

## FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 2 - Sept 1977

Wellington's abominable weather over the past few months has all but stopped the Societies' outdoor activities, except for some painting done by a few hardy souls when it wasn't raining. As I write this the sun is shining, let's hope it is shining next Saturday morning, 1st October so our tidy-up programme can get off to a good start. We would like a good turnout so if you haven't been contacted personally, come any way. Meet by the Seddon memorial at 9.15 a.m. The Mayor, Mr Fowler, has accepted an invitation to visit the cemetery on Saturday morning to see what has been done and what is yet to be done.

The clearing work which can be done by amateurs is nearing an end but there is plenty of wood and iron to be painted and rubbish to be collected. The Parks and Reserves Department have put in a lot of work near the Seddon memorial and the result has shown what potential there is for beautifying the cemetery.

### VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

Recently Mrs Alington showed a multi-racial class from Clyde Quay School around the lower part of the cemetery as part of their project on the attitudes of different cultures to death. The visit emphasised two needs: 1) toilet facilities and 2) some information on the causes of death of the children named on the headstones.

Would anyone who would be able to search records at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages now located in Lower Hutt please contact the Secretary. We have someone listing the children's names and the dates of their death, this job involves looking up death certificates for the cause of death.

### Headstones in storage at Karori Cemetery

In order to help Mr P.R. Deibert, the MWD architect who is working on the return and lay-out of the headstones at present stored at Karori Cemetery, the Friends undertook to sketch and measure the 800+ stones. This was done between June and August in a series of workdays as the weather permitted.

The information was recorded on a specially run-off set of the transcriptions that were made by volunteers in 1974. A summary of family groupings was also supplied to the MWD.

In a letter to Mrs Alington and the Friends Mr Deibert writes:

"Thank you very much for measuring up the ex-Bolton Street Cemetery gravestones now stored at Karori Cemetery. I realise that measuring up was a mammoth task and one that I would have been unable to complete in the time allocated. Could you also pass on my thanks to those who assisted you with this work."

General Notes

Members will be sorry to hear that our Chairman, Helmut Einhorn, is not in good health and lately has been in hospital. We send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

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Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form for Mrs Alington's book on the cemetery. Contrary to a recent newspaper report, publication is not yet certain and we urge your support by returning the order form to make sure that this excellent work is published.

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The footbridge linking the upper and lower sections of the motorway is beginning to emerge from its scaffolding although it will not be opened for some time yet. Members may have seen the recent statement by the District Commissioner of Works forecasting the opening of this section of the motorway next April.

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Mrs Alington recently spoke to the Wellington Central Rotary Club and as a result several members have offered to help with research and to join the tidy-up effort next Saturday.

Following the special general meeting held on 22 June we made an application to have the Society incorporated and this has now been approved.

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We have not forgotten those who expressed interest in sponsoring the repair of a grave, this is one of the issues the committee will be getting its teeth into in the near future. From the discussions we have had so far, it appears that a great deal of work is going to have to be put into this scheme.

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The District Architect of the MWD reported on 26 September that a contract had been let for the restoration of the Sexton's Cottage in Bolton Street, and that work would begin soon. This is welcome news as the cottage is presently unoccupied and is easy prey for vandals.

With hopes for some fine weather,

David Kiddey  
SECRETARY

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