



FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET CEMETERY INCORPORATED

PO BOX 12 426, WELLINGTON, 6144, NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz>

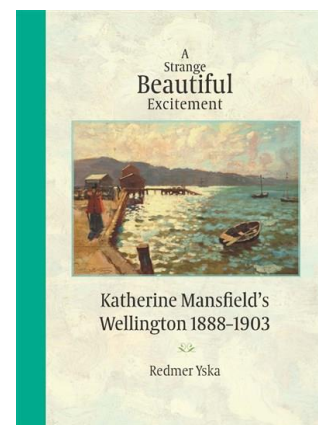
NEWSLETTER No 85 JUNE 2018

Editor: Kate Fortune

NOTICE OF 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**6.15 pm Thursday 12 July 2018 (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 talk by Redmer Yska on Katherine Mansfield's
Wellington: "an unsavoury, festering place?" will
follow the business of the AGM. (See page 2.)**



*Redmer Yska's fine
book on Katherine
Mansfield's Wellington
was published by
Otago University
Press in 2017*

*A family group at the Treadwell headstone on Anzac Day
See page 13 for details of the repairs to this headstone (Photo: Kate Fortune)*

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AGENDA FOR AGM

Agenda for the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc on **Thursday 12 July** at 6.15pm.:

1. Present and apologies
 2. Minutes of the 41st AGM (see page 5 of this newsletter)
 3. Matters arising from Minutes
 4. Report from the President (see page 3 of this newsletter)
 5. Report by the Manager Botanic Garden, Wellington City Council
 6. Performance Report and Financial Statements (see page 4 of this newsletter)
 7. Election of Committee (see below for current committee)
 8. General Business
-

AGM GUEST SPEAKER: REDMER YSKA

Redmer Yska's talk, "**Katherine Mansfield's Wellington: an unsavoury, festering place?**" will discuss issues such as deaths of children (including KM's little sister Gwendoline Beauchamp) at a time in Thorndon's history when there were complaints about odours in the cemetery and about pollution of neighbouring streams, causing fear and concern in the community. Redmer is author of "*A Strange Beautiful Excitement*": *Katherine Mansfield's Wellington 1888-1903*. He grew up in Karori and has become well-known as a researcher with books about 1950s teenagers – *All Shook Up* (1993) – and Wellington's history – *Wellington: Biography of a City* (2006). This is a special opportunity to meet a superb historian with a deep knowledge of our city. Please join us and bring a friend.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2017 - 18

Jenny Button <i>President</i>	Policy & strategies, Guide	jennifer.button.nz@gmail.com Tel (04) 476 5759
Priscilla Williams <i>Vice President</i>	Repairs, Heritage work programme database, Guide	priscillawilliams.nz@gmail.com Tel (04) 977 4667
Kate Fortune <i>Treasurer</i>	Membership Secretary, Guide, Editor Newsletter	kate_fortune@hotmail.com Tel (04) 970 0024, 021 109 4001
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	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
Ian Jolly	Minutes Secretary	<i>Resigned during the year</i>

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT 2017–18

I am delighted to highlight aspects of the Friends' work shown in our Performance Report for the year. It has been another productive and successful year for the Committee with significant repairs, research, walks, working bees and our membership held at a steady level, while our warm relationships have been maintained with the Manager of the Botanic Garden and his staff.

Our major focus again has been our commitment to conservation and grave repairs executed to a high standard with the help of professionals. The now renamed Memorial Garden will shortly be completed with a new sign and the addition of grave surrounds. In addition to Botanic Garden funding we have committed Friends' funding, thanks to the generous donations of all our supporters, in particular, the Friends and Walk Wellington. Our Statement of Financial Performance shows our finances in a healthy position thanks to prudent management by our Treasurer.

Broadening our website has been an important achievement with the completion of all headstone inscriptions together with many more photographs and grave descriptions, so do have a look. One of our most valuable contributions to the community continues to be the research in response to increasing inquiries from visitors to the website.

