

FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET CEMETERY INCORPORATED

PO BOX 12 426, WELLINGTON, 6144, NEW ZEALAND

http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz

NEWSLETTER No 95 JUNE 2023

NOTICE OF 47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2.00 pm Saturday 8 July 2023 at

SEMINAR ROOM, THE TREEHOUSE, BOTANIC GARDEN

within easy walking to Treehouse lift from Glenmore Street parking & Bus Route 2
Refer to page 2 for AGM Agenda, Afternoon Tea and Guest Presentation



Visit Bolton Street Cemetery's narcissus daffodils already flowering to brighten your winter days (see page 5 for background story). Photo: Karl Bale



Editor: David Dunsheath

Friends' member, Jane Aim, at the Seddon Memorial Blessing and Reinterment ceremony (see back cover). Is accompanied by Becky Masters-Ramsay from Manatū Taonga (MCH). Photo: Kate Fortune

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 47th Annual General Meeting will be held <u>Saturday 8 July 2023 at 2:00 pm</u> at the Seminar Room within the Treehouse Visitor Centre, the Botanic Garden.

Use the Treehouse lift within easy walking from Glenmore Street (for parking and No. 2 Karori bus stop).

Printed copies of this newsletter with information for the AGM will be provided.

Agenda.

- 1. Present and apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 46th AGM (see page 10 of this newsletter)
- 3. Matters arising from Minutes
- 4. Report from the President (see page 3 of this newsletter)
- 5. Report by the Manager Botanic Garden, Wellington City Council
- 6. Performance Report and Financial Statements (see page 9 of this newsletter)
- 7. Election of Committee (see below for current committee)
- 8. General Business

To be followed by Delicious Afternoon Tea and our guest speaker.

PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW THE AGM:

Clare Shearman, Plant Collections Team Manager at the Botanic Gardens, will speak a little about her background before focussing on some of the planting elements and the maintenance of the Bolton Street Cemetery. She studied Horticulture, Landscaping and Garden Design in the UK, worked at Hever Castle, ran her own business and taught plant planning before coming to Wellington. Here she began as Head Gardener at Government House before joining the Wellington Garden Team.



Hear this interesting presentation after our AGM and enjoy delicious afternoon tea. *Please join us and bring a friend to the Treehouse Seminar Room*.

COMMITTEE LIST 2022–23				
Jenny Button President	Policy & strategies, Tours support			
Priscilla Williams Vice President	Repairs, Research, Guide			
Kate Fortune Treasurer	Membership Secretary, Guide, Newsletter editor			
Karl Bale	On leave of absence			
David Dunsheath	Tours support, Newsletter editor			
Elizabeth Fletcher	Minutes Secretary			
Christine Harper	Working bees (from May 2023)			
Nick Perrin QSM	Biographical & burial list, Research			
Anne Phillips	Community & iwi liaison; Daffodil project			
Jennifer Robinson	Working bees, Guide			

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT 2022–23

It gives me great pleasure to present this Annual Report, to be read in relation to the Statement of Performance for the 2022-23 year (see page 9). You will note from the Outcomes that we can be proud of our many achievements and the great dedication of the Friends' Committee over this past year.

The highlight has undoubtedly been the completion of the new exhibition in the Bolton Street Cemetery Museum opened by Councillor Nicola Young with Councillor Nikau Wi Neera on 31 October 2022. It is the culmination of three years' concentrated work led by Lara Simmonds, Trestle Creative, together with our Steering Committee. Awareness of these new displays since then has been promoted by many guided tours, with several enthusiastic responses received. If you have not already visited, do go and see this wonderful museum at the lower end of Bolton Street. Encourage your family and friends to visit and learn of interesting lives and other Wellington history.

Through the year Priscilla, Vice President, has devoted time and energy to the very important conservation and repair work. While the delay on the Nancarrow grave is disappointing, it is pleasing that several private conservation projects on memorials have been underway. Also greatly appreciated are Nick's considerable research activities leading to many burial list enhancements; Anne and Karl's new plans for daffodil planting which will benefit the experience of our visitors in the Spring; Elizabeth's diligent minute taking and David's editing of this newsletter.

