



**FRIENDS of  
BOLTON STREET  
MEMORIAL PARK** INCORPORATED  
PO BOX 2336 WELLINGTON

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NEWSLETTER No 41

MAY 1996

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8 pm Wednesday 22 May 1996  
at St Andrew's on The Terrace  
(in the lounge, entry righthand side of church)

**A G E N D A**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 1995 Annual General Meeting (see page 4)
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairperson's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements
6. WCC Parks and Recreation Department Report
7. Election of Committee
8. Election of Auditor
9. Address by Guest Speaker

**Guest Speaker**

**MICHAEL KELLY - HERITAGE CONSULTANT**  
**"The Restoration of Government Buildings"**

Michael was employed to record the extensive conservation work on the 1876 wooden Government Buildings. He will give an illustrated talk.

# **A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS: THE FUTURE OF THE FRIENDS**

## **Background**

The Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery (now the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park) was formed in 1977 to promote the better appreciation and management of the Cemetery. In particular, the Friends have worked to see the completion of undertakings given when the Motorway was planned and built.

Today many of those objects have been achieved. The Memorial Park has been created, the chapel rebuilt, the cemetery is capably managed by Wellington City Council as a historic reserve, and graves and memorials are maintained and repaired as resources allow, albeit at a lower level than we would like.

Partly because of these developments, many of the activities once carried out by the Friends, such as work days, have lapsed. The Committee realises that activity has fallen to a low level. It has therefore decided not to call on members to pay subscriptions for the 1995-96 year.

## **A continuing role?**

The Committee feels that it is an appropriate time to review the future of the Friends, and to ask members whether they consider we still have a continuing role. The Committee's view is that there is still a valuable role for the group, and still work to be done, but that this needs to be supported by our members.

Our most important current project is the compilation of a comprehensive index of burials in the cemetery. This project will fulfil a legal undertaking given when the Motorway was planned. Today, nearly thirty years later, the project is near realisation, through the voluntary work of members. The City Council continues to value the role of the Friends as an advisor in the management and promotion of the Memorial Park. A most important task in this respect will be to advise Council on the expenditure of a substantial sum still unused from the Memorial Park project in the 1980s, which remains to be spent on the cemetery. Other roles, such as research, may emerge.

## **Support needed**

We need fresh faces and help on the Committee to keep these projects moving forward, and to stimulate new activities. Many of the present Committee have given long service and will wish to retire before long.

We ask you to show your support by coming to the Annual General Meeting. Please consider being available for a Committee position. The work is interesting and not onerous. If you cannot come to the meeting but wish to advise us of your views on the future of Friends, please contact one of the following:

Nick Perrin, phone 472 3767

John Daniels, phone 479 6693



## REPORT ON BURIAL LIST PROJECT

Checking of the database against the Registrar General's index of deaths 1848-1900 is about 90% complete. This exercise allows for checking of the spelling of names, fills in forenames where we had only initials, roughly confirms dates (by quarters) and district of registration. It is obvious that the Registrar General's index is not infallible, because a few of the spellings there can be proven to be wrong from headstone inscriptions or other historical evidence (not that the headstones themselves are infallible - there are cases of wrong spellings and dates). Sometimes there is nothing for it but to go for a consensus on spellings from all our sources (sexton's index cards, cemetery registers, transcriptions from headstones, old maps and Registrar General's index). It is a rare occurrence for two of them not to agree on the spelling of a name.

Many names, however, have not been found in the Registrar General's index. Amongst the possible reasons for this are:-

- spelling of names is so inaccurate they cannot be recognised;
- deaths occurred outside the country and our only records are from commemorative inscriptions on family memorials (many of these do not even have a date recorded);
- records have incorrect years;
- stillbirths appear in the burial records but would not have been registered as deaths (they appear in the cemetery records as a surname followed by "S.B.");
- some surnames followed by "baby" may have been stillbirths and not registered, or may have been registered with forenames;
- late December deaths are recorded in the Reg. Gen's index at the beginning of the following year (known in some cases - a systematic search is about to begin to see if this is a common problem).