'Obelisks, Urns and Angels' has proved to be a popular themed tour with its focus on interesting Victorian symbols on headstones and ornate stonemasonry. The 2018 year has seen a focus on the commemoration of World War I with the preparation of the new Anzac trail. This has involved commendable effort and teamwork by members together with Botanic Garden staff, creating a self-guided walk for the future around the graves where servicemen are commemorated. We are always pleased that community groups avail themselves of the opportunity for conducted tours in addition to those we offer.

A vital adjunct to the work of the Botanic Garden team is working bees efficiently organised. These recently involved the cleaning of graves on the Anzac trail. Once again we are grateful to the BNZ volunteers for their day helping us and to the other loyal volunteers who willingly assist us. It is a great way to become more familiar with different parts of the cemetery and very worthwhile.

Our thanks to David Sole, WCC Manager of the Botanic Garden, for his interest, attending our meetings and briefing us on current issues, and to his committed team, in particular, Karl and Stuart, whose significant input we would like to acknowledge.

The strong support of all our committee members is very much valued for their particular responsibilities and hard work together with the many voluntary hours they donate. I should like to thank Priscilla Williams, Vice President, and all members for their outstanding dedication and support over this past year. The committee wish to acknowledge and thank Ian Jolly who has recently resigned, for his great contribution, especially as Minutes Secretary. We are looking for new committee members and would be delighted to hear from those interested. The committee would like to thank all Friends for supporting us, especially for your financial commitment. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM.

Jenny Button

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

PART I: STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE:

- The Society's themed tour 'Obelisks, Urns and Angels' proved to be very popular on the three guided tours held during the year, including in Wellington's Spring Festival. From late Summer, our focus shifted to a new self-guided tour being developed in time for Anzac Day 2018.
- Our website holding a searchable burial database of more than 8600 names was further updated this year. We have now added all headstone inscriptions and also about 200 more photographs and grave descriptions. Visitors to this site often ask for information, and this year we answered 55 separate, quite detailed enquiries.
- The Society arranged three working bees this year for members. In addition we were very pleased to host a large group of BNZ 'Closed For Good' volunteers in August for a valuable day's work.
- The Society assists the WCC by identifying and prioritising the most urgent repairs, advising on the methods to be used and assessing the results. This year's repairs to graves and headstones badly damaged by the November 2016 earthquake used up most of the budget, but we also managed to restore two headstones and one family plot relating to World War I servicemen.
- The Society continued to work closely with Botanic Garden staff on the finishing touches to the Memorial Garden in the lower cemetery, above the mass burial vault.
- Two issues of the Society's newsletter were published during the year.
- Committee members volunteer their own time and skills to carry out the Society's operations. We estimate that on average, there have been eight volunteers donating a total of thirty hours every month during the year.

PART II: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

		<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Income	Book sales	0	20
	Donations (individuals)	2,531	2,701
	Donations (tour groups)	1,439	1,371
	Donation (Travers plaque)	500	0
	Interest	112	124
	Subscriptions (current + arrears)	<u>1,245</u>	<u>1,265</u>
	Total Income	<u>\$5,827</u>	<u>\$5,481</u>
LESS Expenses			
	Annual General Meeting	391	398
	Cleaning products	0	243
	Membership HCCTNZ	0	30
	Membership Heritage Promotion Council	30	30
	Membership Volunteer Wellington	50	50
	P O Box rental	53	53
	Printing, stationery, copying	293	399
	Project: Plaques & signage	3,100	2,500
	Study Grant (Karl Noldan)	0	500
	Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	<u>139</u>	<u>135</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$4,056</u>	<u>\$4,338</u>
	Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>1,771</u>	<u>1,143</u>