With regard to working bees, Jennifer's new strategy of holding them on several Sundays in succession and her focus on tidying particular areas has been well supported by eager volunteers. She deserves great credit for her conscientious and keen leadership over the years. Now we are delighted that Christine Harper, recently co-opted to the committee, will take over organising this group.

Our Treasurer, Kate, is to be commended for her efficient management of our funds and membership, editing of newsletters, and her enthusiastic contributions to our tours and working bees. Thank you to those who have renewed their subscriptions and especially to those making generous donations. Your support is vital to maintaining the preservation of Wellington's oldest cemetery. We also thank all volunteers for their interest and warmly welcome the new Friends joining us this year.

I should like to acknowledge our good relationship with the WCC and thank David Sole and his hardworking team for their strong support. I also acknowledge the efforts of Franz Tischler and Dale Such (Heritage Gardens), Clare Shearman (Plant Collections), and Karl Noldan (Public Art and Memorial Specialist) whose replacement, Greg Cairns, we now welcome.

I wish to thank all committee members for their incredible commitment and effort; Each of you has again put in significant voluntary hours and shown splendid teamwork. You are a pleasure to work with.

To all Friends, we value your willing support. I do urge you to come to our AGM, this year on Saturday afternoon, July 8 at 2pm in the Seminar Room of the Botanic Garden Treehouse. The Treehouse lift is only a short walk from the main gates of the Botanic Garden. I so look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Jenny Button

SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF BOLTON STREET BURIAL LIST

The first known recorded burials in 1840 in the Wellington area are listed in the first Church of England register, now commonly known as the "St Paul's Church Register" (but this church was not built until 1844). It is headed "Burials in the District of Port Nicholson" and is known to record many burials in the wider Wellington region. This possibly includes Cloudy Bay in the north of the South Island. (Unfortunately, the Church of England burial registers do not record the locations of burials, but after 1866 we can at least be sure they were somewhere within Bolton Street Cemetery).

There are 992 burials listed as having taken place between May 1840 and December



Original St Paul's Church on the Government Reserve, Museum Street (the exact location is at the back of the 'Beehive'. The Provincial Buildings are on the left.

1866. Obviously most but not all would have been in Bolton Street Cemetery since the original St Paul's Church was virtually across the road from the cemetery from 1844. A new register (titled "Church of England Burials in the District of Wellington") was started in January 1867 after the opening of St Paul's pro-Cathedral ("Old St Paul's"). We can be certain that all of those recorded in registers after 1866, were indeed buried in what is now known as Bolton Street Cemetery.

The first burial service recorded in the earliest register took place on 17th May 1840, for a 3-year-old infant George Nash, son of James and Anne Nash. These three had arrived in Wellington on the "Bolton" on 21st April 1840. George's funeral was conducted by the Revd. John F Churton who

had also arrived on the same voyage.

Of the 992 burials recorded in the earliest register, 812 were not also included in the burial database listings for the Church of England Cemetery (informally known as "Bolton Street"). The 180 that were recorded in both the earliest register and the later burial list compilations had been added from inventories compiled from existing headstones and other grave identification records at various dates. This means 812 likely burials at Bolton



First entries in the original register, 1840. Note No 4 is an unnamed sailor from Shetland, who died in Cloudy Bay

Street were still missing. A very few of these have been identified as having been buried elsewhere, such as St James Churchyard in Lower Hutt. However, it was decided to add the remainder to our Bolton Street Cemetery database on the expectation that most of them were certainly buried in Bolton Street.

We have begun research on the 812 individuals recorded only in the earliest register to verify whether Bolton Street is their most likely resting place (from where they lived, the place of their deaths, and possible clues from early newspaper accounts). There is much work yet to be done!

These additions have taken the numbers of burials at Bolton Street Cemetery to over 9,000. But it can be assumed that there are significant numbers of non-Church of England burials for which there are no known records, perhaps in lost early registers of other church denominations. So we could suggest the total number of burials in all three cemeteries (Church of England, Public and Jewish) is in the order of 10,000.

