

# FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET

## CEMETERY INCORPORATED

PO BOX 12 426, WELLINGTON, 6144, NEW ZEALAND http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz

NEWSLETTER No 83 JUNE 2017

**Editors: David Dunsheath & Kate Fortune** 

## NOTICE OF 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6.15 pm Monday 3 July 2017 (with refreshments from 5.45 pm) at ST ANDREW'S CENTRE, 30 THE TERRACE

(disabled access via right hand side of ST ANDREW'S CHURCH)

Please bring this newsletter with you as it contains essential information for the AGM. A presentation by John Harrison on St John's Anglican Churchyard will follow.



Seddon Memorial earthquake damage check Photo: Priscilla Williams

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#### AGENDA FOR AGM

Agenda for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Incorporated (see cover for date, time and venue):

- 1. Present and apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM (see page 9 of this newsletter)
- 3. Matters arising from Minutes
- 4. Report from the President (see page 3 of this newsletter)
- 5. Report by the Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council
- 6. Performance Report and Financial Statements (see page 8 of this newsletter)
- 7. Election of Committee (see below for current committee)
- 8. General Business

#### AGM GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN HARRISON

Our AGM guest speaker, **John Harrison**, wrote a recently published history of St John's Anglican Churchyard, Trentham, along with brief biographies of those buried there. He is a long-term resident of Upper Hutt and parishioner of St John's Church with a special interest in its cemetery which marks the history of the early residents and families of the area. He will talk about the history of St John's and tell some stories of the people and families who are buried there.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2016 - 17				
Jenny Button President	Policy & strategies, Guide	j_button@clear.net.nz Tel (04) 476 5759		
Priscilla Williams Vice President	Repairs, Heritage WP database, Guide	priscilla.williams@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 977 4667		
lan Jolly <i>Minut</i> es Secretary	Wooden repairs, Burial research, Guide	ianjolly@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 527 4222		
Kate Fortune <i>Treasurer</i>	Membership Secretary, Guide, Co-editor Newsletter	kate.fortune@paradise.net.nz Tel (04) 970 0024		
Karen Adair	Mount Street Cemetery liaison	karen.adair@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 473 1778		
Judy Bale	Tours coordinator, Heritage roses, Guide, Publicity	judybale7@gmail.com Tel (04) 499 8588		
David Dunsheath	Iron railings repairs, Co-editor Newsletter	davidd@bcpl.co.nz Tel (04) 472 8405		
Nick Perrin	Biographical & burial list research, Guide	n.perrin@xtra.co.nz Tel (04) 472 3767		
Jennifer Robinson	Working bees coordinator, Guide	jennif.robinson@gmail.com Tel (04) 973 8137		

#### REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT 2016 – 17

It is noteworthy that just over 40 years since the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc came into being on 17 March 1977, the Friends are still in very good heart having made splendid progress over the past year in preserving and enhancing our cemetery. It gives me great pleasure to highlight a few items of particular interest.

A major accomplishment has been the completion of the Memorial Sculpture Garden with a sign to be finalised shortly. Thank you to Priscilla and Judy for their huge contribution and also to Heritage Curator, Stuart Allen, for his expertise. I am also delighted that Priscilla's project to have plaques for the Church of England entrance gates has been realised. And this year after the November 2016 earthquake, expensive work on badly damaged graves has been a priority.

Other achievements include revision of our FoBSC Information Pamphlet by David, and considerable progress on the burial list database by Kate and Nick.

Conducted tours play a significant role in promoting awareness of the cemetery as an important part of New Zealand's history. It is exciting that Judy and Jennifer have researched a new tour, 'Obelisks, Urns and Angels', to be presented this September giving insights into symbols on headstones in the cemetery.

We are appreciative of those members who helped at our successful working bees and also at BNZ's *Closed For Good* day. Unfortunately the indifferent summer prevented further days (organised by Volunteer Wellington) being scheduled. Forty years on it is important to build up our membership and we urge Friends to encourage younger members of descendant families to become involved in conserving our heritage.

