



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

NEWSLETTER No 71 MAY 2011

Editor: David Dunsheath

NOTICE OF 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5.45 pm TUESDAY 21 JUNE 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 MARGARET MARKS,
Adviser on National Monuments and War Graves at the
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE
on her work on conserving war graves and historic burial places around
New Zealand

This is of direct relevance to the work being done in the cemetery and indeed three of our historic graves fall within the Ministry's mandate. What constitutes a war grave and what has to be done to mark it? Come to the AGM and find out.



Loohs & Pickess grave – a future project

Photo: Priscilla Williams

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see cover for date and time)

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 34th AGM (see page 3 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 (see page 9)
7. Election of Committee
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. General business

SPONSORSHIP

ProCopy Ltd has generously offered to sponsor the printing of this and future newsletters. The committee is delighted to accept this proposal.

TOURS UPDATE

We will be running our increasingly well attended '*Tiptoe through the Tulips*' tours again this year during Spring Festival, at 2 pm on each of Saturday 24 September and Sunday 2 October. They will be promoted in the Wellington City Council Spring Festival publications.

Feedback by Donna Wilson of Newlands Community Association, from a tour provided on 24 May reads:

"Yesterday Kate Fortune from The Friends of Bolton St Memorial Park very kindly gave the Newlands Walking Group and I a tour of the Bolton St Memorial Park It was a fantastic experience and I thoroughly recommend it if you haven't ventured out that way."

If you know of any groups that may like a tour please get in touch with me or any committee member (see page 10 for contact details).

Judy Bale



John Young repair & reinstatement
(refer page 7) Photo: Priscilla Williams

MINUTES OF THE 34TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 5.45pm at Turnbull House, Wellington.

1. Present

24 members were present (attendees on file). Chair: Priscilla Williams, President.

2. Apologies

Councillor Ian McKinnon, Clare de Castro, Angela Hill, Penny and Philip Porritt, David Luke, Vivienne Bogle, Judy Bale, Hugh Templeton, Rachel Underwood.

3. Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting

Moved (*M Alington/K Fortune*) that the Minutes of the 33rd AGM held on Wednesday 8 July 2009 be approved as a true and correct record. *CARRIED*

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No one had matters to raise under this item.

5. President's Report

The President referred members to her report, published in Newsletter 69. She noted that since this was written Mrs Ester Einhorn had died. She and her late husband Helmut (the inaugural Chairman of the Friends in 1977) were active in the preservation of the Bolton Street Cemetery. Margaret Alington recalled with gratitude Helmut's assistance when she was working on the tombstones dumped at the back of the Karori cemetery.

Priscilla noted that when the motorway was constructed, some memorials were removed to other locations. The Ferris family plaque has just been re-gifted to the Bolton Street Memorial Park by the Ferris family. Priscilla thanked Melissa Ferris, who was present at the meeting, and the Ferris family for the return of the plaque to the cemetery. David Dunsheath suggested researching and encouraging the return of other memorials.

Moved (*P Williams/T Brandon*) that the President's report be accepted. *CARRIED*

6. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens

David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council, presented his annual report on the Bolton Street Memorial Park, highlighting in particular the climate of financial restraints and proposing consideration of endowment trusts. This report is printed in full in Newsletter No. 70. Priscilla thanked David and invited questions on his report.

Jocelyn Brandon asked about the responsibility for the heritage roses as care for these seemed to be minimal. David said that his staff are responsible and he noted that the Bolton Street Memorial Park contained a nationally significant collection of heritage roses. He also noted that heritage roses needed less work than modern roses. Priscilla said that the Heritage Rose Society used to undertake work on these roses on a voluntary basis but were no longer able to do so. She also mentioned Anne Parker's work on heritage roses in the Easdale Street area of the cemetery, including interesting new plantings.

7. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report and advised that the audit of the financial statements had been completed on 11 May 2010.

Kate noted that membership was at very similar levels to last year at 114 members. She advised members of four recent deaths of members of the Friends: Mrs Ester Einhorn (mentioned earlier), Mrs Elisabeth Anderson, Mrs M Haiselden, Mrs Lynley Hyams.

