



**FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY -
ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON**

February 2011

www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz

Issue 3

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Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

△ OUR NEW LOGO

This image of Mount Street Cemetery, as painted by artist, architect and former Mayor of Wellington Sir Michael Fowler, with Sir Michael's permission has now been formally adopted as the logo of the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery.

Sir Michael has also very kindly agreed to make prints of this image available for fundraising (see below left).

The Friends are very grateful to Sir Michael for his willingness to support our work.

Penguin Shipwreck

- Cook Strait, 12 Feb 1909, 72 lives lost

"On Wednesday a Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, for the repose of the soul of Mrs. [Annie] Hope, the heroic forecabin stewardess, by the Rev. Father Mahony, S.M., and her funeral took place in the afternoon at the old Catholic cemetery in Mount street, where Father Mahony conducted the burial service."

[Evening Post 25 Feb 1909]



Remembering Our Dead: 170th Anniversary Commemoration on 31 October

At 3pm on Sunday 31 October, the haunting sound of the pūtātara drifted across the windy hillside of Mount Street Cemetery, followed by a karakia calling the official party onto the Cemetery. They were Archbishop John Dew, Fathers James Lyons, Tom O'Connor SM and Philip Cody SM, Brother Kieran Garvey OFM Cap, Sister Anne Campbell rsm, and Karen Adair (President of the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery), who entered the Cemetery bearing wreaths. Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir sang the Requiem Introit, followed by a mihi by Tuki Takiwa and a welcome by Archbishop Dew. Scripture readings then followed in



Māori, English and French, and the singing of *Mō Maria*, the beautiful hymn written by Bishop Pompallier — and totally fitting, as we were celebrating 170 years since the Cemetery was consecrated by him in January 1841.

[...continued page 2]

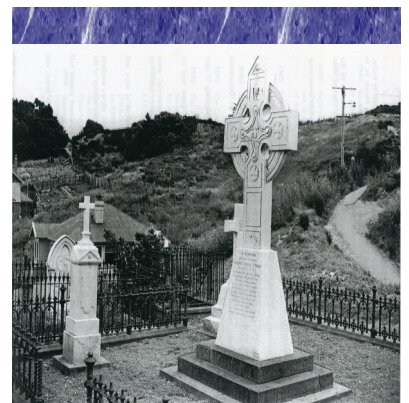
Sir Michael Fowler drawing: *Prints available as fundraiser*

Artist and former Wellington Mayor Sir Michael Fowler has very kindly offered to make prints of his drawing of the Cemetery available through the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery, so that part of the purchase price can be donated to the Friends group to further our conservation work.

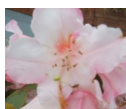
△ The ink and watercolour drawing, shown above as our logo, is available on card ready for framing, in 2 sizes:

- A4 size (21 cm x 29.5 cm) for \$10, and
- B5 size (14.75 cm x 21 cm) for \$5.

Contact Karen Adair to order prints.



△ The Cemetery, c. early 20th century [Alexander Turnbull Library]. The area in the background is now occupied by Victoria University buildings.



"Prayers of the Faithful were read in Māori, French, Italian, Polish and English, languages representing some of the different ethnic groups buried in the Cemetery."



Remembrance Ceremony [from page 1]

Prayers of the Faithful were then read in Māori, French, Italian, Polish and English, languages representing a number of the different ethnic groups buried in the Cemetery.

Archbishop John Dew gave a brief outline of the history of the Cemetery, stating that the site was important for Wellington's heritage.

Wreaths laid in remembrance

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Archdiocese and the three Religious Orders who have members buried in the Cemetery.

The Service concluded with the singing of *Hail Queen of Heaven*, final prayers and a blessing and the singing of *Salve Regina* by the Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir.

Unbowed by Wellington wind

The bitterly cold wind did not dampen the spirits of the approximately 200 people who attended the service.

The Wellington City Council and the Diplomatic Corps were well represented and there were many descendants and relatives of those buried there. — Ken Scadden

Historic maps and photos

After the ceremony, there were refreshments in the Hunter Common Room at Victoria University.

On display there were early maps of the Cemetery, as well as many historic photographs of the Cemetery, and interesting and poignant photo displays of those buried there and their families, which were prepared by descendants.

We hope to feature some of these stories and photos in future issues.

Archaeological survey completed: Records matching now possible

▽ (L to R) Friends President Karen Adair with archaeologist Dr Hans-Dieter Bader, Anthony Scadden, and historian and Friends Committee member Ken Scadden - at the time of Dr Bader's magnetic gradiometer survey of the main path last July, which was generously funded by Wellington City Council.

The spray can that Ken is holding was used to mark temporarily the gradiometer findings. The photo at lower right shows clearly the value of this work.



Lottery Grants Board funds full survey



The Friends were delighted to receive further funding of \$8890

late in 2010 from the Lottery Grants Board for a survey of the remainder of the Cemetery, which was completed in December. Dr Bader's report is due shortly, and will enable the Friends to match up burial records and old maps of the Cemetery with the physical evidence of grave sites provided by the survey.



