

Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park



FRIENDS of
BOLTON STREET
CEMETERY INCORPORATED
PO BOX 2336 WELLINGTON

NEWSLETTER No 39

December 1994

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions which remain unchanged, are now due. Please help the Friends by promptly renewing your membership by mailing your subscription with the enclosed form.

Please insert any corrections to your current address on the form to ensure that our records remain up to date.

Your membership support in past years has been greatly appreciated and enables the various activities of the Friends to progress as resources permit. Should you be willing to assist with any specific aspects of our activities, please tick the appropriate categories on the subscription form.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 12 JULY 1994 AT 7.45PM IN THE LOUNGE AT ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

PRESENT: N.Perrin (chair), S.Upton (sec), J.Daniels (tr), A.Fairweather, D.Dunsheath, A.Burnett, M.McCormick, M.Oates, M.& W.Alington, K.Smyth, H.& M.Fullarton, E.Gable, V.Bogle, J.Daniels, R.Brown, B.Fleming, I.Fleming, W.Price, N.Coup, F.Verrity

APOLOGIES: R.Read, B.Krebs, D.Luke, L.Buckingham, B.Coup, N.Cooper, R.Barrington

MINUTES: Resolved that the minutes of the 1993 AGM be confirmed [Daniels/ McCormick]
There were no matters arising

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Resolved that the chairperson's report be received [Dunsheath/ Burnett]

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr Daniels thanked Mr Byrne for auditing accounts. Resolved that the financial report for the year ended 31 March 1994 be received and the audited accounts approved. [Daniels/ McCormick]

WCC PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr Oates tabled report on the work carried out by the department over the year. Reported it had been a dry year but plants which died will be replaced. Roses continue to improve. Elm tree in Easdale St will remain. Department have policy of taking out suckers when they appear and of cutting down trees where it is a matter of public safety. They are not in business of denuding parks.

Discussed leftover funding from motorway. One idea he had was to improve the Seddon entrance and thereby improve the link between the cemetery and the Botanic Gardens.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE: The following were elected:

Chairperson	Nick Perrin	Vicepresident	Mac McCormick
Secretary	Sue Upton	Treasurer	John Daniels
Committee	Louise Buckingham		Vivien Cryer
	David Dunsheath		Annette Fairweather
	Evan Haine		Ken Smyth

The meeting expressed their appreciation to Anne Burnett for her years of service on the committee and her work for the Friends.

AUDITOR: Resolved that Ray Byrne be appointed Honorary Auditor. [Daniels/ Dunsheath]

GENERAL BUSINESS: Discussion of name change from Friends of Bolton St Cemetery to Bolton St Memorial Park. Mike Oates said there are no regulations to prevent ashes being placed in a park in the same way as they are placed in a cemetery. There has been no feedback from members on the possible name change. Margaret Alington proposed that the committee take the necessary action to change the name. Seconded Anne Burnett.

Walk with WCC staff had not been held last year but was organised for 9 August at 3pm.

Wyeven Price and Neil Coup from the Friends of the Mount St. Cemetery spoke to their letter suggesting the two societies establish reciprocal membership. It was agreed that the two committees should meet and look into it. There were several areas in which they could help each other, for example telling each other dates of tours, and this should be discussed.

N.Perrin reported that he had visited 200 Tinakori Rd after reading an article in City Voice which mentioned a cross from the cemetery being found in their garden. The people concerned were happy to have it returned to its original position.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm and was followed by a talk from Frances Porter.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT JULY 1994

Apart from work on the burial list, the activities of the Friends have been at a fairly low level since the last AGM in May 1993. Several enquiries were answered and five guided tours were conducted.

• Guided Tours

On 26 September 1993 Ann Burnett, Annette Fairweather, Sue Upton and I escorted about 35 people around the Memorial Park during the Spring Festival.

In conjunction with Summer City activities I conducted a tour for only four people on 15 January 1994.

Heritage Week tours were better attended with nearly one hundred showing up on 10 April, and the lunchtime weekly short tours were attended by about a dozen people on 12 and 14 April. Anne Burnett and Annette Fairweather assisted me on the first two tours and ran the last themselves.

The only private tour arranged for a party from Wellington East Girls' College was cancelled due to rain.

Provided there is sufficient publicity at least two weeks in advance, people come from far afield and in large numbers for guided tours, but the Summer City tours have always been poorly attended.

• Dedication of Environmentalists' Section

On 8 August 1993 the Friends were well represented at the unveiling of the plaque and planting of memorial trees for notable deceased environmentalists in the unused motorway strip at the Bowen Street end. The Friends had been involved with discussions with ECO and supported their proposal for this use being made of former cemetery land taken for the motorway, cleared of graves and then not used. Amongst those commemorated at this dedication ceremony were two with a connection with the Friends, namely Sir Charles Fleming and Helmut Einhorn, the first chairperson of the Friends.

