



CEMETERY REPAIRS COMPLETED DURING 2012/13

Using the annual grant from the Early Settlers Fund within the budget of the Wellington City Council, the following repairs were made to tombstones and graves during the Council's last financial year ending June 2013. While the Fund is expected to be fully utilised in the current financial year, provision has been made in the Council's budget for on-going repairs as indicated in the Manager's report in this issue. The Friends are extremely grateful for this commitment by the Council to the important heritage work in the cemetery.



Restored Smith tombstone (N14-08). Photo: David Dunsheath

IN THIS ISSUE:

Cemetery Repairs	cover
AGM Guest Presentation	2
Unknown Aileen	3
William Beetham Portrait Artist	4
Terry Brandon Obituary	5
Botanic Gardens Manager's Report ..	6
Working Bees	8

Masonry repairs were undertaken by Kim Stops of Headstone World, who has mended many of our heritage graves. Recent breakages were repaired on marble memorials for Jane Elizabeth Allen by the Easdale fence, Alfred Canning Shaw on the Carr Path, Elizabeth & William Ebden on the Friends Path and Fred & Mary Tiller near Robertson Way. We also began to repair memorials with concrete back supports which were now crumbling.

These were for Jane Fitzgerald (Carr Path) and for Margaret & John Smith (on Robertson Way). The Smith tombstone was a particularly complicated, lengthy (and expensive) repair as it also involved a complete backing of white granite – the first time this process has been used in the cemetery (photos pages 1 & 2 refer).

Sandstone repairs are notoriously difficult. The specialised conservator, Detlef Klein of Manawatu Museum Services, tackled the Balmer grave in the lower area behind the cottage. This is a popular memorial on our walks as it records a shark attack in Wellington harbour but the three sandstone tablets were degrading from lying flat on the ground. They have now been raised onto a gravel bed with a concrete lip which will protect them from damp, foot traffic and mowing equipment.



Smith tombstone with new matching sleeve piece (left hand side). Photo: David Dunsheath

Bases were separated from the memorials that were moved for the motorway fifty years ago and many have been lost or destroyed. The decision to reinstall the tombstones straight into the ground was presumably for expediency but was an unfortunate one as the memorials are being consistently damaged. Some bases were left at Karori and during the past year the Friends sorted out those which might be used in the repair and restoration programme. Expenses for moving these for sorting were met by the Fund. There are a few bases also stored on Glenbervie Ridge which are gradually being identified.

Finally and also noted in the Manager's report, the Mudge grave which has a large concrete base, wooden railings and painted headboard, was restored by the family descendents. This grave is on the lower part of Trustees Crescent. We welcome any enquiries from other families who are interested in restoring their graves.

Priscilla Williams

AGM GUEST PRESENTATION

Our July AGM was held at the *Museum of Wellington City and Sea* preceded by an illustrated talk from Brett Mason, Director of *Museums Wellington Trust*. He outlined the museum's current initiatives which have resulted in several impressive international rankings. He provided an overview of the museum's extensive building redevelopment work planned to greatly enhance its visitor experience.

Brett invited all our members and others, to approach the museum with any Wellington stories and heritage objects we may have, to enhance the museum's collections for the benefit of future generations.

David Dunsheath

UNKNOWN AILEEN

A small fragment of a marble cross bearing the inscription “Aileen” was located on Trustees Crescent in the 1960s. At the time an inventory of visible graves and monuments was compiled in association with a new map of the overall cemetery (ref B217) after the motorway passed through it. She was listed in the Index to B217 as “Unknown Aileen” at grid F10 02.

In the course of compiling a full burial list from the original records, taking the Index to B217 as a starting point, an old index card recorded what appeared to be “Aileen Nelterville BARRON”, died 10th April 1881 aged 11 months and buried in plot 6607 (block 66, plot 7) of the Church of England Cemetery. Checking the old pre-1889 Bolton Street Cemetery map indeed reveals a plot labelled “BARRON” at the correct location in relation to surrounding graves. This identification would not have been possible without the computerisation of the burial list, which allowed a degree of cross-checking that was not possible manually.

Subsequent checking revealed her name to be Aileen Nelterville BARRON (a correction to the database is needed), daughter of Clark Charles Nelterville BARRON and his wife Augusta Jessie née CURTISS. Clark (1834 - 1911) was a member of the Wellington Militia volunteers, becoming Ensign in 1868, and his occupation was Chief Reporter on the Hansard Staff.

