

## Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

P.O. Box 2336, Wellington

Newsletter No 10, May 1981

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Ian Shearer, addressed the annual general meeting, held on 21 April 1981 in the New Zealand Founders' Society Rooms, and gave his full support to the Friends in their efforts to help the Wellington City Council secure adequate compensation for the loss of over 4 acres of the cemetery land to the motorway. The following resolution was passed, and subsequently forwarded, along with further comments and alternative ways of honouring the undertaking of 1965, to several Cabinet Ministers including the Hon. W. Young, Minister of Works and Development:

"That this Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery, attended also by the representatives of the thirteen organisations listed hereunder, reaffirms its profound concern at the continuing failure of Government and the National Roads Board to honour a deeply significant undertaking to acquire lands bordering Mowbray and Bolton Streets which [by virtue of assurances given on behalf of Government in November 1967 when section 6 of the Finance (No. 2) Act 1967 No. 159 was before the House of Representatives, and in terms of National Roads Board resolution of May 1965] were to be set aside for the development of a Memorial Park in part compensation for the loss of about 4 acres of historic open space taken from the City of Wellington for motorway works."

Amongst those present and supporting the resolution were representatives of:

Action for Environment  
Architectural Centre, Wellington  
Early Settlers' and Historical Association of Wellington  
Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO)  
Genealogical Society of New Zealand  
Karori Historical Society  
National Council of Women  
National Council of Women (Wellington Branch)  
New Zealand Founders' Society  
New Zealand Historic Places Trust  
New Zealand Institute of Architects  
Thorndon Society  
Wellington Colonial Cottage Museum Society

The next day the Evening Post carried an account of the meeting, entitled "Roads Board must keep promises on cemetery", and quoted Dr Shearer on the taking of the land: "What was lost then was an irreplaceable piece of Wellington's heritage.... the city deserves to be compensated for the land lost." An editorial in the same paper on 23 April ("Honouring a promise") referred to the Board's "shabby" treatment of the Friends and concluded, "If the price of buying and developing this piece of land - now estimated at \$750,000 - concerns the board, perhaps it should consider first, the value of the Bolton cemetery land over which the motorway runs and, second, the price it places on keeping its own word."

The committee elected for 1981/82 is as follows:

Chairman, Mr. H.A. Fullarton; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J.R.S. Daniels; Miss P. Adams, Mrs M. Alington, Mrs V. Bogle (Secretary), Mr L.M. Buick-Constable, Miss A.N. Burnett, Mr. H. Einhorn, Miss B. Krebs, Mr. A.W. McCormick (Treasurer), Mr. R Miller, Mr. G. Morris.

We are grateful to Mrs Barbara Pohl for her years of service as secretary, and are glad to know that she will continue to help the society in other ways. We thank Mr. Gordon Passau, who has also left the committee, for his contribution, particularly in making available a copy of the condensed transcripts that he had prepared of the headstones.

In view of the high costs of postage and typing, the committee regrets that it can no longer manage on the \$2.00/\$3.00 subscriptions that have applied since the society's formation in 1977. With the consent of those present at the A.G.M., these amounts have been doubled. Prompt payment of your subscription will be much appreciated, so that we can pay some of our outstanding bills.

#### REPORT OF PARKS AND RESERVES DEPARTMENT

We are indebted to Mr. Donal Duthie for this account of developments in Bolton Street Memorial Park during the past year:

The rate of horticultural progress has not been as fast as in previous years and generally speaking this has been a year of consolidation.

Last winter, some conifers were planted along the "On Ramp" and planting sites were prepared for more trees which will be planted this coming season.

The old Rose plantings have aroused considerable interest and even though many of them are still relatively small they are very popular; this is especially so with the lines of Frau Dagmar Harstrupp with its lovely soft pink single flowers followed by fat, round, dark red hips. More old and specie Roses will be planted each winter. Incidentally, a newly established plant society called "Heritage Roses" is planning an outing to Bolton Street about October/November.

Small areas of summer flowering annuals have been planted in various areas between the graves and recently a small bed was created just above the Jewish Section and this has been planted with Iceland Poppy.

Not far away on the top of the steep bank above Bowen Street several pines have been felled because they could have been dangerous had they come down in strong wind.

The same bank has had a general clean up removing blackberry and other superfluous growth and general rubbish. The cleared bank has been planted with shrubs, mainly natives, with three purposes in mind, one to make the bank more attractive, two to hold the bank together in the event of slips and, thirdly, to choke out weeds such as gorse, broom and blackberry. In the meantime it takes a considerable effort to tend to the small shrubs, especially with the very steep nature of the bank. In places the bank was so steep that planting had to be done while hanging onto a rope.

In conjunction with Ministry of Works the last of the large stones stored at Karori were brought in and assembled in their appropriate positions along the edge of the motorway. There is still some more work to be done on these stones and also in re-locating some of the reinstated stones which are in wrong positions.

Vandalism continues to be an ever present problem as at fairly regular intervals there is some incident where a stone is broken and sometimes several. Along with the stones for re-positioning as mentioned above and vandalised stones and the natural deterioration of stones and iron work there is an evergrowing list of things to be done in Bolton Street Cemetery.

There was a resident custodian-handyman man in the Botanic Gardens who was an ex-bricklayer but unfortunately, just as he was



commencing work on the list of work for Bolton street he resigned and at present we are without a suitably qualified person.

At this stage, it becomes more obvious that the old roses and the camellia plantings will become the horticultural features of the cemetery. Recently three large camelleas from the rear of the Begonia House were shifted to positions near the entrance at Seddon. Meanwhile, those camellias planted in the vicinity of Wakefield are doing very well in spite of some of them being in rather exposed sites.

It is intended to gradually increase the collection of the old roses and the camellias which both seem so much in keeping with an old cemetery.

As ever, the assistance and co-operation of the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery is greatly appreciated.

D. Duthie

30.4.81.

#### WORK DAY

On Saturday morning, 2 May, a few Friends helped Ann Burnett scrub moss and lichen off a number of head stones in the lower part of the park.

#### PHOTOGRAPHING GRAVES

Mr. E. Hay-McKenzie has kindly undertaken to photograph the remainder of the graves at the north-east corner of the park.

#### LATE NEWS

We have just learnt that, at the request of the National Roads Board, sub-committees of the Board and City Council are to meet on 20 May to discuss the Memorial Park issue. As this will present an opportunity for a breakthrough in the current impasse, we await the outcome with very keen interest.

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Subscriptions for the year ending 31 March 1982 are now due.  
Please return this portion with your payment to:

The Secretary,  
Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery  
P.O. Box 2336  
Wellington

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