



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

NEWSLETTER No 75 JUNE 2013

Editors: Kate Fortune & David Dunsheath

NOTICE of 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5.45pm Wednesday 10th July 2013 (*with refreshments from 5.15pm*)
at the Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Queens Wharf, 3 Jervois Quay

Immediately following this AGM, **Brett Mason**, Director of Museums Wellington/ Te Waka Huia O Nga Taonga Tuku Iho, will talk to us about the museum including the plans for its redevelopment. This is a fine opportunity to visit the Museum of Wellington City & Sea, and all members are cordially invited to attend.

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



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Left: The mystery angel (see page 2)

AGENDA FOR AGM

The agenda for the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated (see page 1 for date and time)

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 36th AGM (see page 8 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 10 of this newsletter)
7. Election of Committee
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. General business

THE MYSTERY ANGEL

The mystery angel on the front page has been on loan to the Museum of City & Sea from the Bolton Street Memorial Park since 2005. As it was found in a garden in Sydney Street in 1970 the reasonable assumption is that it was one of the many cemetery memorials excavated and stored in Sydney Street during the motorway construction in the 1960s. However we have not yet been able to establish which grave this came from, despite much diligent sleuthing through photographs, newspapers and even the sketches of Rita Angus.

When the exhibition "Telling Tales" finishes in the next two years we shall consult with the WCC about the angel's future display which might be in the chapel museum in Bolton Street. It is a very important part of our collection as we have only three other angels in the cemetery, all of which are more damaged than this charming little one. Its good state of repair is due to conservation work by the Museum.

The Museum of City and Sea is one of three museums (Museums Wellington) coming under the auspices of the WCC. It is the main museum for Wellington. The cemetery, with its chapel museum and sexton's cottage, is in many respects more sensibly grouped with these historical venues than with the parks and gardens where it is placed by the Council for administrative purposes. We therefore welcome the link with the Museum of City & Sea through the loan of the angel and the hosting of this 37th AGM.

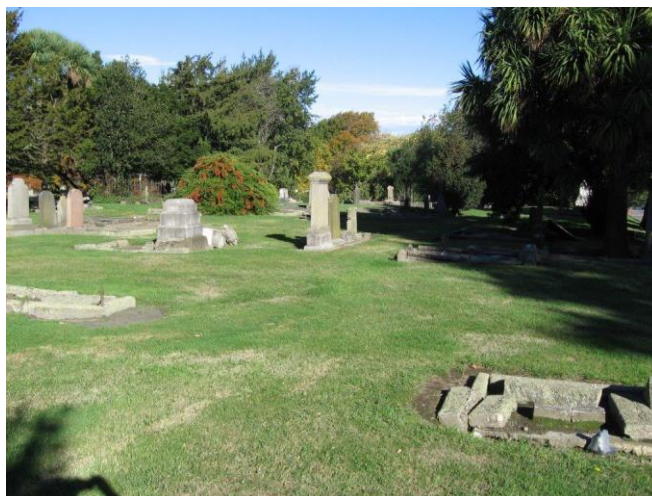
Priscilla Williams

SPONSORSHIP

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the continuing sponsorship of **ProCopy Ltd** for the printing of our newsletters, and the reprint of our membership leaflets. We are also pleased to thank **NZ Post** for the supply of free Community Post envelopes, assisting us in our promotional activities and reducing our operating costs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012-2013

I was recently in Christchurch to look at post-earthquake heritage structures and included in my itinerary the Barbadoes Street Cemetery which, like ours, represents the founding decades of the city's history. It could not be more different in other respects. Divided rigidly by religious groups, the cemetery occupies a flat piece of land by the Avon River dotted with a few fine trees and can best be described as a lumpy lawn with scattered broken memorials. This damage will clearly take some time to repair; it cannot be a priority when there is so much more of greater urgency to restore in Christchurch. While the site has become a lovely riverside park near the city centre, I was struck by the lack of interpretive signage in the cemetery which might help people to understand better the history that the ground contains. A reference to the fact that



further material is held by the Council is not useful for casual visitors, though it gives a clue for more serious researchers. In contrast the Friends of the Bolton Street Cemetery and the Botanic Gardens team have gradually over the years introduced some interpretive signage which allows the visitors or even the daily commuters to get some idea of the history of the park and the type of people who are buried there.

