



FRIENDS of
BOLTON STREET
MEMORIAL PARK
INCORPORATED
PO BOX 2336 WELLINGTON

NEWSLETTER No 47

JULY 1999

OPENING OF NEW DISPLAY IN CHAPEL

The memorial to those disinterred for the motorway has finally been completed and installed in the chapel, along with new display material, a new map and the recently-completed burial index.

This is the culmination of many years of work by a number of people who assisted with the checking of the burial list, which was a necessary first step towards determining the names of those disinterred for the motorway.

Members are cordially invited to attend a function at the chapel on Tuesday 10th August 1999 at 7 pm. This will be followed by a reception and refreshments at Turnbull House, Bowen St. This gathering will be followed by an annual general meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park. The tentative timetable is 7 pm at the Chapel, 7:30 pm at Turnbull House, AGM about 8:30 .

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1999 annual general meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park (inc) will be held at 8:30 pm on **TUESDAY 10 August**, at Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington, following a reception and inspection of the new chapel display.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
 2. Minutes of 1998 Annual General Meeting
 3. Matters arising from the minutes
 4. Chairperson's report
 5. Treasurer's report and financial statement
 7. WCC report
 6. Election of committee
 7. Appointment of auditor
 8. Other business
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Subscription reminder

If there is a subscription form inside your copy of this newsletter, our records indicate that you are currently not financial.

The FitzGerald Monuments

Alongside the Carr Path, partly under the lower end of the Denis McGrath Bridge is a row of reinstated monuments from the grave of the FitzGerald family. The grave crossed the boundary of Church of England blocks 53 and 56, and was in the path of the motorway. The bodies buried there were moved to the mass grave, and the monuments re-erected where they stand today after a period in storage during motorway construction. On pre-motorway maps the grave is shown with a different plot number in each block- plot 6 in block 53, and plot 13 in block 56.

Ten members of the FitzGerald family are recorded as having been buried there, the most notable of whom was James Edward FitzGerald. The most notable monument from this grave, however, was erected by the Star Boating Club in memory of their Captain, William FitzGerald, who died in 1888 at the age of 34.

The first burial in the FitzGerald plot was Robert, aged 23, in July 1878. The year 1880 seems to have been particularly bad for the family with the deaths of Selwyn (aged 15) in May, Katherine (aged 13) in June, then Mabel (aged 4) in August. Then, in March 1881, there was another death in the family- William's wife Ella Maria Stephenson FitzGerald aged 28. The 45 year old wife of Gerard George FitzGerald was drowned in the wreck of the "Tairaroa" off Kaikoura in April 1886,

and Maurice FitzGerald died at the age of 25 in July of the same year. William FitzGerald died in June 1888.

James Edward and Fanny FitzGerald were buried here in 1896 and 1900 respectively, joining (as far as I can guess from the records) six of their 13 children and two daughters-in-law who had pre-deceased them. Gerard George FitzGerald, husband of Jane was not buried here.

James was of Irish descent, but was born in England about 1818. Educated at Cambridge University, he worked in Antiquities Dept of British Museum, becoming Assistant Secretary of the museum in 1848. He had met Edward Gibbon Wakefield in 1849 and became secretary of the Canterbury Association. He married in 1850, and after a bitter dispute with his new father-in-law, emigrated to Lyttelton. He was founding editor of the "Lyttelton Times", Superintendent of Canterbury Province from 1853 to 1857, and Member of House of Representatives for Lyttelton from 1854, Ellesmere 1862-66 and Christchurch 1866-67. He was also founder of "The Press".

James was a man before his time, with many liberal ideals, promoting Maori rights and urging Maori representation in Parliament. He was Minister of Native Affairs in the Weld government in 1865. His political career, however, was adversely affected by incapacitating bouts of angina which plagued him and made him appear prematurely aged when he was in his forties. Despite his ill health, he lived to the age of 78 or 79 (the year of his birth is uncertain).

He retired from politics in 1867 and moved to Wellington, becoming Comptroller of Government Accounts and Auditor General. He was elected first chairman of the Public Service Association.

According to an article in "The Press" two years ago, while he was Superintendent of Canterbury Province, he was known for a horse-drawn vehicle ("dog cart") which he had built himself. It had enormous wheels, and he called it his "circulating medium". It was drawn by two unbroken horses which frequently bolted, and brave men were said to prefer to walk rather than endure the honour of a ride in the vehicle. At the official opening of the Sumner Road in 1857, the horses bolted and the walking band had to run to keep up with the Superintendent.