Disappointingly, hardly any names relating to Maori burials have been found in the Reg. Gen's index. It would appear that no effort had been made in the early days to encourage (or force) Maori to register deaths. Many Maori names can be seen in the cemetery records, but with idiosyncratic spellings they are often almost unrecognisable in these days of standardised spelling of the Maori language.

So it will never be possible to have a complete, accurate list of burials in the three cemeteries commonly collectively referred to as "Bolton St". What we have now is the most complete, unified list there has ever been, which will be an invaluable resource for genealogists. The list of those burials disturbed for the motorway will likewise never be totally exhaustive, but it will be as near to complete as it is possible to get.

This project has involved a huge amount of work over several years by many volunteers who, I hope, have found it as rewarding and interesting to participate in as I have. I hope they will be willing to help solve the remaining mystery records by searching old newspapers and other historic documents for death notices and obituaries.

Anyone used to working in the National and Turnbull libraries, or willing to learn, and keen to volunteer their services are invited to contact me (phone 472 3767 or write to me at 45 Norwich Street, Wellington 6001).

*Nick Perrin*

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## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Thursday 17 August 1995 at the Loaves and Fishes Lounge, Anglican Cathedral, Molesworth Street, Wellington

**PRESENT:** N Perrin (chair), S Upton (secretary), J Daniels (treasurer), M McCormick, A Fairweather, D Dunsheath, B Alington, R Read, F Verity, V Bogle, N Coup, D Kiddey.

**APOLOGIES:** A Burnett, B Coup, W Price, L Buckingham, M Oates, B Krebs, K Smyth, M Alington, D Luke, H and M Fullerton, R Byrne, J Dunsheath.

**MINUTES:** Resolved that the minutes of the 1994 AGM be confirmed.  
[Daniels/McCormick]

**MATTERS ARISING:** Motorway money is still being discussed.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Resolved that the financial report for the year ended 31 March 1994 be received and the audited accounts approved.  
[Daniels/Alington]

**WWC AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mr Oates tabled his report on the work carried out by the department during the year. Mr Read described the successful possum eradication programme.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The following were elected to the committee:



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

**AUDITOR:** Mr Byrne agreed to serve a further term. Letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Byrne. Resolved that Mr Byrne be appointed Honorary Auditor. [Bogle/Daniels]

**NOTICE OF MOTION:** "That in accordance with rule 5 of the Rules of the Society, rule 1 be amended to change the name of the Society to 'Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated'. Agreed that last AGM had approved the motion and resolved that necessary procedure now be gone through to officially register change of name." [Daniels/Dunsheath]

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

A feature presentation was given by Nick Perrin entitled "Cards, old maps and registers - helping to get their names right".

Supper followed.

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## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 1994-95

Since our last annual general meeting on 12th July 1994 the Friends have had a rather low public profile, but much work has been going on behind the scenes, particularly on the burial list project. We have run only one guided walk, our main means of exposure, since the last AGM. About 50 people participated in this (on 18th September 94) for which I would like to thank Sue Upton, David Dunsheath and Vivien Cryer for assisting me as guides. We will, however, be running one during the Botanic Garden Spring Festival in October 95, and I hope members and non-members alike, will take the opportunity to come along.

The burial project went into a new phase of checking which had not previously been envisaged, but has proved very worthwhile if time-consuming. This has involved checking the database entries against the Registrar General's national index of deaths. We have purchased this index on microfiche for the years 1848 to 1900, and have been checking the records for consistency of spelling of names of the deceased. The index also allows rough checking of date of death (indexed in quarters) and place (in registration districts). Many entries have been corrected by this process, and initials expanded into full names in many cases.



We would not have been able to carry out this work without the generous support of the ANZ Bank who loaned us 4 microfiche readers, and David Thompson of Karori Pharmacy who organised the donation of 5 microfiche readers by Wellington pharmacies. Many thanks also to Vivien Bogle, Lindsay Campbell, John Daniels, Betty Krebs and Ken Smyth for undertaking the checking, and also to David Dunsheath for compiling a guide for researchers.

