



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

NEWSLETTER No 44

MAY 1998

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL CONSIDER
IMPORTANT PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE
FRIENDS.**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.15 pm on **TUESDAY 26 MAY**, at Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington. The evening will begin with refreshments at 7.15 pm followed by formal business at 8.00 pm.

NOTE- this Annual General Meeting marks 21 years of existence for the Friends, so please make a special effort to come along and help celebrate this milestone. (No-one will be pressured to stand for the committee). Let's make this a special occasion!

Please RSVP by 20th May so that we can plan catering, to -

John Daniels, 479 6693

Diane Comber, 479 6262 (both have answer phones, so please leave a message if necessary. Prefix 04 if you are calling from outside Wellington).

The formal notice and agenda for the AGM are printed inside this Newsletter.

THE FUTURE OF THE FRIENDS

Our Newsletter no. 41, which gave notice of the 1996 AGM, raised the issue of whether there was a continuing role for the Friends. We did not receive much reaction from members at that time, but the committee has continued to function at a low-key level since.

Now, two years later, the committee has decided that the time has come to propose to members that the Friends cease to exist as a separate organisation. If this proposal is accepted action would be commenced under the Incorporated Societies Act to wind up the society.

The committee has come to this conclusion for three principal reasons;

- * most (although not all) of the original objectives of the Friends have been achieved.
- * a number of current committee members wish to retire, but there does not seem to be sufficient interest among our members in serving on the committee.
- * measured by attendance at annual general meetings in recent years, interest by members in the Friends' activities is at a low level.

One important project of the Friends, the compilation of a comprehensive index of burials, still remains to be completed. Then there is the very important role of the Friends in advising the Wellington City Council on the management of the cemetery. There is a continuing need to answer public inquiries about the cemetery, which are often directed to the Friends.

For these reasons, the committee has sought ways of ensuring that these activities can be maintained in some way. Ideas being considered by the Committee include

- * the formation of a charitable trust under the Charitable Trusts Act, and
- * merging the Friends with another organisation with similar interests.

These options are still being considered by the committee. A report including the committee's recommendations to members will be presented to the annual meeting.

Please try to attend the meeting to hear the proposals and take part in the decision on the Friends' future. If you are attending, please remember to advise one of the committee members listed on page 1 of this newsletter, so that we can establish numbers for catering purposes.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1998 annual general meeting of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park will be held at 7.15 pm on **TUESDAY 26 MAY**, at Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 1997 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairperson's report
5. Treasurer's report and financial statement
6. Consideration of notice of motion proposed by the Committee, as follows:

That the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated be put into liquidation pursuant to section 24 of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, and that a liquidator be appointed to liquidate the affairs of the Society.
7. Appointment of liquidator
8. Disposition of assets of the Friends, and consideration of options for replacement organisation (report to be made to the meeting).
9. Election of interim committee
10. Appointment of auditor
11. Other business

FURTHER MEETING - 6 JULY 1998

Please note that if the proposal to liquidate the Friends is carried at this meeting, a further meeting will be held, as required by the Incorporated Societies Act, to confirm the proposal.

This meeting will be held at 5.00 pm on Monday 6 July at Turnbull House.

NEW DATA FROM THE BURIAL LIST

by Nick Perrin

To make the burial list more useful to genealogists, I have been compiling age at death to the other details (name, date, plot, etc). So far only Public Cemetery data from 1849 to 1876 has been compiled, but it forms a reasonable sample to allow extrapolation to the population in general over this period. The sample size is 589, which is just under half of the total burials for the period. I think it is unlikely that the age statistics for Church of England and Jewish burials would be different.

I knew that large numbers of young children were amongst those interred, but I was surprised to find that 24% of the sample died in their first year, 17.5% between 1 and 5 years, and 5% were 5 to 10 years. This means 46.5% (nearly half!) of all burials 1849 to 1876 were of children aged up to 10 years.

Further inspection of the statistics revealed a much lower percentage of the sample died between the ages of 10 and 15 years, but equally high percentages died in the age ranges of 20 to 30 years, and 35 to 40 years, with a small dip in the graph between 30 and 35 years. There is scope here for someone to draw some conclusions on mortality rates and life expectancy, but population data needs to be included.

I have also done a quick summation of the sex of those deceased between 1840 and 1900 by quickly tagging the database entries male or female from my own judgement of their sex from first names. Male burials outnumbered females significantly right from the beginning, and by 1900 we have about 3,000 females to about 3,700 males (age distribution not yet determined). I suspect this reflects a greater number of males than females in the population of Wellington up to the year 1900.

Charles Valiuntrator, fish hawker of Petone

by Nick Perrin

One of the more unusual names appearing in the burial records is that of a gentleman buried in Public Cemetery Block P on 20 July 1887. There is no extant memorial, and his remains were moved to the mass grave to make way for the motorway. The cemetery record cards and register had different spellings for his name, and the Registrar General's index yet another. In the interests of getting Mr Voluntrator/Valliuntraitor/Valiuntrator's name correct, I asked Annette Fairweather to search newspapers of the time for a death notice in the hope of reaching at least a majority opinion on the spelling of his name. This research yielded the following fascinating snippet of life in 1887, but did not resolve the spelling problem (note there are two different spellings, and one of them increased the number of variations I already had!) At the end of the ~~first~~^{third} item, note the perspicacious verdict of the jury at the inquest.

