



FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET CEMETERY INCORPORATED

PO BOX 12 426, WELLINGTON, 6144, NEW ZEALAND

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

NEWSLETTER No 87 MAY 2019

Editor: Kate Fortune

NOTICE OF 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6.15 pm Thursday 11 July 2019 (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 Gábor Tóth on the building of Wellington's Urban Motorway will follow the business of the AGM. (See page 2.)



*This striking hand-wrought ironwork grave in the upper cemetery (**Williams**, O08-01) is definitely worth a visit to admire the recent restoration work. See story on page 6.
(Photo: Kate Fortune)*

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AGENDA FOR AGM

Agenda for the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc on **Thursday 11 July** at 6.15pm.:

1. Present and apologies
2. Minutes of the 42nd 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: GÁBOR TÓTH

Gábor Tóth's talk on the building of **Wellington's Urban Motorway** will focus on the late 1960s when the Bolton Street Cemetery was the scene of massive disruption. As we now know, the bulldozers that created a huge trench for the motorway split the cemetery into two sections and displaced 3,700 human remains. Photographs held in the collections of the City Libraries will illustrate Gábor's talk. Gábor, the Local & NZ History Specialist at Wellington City Libraries, has a strong research background (with *'The Independent'* in London and also for Radio NZ). He has worked in Wellington archives and libraries since 1997. Please join us and perhaps even bring a friend.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2018 - 19

Jenny Button <i>President</i>	Policy & strategies, tours support, guide	jennifer.button.nz@gmail.com Tel (04) 476 5759
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Elizabeth Fletcher	Minutes Secretary	elizabethfletcher1@gmail.com Tel: (04) 934 5113
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 2018–19

It is a great pleasure to highlight a few items of interest on the Statement of Service Performance showing the active and successful year the committee have enjoyed.

The completion of the Memorial Garden with the new explanatory sign installed at the start of the year was especially gratifying, the grave surrounds having been added last year. Planning for the Memorial Stone Wall has begun with two engravings, with thanks to Kate for her generosity. For 2019 we have decided to make the Chapel Museum a major project involving the updating of interior displays, something we will begin during the winter, to be achieved as funding becomes available.

The regular work programme has been a prominent feature through the year: conservation and repair work led by Priscilla is always a major focus with ironwork and lettering a highlight; the development of the website has been important; for the detailed research in answer to an increasing number of community enquiries, we continue to be grateful to Nick for the many hours he spends; a higher number of working bees have all gone well, thanks to Jennifer's efficient organisation with the aid of willing volunteers greatly valued.

Conducted tours have again provided a highlight for the community. The Spring Festival tour, 'Tip-toe through the tombstones' was very popular; the new tour to celebrate Heritage week in October provided an excellent opportunity to learn about Wellington's first cemetery and its early built heritage; the self-guided Anzac walk with posters, poppies and crosses, was set up twice, for Anzac and Armistice Days. Tours have also been conducted at the request of particular groups, noteworthy being Turnbull Library staff commemorating Alexander Turnbull's death in 1918 with a wreath on the family headstone.

In the Statement of Financial Performance it is good to see us maintaining the level of donations and subscriptions with finances in a healthy position and membership increasing. Thank you to members for several generous donations received, enabling us to meet the cost of repairs and other projects.

My sincere thanks to Committee members for their enthusiasm and outstanding commitment to undertaking their special roles. We have been delighted to welcome two new members, Elizabeth Fletcher, Minutes Secretary, and more recently Karl Bale. I should like to acknowledge Priscilla Williams, Vice President, for the amount of time and energy she devotes to conservation and repair issues and Kate Fortune as Treasurer for her dedication to finance, membership and newsletters.

It is with great sadness I record the death of Judy Bale a greatly valued committee member, and John Daniels, a very long serving committee member, both remembered in the November newsletter.

We appreciate our collaborative relationship with the Wellington City Council (WCC), David Sole, and his Botanic Gardens team, especially Karl and Stuart. We thank them for their hard work and professional maintenance of the cemetery.

To all Friends, we are most grateful for your interest, support and financial commitment. I do hope you will join us for our AGM and I look forward to seeing you.

Jenny Button

A DANISH INSCRIPTION RESTORED: PETER M ANDERSEN

In the late 1960s City Sexton P J E Shotter began to photograph all the graves in Bolton Street Cemetery designated for removal to make way for the Wellington Urban Motorway. Most of his photos are now available from the Alexander Turnbull Library via the National Library website. One image shows a grave at plot 39.B of the Public



Cemetery ('Sydney Street') that Shotter labelled 'Grave of Anderson, first name unknown'. This photo (ATL Ref 35mm-25593-26-F) reproduced left shows a well-constructed wooden fence and a wooden cross with the remnants of a painted inscription.

