

# Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery

P.O. Box 2336, Wellington  
Newsletter No. 9, December 1980

## OPEN DAY

There will be an open day in the Bolton Street Memorial Park on Monday 19th January 1981, during Wellington's Festival Week. Members will be posted at the several entrances to answer questions. Watch the newspapers for further details nearer the time.

## REPORT: Donal Duthie, April 1980

During the year work was concentrated on finishing new lawn areas and upgrading old lawns. In May the old ramp and the lawns around the tunnel gulley were sown with grass by a hydroseeder, there has been a good germination and the grass is now well established. Around the Dennis McGrath footbridge specimen trees, camelias and a photinia hedge have been planted. All have suffered from the wind and vandals, but many have survived and show promise. Old roses from a Feilding nursery and the City Council nursery have been planted in grave plots and old tree stumps, and more will be added each season. A list of the new planting of old roses in the cemetery will be given in a later newsletter. Donal Duthie would like to know of anyone who can identify the rose growing between the graves of the Dutton family and Captain Forbes; behind and slightly below the shed; it has been there a long time and so far has not been identified. Steep bush tracks in the vicinity of the French Embassy, and a steep bank above Bowen Street have been upgraded and planted with native shrubs. New signs have been installed at the four main entrances and it is intended to put further direction signs at junctions with the cemetery.

Donal stated that the Parks Dept. is appreciative of all the assistance and advice given by the Friends of Bolton Street, and in particular by Margaret Alington.

## WAKEFIELD CEREMONY:

The Wakefield ceremony was held on the 20th March 1980, and was well attended in spite of the weather.

## BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH:

It looks as though copying of the results of all those hours of searching in newspapers and elsewhere may begin in the New Year, following negotiations with the Dept of Internal Affairs for the use of their word processor. This will mean that in due course the information we have collected will be widely available as possible.

Mrs Ruth Miller has begun searching some of the more difficult names.

CHAPEL:

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Mr Garry Morris has removed the ironmongery from the remains of the chapel, and the Ministry of Works & Development have made detailed drawings necessary for the reconstruction of the chapel.

RESIGNATION OF DAVID KIDDEY:

The Friends owe a lot to David, who was our first Secretary, and then Vice Chairman. Since 1974 he has given constant help with almost every project undertaken, sometimes accompanied by his wife Helen and their two small sons. He has edited the Newsletter prior to this one, and he has recently photographed the extant graves in the upper ( Western ) portion of the cemetery. He will be much missed. We wish him and his family well in their new life in Nelson.

A PRESENTATION was made to him at the last Committee meeting. John Daniels has agreed to act as Vice Chairman, and Mac McCormic will edit the Newsletter, until the next Annual General Meeting

PHOTOGRAPHING GRAVES:

Graves at the North end of the lower (Eastern) portion of the cemetery still remain to be photographed in black & white. Would someone offer to do this for us? The Society pays for the film. If you can help, please ring the Secretary, Barbara Pohl, tel 753-217 (eveings)

Statement by Hugh A. Fullerton; Chairman  
10th November 1980.

For over 15 years, countless Wellingtonians have looked to the day when a National Roads Board promise to add lands West of Mowbray St to the Bolton Street Cemetery Reserve would be fulfilled. Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery, in particular, have been concerned with this issue, and keenly await the outcome of current deliberations between the Roads Board and the City Council. They note in this regard:-

- 1 The promise that land West of Mowbray Street would be acquired and developed as a Park for the citizens of Wellington by the National Roads Board led a great many people to accept- rather than to strongly oppose - motorway construction through the Bolton Street Cemetery in 1965. That promised feature of the scheme was indeed a key factor in its acceptance; and that promise, therefore, must surely now be honoured - in full.
- 2 The total area of land promised by the Roads Board in part compensation for the loss of open space in the Cemetery is only about a fifth of the area of land taken for motorway works. It is less than an acre in extent.
- 3 The area of land taken from the Cemetery was cost free to the

National Roads Board, whereas all other land transactions were effected at the then market value and totalled several million dollars. ( One item alone reportedly amounted to \$5,000,000 )

4 A few months ago the Roads Board offered the City Council \$200,000 wherewith to buy and develop the long promised land. This was a totally inadequate offer which was understandably rejected by the Council. ( The offer, in fact, was merely the estimated cost of land purchase in 1965 - not the greatly enhanced value in 1980 )

5 Subject to terms yet to be agreed, the principal land owners in the proposed Park - the Dairy & Meat Marketing Boards - have expressed their readiness to make land available for development in accordance with the originally approved plan: they do not stand in the way of the fulfillment of the National Roads Board promise.

6 To the concern of many, plans for the construction of a piazza over the motorway - a project closely associated with land acquisition and development proposals - were reduced to two pedestrian bridges, the cost of which the Mayor of Wellington has assessed at probably one quarter the cost of a piazza. Our Mayor has, however, assured the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery that he is resolute that the National Roads Board must provide funds for the land and development costs of the park area as planned in 1965.

7 The financial problems currently faced by the Roads Board are well recognised. But the outcome of the issue now being faced and about to be decided cannot be determined on financial grounds. This issue is clearly a moral one calling for the fulfillment of a promise of very deep significance. Wellingtonians know that the National Roads Board has unfinished business in the heart of the Capital City. With the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery, they look to its honourable conclusion.

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Since the above was written the Chairman states that a letter dated 27th November has been received from the Minister who stated that he had a clear appreciation of the problem but has yet to find a solution but the Roads Board is pressing to have this matter resolved as soon as possible. The Chairman also stated that he had written to three M.P's in the area; Messrs Templeton, Comber and O'Flynn, and also to Mr Kemp, Chairman of the Wellington Regional Council, and the local Mayor, Mr Fowler.

Further developments seem to indicate that a breakthrough has been made. The Evening Post reported recently that the National Roads Board is to investigate giving a Crown owned stretch of land on Lambton Quay to the Wellington City Council to compensate for Bolton

Street Cemetery land taken for the motorway. The site is owned by the Government, but occupied at present by the Kingsway Carpet Centre on short term lease. Further discussions are to be held between the City Council and the Roads Board. Mr Fullarton has been assured that the land in Lambton Quay is not to take the place of the area West of Mowbray Street but is indeed offered in exchange for it to the Dairy Board. The management of the Dairy Board has indicated that subject to terms to be agreed upon would make its property available for addition to the Cemetery Memorial Park. The next meeting of the Roads Board is scheduled for Wednesday, 10th December 1980

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The Editor apologies for any errors or omissions in this Newsletter and hopes that members will understand this is his first effort.

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