- (a) Assist financially with repairs to the derelict and damaged graves of former associates and relatives.

- (b) Help with the cleaning and maintenance of graves.
 - (c) Support the overall aims and objectives of the Society by becoming members.
- 2.4 Conduct and co-ordinate accurate research of historical information in order to develop and maintain reliable burial records of all persons interred within the three cemeteries encompassed by the Park and all persons referred to on associated graves and records .
- 2.5 Enrich the Park's heritage value by encouraging:
- (a) Research on and use of best practice heritage restoration techniques in repairing memorials.
 - (b) The return of memorials and other appropriate heritage material displaced by the motorway construction, land slippage, vandalism and other adverse events.
 - (c) Displays of those memorials and other appropriate heritage material which cannot or should not be accommodated within the burial area.
- 2.6 Encourage public interest in the Park by:
- (a) Compiling guides to the graves, memorials and points of special interest.
 - (b) Arranging guided tours for the public and special interest groups.
 - (c) Liaising with the media on stories of current interest.
 - (d) Maintaining through its website, newsletters and other means, accurate and accessible information about the Park.
 - (e) Developing the use of appropriate interpretive signage within the Park.
- 2.7 Raise such funds as may be required to cover its running costs and incidental expenses.
- 2.8 Operate as a charitable society in the pursuit of the above charitable objects that are limited to within New Zealand only.

Rationale: Please refer to the 'Constitution' section of the President's report (page 6 of this newsletter).

NOTICE OF MOTION (2)

That changes be made to the following rules of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of the Society (*D Dunsheath / K. Fortune*):

RULE 3.1: Replace the word '*objects*' with '*aim and objectives*'.

Rationale: Consequential to change in Rule 2.

RULE 3.2: Replace current text with the following: *‘Persons shall be eligible for membership of the Society who make payment of the subscription for the class of membership they qualify to join.’*

Rationale: Updating and clarification. It does not alter the intent of the Rule.

RULE 4: Replace current text with the following: *‘Members will cease to be members upon their voluntary resignation or upon their subscriptions remaining unpaid by the end of the financial year of the Society. Members who act against the spirit of the aim and objectives of the Society in their capacity as members of the Society may be liable to expulsion from the Society by the vote of a two-thirds majority of financial members present at a general meeting of the Society.’*

Rationale: Grammatical and consequential correction. It does not alter the intent of the Rule.

RULE 5.1: Replace *‘only passed’* with *‘only if passed’*.

Rationale: Grammatical correction. It does not alter the intent of the Rule.

RULE 6.1: Replace *‘one hundred and twenty days’* with *‘four months’*.

Rationale: Clarification. It extends the date in practice by two days.

FOOTNOTE

If anyone would like a copy of the current Rules of the Society emailed to them, please contact a committee member (refer below). Copies will be available at the AGM.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2009-10

Priscilla Williams	President, Policy & strategies, Historical research, HWP database, Guide	priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 977 4667
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Karen Adair	Minutes Secretary, Mount Street Cemetery Coordinator	karen.adair@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 473 1778
Nick Perrin	Biographical & Burial research, Guide	n.perrin@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 3767
Judy Bale	Tour coordination, Publicity	sommerfields@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 499 8588
Terry Brandon	Legal & constitutional, Railing repairs	terrybrandon@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 471 1483
Jennifer Robinson	Working bees coordination	jennifer.robinson@ccdhb.org.nz Tel (04) 973 8137

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009-2010

As this AGM is slightly earlier than usual, my comments will not cover our full reporting year which tends to run from July to June in parallel with the Council's financial year. This reflects the importance of the annual grant from the Council for the headstone repairs.

In this current year we expect that most of the grant will be spent on the repair of seven **wooden memorials** which are now at the workshop of Detlef Klein, a leading conservator based in Palmerston North. All these – two crosses and five headboards – were previously lying loose in the cemetery or stacked in sheds, so it is a relief to know they are in safer hands.

The provenance of three (Pike, Tinney and Cockcroft) were already known, while a fourth was identified recently as belonging to Springgay. Three remain unknown as the original carving or painting is now indecipherable. Indeed we do not even know where two came from originally and thus they fall into a group of "unknown memorials" of which there are over 20. We have recently put some ideas to the Botanic Gardens Manager for placing these memorials and hope to be able to report soon on a possible solution. It is not satisfactory that these pieces are left in scattered form around the Park.

In parallel with this restoration work, the Friends have begun a programme to restore the **wooden fences** and other wooden structures around the graves. Although the fences may look sturdy many are rotting underground and need urgent care. The conservation standards for the fences have been set at a notch below those for memorials in order to reflect the fact they are more numerous and relatively less unique. Money for this work will be provided from the Friends' budget and it is expected to be a gradual and lengthy exercise.

We have yet again guided several public tours and special request tours during the year. The latter cater for specific groups and are sometimes themed. For example the Health Department asked recently for a tour of graves where families had died from epidemics. We continue to look for opportunities to take tour groups through the cemetery and will be conducting two public tours during June, marking Heritage Month with the theme "Heritage and the Environment".

The **website** continues to be a great tool for publicising the cemetery and our activities. But we also acknowledge that more could be done, particularly in developing the popular **Burial List** page. One of our committee, David Dunsheath, is now in negotiations with our website manager on an extensive and exciting new revision which will expand greatly the capacity of the Burial List and I think will set a benchmark for New Zealand heritage cemetery on-line information. Once again we are grateful to Nick Perrin for answering a stream of enquiries that come via the website (and not all of which are related to our core business).