Nick Perrin QSM

DAFFODILS EMERGE TO BRIGHTEN YOUR WINTER DAYS

The speaker at our 2023 Annual General Meeting will be Clare Shearman (pictured on page 2) who is the senior landscape designer in the horticultural team at Wellington Botanic Garden. Clare's passion for garden design is *to have a blaze of colour and for the thrill of unexpected discovery* as shown in the flowering daffodils in Bolton Street Cemetery.

Clare is experienced in garden design with knowledge of heritage and hybrid bulbs and of how well daffodil plants might stand up to Wellington's blustery spring weather. Therefore, she is the ideal liaison person for the daffodil planting programme in the Bolton Street Cemetery. Any member wishing to discuss the future direction of this daffodils programme will be able to speak with Clare at the AGM on Saturday 8th July (see page 1 for details).

The earliest daffodils appear in the cemetery near Robertson Way, the main walkway to the upper cemetery and the Seddon Memorial from The Terrace in Wellington City. It seems that daffodils were first planted in the earliest years of the cemetery although the bulbs are replaced every few years because of Wellington's climate. Every year the daffodils welcome the year's shortest day in mid-June.

Look out for the next group of daffodils to appear above the Dennis McGrath Bridge (straddling the motorway) in the section known as the *Judy Bale daffodil garden*. This area makes a quiet statement about clever garden design with its mix of assorted daffodil varieties that flower over an extended season. You will notice how long this flowering season is in this garden. Here you will see the first daffodils to emerge in this section of the cemetery which will brighten your winter days.

By early July the cemetery's daffodil collection will be flowering everywhere. Part of the delight of walking through the Wellington Botanic Garden and the Bolton Street Cemetery will be seeing what daffodils you can spot each week. This discovery of the unusual and the different, will continue until nearly November. Look out for daffodils to brighten the cemetery - and your day.

Anne Phillips and Karl Bale

WORKING BEES

2023 has started with our best ever achievements for working bees in the cemetery.

After the interruptions caused by Covid and the bad weather in the second part of 2022 there has been a lot to do. Following a session at the end of January we decided to take a chance with scheduling working bees every Sunday morning during February. These were a great success so we did the same in March. Remarkably we had good weather throughout and were able to get a lot of work done in the upper cemetery. Having a session each week meant that "regulars" could have a consistent plan of attack and people who could not come on a particular Sunday were still able to join in. Meeting up weekly also meant that we all got to know each other better. I believe we now have a great team who will carry on the good work. I know that our efforts were greatly appreciated by Franz Tischler and the Botanic Garden staff.

On a personal level I really enjoyed the latest sessions and will continue to participate but feel it is time to pass on the organisational aspects to someone else. I am delighted to advise that Christine Harper has been co-opted onto the Friends' committee and will be looking after the working bees from now on. I know that she has lots of enthusiasm and ideas for the good work to continue and expand.

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in the working bees over the past years. I look forward to seeing many of you at future sessions.

Jennifer Robinson

Introducing Christine

Living in Thorndon, the Bolton Street Cemetery has long been a place I've loved walking in, so when I joined the Friends I wanted to participate actively. The working bees have been a great way to get to know more about the cemetery and the people who care about this special place. Many thanks to



One of several working bee teams on 13 May. Christine Harper at far left.

Photo: Jennifer Robinson

Jennifer for welcoming me into the working bee team and sharing her knowledge and systems as I take on the organising tasks. I look forward to meeting more Friends at the AGM and encouraging even more to pick up their trowel to join the fun at our working bees starting again in Spring.

Christine Harper

TOURS

Last year the Friends led two tours during Heritage Week, plus several others. White cross grave markers were again set up for our 'Anzac Challenge' self-guided tour https://boltoncemetery.org.nz/anzac-challenge-2020/ prior to Remembrance Day and this year's Anzac Day.

