



www.boltoncemetery.org.nz

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

NEWSLETTER No 73 JUNE 2012

Editor: David Dunsheath

NOTICE OF 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5.45 pm WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012 (*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 with a TALK BY LYNLY YATES

A former archivist for the NZ Ministry of Defence, Lynly is very well known in genealogical circles, and an expert on military records. She is a great speaker on family history (her own genealogical web page is outstanding), and she has agreed to talk to us about the value of cemeteries for genealogists.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear an expert (and an enthusiast) talk about unravelling the stories behind the headstones – come to the AGM for a special treat.



Lower Park view towards Bolton Street

Photo: David Dunsheath

AGENDA FOR AGM

The Agenda for the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see cover for date and time) is:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 35th AGM (see page 3 of this newsletter)
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. President's report (see page 4)
5. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council
6. Treasurer's report and financial statements (see page 8)
7. Election of Committee
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. General business

SPONSORSHIP

Our thank you to ProCopy Ltd as the generous sponsor for the printing of this newsletter. The committee is delighted to accept this sponsorship.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2011-12

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MINUTES OF THE 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 5.45pm at Turnbull House, Wellington.

1 Present

26 members were present. Chair: Priscilla Williams, President.

2 Apologies

Councillor Ian McKinnon, Malcolm McKinnon, Jane Aim, John Daniels, Vivienne Bogle, Karl Bale, Rachel Underwood, Alan Martin, Clare de Castro, Bob and Judith Burch, Jennifer Robinson, Dame Laurie Salas, Angela and Bernard Hill, Craig Swift.

3 Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting

Moved (Priscilla Williams/Anne Trotter) that the Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 19 May 2010 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 71. She noted that since this was written she had spoken to Stewart Harvey, Chair of the New Zealand Cemeteries Conservation Trust about the significant damage to historic cemeteries in Christchurch as a result of the recent earthquakes. Margaret Alington thanked the President for her report and the sensible way that repairs in the BSMP are being completed. Moved (Priscilla Williams/Margaret Alington) that the President's report be adopted. CARRIED

6 Report by Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council

David Sole, Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council presented his report to the meeting (to be published in full in the following newsletter). Priscilla thanked David and invited any questions on his report.

7 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

Kate Fortune presented the Treasurer's Report and referred to the financial statements published in Newsletter 71. Kate noted the significant items of expenditure such as repairs and website work and the contribution made by New Zealand Post through the community postage scheme. Kate informed the meeting that the accounts had been fully audited.

Moved (Kate Fortune/David Dunsheath) that the Treasurer's report be received.
CARRIED

Continued

8 Election of Committee

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

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

9 Appointment of Auditor

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

10 General Business

Priscilla asked if there were any matters of General Business.

Anne Trotter asked about the number of people who attend working bees. Priscilla said it was usually between 10 and 12 but noted that the corporate volunteers are an important component such as the recent BNZ ‘Closed for Good’ day and a group of Fairfax employees.

Sheila Williams asked about the numbers of walking tours. Judy Bale answered that on one tour, in conjunction with Wellington City Council, there had been about 80 people. David Sole suggested a facebook page for informing people of tours.

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

Following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, there was a talk by Margaret Marks, Senior Advisor on National Monuments and War Graves at the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2011-12

In looking back at the past year, I notice that one theme coming through is **governance issues** – a subject which has also been dominant in central and local government policy as fiscal restraints bite further into budgets. The Committee started from the central core, namely our **constitution**, and looked carefully at the reasons why we exist and whether these still make sense in the current environment. Members may recall that as a result of this review we altered the constitution at the AGM two years ago to update the aim and objectives of the Society (see newsletter No 69 for the texts). The aim of our Society is quite simply “*to preserve, protect and enhance for the public benefit the three Wellington historic cemeteries now known collectively as the Bolton Street Memorial Park*”. The succeeding objectives separate out more clearly where the Wellington City Council has the lead role and we have a supportive one, and conversely where we see ourselves as the lead agency, for example in the area of historical or heritage research.