We are also conscious of the need to tread softly in this area so signage has been confined to about five items, as well as the 47 trail markers which successfully blend into the landscape but provide via the accompanying map considerable information on the memorials. The chapel museum is of course a major asset for interpretive material. Members may be interested also to check out the Mount Street Cemetery because its redevelopment includes signage, of which two have been installed so far. We continue to work very closely with the Friends of the Mount Street Cemetery.

In balancing the need for delicacy of interpretation, the Friends' Committee have puzzled for some time over the way to treat the unmarked graves. It is not generally realised that what seems like open lawn space to many are in fact unmarked graves which can be shown only by modern technology such as ground-penetrating radar equipment. Other graves are clearly burial plots but without names, although we hold records showing who was buried in each. Clearly we are never going to mark all these thousands of graves. However a few of the unmarked ones warrant better treatment and we have taken some cautious steps this year on a new naming project. Memorial tablets are being made for two graves – one for Margaret Springgay whose wooden headstone was restored but with illegible writing and the other for Oreste Paolini, an immigrant from Florence whose original wooden headstone was moved to the chapel on the understanding that a replacement stone would be provided. We have decided these tablets should reflect the type of Victorian memorial most commonly used in the cemetery and should be made of white marble

with lead lettering. This is not cheap but it aligns with our more general policy of high-quality repairs for the cemetery's tombstones. The need to maintain high standards means the number of repairs undertaken this year has been slight as there has been a particularly difficult reconstruction of one tombstone that had been badly repaired in the past with iron rods (now rusting) and poor quality cement backing (now crumbling). Details of the repairs in 2012-13 will be in our next newsletter.

We are disappointed that the quality control exercised by the Friends continues to be taken more lightly by other parties involved with the Cemetery. The licensing system for cemetery repairs is run through the Karori Cemetery office on behalf of the City Council and provides for the Friends to be consulted. Sadly the system does not seem to work well and yet again a memorial inappropriate to the Cemetery has appeared. Perhaps the new Management Plan (still being compiled) will help to address this on-going issue.

On the positive side, we continue to enjoy a good relationship with the Botanic Garden staff and are particularly grateful to them for creating more paths – one on the lower side which gives access to graves on the steep slope and the most recent one around the Harry Holland grave so that this interesting 1930s sculpture by Richard Gross can be seen from the front as the sculptor intended. Our dialogue with the staff on graves versus trees continues – a common theme in most heritage cemeteries.

Until recently the Friends' Committee has not been involved with the heritage rose collection as we have lacked both time and expertise. However over the past year one of our Committee members, Judy Bale, has volunteered her services to assist with the roses given our concern that the collection has declined during past decades. Her article in this issue gives detail on her work. We should also like to thank another volunteer, Anne Parker, who has been looking after the roses in the Easdale section for several years. These volunteer efforts replace work previously undertaken by the Wellington members of the Heritage Rose Society. The primary responsibility for the care of the collection of course remains with the Botanic Garden who will continue to be challenged by pressure on staff resources and an inadequate watering system.

Revision of the Management Plan, which covers all areas grouped under the Botanic Gardens heading, provides a useful opportunity to reconsider some basic issues. The WCC has informally suggested in the context of this review that the name of the burial ground might be changed from *The Bolton Street Memorial Park* back to *The Bolton Street Cemetery*. One reason for this is potential confusion with the Memorial Park (a Central Government initiative) being created in Buckle Street. There are other advantages – simplicity of terminology, customary usage and a more accurate reflection of the fact that it remains a burial ground and should be treated as such. We are still trying to trace the detail of the last name change and the idea has to be discussed by the committee. If that discussion is favourable, a resolution will be put to the Annual General Meeting for consideration.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at that meeting.

