

Friends of
Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

Newsletter No.4 October 1978



NEXT WORKDAY

The next workday is to be this Saturday 28th October. Meet at 9.15 a.m. at the Easdale Street entrance, bring a scrubbing brush and a bucket for a stone-cleaning session.

Although the weather was not kind, a small band of stalwarts turned out for the Society's first field day of the season - on the second Saturday in September. A large number of re-erected memorial stones were cleaned of the years of Karori grime, so that the inscriptions are once again readable. The work is not difficult and there are lots and lots more to do.

Unfortunately aluminium paint was used to code the stones originally and this cannot now be removed, even by quite brutal methods such as wire brushing. At least the disfigurement is minimal as the colour blends in, but any bright ideas on how the paint could be removed without defacement would be welcome.

COVER PICTURE

Our cover picture for this issue shows the cemetery chapel, built in 1866 for funeral services and demolished for the motorway. This is one of the illustrations from Mrs Alington's book, due out next month.

THE PARKS AND RESERVES DEPARTMENT have spent the winter months planting trees and shrubs along the banks of the motorway with the intention of screening it off from the cemetery as much as possible. Beds of Knifofias (red hot pokers) have been planted by the Seddon memorial, near the tool shed and behind the University Grants building. There was also a very fine display of crocuses by the Seddon memorial this year.

In addition to all the gardening work, the brick kerbing on the main drive has been completed, a set of wrought-iron gates has been installed at the top entrance and cast iron lamp standards now light the main drive with electrically powered "gas" lanterns.

The footbridge was opened on 6 July and named the "Denis McGrath Bridge" after a former deputy-mayor. With the upper and lower portions of the cemetery now linked, there has been a marked increase in the numbers using the area. Altogether the Parks and Reserves Department have done a magnificent job in a thoroughly professional manner to have brought the cemetery up to the standard it is at today.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Final touches to a Parks and Reserves Management Plan for the cemetery were discussed at a meeting between Mr I.D. Galloway, Director of Parks and Reserves, and the committee of the Friends, at the W.C.C. on 9 August 1978. This plan, and the designation of the cemetery/park as an historic reserve under the Reserves Act, are a milestone in the cemetery's history.

It seems likely that the future name of the cemetery/park will be BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK. The name suggested some years ago "Early Settlers' Memorial Park", was considered by the Friends to be both inaccurate and not specific enough as to location.

REINSTATEMENT OF HEADSTONES

The reinstatement is now over half completed. Work nearest the motorway is almost finished, including some of the larger memorials and about 6 obelisks. In the next issue of the newsletter we will have a series of photographs to show the process of reinstatement.

BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH

The work of searching newspapers for death and obituary notices is drawing to a close, and those members who still have lists of names are asked if they would kindly return them, searched or unsearched (but preferably searched!), by the end of January 1979. Mrs Alington (tel. 768.495) is always pleased to hear from descendants who can supply family information about names recorded on the headstones.

Of considerable interest is a stone recently identified amongst those still in storage. It does not appear to be recorded in the cemetery registers, and it is the second earliest stone yet found, marking a death that occurred in the month following official approval of the public reserves in the town of Wellington. What has so far been deciphered of the inscription on the sandstone slab reads as follows:

BENEATH
THIS STONE
REST THE REMAINS
OF
WILLIAM RUFUS TYRRELL
WHO DIED ON THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER
(1841)

Tyrrell arrived, probably as a cabin passenger, on the Lord William Bentinck in May 1841. He was 26, and died "after a few days illness".

RANDOM NOTES

During the public walkday on the motorway on Sunday 21 May 1978, the Friends shared a stall with the Thorndon Society and distributed leaflets about the work of the Friends.

The Wakefield Rover Scout group has begun to look after the group of graves just inside the Bolton Street gate.

The council has recently been given two garden seats, the gift of two neighbours in Kinross Street. It is intended to install these on brick bases under the silver birch trees near the Jewish section of the cemetery.

The Society's Officers are:

Chairman	Mr Helmut Einhorn	home	768.509
Deputy-Chairman	Mr Alan Fleming	home	768.560
Secretary	Mrs Barbara Pohl	home	862.610