Other children of Clark and Augusta were - Inez, born 1862(?); Ella Jessie, born 1865; Nelterville Charles, born 1867; Winston Nelterville, born 1869; and Nugent Nelterville, born 1874. Although only 11 months old, Aileen was not forgotten, with a marble cross on her grave. In 1904 another baby named Aileen Nelterville BARRON was born to Nelterville Charles and Nellie BARRON. No other family members were buried at Bolton Street with Aileen. Her brother Nelterville Charles was buried at Karori in 1912 (Roman Catholic 62.Q) with his grave pictured on WCC web site.

It is obvious the family attached great importance to the name “Nelterville” since they used it so often as a middle name or even first name. Its origin comes from the Anglo-Norman family of that name, who were granted the Castle of Dowth in the valley of the Boyne by Hugh De Lacy, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland in the 13th Century. The castle still exists. The nearby Nelterville Manor dates from 1877. Clark Charles BARRON’s grandmother was Eliza NETTerville, which indicates that Aileen belonged to Anglo-Irish aristocracy.

Aileen’s marble cross has been repaired at last, and reinstalled on her grave after an absence of over 20 years (*refer to photo on page 8*).

Sources for research were:

Nick Perrin

NZ Births, deaths and marriage historical records on-line

<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz>

Wellington City Councils Cemeteries Database:

<http://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/cemeteries/cemeteries-search>

The Peerage <http://thepeerage.com>

WILLIAM BEETHAM, EARLY WELLINGTON PORTRAIT ARTIST

Recently the New Zealand Portrait Gallery held a very interesting retrospective exhibition of William Beetham's work, curated by Jane Vial. If you missed this, you can see a slightly smaller version which will open at Aratoi Gallery in Masterton on 6 December.



*Mary Beetham by William Beetham.
Early 1840s, oil on panel.
Private collection, Northland*

William and his wife Mary are buried in the Anglican section of the Bolton Street Cemetery below Trustees Crescent and at the foot of a copper beech tree. The following brief account of his life and work is drawn in part from material kindly provided by the Portrait Gallery. Our thanks are due also to the owners of the two portraits for permission to reproduce them.

William Beetham was born in Doncaster, Yorkshire, in 1809. He studied art and became an accomplished portrait painter who exhibited at the Royal Academy. In 1935, soon after his first painting had been accepted by the Academy, he married Mary Horsley, born in 1812, whom he had known since childhood. She became his favourite model.

Despite his success as an artist, he became concerned about providing for the future of his large family, comprising eventually seven sons and three daughters. Attracted by the Wakefield colony in Canterbury and the prospects of pastoral farming, the family set sail for New Zealand in 1855 but after a terrible sea voyage decided to stay in Wellington, their arrival port, rather than cross to the South Island. He and his sons acquired land in the Wairarapa, founding a pastoral dynasty, but William was quickly offered commissions for portraits and soon decided to remain an artist rather than a farmer and to base himself in Wellington.

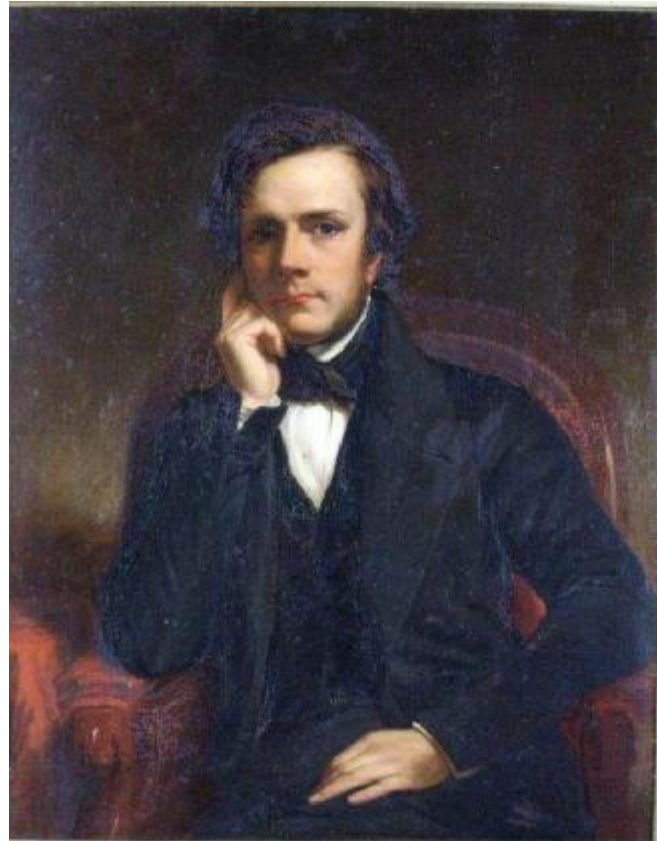
The young colony was generating sufficient income to allow for some leisure pursuits and society leaders were anxious to obtain the services of a reputable portrait painter. Early commissions were from millionaire financier William Barnard Rhodes and from the son of Ngati Toa chief Te Rauparaha. Other notable personalities he painted included Dr Isaac Featherston (Superintendent of Wellington Province), Edward Jerningham Wakefield (son of Edward Gibbon), William Mein Smith (surveyor and pastoralist), Sir Julius Vogel and a posthumous portrait of Archdeacon Henry

