

## FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 1 - June 1977

Since the society was formed on March 17, membership has increased steadily and is now over 90. Many hours of work have been put in by members tidying graves, painting ironwork and doing biographical research. The committee appreciates very much the enthusiastic support given so willingly by members. If this initial enthusiasm can be maintained we will be able to achieve the aims and objectives set out in the enclosed copy of the proposed rules.

The committee elected at the inaugural meeting is:

Chairman:	Mr Helmut Einhorn
Deputy Chairman:	Mr Alan Fleming
Secretary:	Mr David Kidney
Treasurer:	Miss Genny Fraser

Members: Mrs Margaret Alington, Mr Lindsay Buick-Constable, Miss Anne Burnett, Miss Betty Krebs, Lady Fowles and Mr 'Mac' McCormick.

Much of the committee's work is being done by four sub-committees: Research, Workdays, Liaison and Publicity. Sub-Committee activities to date:

Research convened by Mrs Alington.

There are some 50 people helping with biographical research on names on the headstones. Lady Fowles has eight members of the N.S. history group of the N.Z. Federation of University Women helping with the project. To stimulate interest, Lady Fleming spoke to this group about some of the names she has looked up and found especially interesting, including several Maoris. The headstones that remain in the cemetery have all been assigned, and a start has been made on those that were removed. It is intended that the information gathered will be used as the basis of a handbook to the cemetery.

Mrs Alington (tel. 768495) will be glad to hear from any persons, whether members or not, who would be interested to help with this research. A sheet of notes with suggestions for where to start looking for information is sent to every one taking part.

Three Chinese inscriptions have been copied and translated by courtesy of Mr John Loong. Mr Bill Parker has kindly translated the inscriptions on Maori headstones. Mr Parker and Professor Winiata are trying to decipher a difficult Maori inscription, of which a rubbing has been taken.

The W.C.C. have had the plot maps microfilmed by the Alexander Turnbull Library, and copies supplied to Mr Duthie and Mrs Alington. Mr Graeme Wells, of the M.W.D., is copying two very worn maps in his own time.

Workdays convened by Mr Fleming.

Three successful field days have been held this year so far. The weather was kind on all occasions and members have responded in force. We have moved our attention to the top part of the cemetery after virtually finishing the grave tidying required in the lower half. Tidying and cleaning work is moving progressively down from the Seddon Memorial starting point to where currently, the motorway can just be seen.

There is a lot more to be done, but no more field days are planned until Spring. However, a super-keen group will be working through the Winter (contact Anne Burnett - Phone 863206 if you are interested).

Publicity convened by Mr Kiddey

This group has been responsible for the recent publicity in the 'Evening Post' (June 1) and for preparing this newsletter. It is hoped that the 'Post' will shortly print another article showing "before and after" photos of the Mudge grave which has been restored by descendants.

A panel is being prepared to add to the notices erected at the entrances to the cemetery. It reads:

FOR HISTORICAL INFORMATION, WRITE TO FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET CEMETERY, P.O. BOX 2336, WELLINGTON.

A list of monumental work in need of repair has been forwarded to the W.C.C. Once estimates for costs have been obtained, the public will be invited to sponsor the repair of particular graves.

Liaison with the M.W.D. convened by Mr Einhorn.

Mr Proffit the District Civil Engineer reports that design work for the arrangement of the stones to be returned from Karori cemetery will start soon. The society will provide the M.W.D. with notes on the stones removed and the department will consider the possibility of replacing them in related groups.

As a result of decisions deferring the motorway south of the Terrace Tunnel, the "on" ramp South from Bowen Street is not required for some years. The ramp is being filled with spoil and will be planted with shrubs. These should form an attractive barrier between the motorway and lower cemetery and should enhance the character of the area.

Modified plans have been completed, and start made, on the footbridge over the motorway linking the upper and lower cemeteries. The new proposal is a simple three metre wide path, terminating near the Edward Gibbon Wakefield grave on the low side, and the main ridge path on the high side. The whole length of pathway and bridge will be illuminated at night. The footbridge is expected to be opened in October.

As well as the work put in by members, the Parks and Reserves staff have been busy removing three large macrocarpa trees, planting agapanthus near the Seddon memorial and clearing graves and pathways near what is to be the Easdale Street entrance. A stonemason has been engaged to repair and reset headstones, and next month preparations will be made for tree planting. A new custodian, Mr Bruce Harkness has now taken up duties in the cemetery.

The Director of Parks and Reserves, Mr Ian Galloway has expressed his thanks for our help and co-operation, and he looks forward to a bright future for the cemetery-park.

With the grant provided by the N.Z. Historic Places Trust repairs have been made to two stones near the Bolton Street entrance, and a label is being photo-engraved showing a facsimile of the John Balmer inscription with an explanatory note. This label will be mounted near the foot of the stone as an alternative to having it re-engraved, which would have destroyed its character.

If you have any queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the secretary or any member of the committee.

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