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY AT 31 MARCH 2018

Accumulated Funds – at start of year	15,569	14,426
Plus Surplus (Less Deficit) for the year	<u>1,771</u>	<u>1,143</u>
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>\$17,340</u>	<u>\$15,569</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Accumulated Funds	\$17,340	\$15,569
Represented By: Current Assets		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	2,749	2,485
– Bonus Saver	9,308	10,239
– Term Deposit	<u>5,338</u>	<u>5,235</u>
	<u>17,395</u>	<u>17,959</u>
PLUS Sundry Debtors	<u>0</u>	<u>175</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>17,395</u>	<u>18,134</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors	0	2,500
Subscriptions in advance	<u>45</u>	<u>65</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>45</u>	<u>2,565</u>
<u>Net Assets and Working Capital</u>	<u>\$17,340</u>	<u>\$15,569</u>

Kate Fortune (Treasurer) 30 May 2018

MINUTES OF THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 3 July 2017 at St Andrew's Centre on the Terrace at 6:15 pm

1 Present

Jenny Button (Chair), Priscilla Williams, Nick Perrin, Karen Thomas, Kate Fortune, Caroline Aliaga-Kelly, Pauline Swann, Karen Adair, Judy & Karl Bale, Jane Aim, Jennifer Robinson, David Dunsheath (minutes), Joy Dunsheath, Judith Trotter, Jillian Wellings, Malcolm McKinnon, Sheila Williams, Philip & Penny Porritt, Suzanne Sutton-Cummings, plus David Sole, Wellington City Council.

2 Apologies

Ian Jolly, John Daniels, Jocelyn Brandon, Jane Mears, Denis Clifford, Nicola Young, Hugh & Natasha Templeton, Catherine Grenfell, Stuart Allen, William Aliaga-Kelly, Ann Trotter, Judith Burch. AGREED that these apologies be received.

3 Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting

MOVED that the minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held 12 July 2016 be approved as a true and correct record (J. Button/ K Fortune) CARRIED

4 President's Report

President Jenny Button briefly summarised her report, mentioning also:

- thanks for the donation from Walk Wellington;
- recent death of Rev John Murray (committee 1983–1990, Chairman 1990);
- encouragement to Friends to assist us in the membership drive.

MOVED that President's report be accepted (J Button/C Aliaga-Kelly) CARRIED

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

David Sole presented his report including:

- Sculpture Garden nearly completed but formal name yet to be decided;
- Several earthquake repairs were completed delaying some planned repairs;
- Various bulb and rose plantings achieved and well received by the public;
- Staff changes including departure of Leanne Killalea, and addition of Karl Noldan now full time on Operations and Assets;
- His thanks to Jenny Button and committee for continuing supportive activities.

Jenny thanked David for his continuing coordination with the Friends.

MOVED that the Report be accepted (J Aim/ K.Bale)

CARRIED

6 Performance Report (Service Performance & Financial Performance)

Treasurer Kate Fortune tabled the Performance Report for Year Ended 31 March 2017.

She commented on:

- 600 additional inscriptions added to the website, plus many photos and bios,
- Membership has dropped to 92 but income remained strong with generous donations and tours revenue,
- Expenditure was influenced by earthquake repairs.

MOVED that the Performance Report for year ending 31 March 2017 be approved (K. Fortune/ J Bale).

CARRIED

7 Election of Committee

David Dunsheath took the Chair for election of President.

MOVED that Jenny Button be re-elected as President (K Fortune / N Perrin),

CARRIED with acclamation

Jenny Button then resumed the Chair.

Nominations were invited in addition to the following, but none forthcoming:

Vice-President: Priscilla Williams

Secretary (Minutes): Ian Jolly

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Kate Fortune

Committee: David Dunsheath, Nick Perrin, Judy Bale, Jennifer Robinson, Karen Adair. MOVED that these nominations be approved (K Fortune/ J Robinson) CARRIED

8 General Business

Caroline Aliaga-Kelly commented that the critical *Dominion Post* article had been inappropriate, and countered by Kate's very appropriate letter-to-editor response.

The meeting closed at 6:45 pm.

John Harrison then spoke about St John's Anglican Churchyard, Trentham, founded in 1861. He shared stories of its occupants, local residents and local families. His research is partly captured in his book of 89 such stories entitled *Stories From The graves: St John's Church, Trentham*. Priscilla Williams gave the vote of thanks.

