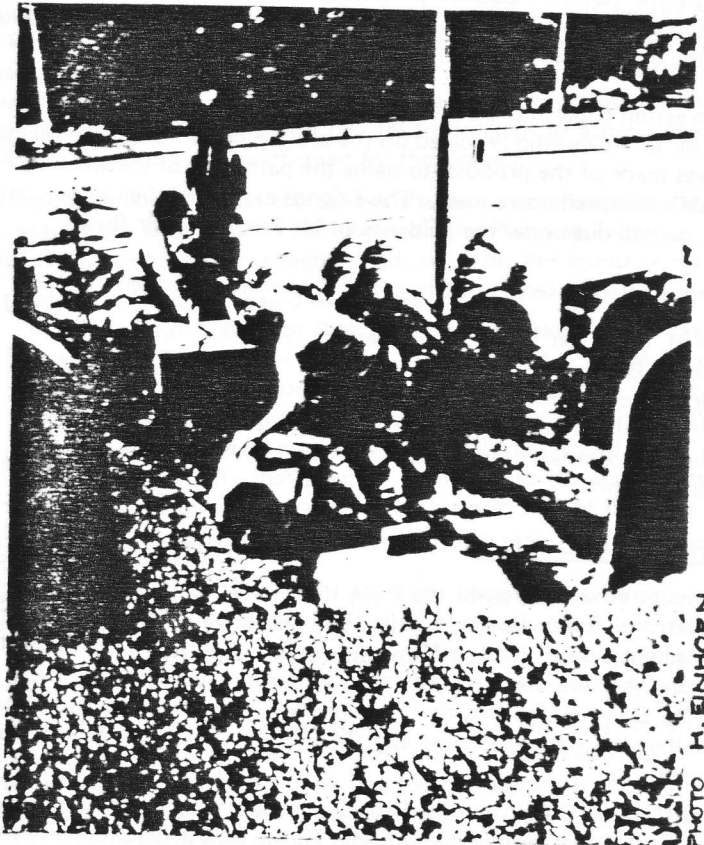


Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

P.O. BOX 2336, WELLINGTON

Newsletter No.13, September 1982



The CHISHOLM memorial receives its base in 1980 with the help of the Ministry of Works and Development; it now has its ornamental column as well, recently restored to it by the City Council.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Friends held on 24 May was attended by 30 members and supporters. The meeting was addressed by His Worship the Mayor of Wellington who explained why the Council had to uplift the "Public Purposes" zoning of land on the western side of Mowbray Street. He said, however, that as the Council still wished to see an extension of the Bolton Street Cemetery into this area it had been negotiating with the Dairy and Meat Producers' Boards and the Reserve Bank for a 2-Level car park building to be formed on the subject land with a park extended over the top.

Strong support for the Friends to continue to press for a settlement of the land issue was expressed by the representatives of the Early Settlers Association.

It was suggested by the National Council of Women representative that any retaining wall could also serve as a columbarium with descendants of those buried in the cemetery having the right to have their ashes deposited there.

The parks and recreation department of the City Council was represented by Mr R. Flook and Mr D. Rowe who reported on the present condition of the Memorial Park. Mention was made of the proposal to name the paths and of the work in progress to provide a comprehensive map. The Friends expressed their appreciation of the good work carried out under the guidance of Mr Flook and Mr Rowe.

The following were elected to serve as officers and committee members for the coming year :

Mr H. Fullarton	—	Chairman
Mrs V. Bogle	—	Secretary
Mr A. McCormick	—	Treasurer
Mrs M. Alington, Miss P. Adams, Mr L. Buick-Constable, Miss A. Burnett, Mr H. Einhorn, Miss B. Krebs, Mr R. Miller, Mr G. Morris		

MOWBRAY STREET LAND ISSUE

In our March Newsletter we expressed the hope that the \$500,000 paid to the City Council by the National Roads Board in July 1981 would soon lead to progress in the long awaited acquisition of land in Mowbray Street. Later - at our Annual General Meeting on 24 May - we reported that negotiations between the City Council and the NZ Dairy Board and the Reserve Bank were being accorded urgency, and that a favourable outcome was being eagerly awaited. That situation remains unchanged.