Our Statement of Financial Performance below shows our funding and use of funds. We thank Kate Fortune for her focussed commitment to looking after our finances and our membership. Thank you to members for several generous donations received and to Walk Wellington especially for a significant donation. This enables us to supplement the WCC funding to meet the cost of repairs and other projects.

We value our close relationship with David Sole, WCC Manager of the Botanic Gardens and his team. Congratulations to him and his staff on the careful maintenance and attractive appearance of the green spaces enjoyed by us all.

I should like to acknowledge the conscientious work and enthusiasm of all committee members: Priscilla Williams, Vice President, for the time and energy she has devoted to conservation and repair issues; Kate Fortune, Treasurer, for her dedication to finance, membership and newsletters; Ian Jolly for his work on the minutes and wooden repairs; Judy Bale for tours liaison and her interest in heritage roses; Jennifer Robinson for her coordination of working bees; David Dunsheath for the newsletter; and Nick Perrin for his comprehensive biographical and burial list research and his informed and helpful response to the frequent enquiries from family members. I thank Karen Adair for the important link she provides with the Mount Street Cemetery.

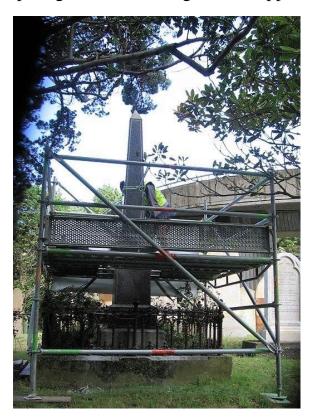
We are very grateful to all Friends for your interest and support. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM.

Jenny Button (President)

#### EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN THE CEMETERY

Our prioritised wish-list of repairs that we hoped might be done this financial year was torn up after the massive 7.8 Kaikoura earthquake on 14 November 2016. We gradually discovered that this severe jolt had separated a number of memorials from their bases. The thrust of the earthquake was sufficient to move or separate the heavy marble or granite pieces in each case.

Two styles of memorials were damaged. The most dramatic were two obelisks, tapering columns soaring above stepped bases, by Carr Path in the lower cemetery.



The obelisks had slid across their bases and were at danger of falling, smashing themselves and any passing person. Pictured *left* is repair work on the memorial for **George William Tabor** (L14-22) who died in 1891 aged 38 and his baby daughter who had died some years earlier. Later an inscription was added for his son, George Alexander Tabor, who also died in his late 30s. This elegant granite memorial proved costly to repair because various complex levels of pinning were required for effective strengthening.

The other obelisk was that for Lt.Col. John Henry Herbert St John (K14-08) of the NZ Militia and Armed Constabulary who died at Wellington in 1876 after active

service in the Land Wars. It was erected by

the officers and members of the armed constabulary force but sadly was subsequently moved for the motorway. In this process, it lost its cast iron fence and its decoration on top of the obelisk which may have been an urn with a cover. Pictured *right* is Lt Col St John on his horse, taken at an unknown place possibly around 1870.

Other earthquake damage comprised heavy tombstone slabs of marble which fell off their bases. Whether they fell forward onto concrete ledgers or backward onto railings and grass, all sustained a number of breakages.



Newsletter #82 had a photograph of the damaged grave of **Margaret and Thomas Whitehouse** (M09-07), an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century memorial on Benjamin Smith Path. Putting all the fragments together was a skilled job now completed. Still to be repaired this financial year is an ornate tombstone from the Jewish Cemetery for **Isaac Phillips** 

(K05-01) who died in 1889, and one of similar dimensions above Strang Path for **Jane Turnbull** (J09-06) who died in 1882 soon after the death of her baby daughter.

Another two toppled tombstones have been constrained undamaged by their grave surrounds. While not urgent, they need to be restored when funds are available. Use of special pinning rods made of extruded glass fibre will help memorials to withstand further earthquakes of high intensity. The overall cost of repairing the earthquake damage exceeds our repair allocation for this financial year.