MARGARET AND SUSANNAH STOKES, SISTERS-IN-LAW

Although they are buried in the same grave in Bolton Street Cemetery in plot 3313 (grid ref. L15 01), these two women never met. Their husbands were brothers, both prominent early colonists of Wellington under the New Zealand Company.

Margaret Pughe, the daughter of the late Reverend Lewis Pughe of Liverpool, was born in November 1785. She was thus 46 when in 1832 she married Robert Stokes, then just half her age, in St George's Church, Hanover Square, London. She died in Wellington, aged 67, on 1 August 1852, after a prolonged illness, recorded in the correspondence of her Woolcombe Street neighbour Susan McLean (née Strang).

Susannah George, second daughter of Robert George, a tailor of Brighton, Sussex, was baptised in February 1826. At 36, she married Robert's brother, Dr John Milbourne Stokes at St Marylebone, London, on 26 April 1862. John was surgeon on the *Aurora* in 1840, but left New Zealand from 1845 to 1857. After a couple of years back in New Zealand, he was in England once more in 1859, returning from London with his new wife on the *Wild Duck* in January 1865. Susannah died aged 46, on 25 April 1871 and was buried with the sister-in-law she never knew.

Robert Stokes was born in Jamaica in 1809 and his brother John in 1812. In 1819 their widowed mother took them to England. Robert studied architecture while John went to Edinburgh to study medicine. In the 1830s Robert worked as an architect and surveyor in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, primarily for the entrepreneur Joseph Pitt on his new private estate, 'Pittville'. He designed a number of large residential properties, an orphanage, and the ornamental gates of Pittville, which were recently refurbished and reinstated. While living in Cheltenham in 1832 Robert married Margaret Pughe.

Having parted company with Pitt in 1835, Robert worked on his own account in Gloucestershire before moving to London by 1839. In 1840 he approached the fledgling New Zealand Company for a position, and was appointed to William Mein Smith's survey party as an assistant surveyor, and sailed for Wellington on the *Cuba* arriving in January 1840. His wife Margaret arrived soon after on the *Aurora* accompanied by her brother-in-law John Milbourne Stokes, who was the surgeon on board. Robert's surveying efforts for the New Zealand Company are remembered in that Stokes Valley and Stoke(s) Street in Newtown are named after him.

Robert resigned from the New Zealand Company in early 1842 and worked as a surveyor and land agent in Wellington, made two trading trips to South America in 1843 and then became a somewhat controversial newspaper owner and publisher and printer, and later a member of the Provincial Council and Legislative Council. He was also treasurer of the Horticultural Society and later became a member of the Senate of the University of New Zealand, besides serving as a lay member of the Church of England Synod. He was also an early trustee of the Bolton Street Cemetery.

John Stokes practised as a doctor in Wellington and was a JP, but in 1845 he left to work in India. In 1856 he went back to England, and then returned to New Zealand, building up a large sheep-run in Hawke's Bay which became known as 'Milbourne', in partnership with his brother Robert.

In mid-1878 both brothers returned to England, apparently for health reasons, and shortly after, Robert married a second time. This time, the age balance was reversed – his new wife, Jane Rutherford, of Aberdeen, was 38, and he was about 69.

Robert died in January 1880 and his brother soon afterwards in September the same year. They are buried together in Kensal Green Cemetery, London, and neither had any descendants. Their considerable fortunes, apart from that part left to Jane, were bequeathed to several hospitals in London, Scotland and Napier.

Robert's will added another £500 to the £50 he had previously left for the upkeep of Margaret's grave, to be invested so the grave of Margaret and Susannah would be kept "in decent order", and the residue for other Church of England purposes. This fund was to be called The Margaret Stokes Memorial. A large bible with Margaret's name on it was purchased with this fund, and is now displayed in a glass case in Old St Paul's.

In late 1888 to early 1889, Robert's widow, Jane, visited New Zealand. At her instigation, a large memorial window to Robert Stokes was made for the newly-built Napier Cathedral (completely destroyed in the 1931 earthquake). She went on to marry Ralph Slazenger (1844-1910), co-founder of the famous Slazenger sporting goods firm. Jane died in 1912 in London.