It will be recalled that in 1965 it was made clear that all lands on the western side of Mowbray Street that were surplus to National Roads Board requirements would be added to the Memorial Park. In addition therefore to NZ Dairy Board and Reserve Bank land, a significant portion of the University Grants Committee site was to be added to the public reserve.

We had been aware that the University Grants Committee had acquired a new site for their offices in Bolton Street, and were reassured in that knowledge. More

recently, however, three developments have given cause for very serious concern: first, the U.G.C. site in Bolton Street has been sold: Secondly, the U.G.C. has expressed a firm intention to erect an 8 storey building on their present site: Thirdly, the City Council - bound by the provisions of its District Scheme - has approved the erection of this major structure right on the boundary of the Cemetery and adjacent to the Wakefield grave.

The Society's strong opposition to the proposed erection of a new U.G.C. building has been expressed in letters addressed to His Worship the Mayor, Town Clerk, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Works and Development, Minister for the Environment, and the Minister of Education. Regrettably, however, replies to date have not been encouraging. We shall, of course, continue to take all available steps with a view to having the University Grants Committee site added to the Memorial Park.

REVIEW OF TOWN PLANNING SCHEME

Our September 1981 Newsletter reported the lodging of an Objection to the proposed zoning of Mowbray Street lands for "Office" purposes - **not** for the promised development of the Bolton Street Memorial Park. Our objection was disallowed by the City Council for reasons which we still fail to understand. Although some of those reasons were later acknowledged to be incorrect, (the Council had said that it had **no** money to buy land, and that the National Roads Board had taken **no** steps to achieve that aim), the decision to disallow our Objection was reaffirmed by the Council.

Following due deliberation on the serious situation now faced, we decided to lodge an Appeal against the City Council decision with the Planning Tribunal. Expert legal and planning assistance have been sought to advise us on this complex matter.

Our attitude to this issue is based on the fact that:

- (a) In 1967 about 4 acres of City Reserve were taken by the National Roads Board with Government support - **free of cost** - for Motorway works.
- (b) In part compensation for that operation, the addition of about $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land on the western side of Mowbray Street to the Bolton Street Cemetery Reserve was solemnly promised and widely publicised.
- (c) It was undoubtedly that promise which led to the acceptance of the Motorway and the consequent severance of an historic area of deep significance.

REPAIRS AND PLANTING

The Parks Department reports that many headstones have been repaired with braces and alditite, and others have been fixed horizontally with mortar. More conifers have been added to the ramp area along the motorway, including 3 Douglas Firs, 3 Western Hemlocks, and 5 Serbian Spruces. Ivy is covering the motorway walls successfully.

We are very grateful to the Council staff particularly for their work with the fallen and damaged memorials. As well as fixing braces on broken slabs of marble, they have devised ingenious methods of raising heavy masonry without the use of a crane. Fireman Page's memorial is restored to its former dignity by the insertion of its base, George Crawford's memorial has its heavy cross restored, and the Chisholm memorial its octagonal column.

PUBLICITY

Our Committee is assisting the City Council with the preparation of a leaflet for visitors to the park.

On 20 March, Miss Ann Burnett took a party from the New Zealand Founders' Society through the Mount Street Cemetery, using biographical notes collected by the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery.

Our chairman, Mr Hugh Fullarton, addressed the May meeting of the Early Settlers and Historical Association of Wellington on the proposed plans for the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

Two groups from the City Council's Historic Wellington tour on 27 June were led through the park by Mr A.W. McCormick and Mrs M. Alington.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A sticker in the margin indicates that your subscription for 1982/83 is outstanding. Ordinary \$4, Family \$6.

WORK DAY, SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1982

The Friends still help with the general appearance of the park, and Miss Ann Burnett has pruned some roses.

As paper and other rubbish tend to collect in the more wooded areas of the park, we are holding a work morning on Saturday, 9 October, and we invite all those who can help to meet at the Seddon memorial at 10 a.m. Wear old clothes, and bring gloves and refreshments if desired.

If wet, we shall meet the following Saturday, 16 October.

Honorary Secretary : Mrs Vivienne Bogle, Telephone: 768-350

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