



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

NEWSLETTER No 46

NOVEMBER 1998

EDITORIAL AND INVITATION

I apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter to you after our annual general meeting resolved that the Friends continue to operate as an incorporated society. It is now 6 months since that decision, and apart from a newsletter in June, there has been little contact with members. I hope, therefore, that you will accept my invitation to meet with Mike Oates, other Gardens staff and members of the committee on Friday 4th December at the Seddon Memorial at 1:30 pm for a tour of inspection of the Memorial Park. This will be an opportunity to look at the results of recent work, and to discuss future enhancement of the Memorial Park. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Regards,
Nick Perrin,
Chairperson

**MINUTES OF 1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS
OF THE BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK, 26 MAY 1998**

APOLOGIES: Judith Bird, Jack Wills, Ann Burnett, John Webster, Ngaire Cooper, Diane Land, Nancy Radford, Clunie Wilson, Rodney Read, Jane Kidd, Eileen McPhee

PRESENT: Nick Perrin, Mike Oates, Frances Verrity, Leanne Killalea, John Murray, David Luke, Mac McCormick, Margaret Alington, Warwick Greenwood, Bill Alington, Jane Aim, Sue Upton, Anne Brosnahan, Diana Duff Staniland, Vivien Cryer, Jenny Daniels, John Daniels, David Kiddey, Marjorie Fullarton, Esther Einhorn, Hugh Fullarton, Annette Fairweather, Vivienne Bogle, Diane Comber,

MINUTES: Moved David Kiddy, Seconded Mac McCormack, that the minutes be taken as read and confirmed.

Matters arising: Hugh Fullarton brought up the subject of the National Roads Board money. As at June 1997 the balance was \$357,000.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (following)

Moved John Daniels, Seconded Diane Comber.

There followed some discussion on the Chapel display, proposed Memorial Book. Early Settlers' fund will be used for further displays. Mike Oates reported little vandalism of chapel (only minor graffiti).

TREASURER'S REPORT (Following)

Moved John Daniels, Seconded Bill Alington.

BOTANIC GARDENS REPORT Presented by Mike Oates and Leanne Killalea (following).

In response to questions on the report, Mike Oates said that Anderson Park redevelopment had been delayed, but the Seddon entrance redevelopment could become a separate project. No progress to report on the computer database. The Management Plan was approved by Council in June.

David Kiddey moved a vote of thanks to Gardens staff.

FUTURE OF FRIENDS

The future of the Friends was discussed in the light of low levels of activity in recent years. John Daniels reported on our investigations into forming a charitable trust and other options, but it was concluded that the best option was to continue to operate as an incorporated society, and therefore a recommendation was made that the proposal to disband be withdrawn.

Warwick Greenwood pointed out that the work done by the Friends was appreciated, and that there is still a lot of work to be done. He suggested that a democratic system afforded by incorporated society status was preferable.

David Kiddey said he was happy for Society to continue if people prepared to put up their hands. He was happy not to proceed with motion if people wish that.

Mike Oates mentioned advisory role of Friends, and suggested working closer with Friends of Old St Pauls, Friends of Wellington Botanic Gardens.

Moved Nick Perrin that the proposal to wind-up be withdrawn

Seconded Warwick Greenwood

Carried

COMMITTEE

The following nominations were received-

Chairperson: Nick Perrin (by acclamation)

Secretary: Frances Verrity

Treasurer: John Daniels

Committee: Warwick Greenwood
Leanne Killalea
Diane Comber
Annette Fairweather
Mac McCormack
David Dunsheath

As nominations did not exceed the number of positions, those nominated were declared duly elected.

AUDITOR: Moved John Daniels, seconded David Dunsheath that Mr Burns continue as auditor.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was some discussion on venue for meetings in the light of parking difficulties at Turnbull House.

Maintenance of graves was discussed, with particular reference to several military ones such as Ensign Blackburn, and HMS Calliope memorial. Recommended that enquiries be made to War Graves Commission.

A new list of aims and "strategic plan" was suggested as necessary for the Friends.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO 1998 AGM

Activity has continued at a low level since our last AGM of 26 May 1997, and once more we have not asked the membership for subscriptions. The committee met three times, mainly to consider the future of the friends. Four guided tours were conducted, one for Gardens staff, two for Tawa College, and one for the general public during the Spring Festival.

The most important event of the year, however, was the function held in the Council Chambers on 22 September 1997 in which the database was handed over to His Worship the Mayor, and Margaret Alington was presented with an Absolutely Positively Wellington Award (formerly known as civic awards) for her services towards the preservation of the Memorial Park.

Despite the handing over of the burial list database, work has continued on correcting and expanding it. Under an Employment Service scheme, we were subsidised to support a researcher to compile ages at death for addition to the database. This work is about one third completed, and would not have been done at all without the support of the Employment Service.

I was pleased to find that the original computer database of visible and extant memorials is available to the public in the National Library family history section. It was handed over by the Friends to the Turnbull Library some years ago. I have since given a copy of the new database to the person who installed it onto the National Library computer, and expect to see it in operation soon.