This year in February, James Hodsdon and his wife Judie (*pictured at right, beside the grave in the Bolton Street Cemetery*) visited New Zealand to see the grave of Margaret and Susannah Stokes as well as other places with a connection to Robert Stokes – including Milbourne in Hawke's Bay and also the routes of his explorations on behalf of the NZ Company. The reason for this interest in Robert Stokes is that James and Judie live in a house in Cheltenham that was designed by Robert Stokes in the 1830s. This fact emerged when they were doing research for a local residents' group campaigning for the 1833 ornamental gates to Pittville to be refurbished and reinstated.



James's research into the Stokes brothers had previously involved a trip to Jamaica, and it is due to him that there is now much more information available on the Stokes brothers than previously (NZ records did not show Robert's birth in Jamaica). Further detailed information is available on *Papers Past*, the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, and public family trees on ancestry.com (James has one called 'Robert Stokes [Jamaica] Family Tree'). Eventually he hopes to turn his research into a book, and he requests any further information, especially pictures of the two gentlemen. He can be contacted by email on jj49@btinternet.com

Nick Perrin

WORKING BEES

Wellington's great summer meant that we went ahead with our two planned post-Christmas working bees, but the weather also resulted in lots of things to do. In February we had a very productive session working around the Easdale Street entrance, which Stuart Allen had advised needed attention. We had a good turnout of volunteers who did a great job and that area is now much improved. Our March session was connected with the World War I memorial walk. We refined the route, had 2 of our volunteers do a "test walk", and cleaned and tidied the headstones and graves featured in the walk. Immediately prior to the walk we put up the signs and markers. Special thanks go to Hellen who made poppy markers to place by each headstone and we also used them to help mark the route.

In early May we were contacted by students (members of an Environment Group at Victoria University) keen to do some volunteer work. We were therefore able to run an additional session attended by these students plus some of our regulars. The weather was ideal and we had a good session weeding and cleaning up graves after recent windy weather and the usual accumulation of autumn leaves. We were even able to rescue a hedgehog who had managed to get trapped inside a grave surround and to put it somewhere much more suitable for hibernation (well done, Ilona).

A big thank you goes to Stuart and his Botanic Garden staff and to all our regular volunteers: your help is much appreciated and makes a difference to how the cemetery looks. We would love to have some more helpers so if you would like to be added to my email list, please let me know. You will then receive notice of planned sessions. There is no obligation to come along every time, but those who come find it enjoyable and worthwhile – and the work is only as hard as you want it to be.

Jennifer Robinson

(Photographs: Ilona Bowron & Kate Fortune)



SYMBOLS IN THE CEMETERY: BUTTERFLIES

Continuing our series of explaining some of the Victorian-era architectural symbolism in the Bolton Street Cemetery, there is a charming, poignant and rare symbol on Suisted (I14) in the lower Cemetery. The grave marker is cast iron and the symbols are cast as well, which has left them crisp and clear. The butterfly is symbolic of the resurrection of Christ and on Robert Suisted's cross you can see the chrysalis from which it has emerged below the butterfly. The short lifespan of the butterfly often symbolises the grave of a child, as with Robert Suisted, who died aged two years.



Two inverted torches forming a diagonal cross further down the memorial represent the flame of life being extinguished, as well as death and mourning. In this case it is a burning flame indicating that the soul lives on.

Judy Bale

LADS WHO NEVER CAME HOME

Gunner Hubert George (Bert) SCOTT of 6th Battery, 2nd NZ Field Artillery Brigade.



Bert was born at Wellington on 8 October 1895. He was the son of George Beattie and Lilly May SCOTT of 30 Grafton Road, Roseneath. George's occupation was traveller, which most likely meant he was away from home quite a bit as a travelling salesman. Bert attended Roseneath School and later became a cabinetmaker to Peter Ahradsen, a Danish-born cabinetmaker and upholsterer who had his business premises at 17 Tory Street, Wellington.