Four to five **working bees** are scheduled each year, usually held on Sundays as competition for limited parking is too intense on Saturdays. Advertising of these is

by email to members who elect to receive these. We are grateful to the loyal members who show up for these and I hope that more of you can be persuaded to put a few hours aside each year to help. They are interesting and fun, as well as providing a welcome interface with the garden staff as we debate what should or should not be removed. As ever, both David Sole and his staff have provided us with willing advice and assistance throughout the year and we enjoy our lively working relationship.

A new development during the year has been the formation of the Friends of the **Mount Street Cemetery**, the Roman Catholic cemetery of exactly the same era as those three comprising the Bolton Street Park. While it is a separate organisation, reflecting the different ownership of that cemetery, I see our association as having a useful role in offering our quite extensive experience to the newer grouping. Information about the Mount Street Cemetery was given in our last newsletter (Nov 09).

Constitution: While assisting that group to formulate its constitution, I was prompted to think more carefully about the appropriateness of our own, especially the aims and objectives in Rule 2. The constitution was adopted in 1977 in a very different climate from now and when completion of the motorway and its ramifications for the cemetery were uppermost in members' minds. Some very useful updates were made in 2002 to reflect completion of the land deal and renaming of the Park, as well as adding further objectives. However there continues to be some disparities between our aims and objectives as spelt out in Rule 2 and as currently practiced. It is important in this era - in which the Charities Commission scrutinises carefully those bodies registered with it and in which there is intense competition for charitable funds - that we not only know what our aim is but that we spell it out succinctly and coherently, together with the consequential objectives. This is the basis of the proposed rewrite of Rule 2. The Committee commends this to the membership for adoption, together with a clutch of other tidying-up amendments.

It is interesting to look back to a proposal in 1998 that the Society be wound up because "most if not all the original objectives have been achieved". I can assure members that there are many years left of work to be done before reaching that goal. I am grateful to all members of the Committee for their work and support during the past year in pursuing our objectives.

Priscilla Williams (President)

MINUTES OF THE 33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 8 July 2009 at 5.45 pm at Turnbull House, Wellington

1. PRESENT

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

2. APOLOGIES

Karen Adair, Terry and Jocelyn Brandon, Tom & Nicky Earl, Nigel and Susan Isaacs, Ann Trotter, Diana Duff Staniland, Karl Bale, Angela & Bernard Hill, Judith Burch, Jennifer Robinson, Natasha Templeton, David Luke, Paul Andrews, Francis Cooke, Joy Dunsheath.

3. MINUTES OF THE 32ND AGM

Moved (*M Alington/ D Dunsheath*) that the Minutes of the 32nd AGM held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 be taken as read and 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 67, was taken as read.

Priscilla mentioned her disappointment about the limited number of repairs in the past financial year, but stressed that the funding (from the Settlers Fund) was able to be rolled over for future use.

Priscilla also commented that photographs of wooden grave markers were on display. She invited comments on her report or on other aspects of the Committee's work during the year. Bob Burch congratulated the President on her report and raised the issue of restoration of iron headstones, such as Colonel Crowe's. Priscilla said that the committee had not yet focussed on repair of the metal headstones since most were in relatively good condition. She noted that the families of descendants are invited to contribute towards costs but this is on a voluntary basis.

Moved (*K Fortune/ D Dunsheath*) 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 68.) David said that progress had been made during the year on paths, signage, and the conservation report, and that removal of the macrocarpa hedges would be completed within days. His report also referred to the artist-in-residence scheme, the Spring Festival, and to staff changes.

Priscilla thanked David and invited comment on David's report. Hugh Templeton asked if the existing Park signage was adequate to assist tourists and visitors, as he often encountered people who were unsure of the way to the city. David said that signs to the city will be improved with special tiles to reinforce the message.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report - previously published in Newsletter 67 - and advised that the financial statements had now been audited. She circulated copies of the auditor's report. Kate noted that successful applications to the Lion Foundation, the Wellington City Council's Social Fund, and to NZ Post's Community Post during the year had resulted in major savings on projects and activities. She said subscription income remained at the same level as last year. Membership had reached a new high of 115.

Moved (*K Fortune/ P Williams*) that the Treasurer's report be received. *CARRIED*

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following were nominated for office and were elected:

Priscilla Williams, President	<i>K Fortune/ N Perrin</i>
David Dunsheath, Vice-President	<i>(P Williams/ J Daniels)</i>
Kate Fortune, Treasurer and Membership Secretary	<i>(S Williams/ T Brandon)</i>
Karen Adair, Minutes Secretary	<i>(D Marsh/ J Bale)</i>
Committee Members:	<i>(D Dunsheath/ S Williams)</i>
Judy Bale, Terry Brandon, Diana Marsh, Nick Perrin and Jennifer Robinson	<i>(P Williams/ K Fortune)</i>

Priscilla invited any further nominations for the Committee and noted we could accept others during the year.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Priscilla acknowledged the Committee's thanks to David Underwood for the voluntary work he does in auditing the accounts. Kate informed the meeting that David was willing to undertake this role again.

Moved (*K Fortune/ S Williams*) that David Underwood be re-appointed as auditor. *CARRIED*

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no other business, and Priscilla declared the meeting closed at 6.20 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER

At the end of the AGM, there was a reading of a short poem by Clare De Castro, on her first visit to the Memorial Park. This was followed by an address by John Daniels on 'Thirty Years On: The Cemetery and the City', looking back on his personal involvement with the Friends of the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

Tributes were paid to John Daniels during the course of the meeting about the length and quality of service he has given to the Friends during his thirty years on the Committee. John, who retired at this meeting, was Chairman of the Friends from 1983 to 1989 during the complex negotiations over the land deal. More recently, as well as serving as Deputy Chairman, he has been the main source of advice to the committee on conservation matters. John's association with the cemetery goes back even before the founding of the Friends; as Director of the Historic Places Trust he arranged in 1976 for the Trust to provide a donation for the conservation of memorials.