Deciphering of the inscription was attempted in about 1970 by the late Dr Vince Gray of the DSIR Forensic Section, using fluorescence techniques to enhance the visibility of the traces of paint. This revealed that the inscription seemed to be in Danish and it could be interpreted as:

'Hirunder hvile slovel af Peter Mieart Andersen, Fodl i Kjerteminde i Danmark Den 28^{de} September 1829. Dod i Wellington Den 8^{DE} November 1877. Eli Tubi Kun Gavel Forud.'

An article in Newsletter #50 (January 2001) about this included a reinterpretation of the deciphered inscription and a tentative translation by a native Danish speaker, although the last line was guesswork and remained a mystery.

Public Cemetery Register no. 858 records a Peter M ANDERSEN, who died aged 48 and was buried on 11 November 1877. No plot reference is listed, but it is obvious that even without full translation of the inscription, we have identified the occupant of plot 39.B, who is now interred in the mass burial vault beneath the Memorial Garden.

Right: The Andersen cross before restoration

The Registrar General's NZ Index of Deaths (No. 1877/2772) records ANDERSEN, Peter Michael, aged 48, who died on 8 November 1877. Archives New Zealand records the naturalisation in 1875 of Peter Michael ANDERSEN and Carl Heinrich JACOBSEN. The *Evening Post* of 10 November 1877 has 'Funeral Notice – the friends of the late PETER MICHELLANDERSEN are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, which will leave his brother in law's, Henry Jacobsen, Johns-street, Thorndon Flat, to-morrow, Sunday, 11th inst., at 4pm, J H Hutchens, Undertaker'.



(Note: 'Johns-street' is not the Newtown street of that name; it is another that used to exist around the rear of the National Library building on Molesworth Street.)

Last year a plan to have the original inscription on the wooden cross repainted required a fresh look at a translation and from this, a major breakthrough came with the discovery that Peter M Andersen's wife, Hiltje, had died in Australia in 1865. Having then come to New Zealand as a miner, Peter took ill and stayed with his sister Cecilia and brother-in-law, Heinrich (Henry) JACOBSEN in Wellington until his death.

The tentative guesswork producing '*Eli Tubi Kun Gavel Forud*' in 1970 needed to be reviewed. The substitution of '*Hiltje Hun Savel Forud*', meaning '*Hiltje went before him*' makes sense. The original inscription probably read as follows:

HIRUNDER HVILE SJÆL AF
PETER MIEART ANDERSEN
FØDT I KJERTEMINDE I DANMARK DEN 28^{DE} SEPTEMBER 1829
DØD I WELLINGTON DEN 8^{DE} NOVEMBER 1877
HILTJE HUN SAVEL FORUD

A literal translation might be:

*'Here below rests (the soul of)
Peter Mieart Andersen,
born in K(j)erteminde in Denmark on 28th September 1829,
Died in Wellington on 8th November 1877. Hiltje, she went before him'.*



Assuming this is at least a true translation, we accept that further small corrections may be needed to the newly painted inscription shown in these photographs – although we suspect that perhaps there were errors in the original inscription. For instance, 'Kjerteminde' should probably have been 'Kerteminde', a village on the island of Fyn (Funen).

We are indebted to the Honorary Danish Consul, Karen Pullar, who recruited the help of the Bishop of the Danish Church Abroad/ Danish Seamen's Church, for discussion of the translation (especially of the last line). Then she also found several genealogical records to add to our knowledge (including Hiltje's death in Australia). These details enabled Kate to find the marriage of Carl Heinrich Jacobsen to Peter's sister, Anne Cecilia Andersen, in Denmark.

Nick Perrin

(Photos: Priscilla Williams and Nick Perrin)

CEMETERY REPAIRS COMPLETED DURING 2018/19

The most exciting development during this year has been progress, at long last, on both the iron repairs and painted inscriptions. Simon Lewis, known also as the Tombstone Doctor, has been coming from Hawkes Bay with his wife AJ to do this skilled work which meets the high standards that we have set for heritage repairs. This has in turn presented more challenges for us. One major headache is working out the origin of all the pieces of cast iron, jumbled up in the shed and unlabelled. It is basically a giant jigsaw puzzle spread over several acres so every little piece that can be sourced back to the right grave feels like a major triumph. This is going to be a long task spread over several years as we work our way through the cemetery, starting at the top.

