



FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET CEMETERY INCORPORATED

PO BOX 12 426, WELLINGTON, 6144, NEW ZEALAND

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

NEWSLETTER No 89 MAY 2020

Editor: Kate Fortune

NOTICE OF 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.45 pm Thursday 9 July 2020 at

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE, 30 THE TERRACE

Please bring this newsletter with you as it contains essential information for the AGM.

At the time of going to print, the Covid-19 rules that will be in force for public gatherings in July are not known. (See page 2.)



*For a long time the Cemetery has been free from vandalism, the last occasion being in 2004 when 16 Jewish tombstones were smashed. Illegal or non-permitted work happens from time to time but less frequently since tightening the special arrangements needed for repairing heritage graves. So it is disappointing to report that we have had two serious incidents this year, one of vandalism and one of unauthorised work. **See page 8.***

(Photo: Priscilla Williams)

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AGENDA FOR AGM

Agenda for the 44th Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 9 July** at 5.45pm.

1. Present and apologies
 2. Minutes of the 43rd AGM (see page 10 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 9 of this newsletter)
 7. Election of Committee (see below for current committee)
 8. General Business
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AGM PROGRAMME:

If public gatherings with more than 20 people are permitted, we plan to hold our AGM in the meeting rooms at St Andrews Centre as we have done in recent years. If not, we expect to hold the AGM **online, using zoom** (by email invitation).

If we use the St Andrews Centre, we hope to offer a short illustrated presentation (on historic cemeteries, for instance) but obviously this cannot be finalised at the moment. We plan to communicate the final decision by email (and phone-calls to those members we cannot reach via email). This is an exceptional year, but it does feel strange not to be in a position to be more specific yet. Whatever the outcome, we do hope that many of you will be able to join us either online or at 30 The Terrace.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2019 - 20

Jenny Button <i>President</i>	Policy & strategies, tours support, guide	jennifer.button.nz@gmail.com Tel (04) 476 5759
Priscilla Williams <i>Vice President</i>	Repairs, research, guide	priscillawilliams.nz@gmail.com Tel (04) 977 4667
Kate Fortune <i>Treasurer</i>	Membership Secretary, guide, editor <i>Newsletter</i>	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
Karl Bale	Garden liaison, repairs	karlsbale@gmail.com Tel (04) 499 8588
David Dunsheath	Tours support	ddunsheath@gmail.com Tel (04) 472 8405
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, guide	jennif.robinson@gmail.com Tel (04) 973 8137

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT 2019–20

As you will see in our Statement of Performance, this has been another very successful year – but one so abruptly halted by the Covid-19 Lockdown. The committee work restoring graves, researching, enhancing the website, leading tours and working bees, and publishing newsletters all makes a splendid contribution to the cemetery both as a community and a heritage asset.

Our conservation and repairs are always a major highlight and Priscilla, with her knowledge and passion for cemetery matters together with the professionals, has achieved some exciting repairs, the wrought-iron railings, marble masonry, the Banksiae Rose frame and the four thistle finials for the Lindsay grave. Jennifer's efficient working bees, well organised and well attended with additional willing volunteers recruited from outside, ensure the cleaning of graves and tidying of grounds in support of Botanic Gardens staff.

Having completed the Memorial Garden, the focus has been to install an explanatory plaque for the Memorial Stone Wall while we are also delighted to have three further commissions for inscriptions. You will have read in the November newsletter of our major project, developing the replica chapel as a museum to be known as the Bolton Street Cemetery Museum. (A new sign has just been installed.)

In response to an ongoing number of website inquiries Nick has spent endless hours on research. Both he and Kate have corrected errors, added significantly to biographical information, made new discoveries and added photographs to the Burial List, a highly important resource.

Guided tours are a wonderful way for everyone to explore and learn about our history; the two Spring walks during Spring Festival, were both well received, as were tours at the request of community groups; our ANZAC self-guided walk last April is now a permanent feature; new themed walks are planned.

Our funds continue to be in a healthy position thanks to Kate's good management, the Friends' increasing generosity and the Judy Bale Trust donation. It is pleasing to see a number of new members joining us.

My sincere thanks to all Committee members for their enthusiasm and dedication. I should like to acknowledge Priscilla Williams, Vice President, Kate Fortune, Treasurer, and Elizabeth Fletcher, our Minutes Secretary, for their time and energy.