Priscilla Williams, President

IN MEMORIAM: RODNEY READ (1940-2013)

Rodney was the gardener employed for many years to look after what was then the Bolton Street Cemetery. He started in February 1983, hired by Bruce Harkness, sometime presenter of a television gardening show and the Wellington City Council gardener in charge of reinstating the headstones remaining after the motorway had divided the cemetery in the early 1970s. Rodney's duties at the time were to preserve and add to the heritage rose collection at Bolton Street; he subsequently took on the conservation of the graves and memorials largely on his own initiative, and maintained the area for the next 14 years. We can thank him for rescuing broken and vandalised pieces, recording new plaques and inscriptions, and generally liaising with Margaret Alington and me over matters relating to the Memorial Park.

Even after he resigned in 1997 to set up his own garden contracting business in Masterton, Rodney still regularly corresponded with Margaret and me, and visited on a regular basis to conduct heritage rose tours and rose pruning demonstrations. It was largely due to his work that Bolton Street Memorial Park became registered as a World Heritage Rose Site.

Right: Rodney Read came to the Friends' AGM in 2007 to talk about Dunedin's Northern Cemetery and its heritage roses.

Sadly, three years ago Rodney succumbed to dementia (Alzheimers) and he died in Masterton on 18 May 2013. At his funeral on 22 May, I learned there was a whole other side to Rodney that I was unaware of, and I thought I knew him well. He had studied wool classing at Massey University, and won a scholarship to undertake a textiles course at Bradford in the UK.



On returning to New Zealand he worked as a wool expert for a number of years, but then decided to switch to horticulture, and became a Curator at Wellington Botanic Gardens. This job came with a house on the ridge between the Lady Norwood Rose Garden and Tinakori Road, which meant he had only a very short walk to work.

Besides his work in Bolton Street Memorial Park, especially with heritage roses, he received a citation in 1995 for the excellent work he did planting heritage roses at the historic Pauatahanui cemetery. Apart from all of this, he played the banjo!

The Friends have lost a true friend in Rodney, and I know you will all join me in extending condolences to Rosamunde (Ros) and family.

Nick Perrin

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

Page 1, courtesy of Museum of Wellington City & Sea; p.3, Priscilla Williams; p.5, Kate Fortune; pp.6-7, Judy Bale; p.11, courtesy of Judy Smythe; p.12, Nick Perrin.

HERITAGE ROSES IN THE CEMETERY

As most of you will know, we are very lucky to have a designated 'Heritage Rose Collection of National Significance' in the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

The collection began in the 1840s when family members planted cuttings while visiting the early graves. From 1982 roses have been added by the Wellington City Council, Wellington Heritage Rose Society, public donations and seed donations from Europe. Some of the earliest plantings which are still in the Park today are *Rosa banksiae alba plena*, *Indica major*, *Cecile Brunner* and *Félicité et Perpétue*. There is a wonderful variety of heritage roses in the Park, with examples of all 13 classifications of Old Roses. There is also a collection of wild roses which are the breeding stock for all roses.



In former years, particularly with the work of Botanic gardeners Rodney Read and Bill Weiben, the collection flourished and was well maintained. The Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Heritage Rose Society were also strong supporters. More recently, following staff cutbacks at the Botanic Gardens and with the natural cycle of gardens, the collection has waned and the number of roses has diminished. In 1995 Bill Weiben noted in his booklet “The Scent of a Rose” that there were 122 different roses in the Park; now in 2013 there are approximately 70.



With these figures in mind the Friends offered to replace some roses and volunteered to help to maintain the current collection. We applied to The Friends of the Botanic Gardens for funding to buy replacement roses and pay for improved labelling for the Heritage collection. The Friends of the Botanic Gardens kindly approved our application and we will be working with the Botanic Gardens staff in planting and labelling the new roses.

Judy Bale

MINUTES OF THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 4 July 2012 at 5.45pm at Turnbull House, Wellington.