He enlisted on 24 February 1917 and departed Wellington for Glasgow on 13 August 1917, aboard the troopship *Mokoia*. From there he went on to Aldershot, presumably for artillery training, before leaving for France on 1 March 1918. Bert died aged 22 years at a field ambulance station from wounds received in action on 27 September 1918. He was buried at Louverval Military Cemetery, Doignies, France.

His name appears on the Roseneath School war memorial and on a book-shaped plaque on his Scott grandparents' grave at Bolton Street (at the end of Anzac Path, J09 05).

(See page 13 for a photo and details of the recent repairs to the Scott family grave.)

Trooper James JAMIESON of the Wellington Mounted Rifles

James JAMIESON was born in Wellington on 1 May 1882. He was the third son of Laurence Thomas & Elizabeth Ann Jamieson of 57 Aurora Terrace, Wellington. James' father is listed on the electoral roll as being a storeman.

Prior to enlisting on 23 August 1915, James worked as a grocer. His medical record notes that before he could be accepted into the army he was required to have his varicose veins removed.



After initial training, James embarked from Wellington on 9 October 1915 and disembarked in Suez on 18 November 1915. In April the following year he was attached to Mounted Brigade Headquarters at Hill 70. He was killed in action at Canal Zone on 12 August 1916.

James was buried in the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt, but he is also commemorated in the upper Cemetery on the Jamieson family grave. One of James's brothers, named Laurence after his father, fought as a private in the Otago Infantry Battalion and survived the war.

Gunner Vivian MIDDLETON of the 40th Reinforcements, NZ Field Artillery

Vivian MIDDLETON was born in 1897 at Eltham, Taranaki, youngest son of James William & Jane Granard Middleton. Vivian's father James was born in India and was the son of the principal of Agra College. He attended Eton, studied law at Oxford, and was admitted to the bar in 1876 aged 23. He married Jane in England in 1883 and later moved to New Zealand where he became a barrister and solicitor, in Eltham. In 1903 James died suddenly, and the family moved to 85 Waripori Street, Berhampore, Wellington. As a young man, Vivian served in the Senior Cadets and worked as a warehouseman for the Wellington Woollen Manufacturing Co. He enlisted in the New Zealand Garrison Artillery Volunteers on 18 October 1917, and after training, he embarked on the vessel *Tahiti* for Plymouth, England on 10 July 1918.

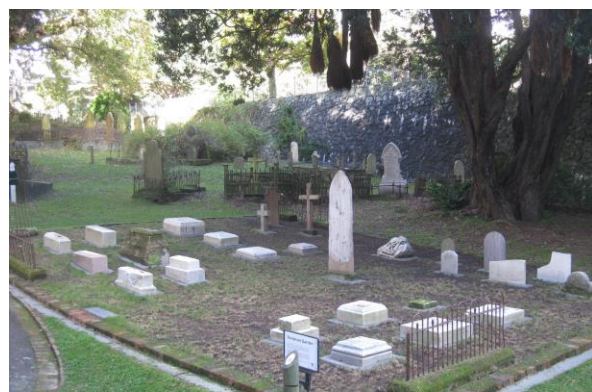


Ironically, after surviving meningitis and typhoid as a child, Gunner Middleton died at sea on 5 September 1918 of influenza aged just 20, and was buried at sea. His name appears on the Wellington Provincial War Memorial at Karori Cemetery and in the Bolton Street Cemetery on the Moffitt family grave. Vivian Middleton was related to the Moffitts through one of the daughters who had married A G H Moore.

CEMETERY REPAIRS COMPLETED DURING 2017/18

Our last annual report on cemetery repairs expressed the hope that this year we would finish the earthquake repairs, do more work on the Memorial Garden, start restoration of some bases and ensure all our World War I memorials were in adequate condition by Anzac Day 2018.

We have a pass mark on two of these, but one last earthquake repair job is still to be done, and the Memorial Garden has slipped down the agenda in the meantime. We have yet to see the new signage for the Memorial Garden as well as completing the selection and placement of some Victorian styles of fencing.