We have appreciated our close link with the WCC through David Sole, who regularly attended our meetings and gave us strong support and encouragement. He left on secondment late in 2019. Rewi Elliot was then appointed Gardens Manager, and we look forward to working with him in the coming year. Our thanks to all the Botanic Gardens team, especially Stuart Allen – now overseas – and Karl Noldan, for their hard work and professional maintenance of the cemetery.

To all Friends, our most grateful thanks for your interest, support and financial commitment. I do hope you have been keeping well and that we will be able to see you for our AGM.

Jenny Button

MAORI BURIALS IN BOLTON STREET CEMETERY

From the beginnings of British colonisation of Wellington, local Maori were encouraged to use the burial grounds established by the New Zealand Company, and about 80 Maori, mainly from Te Aro Pa and Pipitea Pa, were buried in Bolton Street Cemetery.

Identification of Maori burials is based mainly on apparent Maori names, but it was common for Maori baptised into the Christian faith to be given English or biblical style names, so some may have been overlooked. We can be sure that a number those named as *Maori* (i.e. name unrecorded), those recorded such as *Eliza (Maori)*, and those with obvious Maori names are, indeed Maori burials.

*Right: Headstone of Hera & Mohi Ngaponga, died 1870s
Photo: Kate Fortune*

The records from the Church of England Cemetery (Bolton Street) list 42 Maori burials, 32 of which have no known location. All of these are named, but often the names are very cryptic and insufficient for a firm identification, such as five recorded with a prefix 'ko'. One of these is *ko Annie* (all five are in Church of England Cemetery records). The prefix *ko* denotes a proper name; there is no direct English translation but it implies 'a person named Annie'.

Public Cemetery (Sydney Street) records have 34 ostensibly Maori deaths, of which five were recorded only as *Maori* and entered into our burial database as *Unknown Maori*. Recent research, however, has resulted in identification of two of these, thanks to an enquiry from a descendant of one, asking for his ancestor's likely place of burial in August 1869 (see below).



The original St Paul's Church Register 1840-1866 records 25 Maori deaths. In that period, we have 10 Maori burials recorded, but none match the names and dates of the ones in St Paul's Register. It seems likely that at least half were buried in either the Church of England or Public Cemeteries, so the estimated total of 76 must be too low.

One of the St Paul's Church Register records is *Ratana*, died 22nd February 1866 - *prisoner escaped 'Manukau' prison hulk – drowned*. This is probably **Ratana Te Meritina** of Ngati Hinetera (Whanganui River District), one of the 56 'Hau Hau' prisoners who surrendered on 21 July 1865 near Wereroa Pa (from the names listed in the *Wanganui Chronicle* of 16 August 1865).

The *Manukau*, a three-masted schooner of about 450 Tons, and former collier, then coal hulk, was moored in Wellington Harbour and used to hold the 56 prisoners. But during a storm, 53 of them escaped from under the noses of their guard of the 50th Regiment, on the night of 20-21 January, and six were found to have drowned soon after the discovery of the mass escape. Efforts to recapture the fugitives were largely unsuccessful, and it appears only about five of them joined the three who had not escaped from the *Manukau* in being sent to the Chatham Islands, along with many other

‘Hau Hau’ prisoners from other skirmishes around the North Island (reported in the *Christchurch Press*, March 3 1866).



Whether or not Ratana and the others who died in the escape were buried at Bolton Street, or the (now lost) burial ground behind the Tiakiwai kainga (in the vicinity of upper Hobson Street and the bottom of Wadestown Road), or elsewhere, will probably never be determined, but we now know that two later Hauhau prisoners who died were amongst 96 kept on another hulk in Wellington Harbour awaiting trial in July-August 1869.

Above: ‘Maori prisoners, members of the Hauhau church, under guard’ on the *Manukau* prison hulk in 1866. Unknown photographers seem to have produced several ‘carte de visite’ souvenirs which were popular and widely distributed. [Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library, ref: 1/1-017875-G]

These 96 prisoners were members of the Pakakohi hapu of Ngati Ruanui, who had surrendered at Patea after abandoning the pa named Tauranga-Ika near Nukumarua after Titokawaru’s campaign in Taranaki-Whanganui came to an end. They were brought to Wellington from Patea by the government steamer *Sturt* and transferred on 30 July 1869 to the *City of Newcastle*, another former collier of about 600 Tons. Two of the 96 prisoners died on board, one on 3 August and the next on 17 August. The remaining 94 were convicted of ‘levying war against the Queen’, and most were sent to Otago for a number of years (a few old men were released).