Priscilla Williams

#### A LAD WHO NEVER CAME HOME

Sergeant Fergus Kendrick GALVIN of 5th Reinforcements NZ Field Artillery.



Fergus Galvin was born in Victoria, Australia on 21 June 1892. After moving to New Zealand, he was educated at the Terrace School and Wellington College. In 1909 he joined the staff of the Union Bank of Australia in Wellington. August 1914 saw him part of the Expeditionary Force that captured German-held Samoa. On his return, he undertook training at Trentham before departing for Egypt on 13 June 1915, en route to the Gallipoli campaign.

He was later transferred to France where he was accidentally wounded in the field. He died of his injuries at Armentières on the

French Belgian border on 16 July 1917, aged 25. This followed amputation of his left leg during his two-day stay in a Field Hospital. How the accident happened is unclear, but his military file does make reference to a Court of Enquiry being held. Sergeant Galvin was buried at Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France.

He was the second son in the family to die fighting in France. His brother Gerald Galvin was killed in action on the Somme in September 1916 (refer to Newsletter #82). He is named, together with Gerald, on his mother's headstone (Powles Path, E11 11).

Ian Jolly

## CAPTAINS MITCHELL AND CAMPBELL AND FAMILY: A TALE OF LOST HEADSTONES

Ship's captains Alexander Mitchell and James Campbell were apparently friends. When Alexander died on 23 January 1875, James allowed him to be buried in plot 3.E of the Public Cemetery ('Sydney Street') which already contained James's two-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, who died in April 1865. Subsequently listed burials in this plot 3.E were for Jane Dickson (aged 34, died 1896), Margaret Campbell (aged 63, died 1899) and James Campbell (aged 78, died 1903).

When plot 3.E was disinterred for the motorway on 7 March 1969, only four human remains were moved to the mass grave, not five as listed. There were apparently no monuments found on the plot at that date. Alexander's stone had been taken away, perhaps stolen or otherwise lost subsequent to a photograph taken of it in the late 1960s by Mr P J E Shotter. (As Acting Sexton, Mr Shotter had photographed all the visible graves expected to be removed for the motorway).

Mr Shotter's photo reveals a handsome headstone identified as being from plot 3.E, which is inscribed –

In memory of CAPTAIN ALEX<sup>R</sup> MITCHELL, late of the ship 'JESSIE READMAN', who died in Wellington Jan<sup>y</sup> 23rd 1875, aged 45 years --- Deeply regretted. --- C. Munro Dunedin

Alexander Mitchell had been sailing ships between Britain, Australia and New Zealand for some years. Newspapers at the time recorded that he came from Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Scotland, and left a widow and three children there. It was also stated that Alexander had died in his cabin while travelling from Dunedin, prior to taking over command of the 'Jessie Readman', a full 'ship-rigged' three-masted sailing ship of 962 tons. A collection was taken up amongst other seafarers and local businessmen for the widow, and Captain Campbell was one of the donors.

As noted above, the Campbell headstone that had also been on plot 3.E was not present when Mr Shotter took his photos. It appears that it was removed by a descendant when families were officially invited to do so. A Campbell descendant recently asked if there was a headstone from plot 3.E, and I told her the one for Alexander Mitchell was lost, and none was recorded for the Campbell family. From enquiries, she found that a relative, since deceased, had taken the Campbell headstone to Karori Cemetery, and asked for the Campbell remains to be reinterred there also, but was told 'they were no more'. Further, it was revealed that Margaret McDonell Campbell, wife of James and mother of Elizabeth Campbell and Jane Dickson, was actually buried at Karori, ROM CATH plot 71 C, on 18 December 1899, and not in plot 3.E of Sydney Street, despite being recorded there.



This neatly solves the mystery of only four human remains being in plot 3.E when five were listed — Margaret was never there! It also solves the mystery of the original Campbell headstone — relocated from plot 3.E, to Karori on Margaret's grave, almost identical in size and shape to the one already at Karori.

In my photo, the Sydney Street stone is on the right. Margaret's original stone on the left has almost an identical listing on it, but does not include little Elizabeth.