Simon's first challenge was the **Williams** grave (O08-01) on Sydney St Path, the most elaborate wrought iron grave in the cemetery. Some of the iron scrolls were missing so Simon made new ones, 'aging' them to match the old ones. In the photograph on the cover, the new scrolls have been fitted as shown but the gate which stands open has since been closed and secured. Buried in this grave are Andrew and Christina Williams and their daughter Beatrice who died at age 15. The inscription includes a masonic lodge symbol. This grave is at the end of a less-used path but is well worth searching out. The unusual hearts (*shown in detail on right*) will have further repair work later; and also the attractive tile work is still in need of restoration.



Simon's other railing projects have been mainly cast iron. Reassembling the **Tayton** grave (G03-01) (*shown above, with the repaired railing completed except for one little piece still to be made*) has been a priority for a long time because of its prominent position at the top of Robertson Way. It was also a challenging project because the

damage was caused by a large root of an existing tree which needed careful removal by the tree team. The cross on this memorial was repaired some years ago. Charles Tayton was a wine merchant who died suddenly in 1891, aged 41.

Other cast iron graves that Simon has completed are less conspicuous, but some have been quite difficult as they have involved refitting iron bars to graves that have moved slightly over the years. Near the Seddon entrance on Reserves Path, two sets of railings have been repaired – for James **Huxley** (F04-02) and Charles Philip **Sisson** (F04-01). In the Jewish cemetery two sets have also been finished – for Solomon **Levy** (J05-19) and Hannah **Phillips** (J05-07). Three other iron repairs are under way in the upper part of the cemetery. Two small marble repairs were done for Mary **Francis** (L11-07) below Anzac Path and the large **Shannon** family grave (J09-07) on Strang Path.

The other interesting task undertaken by Simon has been the repainting of inscriptions on some wooden memorials. Detective work was first needed to work out what would have been on these before most of the paintwork disappeared. We have the inscription copies made in the early 1970s and managed to complete the rest of the wording by searches through the burial records and newspapers now available on line. Nick's article on **Andersen** (P10-10) – on page 4 – describes a particularly challenging puzzle.

In addition to Andersen, three other wooden headboards were repaired and repainted. As shown (*right*), the treatment varies, depending on the original. The Grace **Iggulden** cross (P09-07) was originally painted white so was repainted white with black lettering.

The other two headboards, for John **Reay** (P10-15) and Samuel **Taylor** (P10-14), were in poor condition and almost illegible. The wood has been treated on both and the lettering cut in (as had been done previously) which helps to preserve the outline. The Taylor headboard was so split that Simon forged a handmade metal strap to fit the back and sides, attached with large bolts, and all of it was then appropriately aged.



Through our research, we ensured that all dates were correctly included, and supplied one additional name. These headboards are not yet back in position as the bases need further treatment. Also we need to consider their placement since some seem to have been reinstated during the motorway upheavals over existing graves. They are all from the northern area, at the end of Woodward Path, along an unmarked and unnamed track.

Earlier in the financial year, Kim Stops restored two marble headstones. The **Riley** family tombstone (L07-02), already weakened from the roots of a huge macrocarpa,

had toppled in an earthquake so needed mending and resetting on its base (*pictured right*). In this grave are three brothers and one sister who all died in their teens or early twenties in the space of five years, as well as their mother who died later. The Riley family contributed to the cost of this repair.



The Monk family paid the full cost of re-erecting the **Monk** tombstone in plot M15-08 on the lower lawn where it was lying half-buried and broken. Buried in this plot are John and Phoebe Monk and their daughter Julia who was 18. We hope to mark out a garden around the tombstone to stop people walking on this grave.

Kim also repaired a little broken cross for Ellen **Curtis** (L13-02) which is a reinstated memorial along the Carr Path. A base that was originally with this cross has been placed in the Memorial Garden.

So a bumper year, not only in the number but also the variety of repairs done over the past twelve months. This would not have been possible without Karl Noldan, the WCC officer responsible for these assets, whose skill and energy have ensured they are restored in accordance with appropriate heritage standards.

Priscilla Williams

(Photos: Priscilla Williams and Kate Fortune)

WORKING BEES

We had two very successful working bees in March with good weather on both days.

For our last few working bees we have changed our emphasis from cleaning headstones to spending most of our time weeding, clearing leaves and branches from graves and generally keeping things clear and tidy. On 17 March we worked in the lower cemetery, mainly around the Memorial Lawn and on the bank below Madeley Path which had become quite overgrown after the recent rain. On 31 March we were in the upper area, starting from near the Gardeners' shed working down as far as the slope below the Sydney Street Path, another area that needed work after the wet weather. Although we are not planning any further sessions until after winter is over, if we get a spell of good weather earlier than that we may have a short-notice session as there is always plenty to do. One area we would like to tackle is the area around Margaret Alington path and the Goat Track. This is away from the main pathways so can get neglected if we concentrate too much on the most visited places. Some parts of this area will be a bit of a challenge but as always we will have a variety of tasks and there will be 'something for everyone'.