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Following adoption of the amended constitution, we were able to conclude with the Botanic Gardens on behalf of the Council a **Memorandum of Understanding** which spelt out the roles and expectations of both parties. This is a new requirement by the Council for all volunteer societies with which they work. While we felt that our relationship worked well already on an informal basis, we had no problem with such a document provided that it accorded appropriately with our organisation's aims and objectives.

We were also asked to review the Council's **Management Plan** which covers the Botanic Garden and Anderson Park as well as the Memorial Park. Drafted in 2002, it has stood up reasonably well but again some updating is needed to reflect more accurately what we are doing and aiming to achieve. This ten year review is still in progress and the Management Plan may be further broadened to cover other entities within the Botanic Gardens family. In considering the wording, and also the seminal Tree Plan recently produced by the Botanic Gardens staff, it has been important to bear in mind that the Memorial Park differs from other parts of the Botanic Gardens and recreational grounds in being a burial ground which still contains human interments and heritage artefacts.



BNZ work party volunteers. Photo: Jennifer Robinson

In its response to *Zealandia Sanctuary's* financial difficulties, the Council recently proposed an '**Eco-City CCO**' (Council Controlled Organisation) governance model spanning four very different entities – the Zoo, Zealandia, Otari-Wilton Bush and the Wellington Botanic Gardens. The Memorial Park is a very small part of this proposal mentioned only by way of a footnote, but nevertheless we felt it desirable to provide both written and oral submissions opposing the proposal as a threat to the Park's long-term funding. Refer to page 10 for details of our submissions. [Just to hand (15 June) is news that the Council has voted to abandon this proposal.]

While considering these governance issues, we continued with our regular **heritage work programme** of tombstone repairs, working bees, tours, research questions and expansion of the burial list. The wooden grave markers remain a priority. Detlef Klein, a specialised conservator, had repaired eleven of these over the past two years. He examined the remaining in-ground markers and concluded about seven of these should be repaired while the other seven were in an adequate state of preservation

Continued

and should be left alone at the present time. We hope that six will be repaired by the end of this financial year. Several masonry repairs have been done and more should be completed within this year's budget – details to be provided in the next newsletter.

The Council also funds **path maintenance** and at the Committee's instigation two new link-paths were completed during 2011. One of these links the rather perilous Goat Track with Trustees Crescent below, providing access for the first time to a group of about a dozen graves perched on that hill. The other new path links the



BNZ work party at Easdale St entrance. Repaired wooden cross in foreground. Photo: Jennifer Robinson

bottom part of Trustees Crescent with Powles Path, the main route through the gully. Again the aim has been to provide better access for visitors tracing their ancestors' graves. The cemetery will never be an OSH-approved landscape but we can try to make it slightly easier for people, especially in the older demographic, to explore the outlying parts while still retaining the "wilderness" aspects typical of Victorian landscaping.

I should like to acknowledge once again the very valuable contributions made by all members of the Committee and the professional assistance of David Sole and his Gardens staff. It is a pleasure working with them all.

Priscilla Williams (President)

AMERICAN AND CANTERBURY LINKS WITHIN THE PARK:

John Evans (Yankee) Brown and Jane Emily Evans Brown

On the Martin/Brown headstone in Bolton Street Memorial Park (see photo on page 7) are links to *Swannanoa* in Canterbury, NZ, to *Zealandia Castle* in North Carolina, USA, and to the prominent 19th century NZ politician, John Evans (Yankee) Brown.

John was born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania on 16th February 1827. In 1849 he went to California during the great gold rush. There he worked as a surveyor before moving to Australia where he ran a sheep and cattle farm and served as a US Consul in New South Wales.