Meanwhile, Captain Alex Mitchell's stone remains missing, but we are fortunate to have Mr Shotter's photograph, from which I made the above transcript. *Nick Perrin* 

#### **WORKING BEES**

Sadly, the poor summer weather has had an impact on our working bees. We had one in Autumn and one in Spring last year, but then only one Summer working bee in 2017. We thank those Friends who were able to come along. Most recently we worked on the new Sculpture Garden and also around Observatory Way and near Morva's Garden, below Easdale Street. Volunteer Wellington had arranged for a large corporate group to spend a day in the cemetery in late March but unfortunately a bad weather forecast caused cancellation – a great pity as Stuart Allen and his Gardens team had prepared plenty of tasks for them to do.

All this means that when Spring eventually arrives and Wellington basks in the usual glorious weather, I will be putting out a call for people to come and help us. If you are not already on the working bee email list and would like to join us please email me: jennif.robinson@gmail.com

Jennifer Robinson

Regular helpers at our working bees include (from left): Jennifer Robinson, Hellen Valster, lan Jolly, Ilona Bowron

Photo: Kate Fortune



#### SYMBOLS IN THE CEMETERY: 'KOHEN'

A new tour to be offered in the Spring Festival in September, 'Obelisks, Urns and Angels', will give insights into symbols on headstones in the cemetery.

In the Jewish section of the Bolton Street Cemetery you can see a clear and intriguing symbol on several of the graves. It is a pair of hands with fingers outstretched in pairs and the thumbs just touching.

These hands symbolise a Kohen (or Cohen, Hebrew for priest) who is a male descendant of the High Priest Aaron. The symbol is a priestly blessing.

ייתר אל בין צביי הפהן הפטר ישל הפתחתרם לפ תנצבה

Judy Bale

#### PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

#### PART I: STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE:

- The Society held three guided tours during the year, including the Spring Festival and Walks Week.
- Our website holding a searchable burial database of more than 8600 names was further updated this year to include about 600 more burial inscriptions and photographs. Visitors to this site regularly send us enquiries about ancestors, and this year we have answered 42 more detailed enquiries.
- The Society arranged three working bees this year. In addition we were pleased to be able to host a BNZ group of volunteers for a very useful day's work, but another session with community volunteers was cancelled because of inclement weather.
- The Society paid \$2,500 from its own funds for installation of two plaques at the Bolton Street entrance to the Anglican cemetery. This was possible because of generous donations during the year from members.
- Two issues of the Society's newsletter were published during the year. These newsletters contain information about the Society's work and also historical research, both on burials and related biographical material.

#### PART II: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

		<u>2017</u>	<u> 2016</u>
Income	Income Book sales		0
	Donations (individuals)	2,701	3,583
	Donations (tour groups)	1,371	776
	Interest	124	310
	Subscriptions (current + arrears)	1,265	1,590
	Total Income	\$5,481	\$6,259
LESS Expenses			
	Annual General Meeting	398	323
	Cleaning products	243	0
Membership HCCTNZ		30	30
Membership Heritage Promotion Council			30
Membership Volunteer Wellington 50		50	50
	P O Box rental	53	54
	Printing, stationery, copying	399	314
	Project: Plaques & signage	2,500	0
	Project: Wooden structures repairs	0	5,763
	Study Grant (Karl Noldan)	500	0
	Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	<u>135</u>	139
	Total Expenses	\$4,338	\$6,703
	Surplus (deficit) for the year	1,143	(444)

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#### STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY AT 31 MARCH 2017

Accumulated Funds – at start of year	14,426	14,870
Plus Surplus (Less Deficit) for the year	1,143	(444)
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	\$15,569	\$14,426

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Accumulated Funds	\$15,569	<u>\$14,426</u>
Represented By: Current Assets		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	2,485	1,846
Bonus Saver	10,239	7,157
– Term Deposit	_5,235	<u>5,133</u>
-	<u>17,959</u>	<u>14,136</u>
PLUS Sundry Debtors	<u>175</u>	305
Total Current Assets	<u>18,134</u>	<u>14,441</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors	2,500	0
Subscriptions in advance	65	<u>15</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,565</u>	15
Net Assets and Working Capital \$15,569		\$ <u>14,426</u>
Kate Fortun	e (Treasurer)	25 May 2017