Williams, two of his daughters having married into the Williams family. The Portrait Gallery exhibition also displayed some of his paintings of Maori leaders and of family members.

In later years he helped to establish art institutions, being in 1882 one of the founders and first President of the Fine Arts Association of New Zealand, which later became the NZ Academy of Fine Arts. On 3 August 1888 William died in Wellington aged 79, leaving, in the words of Jane Vial, “a significant body of insightful portraits of settlers and Maori”. Mary died in 1899 aged 86. William’s work is represented at Te Papa, Turnbull Library and other art galleries in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Of other personalities mentioned in this story, three are also buried at the Bolton Street Cemetery – William Rhodes, Dr Featherston and Edward Gibbon Wakefield.

Priscilla Williams



William Beetham. Self-portrait. 1850s, oil on canvas. Beetham Family Collection. Wairarapa

OBITUARY - TERRY BRANDON

On 31 July 2013 retiring Committee member, Terence Charles Brandon, died. Terry was a well known Wellington lawyer who lived near the cemetery and enjoyed



Terry and Jocelyn Brandon at a working bee.

Photo: Kate Fortune

walking through it. Some years ago he expressed concern about certain aspects of the cemetery maintenance and we took that opportunity to recruit him onto the committee of the Friends. His willingness to take this on, despite his many other and varied commitments, was greatly appreciated. He served on the committee from 2005 until the AGM held on 10 July this year, when his failing health prompted his decision not to stand for re-election.

Given his background Terry had particular responsibility for legal and constitutional matters and his professional advice in this area was much appreciated. He also took a hands-on approach to many other problems, especially those involving maintenance of wooden materials. Together with his wife Jocelyn, he was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable attendee at our working bees. During his eight years on the committee, Terry maintained a pragmatic and sensible approach to issues, keeping us suitably focussed. He also became our “go-to” person for social events and at all times was a cheerful and convivial member of the organisation.

Terry had a more personal link to the cemetery through the Brandon family grave. Eight members of his family are interred there, including most notably Alfred De Bathe Brandon, a lawyer who arrived in 1840. As a prominent early settler he was a Member of the Wellington Provincial Council and subsequently of the New Zealand Legislative Council. The last full burial in the plot was that of Constance Larnach née Brandon in 1942. The Brandon plot is on Governors’ Way near those of other prominent early settlers including the Wakefield family.

We wish to express our thanks for Terry’s contribution to the cemetery and our condolences to Jocelyn, Catherine, Sarah, Richard and other family members for their great loss.

Priscilla Williams

BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGER’S REPORT TO AGM, 10 JULY 2012

Firstly and foremost I would like to thank the Friends for their continuing assistance with Bolton Street, the ever popular tours, the fielding of enquiries, working bees and to Judy Bale and Anne Parker for their assistance with maintaining the roses. The sourcing of funding from the residual Wellington Rose Society funds is also going to be a big help to the park.

We were fortunate with the recent storm that damage was limited to the removal of branches and not trees. However more branches came off the ‘Rita Angus’ macrocarpa on Woodward Way. We need to be aware that at some stage in the foreseeable future this iconic tree will completely disintegrate either gradually or as a catastrophic event.