A list of prisoners in National Archives names the first death as ‘**Tamarawhero**’ and the second as ‘Hakiaha’ – which now, thanks to information from a descendant of the latter, we realise was actually **Hekaiaha**. Based on their dates of death, we can correlate them with entries in the Public Cemetery (Sydney Street) Register as follows:-

No 327: 5 August 1869 - Maori – Undertaker Hutchins- (no plot number recorded)

No 330: 17 August 1869 - Maori – Officiating Minister Archd. Hadfield, C of E - undertaker Hutchins (no plot number recorded)

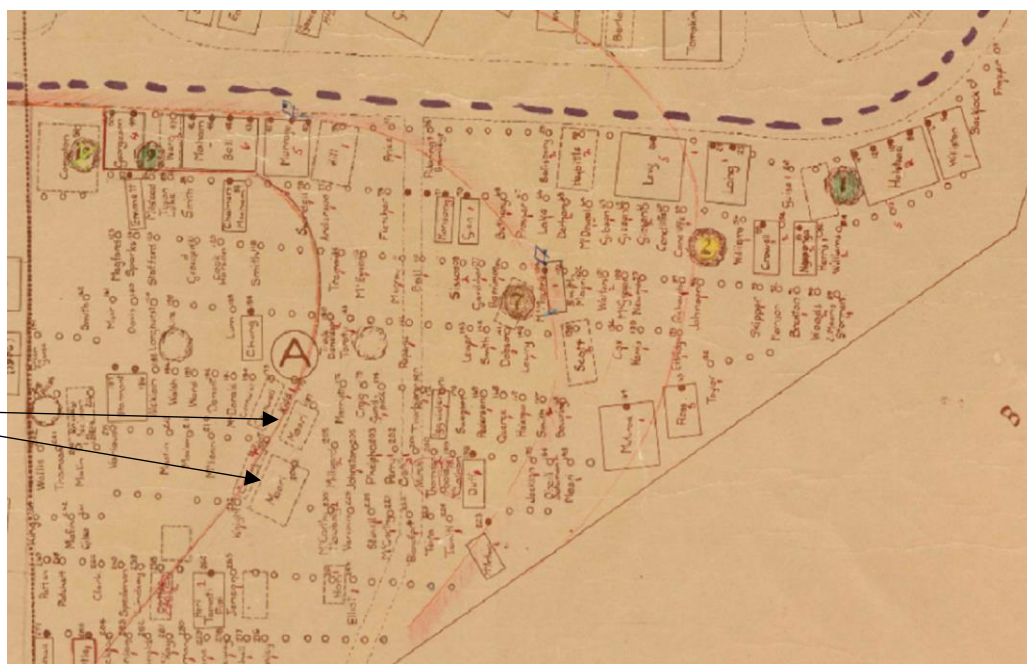
(Octavius Hadfield was known to be friendly towards Maori and supported their rights against the rapacious settlers, so it is not surprising that he would minister to prisoners on the *City of Newcastle*.) On the basis of these records, we can conclude that No 327 is Tamarawhero (died on 3rd, buried on 5th), and No 330 is Hekaiaha (died 17th, buried the same day), and accordingly, our burial list has been updated.

My analysis of where Maori were buried against dates suggests that these two would most likely have been buried in Block A, Public Cemetery. The early maps show a number of plots labelled ‘Maori’; most can be correlated with burial records, except plots 177.A and 206.A – actually adjacent graves, end on end (rather than side by side). Since 206.A is a double grave, I suspect both Tamarawhero and Hekaiaha were there.

To complicate matters, these graves were right on the boundary of the excavation line for the motorway. Although the Ministry of Works map of 1965 shows plots 177.A

and 206.A as lying *within* the excavation side of the line, the map is demonstrably not accurate, so they may still be there.

Right: Map of Block A (detail):
The area to the right of the curved red line running through the letter A was to be excavated, and the two Maori plots are along the line just below the letter A. Tiny red numbers indicate the number of bodies expected to be removed from each grave.
Map: Nick Perrin



During a ground-penetrating-radar survey several years ago in this area, unmarked graves were clearly present at the alignment and orientation of the graves shown on the maps (four graves that are shown at quite a different alignment to all the others nearby). The earliest map we have (made in 1928) shows grave outlines at 179.A and 208.A, beside 177.A and 206.A respectively.