We welcomed Barbara Mulligan to our guiding team. Barbara has been taking people on tours at Karori Cemetery for the previous ten years, so we are delighted she is now able to contribute her experience and cemetery knowledge to the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery.

Tours at Karori feature people buried from 1890 onwards, so Barbara has been enjoying immersing herself in Wellington's earlier years. She has developed a tour about some of the essential roles played by those buried in Bolton Street who contributed to the development of not only Wellington, but also New Zealand.

Wellington Anniversary weekend last January was a great opportunity to highlight city/national pioneers such as John Balmer, a member of the band of the 65th Regiment ("The Royal Tigers"). He was killed by a shark attack in Wellington Harbour on 22 January 1852. This tour, confined to easily accessible areas behind the Bolton Street Cemetery Museum, attracted more than 50 participants when repeated over three days.

Mother's Day provided another opportunity for a tour, titled 'Surprising Stories about Wonderful Women'. About a dozen people joined Barbara for a morning walk from the Seddon Memorial to the Museum, with stories along the way.

Barbara is currently planning a tour featuring the role of Rita Angus in the history of the cemetery, to be launched during Wellington Heritage Week in October.

Barbara has also set up and administers a Facebook page on behalf of the Friends. This allows the Friends to promote anything happening around or of interest to the cemetery, to promote tours and other activities such as working bees, and to reach an audience which relies on technology to gather information about activities and events. Please "follow" and "like" us on

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086800387202

Jenny Button





Working bee scenes Photos: Jennifer Robinson



PRESERVATION & PROMOTION OF CEMETERY HERITAGE

The 2023 New Zealand Cemeteries and Crematoria Conference was held in Wellington in May. It brought together people managing or working in this area, especially those employed in Local Government. The Ministry of Culture and Heritage invited the Friends to submit a presentation on a theme related to heritage or education in cemeteries. Barbara Mulligan and Priscilla Williams delivered a joint presentation. Barbara was drawing on her significant experience as a guide in Karori Cemetery and then the initiator in forming the Friends of Karori Cemetery. Priscilla has been a member of the Friends of Bolton St Cemetery for about twenty years.



Nature versus memorial
Photo: Jennifer Robinson

Priscilla talked about heritage in cemeteries, using for this presentation a definition of heritage as any graves or memorials over 100 years old. She noted a growing interest in New Zealand's old cemeteries and their preservation as part of our history. It was therefore important to preserve these early grave markers using acceptable conservation methods and to ensure where possible that they can be identified and their history recorded. She emphasised in particular, the importance of 19th C wooden grave markers, most of which have now been lost. Bolton St Cemetery has an outstanding collection of these, which have recently been preserved. She showed illustrations of the work done on these, both at Bolton St and in other NZ cemeteries.

Barbara's talk concentrated on the use of volunteers,

especially Friends groups, in promoting interest in heritage items through tours and social media, these being activities which can raise finance to assist in restoration. She outlined ways in which communities could be better mobilised, supported and guided to maintain and enhance heritage values. Older cemeteries throughout New Zealand have received little support from the heritage sector, and cemetery owner/managers responses to community and volunteer-based initiatives have focussed primarily on health and safety issues. She highlighted the need to address the absence of frameworks or guidance for safeguarding the heritage held within aging cemeteries, which increases their vulnerability.

A field trip was held on the last day of the conference starting with a tour of Bolton Street Cemetery. On one of the coldest mornings of the year to date, about 50 participants turned out, guided by Barbara and Priscilla, to see at first hand our important heritage cemetery and the standard of restoration work which had been achieved. It was a special pleasure to end the tour in our newly designed exhibition space in the Bolton Street Cemetery Museum, located in lower Bolton St.