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

8. Election of Committee

The following people, having been nominated for office, were elected:

Priscilla Williams, President	<i>D Dunsheath / K Fortune</i>
David Dunsheath, Vice-President	<i>K Adair / P Williams</i>
Kate Fortune, Treasurer and Membership Secretary	<i>S Williams / J Bale</i>
Karen Adair, Secretary	<i>N Perrin / J Robinson</i>
Nick Perrin, Judy Bale, Terry Brandon, Jennifer Robinson	<i>D Dunsheath/ P Williams</i>

9. Appointment of Auditor

On behalf of the Friends, Priscilla thanked David Underwood for the voluntary work he does in auditing the accounts. It was moved (*K Fortune/P Williams*) that David Underwood be re-appointed as auditor. *CARRIED*

10. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Priscilla introduced both notices of motion, drawing attention to the texts and the reasons for change set out in the current newsletter. She noted that the texts had been discussed and approved by the committee.

Notice of Motion (1): It was moved by *Priscilla Williams* and seconded by *David Dunsheath* that Rule 2 of the Constitution be replaced with the text listed in Newsletter 69 dated May 2010, pages 2-3. *CARRIED*

Notice of Motion (2): It was moved by *David Dunsheath* and seconded by *Kate Fortune* that Rules 3.1, 3.2, 4, 5.1 and 6.1 of the Constitution be replaced with the text as listed in Newsletter 69 dated May 2010, pages 3-4. *CARRIED*

11. General Business

Priscilla asked if there were any matters of general business that anyone wanted to raise. There being none, Priscilla declared the meeting closed at 6.20 pm.

Following the meeting was a talk by Detlef Klein, on conservation practices and conserving the wooden memorials in the Bolton Street Memorial Park. Detlef is Managing Director of Manawatu Museum Services, Palmerston North, and a leading conservator specialising in wooden items. He has been commissioned by the Wellington City Council to restore some of the Park's wooden headstones and crosses.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2010-11

It is appropriate to start with **tombstone repair** work as this commands much of our attention and most of the money available. Each year the *Wellington City Council* provides a disbursement – currently of \$18,000 – from the Early Settlers Fund. This fund was established in the early 1990s in compensation for the land lost by the motorway. It will shortly be exhausted but I am delighted to report that the Council will then be providing a corresponding item in their regular budget for repairs so that we can continue the programme.

In this newsletter is a separate report (p7) about repairs done during the past year. This is an extensive list– indeed so extensive that we have overspent the budget and will need to be less ambitious over the next few months. In addition to the Council funds, the Friends' budget also met the cost of some repairs as shown in our financial statement. We also seek grants from other sources using our status as a registered charity, but the competing demands for donations (especially for heritage projects) mean our success rate is limited. Priorities for repairs are therefore set carefully, with safety being paramount. Other factors include the importance of the memorial, for either historical or cultural reasons, or its vulnerability to weathering or vandalism.

We maintain detailed tables (the **Heritage Works Programme**) of repairs needed and those which have been done. For the first time to my knowledge those completed in recent years, now 139, outnumber those to be repaired which we estimate at 124. But I suspect the latter is somewhat on the light side and a thorough site examination would show more conservation work should be



Murch & Boardman repairs

Photo: Priscilla Williams



Murch & Boardman grave
(pre motorway)

done. How much becomes a difficult question, especially when considering those structures of lower heritage value such as the wooden grave surrounds. Are these, about 65 in number, to be left to disintegrate or should we be trying to preserve them as a group for displaying interesting variations of 19th Century handcraft? And if so, how faithful should we be to their original hand detailing or do we concentrate on the immediate issues of stabilisation or preservation?

Also during the year, the Friends paid for two new **iron frames** for the banksia roses, (photographs in November 2010 newsletter). Metal work is not cheap and we have

yet to tackle the large number of beautiful but broken cast-iron and wrought-iron fences. We are currently trialling a preservation coating on the iron and hope to document the different traditional Victorian patterns which are amazingly varied.