We have been consulted on the final design of the signs for the Memorial Park, and the first path signs have already been installed.

Other consultation was in connection with the draft combined management plan for Bolton St Memorial Park, Anderson Park and the Botanic Gardens. Margaret Alington and I attended a workshop to discuss it on 25 Feb 1998.

With the impending redevelopment of the Kinross St entrance by the Seddon memorial, I re-considered the location of the "Reserve V" reinterments that we thought we had previously located using ground penetrating radar. First of all we investigated what the radar had detected by careful digging, which uncovered unmistakable evidence of the reinterments at a very shallow depth (0.63 m). This was exactly where the radar indicated, and proved the radar had detected what we were looking for. Another radar survey was undertaken, and thankfully not only proved no

burials are present under the existing road and paths, but that the area of apparent burials is larger than the first survey indicated, due to improved access for the radar through the vegetation.

FUTURE OF THE FRIENDS

Several committee meetings were held to discuss various options, either to liquidate altogether, to form a charitable trust, or to amalgamate with a kindred society. All these options have been investigated at length, thanks mainly to John Daniels and David Kiddey.

The issue of possible amalgamation with the Friends of the Wellington Botanic Gardens was raised during the management plan workshop, and discussions were held with Friends of Old St Paul's. The conclusion from these discussions is that we should continue to operate as an incorporated society, albeit with a low level of activity, because there is still an important role to play in promoting the preservation and enhancement of the Memorial Park.

signed,



Nick Perrin
Chairperson

FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK INCORPORATED
Statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 March 1998

| 1997 | INCOME | 1998 |
|------|---|---------|
| 286 | Subscriptions | 388.00 |
| 79 | Donations | 32.00 |
| 147 | Interest | 131.11 |
| - | Fees - Tours and work scheme | 236.30 |
| 512 | | 787.41 |
| | EXPENDITURE | |
| 51 | Computing | - |
| - | Private post box | 52.50 |
| 55 | Postage | 40.00 |
| - | Meeting room hire | 115.00 |
| 26 | Research | 70.30 |
| 202 | Newsletters | 56.65 |
| - | Cheque duty | 1.50 |
| - | Stationery | 19.90 |
| - | Work scheme | 160.00 |
| - | Advertising | 72.00 |
| - | Gift for Speaker | 20.00 |
| 334 | | 607.85 |
| 177 | Plus excess income over expenditure | 179.56 |
| 512 | | 787.41 |
| | Statement of financial position as at 31 March 1998 | |
| 2741 | Accumulated funds at 1 April 1997 | 2917.95 |
| 177 | Plus excess income over expenditure | 179.56 |
| 2918 | | 3097.51 |
| | Represented by: | |
| 632 | Trust Bank cheque account | 859.51 |
| 2000 | Term deposits | 2000.00 |
| 286 | Subscriptions owing | 238.00 |
| 2918 | | 3097.51 |
| | Term deposits comprise: | |
| | Australian Guarantee Corporation 5.25% at call | 1400 |
| | Westpac Banking Corporation 4.50% maturing on 14.4.98 | 600.00 |
| | | 2000.00 |

J R S Daniels, Hon Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books and accounts of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated and have obtained all the information and explanations I have required. In my opinion the attached statement of financial performance and statement of financial position represent fairly the financial position of the Society at 31 March 1998 and the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.

R Byrne, ACA (Retired), Hon Auditor.

FRIENDS OF BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK : REPORT TO 1998 AGM

Mike Oates and Leanne Killalea

Over the past twelve months there have been major developments and improvements within the Park. Major restoration work has been carried out around graves in the upper area and implementation of the Interpretation and Wayfinding Strategy has begun. The redevelopment of the Seddon Entrance is still planned as part of the Anderson Park Redevelopment but has been held up by resource consent proceedings and legal action by opponents of the project.

Headstone Restoration

We have made major progress in restoration of headstones throughout the Park. Unfortunately we had a set back in January when 18 headstones were vandalised and work had to focus on repairing these. It is hoped that this year we can continue to restore some of the major headstones.

Plant Collections

Completed the first stage of the species rose collection in the area between Sydney Street Path and Bowen Street. It is planned to leave this area open following the removal of the large macrocarpa tree.

More bulbs have been planted throughout the upper area including daffodils, crocus and grape hyacinths.

General Maintenance

A major programme to control troublesome weeds has begun with Cape Ivy, Old Man's Beard and Tradescantia removed from several areas.

Graves have been cleared above Denis McGrath Bridge, between Strang Lyon and Hart Paths. An area has also been cleared between Trustees Crescent and Powles Path.

During renovations, two brick gutters were exposed on George White and Benjamin Paths.

Ongoing maintenance has included the asphaltting of the path above the mass grave and the construction of a fence above the motorway on Robertson Way for safety reasons.

Signage and Furniture

The implementation of the wayfinding strategy has commenced with the installation of two signs to test the design. Once we have finalised design details the new directional signs will be installed by the end of June. This will include path names. New map boards will also be installed at Seddon, Easdale Street, Bowen Street and Bolton Street entrances.