1. Present

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

2. Apologies

David & Joy Dunsheath, Alan Martin, David Underwood, Craig Swift, Judith and Bob Birch, Karl Bale, David Loeber, Angela & Bernard Hill, Jenny Frew, Clare de Castro, Malcolm McKinnon.

3. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting

One correction was requested by Judith Trotter that the spelling of Ann Trotter be corrected.

Moved (K Fortune/T Brandon) that the Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 21 June 2011 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 73. The President commented on the following:

- The important Gillespie tombstone has just been repaired; as it comes under the War Graves umbrella this has been paid for by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.
- The very generous donation received from ProCopy Printers in their sponsorship of the newsletter will help us to balance our budget.
- The Sexton's Cottage has been a deficient registration in the Historic Places Trust register. The committee has decided to pursue registration for the whole cemetery and likewise the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery in respect of that historic cemetery.

C Lewis gave a vote of thanks to the President and the Committee for the work undertaken in the conservation of the Cemetery.

Moved (P Williams/K Adair) 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 next newsletter*). Priscilla thanked David and his team 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 73. She noted that while subscription numbers were down, membership donations had increased. Expenditure was reduced due to

the sponsorship now being received through ProCopy and the postage cost was low due to the free postage-paid envelopes received through Community Post. The accounts had now been fully audited.

Kate invited questions on the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements. C Lewis asked whether the FoBSMP is a registered charity and Kate confirmed that it is.

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

9. Appointment of Auditor

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

10. General Business

Priscilla asked for any General Business. The following points were raised:

- C Lewis suggested asking Peter Jackson for a contribution to the conservation of the Cemetery given his previous use of the Cemetery for filming.
- Margaret Alington noted her appreciation of the biographical information in the newsletters and that she hopes this will continue to be a feature.
- Sheila Williams acknowledged the contribution made by Vivienne Bogle, one of the founding members of the Friends, who had passed away since our last AGM. A tribute to Mrs Bogle is in Newsletter #72.

There being no other business, Priscilla declared the meeting closed at 6.16pm.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2012-13:

Priscilla Williams: President, Policy & strategies, heritage matters, historical research, priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz, 04 977 4667

David Dunsheath: Vice President & newsletter editor, conservation repairs, david@bcpl.co.nz, 04 472 8405

Karen Adair: Minutes Sec. & Mount Street Cemetery liaison, karen.adair@xtra.co.nz, 04 473 1778

Kate Fortune: Treasurer & Membership, kate.fortune@paradise.net.nz, 04 970 0024

Judy Bale: Tours coordinator, judybale@paradise.net.nz, 04 499 8588

Terry Brandon: Legal & constitutional matters, terrybrandon@xtra.co.nz, 04 471 1483

Nick Perrin: Biographical & burial research, n.perrin@xtra.co.nz, 04 472 3767

Jennifer Robinson: Working Bees, jennifer.robinson@ccdhb.org.nz, 04 973 8137

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT 31 MARCH

	<i>Please note: subject to audit.</i>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Income	Reimbursement (wooden repairs report)	0	334
	Donations & tours	2,232	2,103
	Interest	116	112
	Subscriptions – current + arrears	<u>1,635</u>	<u>1,641</u>
	Total Income	<u>\$3,983</u>	<u>\$4,190</u>
LESS Expenses			
	Annual General Meeting	97	285
	Cleaning products	259	62
	Library and print purchases	250	0
	Membership HCCTNZ	90	90
	Membership Heritage Promotion Council	25	25
	Membership Volunteer Wellington	45	45
	Postage	120	12
	P O Box rental	52	73
	Printing, stationery, copying	37	123
	Project: Memorial Trail (extra tiles)	288	0
	Project: Wooden structures repairs	0	334
	Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	<u>218</u>	<u>331</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>1,481</u>	<u>1,380</u>
	Surplus for the year	<u>2,502</u>	<u>2,810</u>

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY AT 31 MARCH 2013

Accumulated Funds – at start of year	13,680	10,870
Plus Surplus for the year	<u>2,502</u>	<u>2,810</u>
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>\$16,182</u>	<u>\$13,680</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2013