### MINUTES OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 12 July 2016 at 'St Andrew's Centre' on the Terrace at 6:15 pm

#### 1 Present

Jenny Button (Chair), Priscilla Williams, Bill Alington, Caroline Aliaga-Kelly, Nick Perrin, Judy & Karl Bale, Jane Aim, Bill Mansfield, Dinah Hawken, Jennifer Robinson, Kate Fortune, David Dunsheath (minutes), Chris & Hillary Chapman, Ann Trotter, Sheila Williams, Philip Porritt, Joy Dunsheath, Pauline Swann, Karen Thomas, Karen Adair, plus David Sole and Stuart Allen from Wellington City Council.

#### 2 Apologies

Ian Jolly, David Kiddey, Angela & Bernard Hill, Malcolm McKinnon, Jillian Wellings, Judith Burch, Derek Leask, Wade Armstrong, William Aliaga-Kelly, Rachel Underwood, Judith Trotter, Jocelyn Brandon. AGREED that apologies be received.

## 3 Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting

MOVED that the minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held 23 June 2015 be approved as a true and correct record (J. Button/ S. Williams) CARRIED

## 4 President's Report

President Jenny Button referred members to her tabled report (p6 of Newsletter #81), and commented on various aspects including:

- Her report to be read in conjunction with the Performance Report.
- Her thanks for significant contributions by committee members (especially the support from Priscilla Williams for smooth transition to new President), the wider membership, and the community volunteer groups who worked in the Cemetery.

MOVED that President's report be accepted (J. Button/ D. Dunsheath) CARRIED

#### 5 Report by Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council

David Sole (Manager Botanic Gardens) introduced Stuart Allen (recently appointed Curator - Heritage Gardens) and presented his report, including:

- Neil Christensen has retired from his Operations & Assets Officer role after 42 years, nearly all of which associated with the Botanic Garden and Cemetery.
- Propagation of heritage roses is progressing well under Rachel Solomon.
- The Unknown Memorials Garden project is disappointingly delayed until August.
- Thanks to the Friends for support of on-going grave repairs and for funding of wooden fence repairs.
- The Ramp Path along lower side of motorway now renamed 'Europe Path',
- The Chapel Memorial Book now updated and replaced following theft, and the missing Environmentalists List is yet to be replaced.
- Schedule of tenancies in the Sexton's Cottage extends into 2017.
- As always, WCC is indebted to the Friends for their work and support whether it be maintenance, guided walks, repair programmes or advocacy.
- Thanks to Jenny for her leadership of the Friends and support thus provided.

Jenny thanked David for his continuing coordination with The Friends.

## **6** Performance Report (Service Performance & Financial Performance)

Treasurer Kate Fortune tabled the Performance Report for Year Ended 31 March 2016.

- Slow attrition of membership,
- Gratifying level of donations while subscription rates remained unchanged,
- 50% increase in revenue from tours since introducing \$5 per person charge,
- Only modest interest earnings are now achievable,
- Slight excess of expenditure over income in spite of 50% funding of heritage fence repairs, but also while benefiting from discounted/volunteer website support and deferred purchases of grave cleaning stocks until the new financial year.
- Accounts are no longer audited because of unjustifiable cost.

After inviting questions (none eventuating) it was MOVED that the Performance Report for Year Ended 31 March 2016 be approved (K. Fortune/ K Bale). CARRIED

#### 7 Election of Committee

David Dunsheath took the Chair for election of President. Nominations were invited for President, in addition to Jenny Button (K Fortune / N Perrin), but none forthcoming.