Working bees are held several times a year to **clear and clean the graves**. We work closely with WCC's gardening team who focus on the trees and plants. A small but dedicated group of volunteers turn out for these working bees and we would welcome more members. Fortunately we have also had substantial help from corporate Wellington, sometimes through the organisation *Volunteer Wellington*. Without these larger teams it would be a losing battle against the weed invasion. Our aim is to make each grave visible and reasonably



Laurie grave: Photo: Kert Snater



Laurie grave repaired

Photo: Kert Snater

accessible but without getting a too manicured look, especially in the more wooded areas which are a special part of the Park's unique charm. There is also the bonus of an occasional new discovery uncovered during the working bees.

Walking tours through the cemetery are enjoyed as much by our guides as by the participants. We advertise these on our website and would be delighted to hold more on request as they spread knowledge of the cemetery and have the side bonus of adding to our funds.

In my last report, I foreshadowed further development of the website's popular **Burial List**, the most visited of our website's pages. During the year we have spent money on the electronic transcribing of about 1,200 memorial inscriptions first gathered by members of this society in 1974. Ahead lie months of work checking the accuracy and consistency of the electronic versions before their public display. This exercise is essential to meet the expanding demands of genealogy researchers and in order to ensure the information is kept safely and accurately for future generations. Enquiries about those buried in the cemetery continue to come regularly through the website.

My thanks as ever go to David Sole for his patience in dealing with our many projects and to his staff for their work in the cemetery, especially the new plantings of trees and bulbs. We shall over the next year be examining the relationship with the Botanic Gardens and the City Council through a proposed Memorandum of Understanding and through a ten-year review of the Combined Management Plan. Finally I should like to record my sincere thanks to all Committee members for their enthusiasm and hard work over the past year.

Priscilla Williams (President)

CEMETERY REPAIRS COMPLETED DURING 2010/11

An article in the last newsletter described recent repairs in the cemetery, listing by name all those graves which had been restored over the past five years. We can now provide a list of those mended over the last financial year, using the annual grant from the Early Settlers Fund.

Four wooden grave markers were sent to Detlef Klein of Manawatu Museum Services for splicing in new wood, preservation and repair. Three were small wooden crosses which had been placed directly into the ground and had rotted at the base. The ones for Elizabeth Cottis and Sarah Hobbs on Alington Path both had readable inscriptions. The other cross was a recent find in dense growth between Observatory and Friends Path, clearly marking a solitary grave but in an area where the maps show no graves should be. This joins our list of “unknowns” and remains an unexplained mystery. The fourth repair was to a traditional slab-shaped marker belonging to William Bentham who was buried in the gully area by Powles Path.

Five repairs to marble headstones were undertaken by Kim Stops of Headstone World in the lower area near the burial vault. The imposing tombstone of Henry Smith was put back on its original base, and the adjacent cross belonging to Will and Willie (we do not know their family name) was also reinstated. Nearby a very delicate, elegant cross, pillar and base were reassembled and identified from an old photo (refer page 5) as being from the Murch/Boardman grave, so was placed next to another headstone from the same family.

We were pleased also to reunite another family group on the Madelay Path bank. A plaque belonging to William Ferris, probably removed during the motorway project, was recently returned by his descendants and mounted in front of the Ferris family headstone. Sadly his granddaughter, Melissa Ferris, who was one of our members, died just before this work was completed. On Chapel Walk, a book plaque in memory of Vivian Middleton had somehow been moved to the wrong grave and is now returned to the family grave of Moffitt, reset in concrete to prevent any further wanderings. Kim also mended the grave base for George Cooper and reattached some missing dome caps on the Bolton Street boundary wall.

He returned later in the year to repair a recently broken marble cross for Charles Tayton at the start of Robertson Way. His real challenge was however a small sandstone marker belonging to John Young which had been discovered in 2009 (page 9 of Newsletter #68). As part of the cross was missing, a new piece of sandstone was beautifully inserted as part of the restoration. Using it as a training exercise, Kim has waived this part of the costs and we are grateful to him for this donation. The marker has been reinstated into the grave where it was found, facing the tombstone of his grandfather, Judge Thomas Young.

Finally the committee decided to start exploratory work on stabilising the wooden surrounds of graves, funding this project from the Friends' budget. Two surrounds belonging to the Barnard and Laurie families (refer photos on page 6) were mended by Kert Snater and the results are still being analysed.