Accumulated Funds	<u>\$16,182</u>	<u>\$13,680</u>
Represented By: Current Assets		
Westpac Bank		
– Current	4,768	2,230
– Savings	<u>11,789</u>	<u>11,612</u>
	<u>16,557</u>	<u>13,842</u>
PLUS Sundry Debtors	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>16,557</u>	<u>13,842</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Unpresented cheques	<u>310</u>	<u>12</u>
Subscriptions in advance	<u>65</u>	<u>150</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>375</u>	<u>162</u>
Net Assets and Working Capital	<u>\$16,182</u>	<u>\$13,680</u>

Kate Fortune (Treasurer) 27 May 2013

CHARLES 'GERMAN' BROWN – EARLY PUBLICAN

Karl Braun, known as Charles Brown, was a German who arrived with the early wave of New Zealand Company settlers on 8 July 1840 aboard the *Martha Ridgway*, accompanied by his wife Anna (née Stansfield) and one child plus another born on the voyage. Eventually they were to have nine children.



*Charles 'German' Brown
and Anna Brown (née Stansfield)*



Charles was listed as a stonemason, but worked as a barman for Baron Charles von Alzdorf before becoming a publican in his own right. From 1850 he was the proprietor of the Thistle Inn, which is still trading on its original site today. In 1860 he was the publican of the Royal Hotel, and Stephen Cooper had the licence for the Thistle Inn (possibly still owned by Charles Brown at the time).

On 8 September 1866 the Thistle Inn burnt down, and for over a year Stephen Cooper kept advertising that it was being rebuilt and would open on 24 December (but he did not state which year!) Finally, on 2 September 1867 James Brown opened the rebuilt hotel as its licensee (this seems to be the present building). In August 1868 the Thistle Inn was recorded as being licensed to "Messrs Brown" but Charles bequeathed it to James (his second son) on his death, the eldest son William already being established in farming in the Hutt Valley.

Two of Charles and Anna Brown's daughters married into the Plimmer family, and in 1857 the eldest daughter Christina Margaretta, married John Laing in a double ceremony with her younger sister Martha Ridgway, who married Alexander Kennedy. It seems very likely that this Martha Ridgway Brown was the child born on the voyage out on the *Martha Ridgway*.

Charles died on 20 June 1868, aged 67 years, and Anna died on 3 September 1868, aged 56. They were buried together in the Bolton Street Cemetery in plot 2307 (grid reference B12 14 on the modern map). The large grave was not affected by the motorway and is in a good state of preservation with handsome iron railings and an iron headstone, and is located a short distance down Powles Path below the steps leading from the entrance by the corner of Easdale Street and Bolton Street.

Charles features in a tale from Pat Lawlor's "Old Wellington Hotels" which was repeated from James McNeish's "Tavern in the Town". He was working as a barman in the "Wellington Tavern", also known as Alzdorf's. In an account by a Samuel Stevens, who stayed at this hotel in 1854: *"The Baron has a barman called 'German Brown' whom he suspected of not handing over all the takings. So one day, after the close of business, he hid in the bar to see what would happen. His employee, unaware of this, counted the money into two heaps saying. 'One sovereign for Baron Alzdorf, one sovereign for Baron Brown', till he came to the last one which was due to his employer. After studying it for a moment he said, 'Well Baron Brown has had such a hard day's work this one goes to him!'"*.

Subsequently Brown had his own hotels, the Thistle Inn and the Royal Hotel, and his former employer von Alzdorf died in the 1855 earthquake. He either owned the Thistle Inn on two separate occasions, or leased it to Stephen Cooper for a time.

In 1909 a newspaper story about the Royal Hotel and its publican referred to Charles as "German Brown, a man of gigantic proportions, whose son James still lives in Wellington".

I acknowledge great-great granddaughter Michelle Brown of Sydney for supplying information for this article and Judy Smythe, another descendant, for the photos of Charles and Anna.

Nick Perrin