• Elm Tree Near Easdale Street

In late January 1994 I received a letter from the WCC tree officer concerning a request for the removal of a tree by a neighbour, and notification of removal of some old, dangerous macrocarpas near the Seddon memorial. Subsequently I examined the elm tree with David and Joy Dunsheath and our opinion was that as it is one of only two reasonably mature trees in this corner, it should be kept if possible. We are pleased that this tree is being retained, and were pleased to be consulted about this and the macrocarpas.

• Remaining Reinstatement Money

Rumours of money left over from the original \$500,000 handed over by the then Roads Board (now Transit NZ) to WCC for reinstatement of the memorial park after motorway works were confirmed by Hugh Fullarton who liaised with Cr Gilberthorpe on behalf of the committee. This is such a substantial sum of money that careful planning is required on the best way to utilise it, and various proposals have been commented on.

We are anxious that the money should not be used for routine maintenance, and there should be an emphasis on the historical aspects of the Memorial Park, and that first priority should be given to assisting us to complete the burial and disinterment database.

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1994

1993	INCOME	1994
490	Subscriptions for year	530.00
118	Donations	151.00
115	Interest	99.81
----		-----
723		780.81
--	Plus excess expenditure over income	357.99
====		=====
723		1138.80

	EXPENDITURE	
26	Typing and copying	---
176	Postage	76.5
35	Stationery	45.00
10	Research	---
193	Newsletters	267.30
30	Sundries - Donation to W.C.C.	750.00
----		-----
470		-----
253	Plus excess income over expenditure	-----
====		=====
723		1138.80
====		=====

Balance sheet as at 31 March 1994

2755	Accumulated funds at 1 April 1993	3008.08
253	Less excess expenditure over income	357.99
----		-----
3008		2650.09
	Represented by:	
981	Trust Bank cheque account	630.09
2000	Term deposits	2000.00
20	Subscriptions banked after 31 March	20.00
7	Interest in arrears	---
----		-----
3008		2650.09
====		=====

Term deposits comprise:

Australian Guarantee Corporation 4.75% at call	1400.00
Westpac Banking Corporation 5.50% maturing 14.7.1994	600.00

	2000.00
	=====

John Davis
Hon. Treasurer
30.6.94

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL REPORT TO THE AGM

The major event during 1993 was the dedication of the environmentalist area adjacent to the motorway. This comprised a plaque and memorial planting of trees. Future plantings will take place as memorials to environmentalists who have contributed to the betterment of the New Zealand environment. A memorial book has been placed in the chapel.

• Graves

Headstones are repaired as time and resources permit. WCC was able to allocate more funding for repairs in 1993 resulting in the following repairs: Hammond, Holmes, Eves, Kebbell, Smith, Snelson, Bickridge, Weaver, Oliver, Gilmer, Davis, Pearce, Dorset, Edwards, Turton, Penham.

Vandalism of headstones is an ongoing problem with no easy solution in sight.

• Maintenance

More pohutukawas have been felled and a large dead sycamore removed near the mass grave. Two large macrocarpas were removed near the Seddon memorial entrance. Many of the other macrocarpas in the park are

in poor condition and we will be looking at possible replacement plantings over the next five to ten years.

It is planned to look at the design of the Seddon entrance over the next 12 months.

• Memorial Seat

A seat was donated by the Wellington Historical and Early Settlers Association and has been placed adjacent to the chapel.

• Funding

Through the efforts of Hugh Fullarton it was found that WCC still held over \$300,000 in the Early Settlers Fund. This money was given to WCC as part of the deal to construct the new park.

We are currently gathering ideas on how the money can be spent and then prioritising them. We envisage the money being spent over several years and going towards visual improvements as well as improving records, better signs, and so on.

- Mike Oates

Curator

Wellington and Otari Botanic Gardens

HISTORY FROM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES

The Friends are most grateful to Wellington historian **FRANCES PORTER** who delivered a fascinating address following this year's AGM.

Based on her current research, she quoted from private correspondence to be published in her forthcoming book *"My Hand Will Write What My Heart Dictates"* with co-authors Charlotte McDonald and Tui

MacDonald. This correspondence provides an insight into the private lives of women in 19th Century and early 20th Century New Zealand. It reveals a valuable new dimension to New Zealand's social history, focusing on relationships, attitudes and life-events (births, marriages and deaths) rather than women's organisations and movements.

BURIAL LIST PROJECT: PROGRESS REPORT

In our previous newsletter (Number 38, June 1994), we outlined the various stages to the compilation of a definitive list of burials within the Bolton Street Memorial Park. Stage 1 comprised the preparation of an index to the Map of Visible Graves, available to the public in the Chapel and elsewhere. Stage 2 comprised the expansion of this index list to incorporate all remaining recorded burials, many of which relate to disinterments at the time of the motorway construction.