We had a good turnout of helpers for both days earlier this year, with a good mix of our regulars and new recruits. It will be great if we continue with these numbers as it is surprising what can then be achieved in a couple of hours.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Jennifer Robinson

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

PART I: STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE:

- The Society developed a new self-guided tour commemorating 17 former servicemen who served in World War I. It was offered for Anzac Day and for Armistice Day (11/11). Our guided tours were popular, including one for Wellington's Spring Festival.
- Our website holding a searchable burial database of more than 8600 names was further updated during the year. We have continued to add about 200 more photographs and grave descriptions this year. Visitors to this site often send us enquiries about ancestors, and this year we answered 65 detailed research enquiries.
- The Friends arranged six working bees this year for members.
- The WCC allocates \$20,000 each year for repairs to heritage graves. We assist by identifying and prioritising the most urgent repairs, providing advice on the methods to be used and assessing the results. This year's priority was ironwork repairs and painted inscriptions, but two marble headstones were also restored.
- We continued to work closely with Gardens staff on finishing the Memorial Garden (above the mass burial vault). This year an appropriate explanatory sign was installed.
- 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-two hours every month during the year.

PART II: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

		<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Income	Subscriptions (current + arrears)	1,180	1,245
	Book sales	20	0
	Donations (individuals)	2,216	2,531
	Donations (Riley/ Travers /stone wall)	2,000	500
	Interest	114	112
	Koha from tour groups	<u>1,047</u>	<u>1,439</u>
	Total Income	<u>\$6,577</u>	<u>\$5,827</u>
LESS Expenses			
	Annual General Meeting	479	391
	Cleaning products / megaphone purchase	43	0
	Flowers for John Daniels' funeral	50	0
	Membership Heritage Promotion Council	30	30
	Membership Volunteer Wellington	50	50
	P O Box rental	57	53
	Printing, stationery, copying	823	293
	Project: Plaques & signage	2,600	3,100
	Project: Repairs / stone wall	2,265	0
	Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	<u>139</u>	<u>139</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$6,536</u>	<u>\$4,056</u>
	Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>41</u>	<u>1,771</u>

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY AT 31 MARCH 2019

Accumulated Funds – at start of year	17,340	15,569
Plus Surplus for the year	<u>41</u>	<u>1,771</u>
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>\$17,381</u>	<u>\$17,340</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Accumulated Funds	\$17,381	\$17,340
Represented By: Current Assets		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	3,576	2,749
– Bonus Saver	8,377	9,308
– Term Deposit	<u>8,000</u>	<u>5,338</u>
	<u>19,953</u>	<u>17,395</u>
PLUS Sundry Debtors	<u>93</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>20,046</u>	<u>17,395</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors (unpresented cheque)	2,600	0
Subscriptions in advance	<u>65</u>	<u>45</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,665</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>Net Assets and Working Capital</u>	<u>\$17,381</u>	<u>\$17,340</u>

Kate Fortune (Treasurer) 14 May 2019

MINUTES OF THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 12 July 2018 at St Andrew's Centre on the Terrace at 6:15 pm

1 Present

Jenny Button (Chair), Priscilla Williams, Nick Perrin, Kate Fortune, Pauline Swann, Karen Adair, Judy & Karl Bale, Jane Aim, Jennifer Robinson, David Dunsheath (minutes), Joy Dunsheath, Bill Alington, Judith Trotter, Sheila Williams, Chris & Hillary Chapman, Rachel Brown, Lynne Pomare, Caroline McDonald, Ann Trotter, Rachel Underwood, Julian Parsons, plus David Sole (WCC), and visitors.

2 Apologies

Caroline & William Aliaga-Kelly, Judith Burch, Nicola Young, Karen Thomas, Malcolm McKinnon, Elizabeth Fletcher. AGREED that these apologies be received.

3 Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting

MOVED that the minutes of the 41st AGM held 3 July 2017 be taken as read and approved as a true and correct record. (K Adair/ J Robinson) CARRIED

4 President's Report

President Jenny Button proposed her report (p3 of Newsletter 85) be taken as read and briefly summarised key aspects, including the desire to recruit new and particularly younger members.