Priscilla Williams and Barbara Mulligan

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

PART I: STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE:

- The main focus of activities during the year was to work towards the installation of new displays for the Bolton Street Cemetery Museum, using the services of Trestle Creative to design and produce the new exhibition. This was achieved and the Museum re-opened on 28 October 2022.
- The Society held nine guided tours during the year, including two for Wellington's Heritage Week and three for the Wellington Anniversary Weekend. We also offered the self-guided WWI tour around Anzac Day, and for Remembrance Day in November.
- Working bees this year developed a successful strategy of focusing on different areas and scheduling several Sundays in succession for members to come along and continue where they left off last time. There were 11 well-attended working bees.
- We assist the WCC by identifying urgent repairs to heritage graves, and liaison on methods to be used. Last year's priority (conservation repairs to the Nancarrow grave brickwork) was delayed for a further year by the process of archaeological and other consents. Some smaller repairs were completed and we assisted with several private conservation projects on memorials.
- Our website's searchable burial database grew from about 8600 names to just over 9300. It was also further updated by adding about 1000 'age at death' entries for a new memorial book for the Museum. About 50 enquiries were answered with detailed research notes and photographs.
- Two issues of the Society's newsletter were published during the year.
- Many members volunteer their own time and skills to the Society's activities. In all, this amounted to an average of 120 hours per month totalling over 1400 hours in 2022/23.

PART II: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

Note 2: Actual rental of \$205 shared with another organisation

		Notes	<u> 2023</u>	<u> 2022</u>
Revenue	Subscriptions (current + arrears)		1,230	1,350
	Book sales		30	30
	Donations (koha from tour groups)		1,000	369
	Donations (repairs & conservation)		500	200
	Donations (towards Museum project)	1	8,957	8,553
	Interest		318	46
	Lotteries Heritage Fund – Grant for Museum		113,775	0
	Total Revenue		\$125,810	\$10,548
LESS Expe	nditure			
	Annual General Meeting		423	401
	Miscellaneous		53	3
	P O Box rental	2	102	95
	Printing, stationery, copying		638	453
	Project: Museum		140,042	0
	Project: Cleaning products		115	0
	Website, hosting & domain name		132	139
	Total Expenditure		<u>\$141,505</u>	<u>\$1,091</u>
	Surplus (deficit) for the year		(15,695)	9,457
	Note 1: Includes Grant of \$5,000 from W N Pharazyn Trust			

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY AT 31 MARCH 2023

Accumulated Funds – at start of year	26,557	17,100
Plus Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>(15,695)</u>	9,457
Accumulated Funds – at end of year	\$10,862	\$26,557

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Accumulated Funds	\$10,862	<u>\$26,557</u>
Represented By: Current Assets		
Westpac Trust Banking Corporation – Current	4,501	20,951
– Bonus Saver	5,803	<u>8,567</u>
	10,304	<u>29,518</u>
PLUS Sundry Debtors	703	114
Total Current Assets	11,007	29,632
LESS Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors	0	3,000
Subscriptions in advance	145	<u>75</u>
Total Current Liabilities	145	3,075
Net Assets and Working Capital	<u>\$10,862</u>	<u>\$26,557</u>

Kate Fortune (Treasurer) 27 May 2023

MINUTES OF THE 46TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 7 July 2022 at St Andrew's Centre on the Terrace at 5:45 pm

1 Present

Jenny Button (Chair), Warwick Bell, Rachel Brown, Chris Chapman, David and Joy Dunsheath, Elizabeth Fletcher (Minutes), Kate Fortune, Peter McHardy, Nick Perrin, Anne Phillips, Lynn Pomare, Karen Pullar, Sheila Williams, (total 14), Lara Simmons, Guest speaker; and Michael Teague, David Sole from WCC Botanic Garden.

2 Apologies

Caroline & William Aliaga-Kelly, Denise Almao, Karl Bale, Barbara Boivin, Rosemary & Neil Bromley, Christine McGrath, Angela & Bernard Hill, Glenys Lockett, Caroline McDonald, Malcolm McKinnon, John McKinnon, Karl Noldan, Ann Reweti, Jennifer Robinson, Janet & Ray Ryan, Judith & Ann Trotter, Jillian Wellings, Priscilla Williams, Nicola Young.