British defence force personnel “honoured” to tend military graves in Mount Street...

Last July, nine members of the British defence forces, part of a group seconded to New Zealand for a 4-month joint military exchange, spent a day maintaining and cleaning the graves of soldiers of the 65th Royal Tigers Regiment, many of whom are buried at Mount Street, as reported in the *DominionPost* of 7 July 2010.

They were led by Flight Lieutenant Helen Griffiths, shortly to leave for a tour of duty in Iraq, who told the *DominionPost*:

“This has been a very proud

thing for a lot of us to do.”

Lance Corporal Brian Timoney, 22, a signaller who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said it was an honour to help with maintenance and cleaning of the British graves.

65th Royal Tigers

One of the sites carefully tended was the 160-year-old, gun barrel-shaped grave of Captain Richard O’Connell, who took command of the 65th Royal Tigers Regiment in Wellington on 1 August 1846. He was buried in Mount Street Cemetery four

years later, aged 56.

The regiment was garrisoned in Taranaki Street, and a nearby hotel was named after it.

Before Captain O’Connell arrived in New Zealand, he fought under the Duke of Wellington (the “Iron Duke”) in Spain.

The 65th Regiment took part in the New Zealand Wars at Rangiriri, Orakau and Horokiwi. They were known as the “hickety pips”, based on the Māori pronunciation of 65th: “hikete piwhete”.



British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell with the headstone of Captain Rhatigan [Photo: Kent Blechynden, *Dominion Post*].

...Among them the oldest surviving headstone

Captain O’Connell’s headstone is the oldest surviving in the 170-year-old cemetery. Alongside it is the headstone of Captain Christopher Rhatigan, also of the 65th Regiment, who died in 1857, and who had also served under the “Iron Duke”.

Friends’ President Karen Adair says that the Friends and their

supporters now wish to restore both headstones fully.

British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell told the *Dominion Post* that it was wonderful the people of Wellington remembered the two officers, and were committed to restoring their graves.



O’Connell (L) and Rhatigan headstones [Photo: Kent Blechynden, *Dominion Post*]

Early French pioneer grave located by archaeological survey

One successful aim of the July archaeological survey was to locate the burial site of M. Jean-François Yvert, shown at left with its temporary marker at the Ceremony of Remembrance in October. Yvert was born in France on 10 June 1796. While he had married and later lived separately from his family, when he offered his services to the Marist Mission to Oceania, he was told that he was considered a Marist “in heart and sentiments”.

Yvert arrived in New Zealand in 1841, established a printery at Kororareka in 1842, taught, and trained teachers. He came to the new Diocese of Wellington in 1850 with Bishop Philippe Viard, and taught at the newly established boys’ school until at least 1864. His contribution to Māori literacy through his teaching and role as a pioneer printer cannot be overstated. He died in Wellington on 6 July 1867.



BNZ’s “Closed for Good” community service day:

A Big Thankyou to staff who volunteered at Mount Street!!!

The Friends now wish to put up a permanent headstone.

- With thanks to Marist Archives

The Friends are very grateful to Wellington Community Trust for a grant of \$10,000 for headstone repairs.

Wellington Community Trust
supporting community initiatives

FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY

The *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery* was established in early 2010 to preserve, protect and enhance the heritage of the Mount Street Cemetery for the benefit of all. Consecrated 170 years ago by Bishop Pompallier in 1841, the Mount Street Cemetery was the first Cemetery in Wellington for Catholic burials, and contains the graves of about 800 Wellington pioneers.

You can become a member of the *Friends* now by payment of an annual subscription. Any additional donations are very welcome. As we are a registered charity, all donations of \$5 and over are tax-deductible. All funds received will be put towards the on-going work of protecting, conserving and maintaining the Cemetery for the benefit of all.

By becoming a member:

- Your subscription/donation will help to preserve this important part of Wellington's heritage.
- You will be informed of the on-going work through the *Friends'* newsletters.
- You can assist in the voluntary work, including research and working bees.
- You will learn more about this unique and precious area in the heart of Wellington.

Your financial support would be greatly appreciated for this important heritage project. Please direct any enquires you may have to: Karen Adair, President, Friends of Mount Street Cemetery,

Email: karen.adair@xtra.co.nz

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I would like to become a member of the *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery*.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Please indicate the type of membership for the year 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
Religious Order	\$40
Corporate	\$100
Donation	\$ _____ (Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible)
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

Payment Options (Note: all payments will be receipted)

You may send a cheque made out to Friends of Mount Street Cemetery to:

Friends of Mount Street Cemetery
Archdiocese of Wellington
PO Box 1937
WELLINGTON 6140

You may pay directly to our bank account:

Friends of Mount Street Cemetery
03 1359 0335290-00

(If you choose this option please indicate your name in the reference field and don't forget to email us with your address details so we can send you a receipt and keep you informed of progress with the project.)

If you have ancestors buried in the Cemetery please provide details if you have not already sent these to us

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