New entry signs for Bolton Street are also being planned as part of a city wide project to identify WCC facilities. These will be designed to be seen from the road

and will be installed on Bolton Street, Bowen Street adjacent to the Ministry of Commerce Building and at the end of Kinross Street.

We have also refurbished some of the old bench seats and installed new rubbish bins in the Botanic Garden "style".

1848 EARTHQUAKE

We have previously had Samuel Duncan Parnell's account of the 1848 earthquake. It is interesting to compare his account with Rev Cole's version.

The following is from Rev Cole's diary-

16 th Monday October 1848

At about a little before 2 in the night we were awakened by a most alarming shock of earthquake. Isabella¹ and the serving girl sat up and remained up for the remainder of the night. In the morning we found consternation and much injury made to many buildings and many chimneys thrown down. I slept at the Parsonage, Mr St Hill having pronounced it yet secure. Many slight shocks and tremblings throughout the day.

17 th Tuesday

At about 3 pm when I was in the Post Office a more fearful shock than the first occurred. The Postmaster and I could, with difficulty get out. Great destruction was caused a wall within a dozen yards of the Post Office fell and buried one man and two children. One was killed on the spot and the father and other child were buried. I slept with Daniel Wakefield.

18 th Wednesday

The terror continues. I slept again at Daniel Wakefield's.

19 th Thursday

This morning we were aroused by a third terrific shock. I sat up - much further damage done. I opened the new Church² for the reception of the homeless morning at 9 and afternoon at 5 o'clock. I came to George Hunter's (Mr Wakefield's home no longer considered safe, being of mud) many friends were taken in. We none of us went to bed but laid down on mattresses. A fast is proclaimed for tomorrow the propriety of which seems to be generally felt.

20 th Friday- Fast Day

¹ Isabella Hunter, his sister-in-law

² Te Aro Church

10 am Te Aro outside Church, I officiated and preached.

11½ Preached out of doors near Mr St Hill's for shelter

3 pm Preached the same as morning

4 pm Thorndon as on morning

6 pm I went to Te Aro Pa and conversed afterwards in lieu of sermon

22 nd Sunday

Interval between first and second shocks about 38 hours and have passed without the occurrence of severe shocks, confidence seems to spring up.

23 rd Monday

Shocks continued throughout the week.

26 th Thursday

Subraon Barque 500 tons went out for Sydney including many passengers about 45 to 50 frightened away by the earthquakes- was wrecked at the heads, no lives lost but most of the passengers' property and much freight was lost.

28 th Saturday

On my return home I found a letter package waiting for me and proving to have been sent by the committee appointed by a public meeting in Auckland. Exaggerated reports had reached Auckland of destruction and distress occasioned by the late earthquakes and consequently with a brotherly kindness ever to be remembered by our community they met in public to agree to an address and commenced a subscription to our aid and a first installment of £400 with £100 also from the Bishop. I requested the gentlemen for me as a committee to receive the several communications forwarded and to agree to a course to be pursued.

1 st Sunday November

The committee resolved to return the £500.

12 th Tuesday

The committee met for the last time to consider the application for aid from injuries sustained by the earthquake, 11 applications (some for a loan) the balance from the fire fund of 1842 (say £70) claims.

NOTE the National Earthquake Information Centre rates the magnitude of the strongest quake as 7.1 on the Richter scale.

Extract from letter dated 21 Oct; Lieutenant Gov Eyre to Governor Grey.

"Yesterday Friday the 20th was, in accordance with intermation given your excellency in my last despatch observed as a solemn Fast Day and I am happy to say it was most reverently observed by all classes denominations that they acknowledge the hand of the Almighty and looked to him for safety and protection. He also stated that he would try to retain sailing of all ships in the harbour to

prevent the local people from feeling deserted if the shocks continued and also to prevent exaggerated reports being circulated abroad. I have also taken the precaution of shipping on board the H.M.S. Fly the greater part of the specie in the Colonial Chests"

The following is an extract from the New Zealand Government Gazette (province of New Munster) dated October 1848 No 2.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to visit this Settlement with a great and grievous calamity and it is fitting that a public acknowledgement be made of the Divine power, on whom all the operations of nature and the security of his creatures depend, and that prayers and supplications be offered up to Almighty God to avert the recurrence of any similar visitation. Now therefore I, Edward John Eyre, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Munster, by and with the advice of my Executive Council, do hereby proclaim and declare that to-morrow, the 20 th day of October, shall be held as a day of fast, prayer, and humiliation. Given under my hand and seal, at Government House, Wellington, this 19 th day of October, 1848.

E.Eyre.

By His Excellency's command,

Alfred Domett,

Colonial Secretary

NOTICE

In reference to the Proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor appointing to-morrow the 20 th instant, for a day of Public Solemn Fast, Prayer, and Humiliation, the Rev. Mr Cole begs to give notice that Divine Service will be performed at the

prevent the local people from feeling deserted if the shocks continued and also to prevent exaggerated reports being circulated abroad. I have also taken the precaution of shipping on board the H.M.S. Fly the greater part of the specie in the Colonial Chests"

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