MOVED that these apologies be received. (E. Fletcher/ D. Dunsheath) CARRIED

3 Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting

MOVED that the minutes of the 45th AGM held on 8 July 2021 be taken as read and approved as a true and correct record. (K Fortune / D Dunsheath) CARRIED

4 President's Report

President Jenny Button proposed her report be taken as read and briefly summarised key aspects.

MOVED that the President's report be accepted (J. Button/ E. Fletcher) CARRIED

5 Report by Manager of the Botanic Gardens, Wellington City Council

David Sole presented his report, acknowledging many collaborative achievements during the year between the Friends and his Botanic Gardens team. He commented:

- The Museum project and working with the steering group had been a pleasure;
- There was continuing work to remove dangerous trees and undergrowth;
- Sexton Cottage renovations will be complete later this year;
- Water now available at top and bottom entrances for drinking/washing purposes.

Chris Chapman asked if utilities wiring to Sexton's cottage could be put underground to improve its appearance? David said that this had not been considered but will be looked into.

Jenny thanked David for his continuing support in coordination with the Friends. MOVED that the Botanic Gardens Manager's Report be received (D. Sole/ A. Phillips) CARRIED

6 Performance Report (Service Performance & Financial Performance)

Treasurer Kate Fortune tabled the Performance Report for year ended 31 March 2022. She commented on significant donations received, critical to the success of our Lottery funding application, and specially mentioned the support of the BG team for the Museum project. She said that Lottery funding of \$113,775 has now been received. MOVED that the Performance Report for year ending 31 March 2021 be approved (K. Fortune/ S. Williams).

7 Election of Committee

Elizabeth Fletcher took the Chair for election of President. MOVED that Jenny Button be re-elected as President. There being no further nominations, CARRIED with acclamation.

Jenny Button resumed the Chair.

Nominations were tabled for remainder of committee as follows:

Vice-President: Priscilla Williams; Secretary (Minutes): Elizabeth Fletcher; Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Kate Fortune; Committee: Karl Bale, David Dunsheath, Nick Perrin, Jennifer Robinson, Anne Phillips.

Further nominations were invited.

MOVED that the above nominations be closed and this committee be elected, with ability to co-opt additional committee members as appropriate. (Karen Pullar / Warwick Bell) CARRIED

8 General Business

There was no general business. The meeting closed at 6:10 pm

After a break for refreshments, **Guest speaker**, **Lara Simmons** (**Trestle Creative**), presented her overview of the new Museum displays. The underlying theme for the new displays is to tell the story of Wellington through the lives of some of its earliest residents who are buried in the cemetery. This was very well received. Lara and the steering committee have been working to create this design for the past three years.

Elizabeth Fletcher

SEDDON MEMORIAL BLESSING AND REINTERMENT



Photo: Kate Fortune

A Seddon Memorial Blessing and Reinterment ceremony held 27 May, marked

completion of the major conservation programme as outlined in our last newsletter. It was attended by members of the extended Seddon family, staff from Ministry of Culture and Heritage Manatū Taonga, Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery, and the public.

It was officiated by Kaanihi Butler-Hare (Te Āti Awa), and Reverend Katie Lawrence (Acting Dean/Canon Precentor of Wellington Cathedral of St Paul). Twelve caskets of family members' ashes were re-interred inside the subterranean crypt. This contains three large sarcophagi for former Prime



Innovative seismic bracing being installed through a side panel.

Photo: Tracey Hartley

Minister of New

Zealand, Richard (King Dick) John Seddon, his wife Louisa Seddon and daughter Mary Stuart Hay. A small cross commemorates their son, Richard John Spotswood Seddon, who was killed in France in 1918.

Becky Masters-Ramsay (Manatū Taonga MCH Senior Adviser) and Tracey Hartley (Conservation Building Surveyor from Salmon Reed) each spoke about the memorial's five-year restoration. Friends' member, Jane Aim (Seddon family representative) spoke of the significance to the wider family of this project's completion and thanked all concerned including the innovative contractor, Chris Gibbons from Lime Works.



Photo: Kate Fortune

David Dunsheath