MOVED that the 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 (see summary in Newsletter 86), acknowledging the collaborative achievements during the year between the Friends and his BG team. Responding to questions, he:

- Noted need for Easdale St signage to better guide visitors to cemetery entrances.
- Confirmed that proposed Seddon memorial upgrade is separately budgeted for.
- Will chase progress on new Memorial Garden signage still awaited.

Jenny thanked David for his continuing support and coordination with the Friends. MOVED that the BG Manager's Report be received (J Button/D Dunsheath) CARRIED

6 Performance Report (Service Performance & Financial Performance)

Treasurer Kate Fortune tabled the Performance Reports for year ended 31 March 2018 (p4 of Newsletter 85). She commented on:

- The healthy state of finances, with significant total of donations gratefully received;
- Decline in membership (currently totalling 90) that needs to be addressed.

MOVED that the Performance Report for year ending 31 March 2018 be approved (K Fortune/ J Aim). CARRIED

7 Election of Committee

David Dunsheath took the Chair for election of President.

MOVED that Jenny Button be re-elected as President (J Robinson / K Fortune), Further nominations were invited but none forthcoming. CARRIED with acclamation. Jenny Button then resumed the Chair.

Nominations were tabled for remainder of committee as follows:

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

MOVED that the above nominations be closed and this committee be elected, with ability to co-opt additional committee members as appropriate. CARRIED

8 General Business

Priscilla Williams referred to the recent death of John Daniels, a dedicated heritage management advocate, who chaired the Friends from 1983 to 1989, during which time he was instrumental in negotiations on the land allocation issue. He was a committee member for some 30 years until 2009. The Committee had decided to put to this AGM a proposal that John be awarded Honorary Life Membership, but his unexpectedly early death has sadly prevented that course of action.

The meeting closed at 6:45 pm

Our guest speaker, Wellington writer and historian, Redmer Yska, then spoke on *Katherine Mansfield's Wellington: "an unsavoury, festering place?"* – a revealing account of the achievements, hardships and lifestyle during that era of her early life.

WWI RETURNED SERVICEMEN: LADS WHO CAME HOME

Private Sydney BETHELL of the New Zealand Medical Corps

Sydney Stowell BETHELL, the fourth son of John & Mary Ann Bethell, was born on 20 April 1884 at Wellington. His father was in partnership with a John Tinney as painters and decorators in Molesworth Street. Sydney was a self-employed carpenter and also a member of the Kelburn Rifles. In 1913 he married Jessie Edith Emma Taylor and sometime after they lived at Hataitai, Wellington.

Sydney enrolled for military service on 29 October 1917 and entered camp on 7 March 1918. His military service was spent in New Zealand, attached to the NZ Medical Corps at Awapuni (near Palmerston North) and at Featherston, until he was demobbed on 25 November 1918. Presumably after his return to civilian life he resumed his carpentry business. Sydney died on 11 October 1952, aged 68, and was buried with his parents. Sydney's wife died in 1965.



This is the only Returned Serviceman's grave marker in the Bolton St Cemetery.

Major Percy Eustace de Bathe BRANDON OBE of the Mounted Brigade HQ, Main Expeditionary Force



Percy BRANDON was born at Wellington on 28 March 1876, the son of Eustace de Bathe Brandon and a grandson of Alfred de Bathe Brandon, a member of the Legislative Council. After undertaking commercial training, Percy was for a number of years a farmer at Pohangina in the Manawatu-Wanganui District, but he sold his farms when war broke out in South Africa and he enlisted as a private.

In 1892 he joined the Legislative Department, becoming Hansard Supervisor from 1919 until 1930. In 1909 he married Clara Richards. Highlights of his war service were:

- In 1902 he took part in the South African campaign, and gained the Queen's Medal and three clasps.
- In 1908 promoted to Captain and adjutant, 2nd Wellington Mounted Rifles.
- In WWI he set off on 16 October 1914 with the NZ Expeditionary Force as a Captain attached to Mounted Brigade Headquarters (in the 'Pay Department'). He was twice wounded but recovered to serve in France and at HQ in London.
- Captain Brandon was promoted to Major on 1 March 1916 and received the OBE in 1919 for his contribution to the war effort.
- In WWII as a temporary Captain in the Wellington City Battalion of the Home Guard in 1941, he helped to establish the Thorndon Home Guard.

Percy Brandon died at Wellington on 5 October 1949. His funeral was attended by the then Prime Minister Peter Fraser. His ashes were buried in the Brandon family plot in the Bolton St Cemetery.

This concludes our WWI series: Lads Who Never Came Home, researched by Ian Jolly.