Priscilla Williams

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND WORKING BEES

Thanks to extra input from the Wellington community, six working bees have been held in the cemetery since August 2010. Four of these were the Friends' regular weekend working bees (8 August and 13 November 2010, and 27 February and 3 April 2011), with attendances ranging from eight to ten people.



BNZ volunteers, March 11

Photo: Priscilla Williams

The first of the two additional occasions was on 9 March when we hosted a team of 15 staff members from BNZ – part of their 'Closed for Good' community volunteers programme. These BNZ volunteers spent a full day in the gully on Powles Path in the upper cemetery, achieving a vast amount of clearing and cleaning in the Morva Williams garden and on nearby slopes (around Hart Path and

below the Easdale entrance).

The second corporate work party was held on 11 May, when Volunteer Wellington was able to organise a team of 12 staff members from Fairfax Media. These volunteers came for part of the afternoon only, but worked with great energy and intensity, clearing all the graves along Lyon Path (centre of upper cemetery-park).

Both these weekday onslaughts left impressive piles of weeds, which seemed to delight the WCC gardeners almost as much as committee members! Special thanks to Rachel Solomon (Head Gardener) for assistance and support on all these working bees.

*Kate Fortune and
Jennifer Robertson*



Fairfax Media volunteers, May 2011 *Photo: Kate Fortune*

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

As a new financial year opens, we are delighted to acknowledge the ongoing support (and generous donations) of Friends, with current membership now standing at 117 individuals, families and corporate members, another small increase over last year.

As the financial statements above indicate, it has been another very active year with expenditure on repairs to wooden grave surrounds (\$4,159); on a donation to the WCC for structural support for the old roses on the Robertson grave and at the Sexton's Cottage (\$4,200); and on long-awaited additions to the burial list on our website (\$3,073). Once again we gratefully acknowledge a supply of free community post envelopes from *New Zealand Post*, a significant help in our promotional work.

Kate Fortune (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011 (*subject to audit*)

		<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
		\$	\$
INCOME			
	Book sales	0	40
	Donations & tours	1,732	1,783
	Interest	134	181
	Subscriptions – current + arrears	<u>1,926</u>	<u>1,895</u>
		<u>3,792</u>	<u>3,899</u>
LESS EXPENSES			
	Annual General Meeting	225	232
	Charities Commission	0	50
	Cleaning products / keys	0	82
	Library purchases	10	10
	Membership HCCTNZ subscription	90	0
	Membership Heritage Promotion Council	25	25
	Membership Volunteer Wellington	35	35
	Postage	104	59
	P O Box rental	73	68
	Printing, stationery, copying	517	661
	Project: Chapel cabinet	0	170
	Project: Wooden structures repairs	4,159	0
	Rose supports / Seat (Loeber bequest)	4,200	3,325
	Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	<u>3,228</u>	<u>155</u>
		<u>12,666</u>	<u>4,872</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year		<u>(8,874)</u>	<u>(973)</u>

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**

	<u>2011 (\$)</u>	<u>2010 (\$)</u>
Accumulated Funds – at start of year	19,759	20,732
Plus Surplus / less Deficit for the year	- 8,874	- 973
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>10,885</u>	<u>19,759</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2011

	<u>2011 (\$)</u>	<u>2010 (\$)</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>10,885</u>	<u>19,759</u>
Represented By:		
Current Assets		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	344	2,476
– Savings	<u>10,441</u>	<u>17,248</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>10,785</u>	<u>19,724</u>
Plus Sundry Debtors	<u>130</u>	<u>95</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>10,915</u>	<u>19,819</u>
Less Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in advance	<u>30</u>	<u>60</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>30</u>	<u>60</u>
NET ASSETS AND WORKING CAPITAL	\$10,885	\$19,759

Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer) 13 May 2011

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2010-11

Priscilla Williams	President, Policy & strategies, Historical research, HWP database, Guide	priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 977 4667
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Kate Fortune	Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Guide	kate.fortune@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 970 0024
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Nick Perrin	Biographical & Burial research, Guide	n.perrin@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 3767
Judy Bale	Tour coordination, Publicity	judybale@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 499 8588
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MOFFITT & WRIGHT FAMILIES INTERTWINED

Susannah Evelyn Prideaux MOFFITT neé WRIGHT was a niece of Captain Francis LIARDET, R.N. Her father was Captain Fortunatus Evelyn WRIGHT in some records or John Faithful Fortescue WRIGHT in other records. Susannah's mother, Louisa Félicité LIARDET was the daughter of Lady Félicité Perpetué Catherine Paul de Lamanon d'Albe, a descendant of French royalty (whose mother was a lady-in-waiting to Marie Antoinette), and her husband Major John Robert James William Tell LIARDET.