He was said to be a German, but in those days the term was rather loosely applied. If anyone familiar with central or eastern European surnames can suggest a likely spelling, I would be interested to hear it.

Wellington Evening Post Tuesday July 19, 1887 p.2

The human body which was found in the harbour opposite Ngahauranga yesterday has been identified beyond doubt as that of the late fisherman Charles Valiuntraitor. An inquest will be held by Dr Johnstone at the Morgue tomorrow morning.

Wellington Evening Post Tuesday July 19, 1887 p.3

A Ghoul-Like Act: Plundering a Dead Body

At the Magistrate's Court this morning - before Messrs C.C. Graham, James Lockie, and W.M. Maskell, Justices - an old woman named Anne Parker, well known in the city as a peripatetic repairer of umbrellas, was charged with larceny of a silver watch, valued at £2, the property of the deceased Chas Valliuntraitor. Accused said that she certainly saw the dead body on the beach, and she picked up the watch. Inspector Browne said that the body was yesterday washed up on the beach at Ngahauranga, and a watch was seen attached to the deceased's waist coat. Some little time afterwards the watch was missed and accused having passed by, suspicion fell upon her. She was arrested and

brought to the Police-Station, but when searched the watch could not be found upon her. In the meantime, however, she had gone to her home, and afterwards her daughter brought down the watch, which, which she had found in her back yard. On the application of Inspector Browne, accused was remanded until Friday next, to enable the police to obtain the attendance of witnesses who reside at Petone.

Evening Post Wednesday July 20, 1887, p.2

An inquest on the dead body found on the beach at Ngahauranga yesterday was conducted at the Morgue this morning by Doctor Johnston, District Coroner, Nicholas Fernandos, fish dealer, identified the body as that of Charles Valiuntrator, a fish hawker, who had lived at Petone for several years. He last saw the deceased alive on Saturday, the 25th of last month. Deceased was in town on that day, and at about 5 o'clock witness paid him £4.1s. Witness, deceased and another man subsequently visited the National Hotel, where each had a drink. Deceased was quite sober when he came out of the hotel and intended going back to Petone by the 6.5 o'clock train. Before they separated, deceased gave witness an order for two dozen smoked fish, which was sent to Petone on the following Tuesday. Witness was surprised when his driver told him that Valiuntrator, who was better known as "Fat Charlie", had not returned from Wellington. Deceased was a German, and witness had known him for five or six years. Edward Brownfitt, cook at York House, Wellington-Terrace, deposed that he saw the deceased staggering up Willis Street on the Saturday night in question at about half past 8 o'clock. Deceased was by himself. Witness did not speak to him. William Grant, butcher, residing at Petone, deposed that he had been living with deceased, and identified the body as that of Charles Valiuntrator. Deceased left Petone at 3 o'clock on the 25th ultimo, and said that he might not return until the following morning. James May, expressman, and Constable Healey, stationed at Petone, also identified the body. The last witness stated that on examining the clothing of the deceased he found a £1 bank note a gold bar for a watch chain, and a railway ticket Wellington to Petone, dated 25th June 1887. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.

Evening Post Friday July 22, 1887 p.2

Magistrates Court this day Before Mr Wardell R.M.

Charge of plundering a corpse.

Anne Parker was brought up on a remand to answer the charge laid at the instance of the Public Trustee, at having stolen a silver watch, valued at £2.10s from the body of the

late Charles Valiuntraitor on the 18th inst. Inspector Browne prosecuted, and Mr Skerrett defended the prisoner. Two witnesses proved that the watch was on the body when it was washed ashore on the beach near Ngahauranga, and one of them identified the watch in the possession of the police. Annie Parker daughter of the accused, deposed that when her mother came home on the day in question she had a fit, which lasted about two hours, after which she went out. The policeman came to the house and told witness that the watch must be found and on searching the premises she found it in the back yard, covered with a light layer of ashes. She then took it to the police station. Constable May deposed that when he arrested the accused she said that "if the Lord should strike her dead she knew nothing about the watch." Mr Skerrett took technical objections to the right of the Public Trustee to deal with the matter unless it was definitely proved that Valiuntraitor died intestate. He also suggested that the accused was not in such a mental state to be responsible for her actions. Mr Wardell remanded the accused until Wednesday.

Evening Post Wednesday July 27 1887 p.3

Magistrate's Court - this day

Robbing the Dead

Anne Parker was brought up on remand and charged with larceny of a watch valued at £2.10 from the body of the deceased, Charles Valiuntraitor. In reply to the Bench, Inspector Browne said that the accused had not been medically examined, as he had supposed that Mr Skerrett, who was acting for the defence, would have taken the initiative in that matter. His Worship committed the accused to prison for a month.