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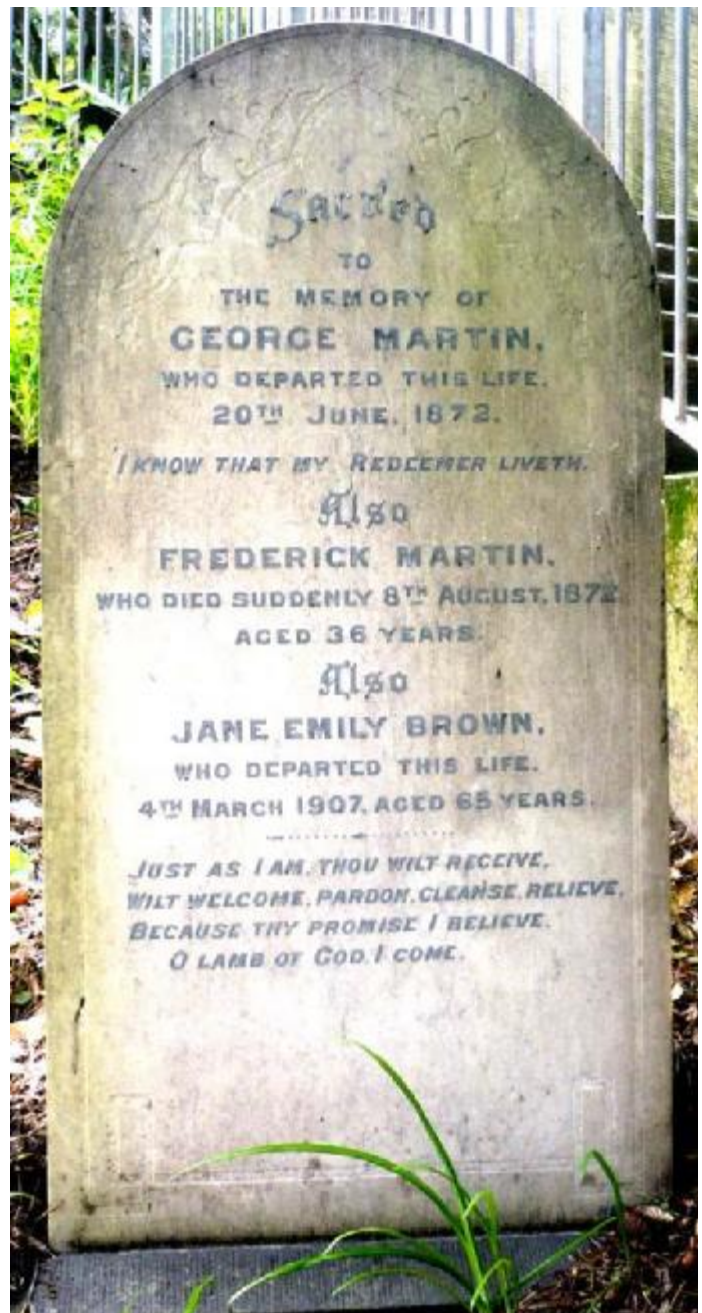
In 1859 he married Theresa Peacock in Sydney. They moved to Canterbury and gave the name 'Swannanoa' (a Cherokee name meaning "beautiful") to his farm on the Eyre River near Christchurch. The locality is still known by this name.

In 1871 John was elected to the House of Representatives as member for Ashley electorate, and held that seat until 1879. Two of his Peacock brothers-in-law were also members of parliament. Following a move from Swannanoa to Papanui in 1877, John became the elected member for St Albans from 1881 to 1884. Browns Road, in the vicinity of his property, was named in his honour. Theresa died in 1880 at the age of 42.

On 20th December 1883 John remarried, to 41 year old widow Jane Martin née Simmons in a ceremony at St Peter's Church, Wellington at which the Venerable Archdeacon Stock officiated. Jane was previously married to Frederick Martin in 1861 with at least one child, Alfred Martin born in 1867, before Frederick's death in 1872.

In 1884 John decided not to stand for re-election and the family, including three of the children from his previous marriage to Theresa, emigrated to Asheville in North Carolina. Here his father owned a large block of land that had been considered worthless until the discovery of very lucrative mica deposits. Mica was once used for windows before plate glass was invented. With the discovery of electricity it became very valuable as an insulator, for example in toaster elements.

The Browns built a homestead in 1889 called 'Zealandia Castle', named after his former adopted home of New Zealand. John was buried there in 1894. As mistress of Zealandia Castle, Jane sold up and moved back to New Zealand after 1903. Zealandia still exists in North Carolina but the original edifice was replaced with a neo-Tudor structure between 1908 and 1920.