Susannah married John Lindesay MOFFITT in 1857 and they had five daughters and three sons. Her middle name, Evelyn, has been used many times in the WRIGHT family, commemorating their kinship to John EVELYN (a brother of a direct ancestor, the famous 17th century diarist, second only to Samuel Pepys). Susannah died in 1915.

Susannah's mother Louisa Félicité MOFFITT, formerly WRIGHT née LIARDET, died on 1st February 1875 in the residence of her stepson who was also her son-in-law, John Lindesay MOFFITT. She was buried in Bolton Street Cemetery in plot number 2210 (reinstated monument at Grid L14 10). She shares that grave with a son, John Fortescue Evelyn WRIGHT 1827–1891. Other close relatives of the WRIGHT family are recorded on the reinstated monument at grid D14 01.

Henry MOFFITT, one of the three sons of Susannah and John Lindesay MOFFITT died in Auckland in 1915. He is commemorated on the same slab at the foot of the MOFFITT monument as Gunner Vivian MIDDLETON, buried at sea on 5th September 1918 aged 20.

Vivian MIDDLETON was related to the MOFFITTS via one of Susannah and John's daughters, who was married to Mr A G H MOORE. His cousin, Archie MOORE, was with him when he died of influenza on the troopship "Tahiti" while bound for France as a member of the 40th Reinforcements. He qualifies as a casualty while on active service, and has a Commonwealth War Graves citation as follows:

*In Memory of
Gunner Vivian Middleton
72503, New Zealand Field Artillery
Who died on 5 September 1918
Son of Mrs J.G. Middleton, of 181 Rintoul
St, Wellington
Remembered With Honour
Wellington Provincial Memorial.*

The Wellington Provincial Memorial was erected at Karori Cemetery to record the names of those buried at sea, and is in the form of a marble archway between sections of the soldiers' cemetery at Karori. Vivian therefore has two memorials. *Nick Perrin*



Photo: Priscilla Williams

MOFFITT & WRIGHT FAMILIES INTERTWINED

The Moffitt family grave at grid D15 15¹ is on the main path by the Bolton Street entrance a few metres from the sexton's cottage and chapel. It is notable for its marble monument with a carved angel, being one of only three angels in the Memorial Park and the only one still undamaged.

Those commemorated on the memorial include John Lindesay MOFFITT c.1836 – 1907, Susannah Evelyn Prideaux MOFFITT (née WRIGHT) 1834–1915, Charles Henry MOFFITT M.D. c.1813–1865, Sydney and Adelaide MOFFITT (both died in infancy). Also commemorated are Henry MOFFITT, died 1915 and Gunner Vivian MIDDLETON, c. 1898-1918.

John Lindesay (or John Lindsay in some records) MOFFITT was born in Alnwick, Northumberlandshire about 1836. He entered a cadetship with the Royal Navy at the age of 12 but this was abandoned when he moved to New Zealand with his parents in the 1850s. At St John's College in Auckland he completed his education under Bishop Selwyn before studying dentistry. He



Moffitt Memorial:

Photo: Priscilla Williams

practised as a dentist in Wellington until 1887 and then in the Wairarapa. Ill-health necessitated his retirement and move back to Wellington where he died in 1907. He had previously served in the New Zealand Militia during the Taranaki Wars and was granted a commission by Governor George Grey in 1863. Because of that service, he was accorded a full military burial.

His mother was a niece of the Earl of Lindsey, and his father Charles Henry MOFFITT was a medical practitioner, born about 1813 in Northumberland. It appears his mother died some time before 1858, because his father remarried in 1858 to become the second husband of Susannah's mother. This in effect made John and Susannah step half brother and sister.

Continued page 11

¹ Church of England plot number 0204, i.e Plot 4 in Block No 2