If 177.A and 206.A are still present, they are close to where the reinstated Alexander Turnbull headstone stands. If the Ministry of Works map was correct, 177.A and 206.A were removed and their occupants are now in the mass grave.
Nick Perrin

WORKING BEES



We had two summer working bees this year, one in February and the other in early March, shortly before the Covid-19 Lockdown started. When Stuart Allen was Heritage Curator we would always talk to him about what needed doing. However, as Stuart's replacement has not yet been appointed we went back to weeding graves and cleaning headstones. Starting from the Seddon entrance we worked our way down Robertson Way as far as the overbridge, and also cleaned headstones in adjacent areas close to the main pathway. It is the area that most of the general public walk through and is frequently the only part seen by tourists and by visitors who may not have been to the cemetery before.

In February we were joined by Pandora the cat, who lives nearby in Kinross Street (*photo by Elizabeth Fletcher*). Pandora likes going for walks in the cemetery, which she regards as part of her territory, and she took a keen interest in what we were doing,

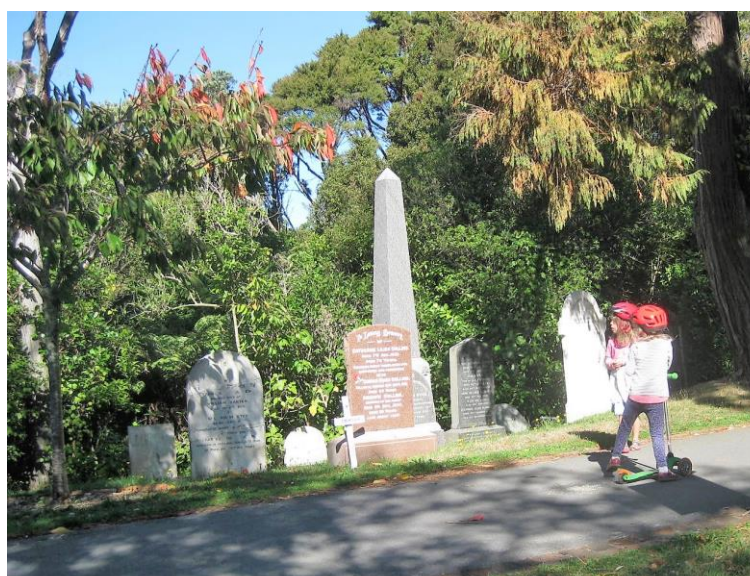
especially our clean-out of the gardeners' shed. On both days the weather was good with plenty of sun and little wind. Particularly on 9 February there were lots of visitors walking through the cemetery; many stopped to chat and we had lots of questions about the cemetery and what we were doing there and we received many compliments. Many of the tourists were cruise ship passengers – what a different world it was then.

Hopefully it won't be too long before Covid-19 restrictions are lifted sufficiently for us to return to the cemetery as a working group. There will be lots to do and I will try and arrange a session as soon as practically possible. I will email the working bee group, maybe with a shorter notice period than usual, when this happens.

Thank you to everyone who has come along to help, it is very much appreciated. Please contact me if you would like to join us and are not already in my working bee email group or if you have any queries.

Jennifer Robinson

ANZAC CHALLENGE WEEKEND 2020



A sample of nearby residents who chose our ANZAC CHALLENGE walk in the Cemetery as their leisure activity over the weekend of 25-27 April.

Above, the WB Rhodes memorial with a cross for his grandson; *upper right*: the Jamieson grave with a cross for a brother; lower right: the Collins headstone, with a cross for their son.

Photos: Kate Fortune

As reported in recent newsletters, in 2018 the Friends created a special WWI memorial walk through the cemetery to guide people to 17 marked graves or tombstones commemorating those who had served in the war, 15 of whom had died overseas. The trail was set up again on Armistice Day 2018 and Anzac Day 2019, and we planned to make it an annual occurrence.

Then New Zealand went into the Covid-19 Lockdown in March, and among the many events cancelled were those always held on ANZAC Day. It seemed to us however that it would be possible to offer a limited version of our self-guided trail while still keeping within the guidelines for Level 4 of the lockdown. The cemetery itself, as part of the Botanic Gardens, was open for walkers and proving popular in the beautiful autumn weather. Two of our committee members, Kate and Priscilla, living within walking distance of the cemetery, were able to install the 17 white crosses and a poster with map. Normally we would offer pamphlets, directional signs and all 17 biographies but this was not possible under lockdown rules and without WCC staff involvement. So instead we posted a downloadable map on our website and challenged people to find all 17 crosses without further assistance. Not an easy task as several of them were on minor paths in quite obscure parts of the cemetery. Social distancing rules were not a problem as the crosses were well spread out. The trail proved to be very popular with people living nearby, many of whom were working from home and looking to explore new walks during daily exercise. The wonderful weather assisted, as did the *DomPost* with a half-page spread on the ANZAC Challenge trail. It was great to be able to offer a 'bubble-friendly' walk during the severe lockdown period as well as a reminder of the much greater sacrifices made over 100 years earlier.