Continued

Martin / Brown monument. Photo: Nick Perrin



Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library

Jane Emily Evans-Brown died in Auckland on 4th March 1907 at the age of 65 years., She was buried with her first husband, Frederick Martin, and his bother George (a former publican of the Pier Hotel in Wellington). Their grave in Church of England Cemetery plot number 0704, was disinterred to the underground burial vault during motorway construction. Their reinstated headstone is at grid J14 08 on the modern map, next to the steps where Carr Path meets Madeley Path.

Thanks to Vance Pollock of North Carolina for supplying information. Other information comes from “Papers Past”, the National Library’s website, and New Zealand Birth, Death and Marriage historical records on-line.

Nick Perrin

FINANCIAL REPORT (subject to audit)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for year ended 31 March 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
INCOME		
Reimbursement (wooden repairs report)	334	0
Donations & tours	2,103	1,732
Interest	112	134
Subscriptions – current + arrears	1,641	1,911
Total Income	<u>\$4,190</u>	<u>\$3,777</u>
LESS EXPENSES		
Annual General Meeting	285	225
Cleaning products	62	0
Library purchases	0	10
Membership HCCTNZ	90	90
Membership Heritage Promotion Council	25	25
Membership Volunteer Wellington	45	35
Postage	12	104
P O Box rental	73	73
Printing, stationery, copying	123	517
Project: Rose supports	0	4,200
Project: Wooden structures repairs	334	0
Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	331	3,228
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,380</u>	<u>\$12,666</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	<u>\$2,810</u>	<u>\$(8,889)</u>

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY
for year ended 31 March 2012**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Accumulated Funds – at start of year	10,870	19,759
Plus Surplus (Less Deficit) for the year	2,810	-8,889
ACCUMULATED FUNDS – at end of year	<u>\$13,680</u>	<u>\$10,870</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
at 31 March 2012**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$13,680	\$10,870
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	2,230	344
– Savings	11,612	10,441
Total Current Assets	<u>\$13,842</u>	<u>\$10,785</u>
Plus SUNDRY DEBTORS	0	130
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$13,842</u>	<u>\$10,915</u>
Less CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Unpresented cheque	12	0
Subscriptions in advance	150	45
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$162</u>	<u>\$45</u>
NET ASSETS AND WORKING CAPITAL	<u>\$13,680</u>	<u>\$10,870</u>

Kate Fortune (Honorary Treasurer) 28 May 2012

SUBMISSION ON COUNCIL'S 'ECO-CITY CCO' PROPOSAL

The Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park expressed strong opposition to the '*Eco-City CCO*' (Council Controlled Organisation) proposal being considered by the Wellington City Council in May 2012. This was Council's initial response to its further funding of the financially troubled *Zealandia Sanctuary* in the suburb of Karori.

We urged retention of the status quo management structure, i.e. the Botanic Gardens entity complete with adjacent Bolton Street Memorial Park, to remain within the Council's Parks and Gardens Unit.

Our opposition was based on concerns over obvious mismatches between the four entities within the proposed CCO, i.e. two large-scale entities (Zealandia and the Zoo) compared to two, much smaller-scale entities (Otari-Wilton's Bush and Botanic Gardens).

We pointed out that the Report of The Zealandia Working Group made no specific recommendation in relation to Bolton Street Memorial Park. Without any certainty or security for the future management of the Park, our concerns related to:

- the diverse aims, objectives, and functions of each entity that demand diverse management priorities, business functions and associated skills;
- the disproportionate size of budgets required for each entity incorporating a diverse range of individual contributions/subsidies from the Council, to the inevitable disadvantage of the smaller less visible entities and sub-entities (e.g. Bolton Street Memorial Park);
- the diversity of ecological assets between entities that provides only a weak link between them, contrary to Council's 'strong synergy' claim;
- the inevitable increased overheads of new/promoted management for the big new CCO together with associated restructuring costs to establish it;
- loss of transparency and robust examination of decision making external to Council control, for funding and resource-sharing driven by commercial imperatives to the detriment of individual entities' aims, objectives, and functions (e.g. as clearly evident within some waterfront developments);
- the scarcity of evidence on economies of scale and cost savings for such a large grouping of diverse entities;
- potential disruption of the existing synergies within two important areas of the Wellington commons, namely Otari-Wilton's Bush and Botanic Gardens (including Bolton Street Memorial Park).

