



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

NEWSLETTER No 45

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FRIENDS TO CONTINUE

At the AGM on 26 May 1998 it was agreed that the Friends should continue to operate as an incorporated society, therefore the meeting for final confirmation of winding up, set down for 6 July, is cancelled.

It was always intended that we should continue to operate in some form, but after considering the options, it was decided to recommend to the meeting that continuing as an incorporated society was the best option. We hope that you will continue to support our activities by sustaining your membership.

The turnout at the AGM was the best in recent years, and this is most encouraging to the committee. We will give careful consideration to the future activities of the Friends. It is possible that some activities might be expanded or revived. However, in the end this will depend on the degree of interest shown by members.

Biographical and burial list research will continue, and we will continue to liaise with Wellington City Council on the subject of repairs and improvements. Anyone who wants to contribute to any of these activities should contact Nick Perrin..

A new committee has been elected - details in the next newsletter, planned for August, which will also call for subscriptions.

21 YEARS OF THE FRIENDS

by Margaret Alington

At the recent AGM of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park, marking 21 years, four of the five chairmen to date were present, and four former secretaries.

HELMUT EINHORN (1977-80), the first chairman, is deceased, but his widow, Esther, was at the meeting. Helmut was an architect and planner with the Ministry of Works and was responsible for much of the landscaping of the motorway including the projected piazza in the cemetery. With this background, he was an asset to the society in its early years. Most of the reinstatement of the memorials was carried out in his time, and he assisted me with piecing together the fragments of broken memorials in a remote storage area of the Karori Cemetery. Later he contributed with ideas and drawings for the underground car park and restored planting.

HUGH FULLARTON, CMG (1980-83), as District Commissioner of Works had been responsible for the construction of the motorway and had borne the brunt of the vigorous public debate that attended its introduction into the cemetery. His knowledge, insights and perseverance as chairman were invaluable over the acquisition of the promised compensatory land along Mowbray Street, involving ministers of the crown, the producer boards and the Wellington City Council.

The implementation of the land deal was carried out during the chairmanship of J. R. S. DANIELS (1983-89), then director of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. His experience with officialdom enabled him to ensure that the land deal involving the WCC, the producer boards and Fletchers was carefully monitored, resulting in the landscaping of the extension over the car park and the rebuilding of the mortuary chapel. While director, in 1976 before the founding of the Friends, John had shown the trust's support by donating a sum of money towards the conservation of memorials.

The REVD. J. S. MURRAY (1989-90), minister of nearby St Andrews Church, saw to it that the completion of the extension project was appropriately celebrated in 1990, with due account being accorded to the presence in the cemetery of Maori graves as well as those of early settlers, and to the rededication of the chapel.

With the land issue settled, N. D. PERRIN (1990-) was able to turn the attention of members to the demanding task of producing a fully edited and computerised burial list, based on an existing index to Map B217 which he extended and refined. The database, exceeding all expectations in its thoroughness and versatility, was formally handed over to the WCC in September 1997 and will be the basis for all future research into burials in the cemetery/park.

In addition to the special projects mentioned above, all the chairmen took part in the physical restoration of the cemetery/park including work-days to eradicate noxious plants, scrubbing memorials, guiding public tours and accompanying the Parks Department on tours of inspection.

The secretaries present were David Kiddey, the first, Vivienne Bogle, and David Dunsheath, who all held the position for several years, and Sue Upton who served for two recent years.

BURIAL LIST DATABASE

The burial list database is now accessible to the general public since it has just been installed on a computer in the National Library family history section. It has been incorporated into a demonstration database which previously included the "Index to B217" (list of extant graves and memorials in Bolton St Memorial Park that can be located on Map B217), listings of transcriptions from headstones in Karori Cemetery, and some other data.

The new database of 8,683 records was built up from the Index to B217 (3,366 records). It therefore contains a lot of information that will be useful to genealogists. At the National Library it is accessible simply by typing in a surname, then selecting one of the listings to get full data on an individual displayed on the screen.

If you can get there, check it out. It is very easy to use, and you do not have to ask anyone (except, perhaps, to find it). It is the computer facing you when you turn left inside the door after passing the reception desk in the foyer. It is in the middle of the microfiche reader area.