We were also fortunate to have a private memorial restoration undertaken this year. Dave Smith, a Mudge descendant, came to us with a proposal which we agreed to, along with the Friends, for the restoration of Mudge. He has made an excellent job of the work. It would certainly be useful if more descendants were to assist in this or other ways.

A section of path was formalised past Gillespie and out onto Ramp Path. The previous year’s removal of the trees here has made a considerable difference to the light and views into the park. The wooden memorial restorations were completed this year, reinstatements continued and repair and reconstruction work was begun on the spalling concrete support for Smith in the lower cemetery. Recovery and laying out

of the stored stones at Karori cemetery revealed a treasure trove of stone which, other than that recovered by the Friends, we will look to reusing where appropriate.

As advised last year, 2013/14 is the last of the Early Settlers Fund with the remaining \$16,000 being mopped up. We will top this back up to around \$20,000 from our Capital renewals programme. This will then continue into future years to keep on with the restoration programme.

At Otari this year we will begin the reconfiguration of the Curators house to a combination of public space and a flat. This is to better support education and research at Otari and the project will span two financial years. Elsewhere it is largely renewals of assets across the four gardens in business as usual. We will complete the replacement of the paving in front of the Begonia House and in association with the Friends of the Botanic Garden, begin the installation of the permanent markers to replace the painted flowers. This will be subject to gaining slip friction certification.

We are in the process of tidying up the scoping for the public consultation on the Botanic Gardens Management Plan. This will go to Council in August for approval for public consultation. The early input of the Friends and Trust groups has been invaluable as we seek to develop a cluster management plan for the four gardens.

Our team has remained fairly stable over the year. Tim Harkness has rejoined the Botanic Garden team and we are now combining the resources of the Cable Car Mess team and the Rose Garden team from which we are already seeing the benefits.

The coming year will be an interesting one especially with the combination of a new Chief Executive, Council elections and goaded by the Prime Minister, increased motivation towards Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital. It will be an exciting and positive time for the city.

[In July] musician Gao Peng takes up residence in the Sexton's Cottage through his association with Victoria University and the Confucius Institute. He will be in residence until late Sept at which time the new NZ Asia Foundation resident arrives.

Again, and on behalf of the Botanic Garden team, thank you for your work at Bolton Street and your support for our team.

David Sole, Manager Botanic Gardens (on behalf of the Botanic Gardens team)

WORKING BEES (continued from page 8)

This creates a joint approach to maintaining the graves and headstones as well as the planted areas throughout the cemetery. Friends working bees cover mainly headstone cleaning, weeding and general tidying up.

This never-ending project is not onerous and takes only a couple of hours about 4 times a year. Volunteers attend as many working bees they wish. These are always enjoyable and interesting, with the added bonus of occasional unexpected discoveries. We would love more new recruits so if you would like to receive email advice of future working bees or if you have any queries, please let me know.

Jennifer Robinson jennifer.robinson@ccdhb.org.nz tel: 973 8137 (after-work hours)

WORKING BEES

Once again a big “thank you” to the small but dedicated team of people who have attended the regular working bees during the warmer months. We have been pleased to welcome some newcomers recently and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2014.

In late 2012 and earlier this year we concentrated mainly on the lower cemetery. Botanic Gardens staff have cleared some unsafe trees, upgraded pathways and made a new pathway on the hill and this together with the cleaned headstones has resulted in a much lighter and more friendly atmosphere in that area.



BNZ “Closed for Good” work party Sep 2013

Photo Kate Fortune

We were also pleased to welcome another hard-working crew from the BNZ as part of the bank’s “Closed for Good” day in September. Once again they demonstrated the worth of a group of fit, young(er) people who achieved a great deal, despite a change in the weather cutting short their planned day. A highlight of the session was the discovery of a pathway, above Bowen Street, that had become overgrown over many years. Sadly the picket fence that ran alongside the path, as clearly visible in an old photo, has long gone. However parts of a brick drainage channel similar to the one on George White Path are still in place and hopefully more may yet be uncovered.

We were also very grateful for work done by a group of Year 10 boys from Scots College who, in Priscilla’s words, were “cheerful, willing and relatively obedient”. A further session is planned in the near future and I’m sure will be enjoyed by all concerned.

The particular area where we work is determined for each working bee after consultation with Botanic Gardens staff. *(continued at bottom of page 7)*



Aileen cross reinstated
(refer article p3)

Photo: David Dunsheath