We requested consideration of the fact that Bolton Street Memorial Park has enormous conservation and heritage value, and a significant role in protecting and interpreting the city's colonial history. Because it is close to the city centre, its pathways attract constant use by commuters, city workers and residents, as well as visitors. It provides a central green space rich in historic artefacts and plants, for quiet exploration and appreciation of Wellington's colonial past. Adjacent to the Botanic

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Gardens, it contributes to a much larger area of open space, offering passive recreational opportunities as well as a heritage rose collection of national significance.

We noted that since 1991 the Council has managed Bolton Street Memorial Park as part of “the Botanic Gardens of Wellington”, and the Park has benefited from this integrated management system. These garden areas are part of the Wellington commons, and should stay within the Council’s direct control, like the Town Belt. We argued that it would not be beneficial to change their alignment into a smaller part of a larger organisation, nor to disrupt the existing synergies within the current Parks and Reserves department.

Just to hand (15 June) is news that the Council has voted unanimously to abandon its Eco-City CCO merger plan, and it now appears that it will be business as usual for the Botanic Gardens and the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

Kate Fortune & David Dunsheath

A SPECIAL MAORI CLOAK

One of the most dramatic stories on the Memorial Trail pamphlet is about Thomas Wilmor McKenzie, 1827 – 1911, a newspaper proprietor and prominent citizen in early Wellington. As a boy of 13 and newly arrived in the colony, he and a friend entered a house under construction by Maori at Pipitea, thus unwittingly breaching a tapu. Te Rira Porutu, a leading chief at Pipitea Pa, was outraged at this seeming insolence and armed with his greenstone mere threatened to kill them. His daughter-in-law, Ruhia Porutu, who was a Christian, threw her cloak over the boys to afford them protection from the tapu and appealed that their lives be spared. The old chief relented and Thomas subsequently became a close friend of the family.

Not long after this incident Rira Porutu became one of the local signatories to the Treaty of Waitangi. He and his son were in due course persuaded by Ruhia to become Christian and when he died in 1866 he was buried in the Church of England cemetery in Bolton St. His gravestone is a simple sandstone slab. The wording sadly is now illegible but was earlier deciphered as reading “*ko Rira Porutu (...?) to o (10?) Maehe 1866 i mate ia Ngatiawa.*” According to the family bible he died on 10 March 1866.

When Thomas McKenzie died in 1911, the cloak which had saved his life was lent by Ruhia’s family (she had died in 1872) to cover his funeral casket. Being a Presbyterian, he was buried in the public section of the cemetery, known then as the Sydney Street Cemetery. Unfortunately both his grave and that of Porutu were in the path of the 1960s motorway construction and their remains were reinterred in the underground burial vault. Their reinstated tombstones can be seen in the lower section of the Memorial Park along the Robertson Path next to markers 27 and 34.

Continued

A SPECIAL MAORI CLOAK (*continued*)

The cloak which Ruhia owned and which she used to provide protection is an important pre-European one, known as a *kaitaka paepaeroa*. It is made of fine flax with vertical weft rows and has taniko borders with a triangular design, using natural dyes. The lower border of the taniko work can be seen clearly in the photograph below taken after McKenzie's funeral at St John's Church, Willis St. Having been passed down the Porutu/Pitt family, the family cloak was given to Te Papa Museum on loan. It is currently on display until October as part of an exhibition of cloaks entitled *Kahu Ora – Living Cloaks*. This is the world's largest collection of Maori cloaks and is a wonderful display of their artistry and diversity which should not be missed.

Information for the above story was drawn from several sources including Te Papa Museum and *'The Book of New Zealand Women'* edited by Charlotte Macdonald, Merimeri Penfold and Bridget Williams. Our apologies for the mistake in the Memorial Trail map which refers to Thomas's rescuer as being Rira Porutu's wife. This will be corrected in the next edition.

Priscilla Williams



Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library