Priscilla Williams

VANDALISM AND UNAUTHORISED WORK

When members turned up for a working bee on Sunday 9 February, they discovered some broken path signs. Four signs in all have been broken, almost certainly sometime between Friday evening and Sunday morning. These signs are made of a composite material which is hard wearing (and expensive) so deliberate force was used to break them. It is particularly disappointing that our newest sign, for ANZAC Path, was targeted. Replacements are being made as well as a new sign for a recently opened path. While the most durable design and material are used for these, it is impossible to make a product that can withstand deliberate and intentional force.

Then, during March, we discovered that our WWI memorials had been subjected to unauthorised and damaging work. Fifteen tombstones record war service, all of which are given special care; indeed several memorials have recently been fully restored at significant cost. In this recent 'attack' the nine marble tombstones with lead lettering suffered little damage, but the six granite tombstones all seem to have been painted across their inscriptions. The excess paint was roughly scraped off, leaving marks and paint splashes. All six will probably need to be professionally restored to repair the damage. This non-permitted work was probably done in early March and around the same time as media reports of unauthorised work on the war graves in Karori Cemetery.

Because the question of follow-up action is still under consideration by the WCC, further discussion of the damage is inappropriate at this stage. It is worth reiterating however that this cemetery is listed as a heritage area by the WCC and that any work done in it must receive prior authorisation and be within the extensive guidelines set out by the Council. All the grave markers are precious heritage items which warrant our care and protection.

Priscilla Williams

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

PART I: STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE:

- The Society held five guided tours during the year, including one for the Blind Foundation and two for Wellington's Spring Festival. The ANZAC Day self-guided tour commemorating 17 former servicemen who served in World War I proved popular.
- Our website holding a searchable burial database of more than 8600 names was further updated during the year. We have added a further 200 photographs and grave descriptions. Visitors to this site often send us enquiries about ancestors, and we answered 50 detailed research enquiries.
- The Friends arranged four 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 conservation work on wooden memorials and iron work.
- During the year we began to develop plans to update and improve the displays in the replica Chapel on Bolton Street. The decision was made to rename this as the Bolton Street Cemetery Museum, and to work closely with Gardens staff on the revamp.
- 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>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Income	Subscriptions (current + arrears)	1,335	1,180
	Book sales	0	20
	Donations (individuals)	3,411	2,216
	Donations (Memorial stone wall)	0	2,000
	Interest	265	114
	Koha from tour groups	<u>1,368</u>	<u>1,047</u>
	Total Income	<u>\$6,379</u>	<u>\$6,577</u>
LESS Expenses			
	Annual General Meeting	395	479
	Cleaning products / megaphone purchase	0	43
	Catering / floral tribute	74	50
	Membership Heritage Promotion Council	30	30
	Membership Volunteer Wellington	50	50
	P O Box rental	60	57
	Printing, stationery, copying	297	823
	Project: Plaques & signage	0	2,600
	Project: Repairs / stone wall	5,260	2,265
	Website, incl. Burial list inscriptions	<u>139</u>	<u>139</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$6,305</u>	<u>\$6,536</u>
	Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>74</u>	<u>41</u>

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY AT 31 MARCH 2020

Accumulated Funds – at start of year	17,381	17,340
Plus Surplus for the year	<u>74</u>	<u>41</u>
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	<u>\$17,455</u>	<u>\$17,381</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Accumulated Funds	\$17,455	\$17,381
Represented By: Current Assets		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	675	3,576
– Bonus Saver	8,442	8,377
– Term Deposit	<u>8,258</u>	<u>8,000</u>
	<u>17,375</u>	<u>19,953</u>
PLUS Sundry Debtors	<u>120</u>	<u>93</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>17,495</u>	<u>20,046</u>
LESS Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors	0	2,600
Subscriptions in advance	<u>40</u>	<u>65</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>40</u>	<u>2,665</u>
<u>Net Assets and Working Capital</u>	<u>\$17,455</u>	<u>\$17,381</u>