When the tombstones which were dug up for the motorway were reinstated in the cemetery, they were replaced without their bases. This has been a significant heritage loss, especially in cases where the inscriptions were set very low down on the tombstones and thus became buried underground in concrete. It is unrealistic to hope to reverse all this damage but a modest effort each year will gradually rectify a few. We have retrieved some of our old bases from the back of the Karori Cemetery – that was an exercise in itself as they are piled in an untidy heap and very heavy. Then some detective work has been necessary to find a match for any with distinctive markings.



We were delighted to get a definite match for the elaborate **Birrel** tombstone (P10-05) on Woodward Path (*left*). The text on the base showed up clearly in a photograph taken by the Sexton before the grave was dug up, so we knew that this base, unusually quoting two hymn verses rather than a short biblical phrase, belonged to John Birrel. He was originally from Edinburgh and the hymn hints at his Protestant leanings as does the inscription. The tombstone is a wonderful swirl of doves, scrolls and leaves, and looks even better now that it is placed on its original base.

Two elegant pink granite bases had no distinctive markings but we chose to allocate one to the **Collins** family tombstone (I05-04) on Robertson Way as this included a World War I memorial – to Gunner Hugh Collins, killed in action at the Battle of the Somme in September 1916 and is commemorated on his parents' headstone (*upper right*).



The other base was put under a nearby pink granite tombstone with the very short and cryptic inscription **Barron** of 'Craigroy' (*lower right*). This had originally marked the grave of Alexander and Janet Barron who died in 1919 and 1921 respectively and their little son John Richard who died aged three in 1880. The tombstone is



unusual in not naming any individual person and is one of the briefest inscriptions in the cemetery. Alexander was born in Craigroy, Morayshire, Scotland and died at his home 'Craigroy' in Macdonald Crescent, Wellington. His obituary comments that he was "reticent of speech" which certainly also applies to his tombstone.

The two major projects for the year were World War I memorials. The **Treadwell** family marble tombstone (H04-3), sited prominently near the top of Robertson Way, had been badly repaired and set in the ground without a base, thus covering the name of Charlotta, Arthur's mother. The old break was given a much better repair and the tombstone was put on an old base so that Charlotta's inscription could be seen.

The separate stone recording Arthur's death in France was raised to give it more prominence. Our research on Rifleman Arthur Treadwell (see Newsletter #81) suggests that aspects of his family life will remain a mystery. One query is his age; the headstone gives his age as 46, meaning he was born in 1870, but his military record offers 1877. This seems more likely as his mother Charlotta (officially recorded as dying in 1929, aged 70) would have been only 11 or 12 in 1870!



The **Scott** family grave (J09-05) at the end of Anzac Path was the other major World War I project and of a quite different nature as it is an in-ground grave with seven family members buried in it (*left*). The large marble tombstone and memorial "book" to Gunner Bert Scott were in good condition but both the ledger and the ornate wooden fence needed extensive repair.

Bert Scott's grandparents, Robert and Esther, are buried in this grave.

Chris Logan and his Outsiders team built a new ledger and straightened the tombstone, then undertook more detailed reconstruction of the fence. We are most grateful that the bulk of this work was done in time for Anzac Day. Still to be replaced is the old gate and also finial details.

Kim Stops of Headstone World who does our marble repairs also has been working on ways to remove stains from marble. He made some progress in removing some paint graffiti from **Kitching** (H12-15) on Observatory Path and lead staining from **Mowatt** (I09-11) on Strang Path. Neither are perfect but both are greatly improved. A way of removing the orange staining from the old lead has yet to be discovered.

Finally one grave repair was funded privately by family members. This is the grave of Henry Dodsworth **Edwards** and his wife Ellen (N08-05) on George White Path. Long after the cemetery has been closed for burials, it is still possible (but infrequent) for ashes of descendants to be buried in family graves. The Edwards/Potts family arranged for the ashes of Ronald Gerwood Potts to be interred in the Edwards grave on 11 May, exactly two years after his death in 2016. They also arranged for the broken ledger to be replaced and a new marble plaque with lead lettering, matching the two existing ones, to be installed. Gardeners are planting narcissus in the beds within the grave. Although only three family members are listed on the headstone, it appears that up to another five members of the Edwards family were buried here in the 19th century but without name plaques. Details of these are on our website.