The Memorial Park has been utilised by Peter Jackson, the well-known New Zealand film maker, for his latest movie which stars Michael J. Fox. The Friends were consulted by Wellington City Council about this, and we trust no-one was offended by the filming which took place on the lawn area between the Jewish section and the upper part of the Public section. This area has never been a burial ground, as it was once part of the Public Cemetery's sexton's cottage garden. The film makers temporarily erected their own fake memorials and vaults on the site. Filming took place in early July, and during my inspection on 16th July I noted only some trampling of the wet grass in the area which was not much worse than that caused by protesters approaching the French Embassy from the cemetery side to proclaim their opposition to French nuclear weapons testing.

On 22nd November 1994 Margaret Alington, David Dunsheath and I represented the Friends at a tree planting ceremony in the Jewish section. A carob tree, grown from seeds from Israel, was planted by Mr Shlomo Lahat, former mayor of Tel Aviv. Mr Lahat was visiting Wellington as a representative of the Jewish National Fund, and was accompanied by the Israeli Ambassador, Nissan Koren Krupsky. Several city councillors, council staff and members of the local Jewish community also attended.

The committee, Hugh Fullarton and Margaret Alington met once with Mike Oates and other WCC Parks and Recreation staff to discuss projects which could be financed with the left-over motorway money. David Cox, the originator of the piazza proposal over the motorway, submitted a proposal for a tube over the bridge. This was considered, but rejected on the basis of cost and security amongst other reasons. Nothing has yet been finalised except in principle.

Two newsletters were produced during the year, thanks to David Dunsheath assisted by Annette Fairweather. The committee comprising Mac McCormick (Vice-chairperson); Sue Upton (Secretary); John Daniels (Treasurer), Louise Buckingham, Vivien Cryer, David Dunsheath, Annette Fairweather, Evan Haine, and Ken Smyth are thanked for their continued services. Once again Margaret Alington and Hugh Fullarton are also thanked for their continued services outside the committee. Likewise to Louise Buckingham for her technical advice on the Registrar General's Index.



Apart from two newsletters a year, it worries me that we don't give members more for their support. I hope you are satisfied with giving us the means to carry on our work by sustaining your membership. I am prepared to answer any questions members may have about the database. If you would like a printout of your relatives from the database, do not hesitate to ask me, and please advise me of any errors you may see in it.

Finally, the time has come to change the name of the Friends as discussed last year. Steps will have to be taken to register our new name with the Commissioner of Incorporated Societies as the "Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park".

*Nick Perrin  
Chairperson*

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## **WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL PARKS AND RESERVES DEPARTMENT - REPORT TO THE 1995 AGM**

The major development during the year was the identification of residual money in the Early Settler's Memorial Park Fund that was available for use in the Memorial Park. Discussions took place between WCC and the Friends with the major projects to be funded to include:

- completion of burial lists and disinterment records
- production of a Memorial Book for the Chapel
- completion of the Chapel display
- redevelopment of the Seddon Entrance
- production of a guidebook
- restoration of major headstones
- production of new mapboards and garden furniture.

Fifty thousand dollars has been allocated for expenditure in the 1995/96 financial year.

### **Graves**

Due to lack of funds no repairs took place in 1994. Fortunately little vandalism took place.

### **Maintenance**

A large macrocarpa was removed next to Sydney Street Path and a macrocarpa next to it had a large limb removed. Most of the macrocarpas in the park are reaching an age when they will need to be removed or require major pruning. An oak tree is to be planted in this area to continue the line of oak trees running along the slope above Bowen Street.

A large pohutukawa growing in the Miller grave behind the Sexton's cottage was removed. The grave will be restored during 1995.

- **Planting**

A Carob Bean tree was planted in the Jewish portion of the park on 22 November by Mr Shlomo Lahat, ex mayor of Tel Aviv, during his visit to New Zealand. Plantings in the Jewish area are being supplemented with herbaceous plants and shrubs native to Israel.

No plantings of roses took place during the year. However, a very successful heritage rose pruning demonstration took place during winter. Selected shrubby trees have been removed throughout the park to increase light to the roses.

*Mike Oates*  
*Curator: The Botanic Garden of Wellington*

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| <b>FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK, PO Box 2336, Wellington</b> |             |                   |
| <b>Chairperson:</b>  | Nick Perrin | Tel (04) 472 3767 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>  | Sue Upton   | Tel (04) 479 5416 |