Stage 3 is now commencing to edit all entries (approx 8,500) identified during Stages 1 & 2. A comparison will be made between the Friends listing and the Registrar General's national death records and other relevant sources of verification. A set of national death records microfiches

has been purchased for proposed distribution among project volunteers. We have now obtained the use of microfiche reading machines for operation at volunteers' homes. Five readers were donated from Wellington pharmacies (coordinated by David Thompson of Karori Pharmacy) and others loaned courtesy of the ANZ Bank.

Should you be interested in contributing to this work in your own time and in your own home please indicate as such on your subscription form (enclosed). Additional volunteers would be greatly appreciated - simple guidelines and training would be provided.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY

Members will probably be aware of the ongoing battles being conducted by the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery to protect it from further roading encroachments or sale to the university next door. Anyone with an interest in Wellington's history will wish them well in their efforts to preserve Mount Street, the Roman Catholic counterpart of Bolton Street Memorial Park, and as such, one of Wellington's original cemeteries dating from the 1840s.

The Friends of Mount Street Cemetery have recently been granted the status of a "Heritage Protection Authority" by Simon Upton, Minister for the Environment. This gives them the power to place a protection order on the cemetery, and they will

be fundraising for this purpose at the Thorndon Fair on Sunday 11 December. Other events including guided tours and talks have been held, and more will be held in the future.

We are currently exchanging newsletters because of our mutual interests, and our memberships overlap to a small extent at present.

A conservation plan for Mount Street is in its second draft stage and submissions have been invited. We are about to receive a copy, and may make comments on it through the committee. Enquiries on this or any other matters concerning Mount Street should be made to Wyevern Price on 232 4586 or Neil Coup on 589 6924, or FMSC, PO Box 12 363, Wellington.

RESEARCH ARTICLE:

ROBERT HOLT CARPENTER (1820 - 1891)

ROBERT HOLT CARPENTER (1821-1891) and his wife **HARRIET** (died 1903) arrived in Port Nicholson from Bath, Somerset, on the ship "Birman" in 1842. They had pre-purchased a section in Molesworth Street (on the current site of the Anglican Cathedral) which they cleared before building their house.

During this strenuous activity, Robert was seriously and permanently injured by a falling tree. As a scholar of Greek and Latin, he then opened a second-hand bookshop in front of the house which gradually overflowed with books shipped from England. Among his friends and readers was Sir George Grey. He represented Wellington on the Provincial Council, was a member of the Wellington Town Board until 1870 and Borough Council (1870-71). The memorial stone for both Robert and Harriet is relocated within Bolton Street Memorial Park (ref E12 10) following disinterment prior to motorway construction.

The Carpenters' only child, **ELLEN LOUISE** (born 1842), married **FREDERICK COOPER** who had arrived from Somerset with his brother, **SAMUEL**. Samuel became the proprietor of the "Thistle Inn", the oldest standing Wellington hotel

(in Murphy Street). Frederick founded the firm of Coopers Seeds on the Manners Street waterfront. New, larger premises on the corner of Manners Street and St Mary Lane survived for 100 years until the 1980s (replaced by Telecom House). Two of the Cooper's many children, **ESTHER MARY CAROLINE** and **ROSA EMILY**, died tragically in 1874 and 1875 respectively and were buried in the Church of England Cemetery (Bolton Street), (ref F14 17). Their uncle **SAMUEL** and his wife, **ELIZABETH** (died 1869), were also buried there.

Robert Carpenter's style of dress was unusual. In his old age he often sat outside his shop where he caught the eye of the portrait painter, **ELEANOR CATHERINE (KATE) MAIR** (nee **SPERREY**). After several requests he allowed her to paint his portrait, now in the possession of the Cooper family. Kate was buried in 1893 with her father in the Church of England Cemetery (Bolton Street). Their grave was disinterred and the memorial stone now resides near the oak tree (grid reference F14 11).

- Background information from Mrs Ellen Ngaire Cooper is acknowledged with thanks

Chairperson's Report continued from page 3

• **Burial List Project**

We now have the public, Jewish and Church of England records combined into a single computer database, the printout from which is now ready for checking and correcting, and a subcommittee has been set up to do this work, so we can expect major progress on this in the near future. It has been decided to check all names with the Registrar-General's death records as a double check for spelling, and to separate actual burials from commemorative inscriptions to those buried elsewhere.

• **Newsletters**

Two newsletters have been produced in the last year, the first by John Daniels and the second by David Dunsheath and John Daniels. Ann Burnett was responsible for distribution on both occasions.

• **Grave Repairs**

The sterling work by Rodney Read and other Council staff in the last year is much appreciated. We are also appreciative of the further excellent repairs carried out to Masterstone.

• **Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank the members of the committee for their efforts this year, and also thank Margaret Alington and Hugh Fullarton for their services outside the committee.

- Nick Perrin, Chairperson

FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET CEMETERY

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