Kate Fortune (Treasurer) 18 May 2020

MINUTES OF THE 43RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 11 July 2019 at St Andrew's Centre on the Terrace at 6:15 pm

1 Present

Jenny Button (Chair), Nick Perrin, Kate Fortune, Karen Adair, Jennifer Robinson, Elizabeth Fletcher (Minutes), David & Joy Dunsheath, Bronwyn Rideout, Suzanne Sutton-Cummings, Pauline Swann, Bill Alington, Caroline McDonald, Alan Martin, Jillian Wellings, Jane Aim, Karen Thomas, Ann Trotter, Rachel Underwood, Bill Mansfield, Terry Love, Chris Chapman, Denise Almao, Mary Nixon, Judith Trotter, Nicola Young, Rachel Brown, Avenal McKinnon, Stephanie Ackerman, Mandy McDonald, (total 30), plus David Sole and Stuart Allen (WCC), and visitors.

2 Apologies

Caroline & William Aliaga-Kelly, Priscilla & Sheila Williams, Karl Bale, John McKinnon, Hilary Chapman, John Webster, Jocelyn Brandon, Diane Comber, Malcolm McKinnon, Dennis Bush-King, Clive & Lesley Norman. AGREED that these apologies be received

3 Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting

MOVED that the minutes of the 42nd AGM held on 12 July 2018 be taken as read and approved as a true and correct record. (J Button / K Fortune) CARRIED

4 President's Report

President Jenny Button proposed her report (p3 of Newsletter 87) 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/ D Dunsheath) CARRIED

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

David Sole presented his report (to be summarised in Newsletter No. 88) and acknowledged many collaborative achievements during the year, between the Friends and his Botanic Gardens team. In responding to questions, he commented:

- Removal of rubbish bins was a long-term strategy to encourage sustainable behaviour from visitors;
- Electrical cabling to the Sexton cottage was electrical utilities responsibility.

Jenny thanked David for his continuing support of activities in coordination with the Friends.

MOVED that the BG Manager's Report be received (D Sole/ K Thomas) CARRIED

6 Performance Report (Service Performance & Financial Performance)

Treasurer Kate Fortune tabled the Performance Reports for year ended 31 March 2019 (p4 of Newsletter 87). She commented on the healthy state of finances, with significant donations gratefully received; and an increase in tours income.

MOVED that the Performance Report for year ending 31 March 2019 be approved (K Fortune/ A Martin). CARRIED

7 Election of Committee

Kate Fortune took the Chair for election of President.

MOVED that Jenny Button be re-elected as President (K Fortune / P Williams),
No further nominations. 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): ... Elizabeth Fletcher (J Button/ J Robinson)
- Treasurer & Membership Secretary: ... Kate Fortune (J Robinson / J Button)
- Committee: Karl Bale, David Dunsheath, Nick Perrin, Jennifer Robinson, Karen Adair: ... (P Williams/ E Fletcher)

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

Jenny Button referred to two points

- Work on Seddon Memorial to commence shortly. This will bring disruption to the car park.
- Wardens now monitoring and enforcing 2-hour car parking around the gardens.

The meeting closed at 6:45 pm

Gábor Tóth then spoke on the building of Wellington's Urban Motorway. He focused on the late 1960s when the Bolton Street Cemetery was the scene of massive disruption. Gábor, the Local & NZ History Specialist at Wellington City Libraries, has a strong research background with both *The Independent* in London and Radio NZ among others. He has worked in Wellington archives and libraries since 1997.

NEW PLANTING IN THE CEMETERY

Friends will be delighted to see that the contribution of John Daniels to the preservation of Wellington's heritage and to the Bolton Street Cemetery (see Newsletter #86, November 2018) has been recognised with the **installation of a memorial seat**, presented by Jenny Daniels and family. The new seat has been placed overlooking the earliest section of the cemetery, the Selwyn Oak and the Memorial Garden for those disinterred during the construction of the motorway. Clare Shearman, Botanical Gardens Plant Collection Team Manager, has advised that this corner will be planted with shade-loving plants to soften the surrounding area. This work will be scheduled in the planting plans for Spring.



Clare Shearman also advises that the programme to extend the **planting of spring daffodils** in the cemetery will be continued this year with bulbs laid out in May and June. She notes that while the Covid-19 lockdown has put some work behind schedule, the plans for planting the East-facing lawn at the top of the pedestrian bridge over the motorway will be started this year as a priority for the 2021 planting season.

Story and photos Karl Bale