**CARRIED** 

Jenny Button then resumed the Chair. Nominations were invited in addition to the following, but none forthcoming:

- Vice-President: Priscilla Williams (J. Button/ N. Perrin)
- Secretary (Minutes): Ian Jolly (P. Williams / J. Robinson)
- Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Kate Fortune (J. Button/ J. Robinson)
- Committee: David Dunsheath, Karen Adair, Nick Perrin, Judy Bale, Jennifer Robinson (K Fortune, P. Williams)
   CARRIED

#### **8** General Business

Kate Fortune invited attendees to contact her to purchase Margaret Alington's invaluable history of the Cemetery, Unquiet Earth, for \$20 per copy.

The meeting closed at 6:45 pm, followed by a presentation by Jane Aim QSM about the 150 year history of Old St Paul's, with which she has strong family connections, and its links with Bolton St Cemetery.

## SCULPTURE GARDEN CREATED FROM UNKNOWN MEMORIALS

In our previous newsletter we described the garden being created from unknown memorials. This is sited above the burial vault containing the remains of about 3700 people whose graves were disinterred for the 1960s motorway construction. Since that article was written, the selected memorials have been set out in the garden area and a temporary sign erected. Some wrought iron railings are currently on site but only some of these will be used as we hope to mend and erect other examples of railings made of wood and cast iron. Another addition to the area are two plain but elegant seats made from grave surrounds that were also dug up during the motorway construction. Two similar seats have been installed by the main path in the upper Cemetery.

Twenty-seven pieces have been placed in the sculpture garden, of which eleven are grave markers such as crosses or tombstones and uniquely, one rock with a carved anchor. The rest are bases, many with Biblical inscriptions. Although we do not know to whom they had belonged, we do know that each of these 27 pieces came from a grave of one of the people buried in the vault below.

The synergy of this juxtaposition and the amount of planning and consultation which had gone into the project was unfortunately lost on one critic and a media reporter. In response to an unhelpful newspaper article, our subsequent letter published in the *Dominion Post* explained the background to the project and our belief that this now provides an appropriate memorial for those buried below the Sculpture Garden. This belief is shared by the Botanic Garden who financed the project and we should like to thank the Manager, David Sole, and also the Heritage Curator, Stuart Allen, who provided invaluable assistance at the design stage.

The project is not quite finished as we still need the railings and a permanent sign, both of which will take time. And it would be lovely to have a grass lawn rather than weeds. But at least we now have a clear demarcation of the burial vault and an appropriate place for people to remember their ancestors buried below.

Priscilla Williams

#### ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY



Earlier this year two marble plaques were installed in Bolton Street marking the original entrance to the Church of England cemetery. This entrance (pictured on left) is just above the Sexton's cottage. It has a wide entrance designed for funeral processions and a smaller entrance for pedestrians. The plaques were given by the Friends of the Cemetery in order to enhance understanding of the area's history.

When first established in 1840, the cemetery was just bare hillside without fences, designated entrances or formed roads. The

subsequent decision to divide the ground into two main parts, allowing for a consecrated area for Church of England burials, proved to be difficult to implement but finally the area was fenced and the rite of consecration was performed by Bishop Selwyn in 1855. By this time Bolton Street had been formed and although it was not much more than a muddy track, it did allow access for funeral processions coming from the original St Paul's church which was on the Government Reserve below. Nearby on the hillside was the parsonage which was the name then given to the residence of the Anglican clergyman. The image *below* is a drawing by S.C. Brees (in the Alexander Turnbull Library) sketched in the early 1840s and prior to the formation of Bolton Street. This rather idealised scene looks south to the parsonage from a path in the church cemetery alongside the eastern boundary fence. The original fence and gates in Bolton Street were wooden but in 1936 the fence was replaced by the current concrete

wall and pillars. The gates no longer exist.

The entrance to the public cemetery was off Sydney Street and thus that burial ground was known as the Sydney Street Cemetery. Its entrance was destroyed by the formation of Bowen Street in 1940 which cut into the steep hillside and some of the graves. It is therefore not



possible to install markers for that original entrance nor even to show exactly where it was. We have found a brick-lined path in that area which must have been an important link for pedestrians prior to the building of Bowen Street.

Priscilla Williams