

Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery

P.O. BOX 2336, WELLINGTON

NEWSLETTER NO. 8, AUGUST 1980

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM held in April saw some changes to the Committee. Helmut Einhorn, chairman since the society was founded in March 1977, is taking a trip overseas and has left the committee for the present. We are greatly indebted to Helmut for the time and effort he has devoted to the society, particularly the Mowbray Street land issue which continues to be our biggest problem. At the AGM a presentation was made to Helmut in appreciation of his chairmanship over the society's first three years.

NEW CHAIRMAN

We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Hugh Fullarton as chairman. No sooner was he elected than Hugh immersed himself in the Mowbray Street land issue, an issue where he had - as it were - a 'flying start', having served as Wellington's District Commissioner of Works from 1960 to 1968. During this period he was closely involved in all the investigations, plans and undertakings made by the National Roads Board.

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Another retirement from the committee was Genny Fraser who had served as treasurer since the society's inception. Our new treasurer is Mrs Vivienne Bogle. Barbara Pohl continues as secretary and David Kiddey as deputy-chairman. Other committee members are: Mrs Margaret Alington, Miss Anne Burnett, Miss Betty Krebs, Messrs Lindsay Buick-Constable, John Daniells, 'Mac' McCormick and Gordon Passau.

At the meeting the outgoing chairman presented his annual report covering the committee's activities for the past year, with particular reference to the Mowbray Street land. Mr Donal Duthie of the Parks and Reserves Department of the

Registered at POHQ Wellington as a magazine.

City Council presented a report detailing all the work the council have put in at the cemetery, in particular the planting and upgrading of lawns, the sealing of the main path and the installation of seats and rubbish bins. The treasurer reported a healthy bank balance of \$451 at the end of the last financial year. The subscription has been maintained at \$2 single, \$3 family. After the formal business Mr and Mrs Alington showed a most interesting chronological series of slides. Two projectors were used so that "then and now" comparisons could be seen.

THE MOWBRAY STREET LAND ISSUE

The new chairman has been very busy on this and has had discussions with the following:

- . The Minister of Works (Mr Young)
- . The Commissioner of Works (Mr McLeod)
- . The Director of Roading (Mr F. Langbein)
- . The District Commissioner of Works (Mr Peart)
- . The District Highways Engineer (Mr A. Langbein)
- . The Mayor of Wellington (Mr Fowler)
- . The City Planner (Mr Clark)
- . The Town Clerk (Mr McCutcheon)
- . The General Manager of the Dairy Board (Mr Knowles)
- . The Chairman of the State Services Commission (Dr Williams)
- . The Chairman of the University Grants Committee (Dr Johns)
- . The Secretary of the Reserve Bank (Mr Jarvis)
- . The Minister of St Andrews Presbyterian Church (Rev. Murray)

In the course of his discussions with the Minister of Works, Mr Fullarton was invited to prepare a statement setting out past events and possible alternative courses of action. This statement has been prepared and sent to the Minister and copies have been given to all members of the National Roads Board, of whom only one or two are thought to have been involved in the motorway proposals back in 1965. It is hoped that the facts presented will aid the appreciation of the Board members of the commitments made by the Board in the past.

8/2-3

Members will probably be aware from press reports that, on 21 May, representatives of the National Roads Board met with the Mayor and some City Councillors in the office of the Minister of Works. At that meeting \$200,000 was offered to the Council to complete the development of the Bolton Street Memorial Park in accordance with the plans which were agreed by the Board in 1965. This offer may have been adequate 15 years ago but it is quite inadequate now and the Council has declined it and will seek further consultation.

It is (to say the least) most disturbing to hear how little has been offered by the Board to meet an obligation of deep significance made by them on 19 May 1965. The truth is that the proposed acquisition of lands west of Mowbray Street and their addition to the Memorial Park was a fundamental feature of the Motorway project. It was a vital factor in the acceptance of that project by the City Council, by numerous other interested parties and by the people of Wellington and New Zealand. Not to be forgotten too is the fact that the large slice of land taken from the cemetery by act of parliament was given to the National Roads Board free of cost. The area of land still under debate is much smaller than the area taken - free of charge - for the motorway. Members of the society can be assured that the chairman and committee will continue in their efforts to have the full agreement honoured.

OTHER NEWS

WAITANGI DAY (Feb. 6) saw a large group of our members gathered in the cemetery for a guided tour led by Mrs Alington. A most interesting tour, perfect weather and a picnic lunch combined to make this a highly successful event. Next year we plan to hold an "open day" as part of the City Council's summer programme. More details later.

MAP OF BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK This has been prepared by the Council's survey department and now awaits its index which is being compiled by the Friends.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Mr Ron Flook has joined the Parks and Reserves department as a landscape architect and the cemetery is included in his responsibilities. The Friends have shown him around the cemetery and look forward to being able to discuss any problems with him in the future.

RESEARCH Miss E. Currie is searching names on Jewish and Roman Catholic headstones. Miss D. Sommerville is precisising some of the results of the searching.

FINALLY, AN APOLOGY: The editor apologises for not having produced more newsletters this year. If any member is interested and would like to help with the newsletter, please get in touch with the secretary.