Priscilla Williams

GENEROUS DONATIONS HELP WITH OUR REPAIRS

Once again we acknowledge with gratitude the financial support received from members and from tour groups – notably Walk Wellington. Such assistance helps us achieve necessary repairs and conservation work. Many thanks to you all!

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL TRAIL

Some years ago Ian Jolly (then a committee member of the Friends) searched through all the tombstone inscriptions in the cemetery to find memorials to servicemen who had died during World War I – a huge job as there are over 1300 grave markers. He found 16, two of whom were brothers recorded separately on the same tombstone. Of these, 14 died overseas either on the battlefield or from war-related causes. Just two commemorate men who returned and died years later, and one of these two is an official war grave. Many more official war graves can be seen at Karori Cemetery.

When the Bolton Street Cemetery was closed in 1890, burials continued to be allowed in family plots. The Great War started barely one generation later, so young soldiers from Wellington would inevitably have had close family members in this burial ground. Almost all of the 14 wartime deaths are memorialised on either their parents' or grandparents' graves so are very personal expressions of grief at the loss of a younger generation. Ian Jolly then researched in more detail the lives of these men. Mostly the details were scanty – men from simple backgrounds who were barely in their 20s. A few were from prominent families, such as Captain Richard Seddon, son of long-serving Prime Minister Seddon, or Major Percy Brandon, grandson of Alfred de Bathe Brandon, a Crown prosecutor and Legislative Council Member.

All their stories were worth reading, so over the centenary period of World War I we have been publishing them in our newsletter under the generic title of the 'Lads who never came home'. But we felt the stories merited a wider audience, so to mark the final centenary year of the War we decided to create a special memorial walk through the cemetery over Anzac Week which would have story-boards at each of the 16 stops.





A 17th stop was added, Lieutenant William Rhodes-Moorhouse. He is not mentioned on the huge monument to his grandfather, wealthy businessman William Barnard Rhodes who at the time of his death in 1878 was probably the richest person in New Zealand. Nor is he commemorated among the NZ war dead as he served in the British armed services. But he is worth special mention, as he was the first airman in the world to be awarded the Victoria Cross and also the first person of Māori descent to receive it. His colourful life will feature in a future newsletter.

Creating the trail turned out to be a much larger task than we had envisaged. We had to work out a sensible trail which would not include back-tracking, create a pamphlet with a readable map, ensure all tracks were clear, all graves were repaired, cleaned and weeded, sturdy and distinctive markers were located and signs made. An old disused track was cleared, named Anzac Path and provided with a path sign which arrived just before the opening. Good publicity over various media was crucial. One of our members even hand-crafted poppies. Steps were made linking Anzac Path with Strang Path below, again finished just in time – thank you “Outsiders” team.

All this activity would not have been possible without some fantastic help from the Botanic Garden staff, for which we thank Manager David Sole. And our grateful thanks to two special people – Karl Noldan, Assets and Operations Officer, and Stuart Allen, Heritage Gardens Curator, who took on so much extra work with professional skill and enthusiasm.

It was a self-guided trail so we have no exact count of the numbers who took it but about 500 pamphlets were picked up from the entrance boxes. We are happy with the high turnout on Anzac Day especially, when many people were there in the sunshine, exploring tracks that they might normally have never used.



Over the same period, the white crosses were on Salamanca Lawn above the cemetery. And, yes, Botanic Garden staff installed those also. This year there were 5,267 crosses representing all those from the wider Wellington region who died in service during the Great War. The geographical description is a bit misleading as it included for example those recruited from Hawkes Bay and Gisborne. Similar installations were in other cities around New Zealand. The stunning location of these crosses on the sloping lawns and under the trees presented a very moving spectacle for the many people who saw them.

Priscilla Williams

