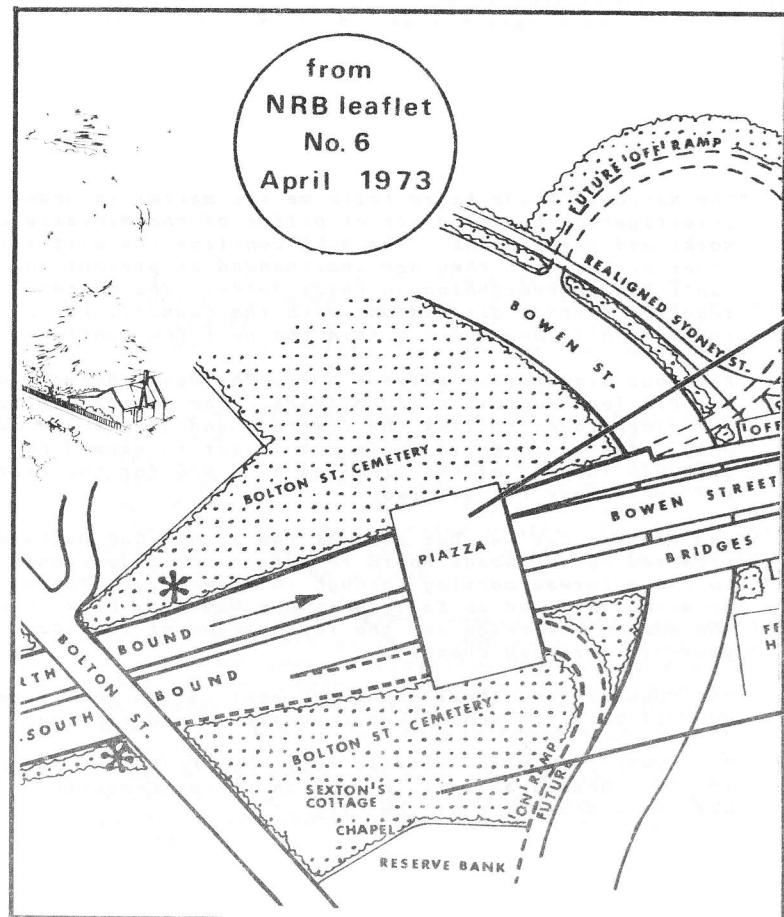


Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

PO Box 2336, Wellington.

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The corner of Bolton Street and Mobray Street, just below the sexton's cottage, is an untidy and unsightly car park. It doesn't have to be like that: The National Roads Board once promised to turn the area into a park and to re-erect the old cemetery chapel there.

What has happened to those promises? "Evening Post" reporter David McGill has been investigating and his "Scrutiny" feature of 5 May this year tells the story. The following are excerpts from that article, reproduced by kind permission of the editor of the "Evening Post".

"The National Roads Board tells me the matter is under investigation by the district office of the Ministry of Works and Development. The MOWD confirms the matter is under review, but they are short-handed at present and can't handle everything on their desks. The matter requires further discussions with the Council, but a resolution is hoped for within the next few months.

Previous discussions between MOWD, The Roads Board and Council lend support to such fears. The Council settled for overbridges to link the cemetery and across Jervois Quay. The Roads Board could not object to expending \$140,000 instead of the promised \$750,000 for the piazza village across the motorway.

The Piazza cost was but part of the \$2,600,000 package promised by the Roads Board to soften the objections to the motorway carving through the cemetery. Those promises included an Early Settlers Memorial Park round the sexton's cottage and the restoration of the 102 year-old mortuary chapel.

The Council gave their unanimous approval to that scheme. Council said the scheme was imaginative and exciting.

The newspapers were ecstatic too. The "Post" for March 15, 1971 headed an article "Bolton Street Cemetery Will Be a Showplace of the City".

"The overestimated Bowen Street offramp has been abandoned, though the engineers were warned at the time of cemetery acquisition that it wasn't on.

The cancelling of the offramp directly affects the Mowbray Street area. This area is owned by the Dairy Board and used as its car park. The Dairy Board had agreed to swap this land for carparking of an equivalent amount under the offramp.

Since the abandonment of the offramp, the Dairy Board has agreed to give up the surface area of Mowbray Street if it gets its 65 or so parks underneath. This has been in principle, just like the piazza was."

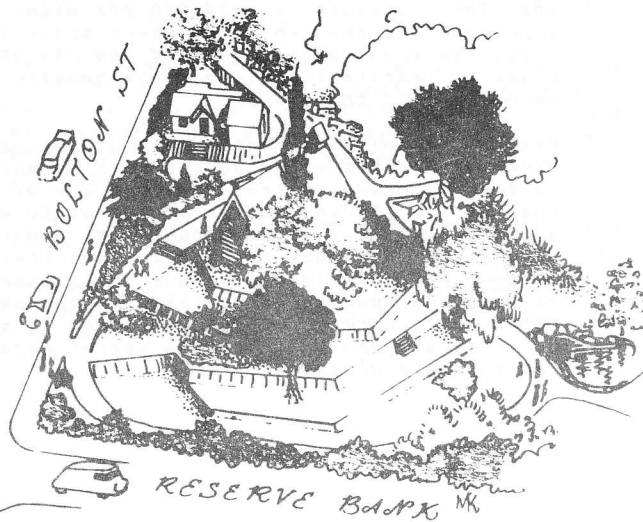
"The latest response to the Historic Places Trust enquiries of MOWD staff is that there is no money left and that construction of the underground car park was now estimated to cost a few thousand more than the value of the land.

These are piffling and preposterous objections, given the scale of costs involved in the land value, the overall cost of the motorway, which proved much more than the gestimated \$1,000,000 per mile, the importance to the public of green space in a concrete city, the inestimable value of the old chapel and plans to contain therein a comprehensive memorial record of all the graves.

Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Chairman, Helmut Einhorn says his group do not wish to enter any further motorway controversy, but are of the opinion that if the roading authorities want to win over an increasingly reluctant public to a motorway extension, they must try and restore their badly damaged credibility and honour their undertaking to restore the Mowbray Street site to the cemetery. Nobody will accept future assurances if such promises are shoved under the carpet because of a few thousand dollars."

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ? SOME SUGGESTIONS...

1. Tell as many people as you can about this threat, write to the newspaper: make sure everybody knows about the promises made by the National Roads Board to make those unsightly car parks into an attractive addition to the cemetery.
2. Telephone or write to your MP or the Chairman of the National Roads Board (Hon W.L. Young) who is also the Minister of Works and Development: make sure that Parliament knows what promises have been made and must be kept.
3. Telephone or write to the Mayor or a City Councillor in Wellington: make sure the Council is right behind our efforts to have the cemetery properly restored - let's not have any more overbridges in Jervois Quay paid for out of cemetery restoration money!



Early Settlers' Memorial Park. Chapel Area