

[www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz](http://www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz)

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Δ Prints of the Friends' logo, painted by Sir Michael Fowler—artist, architect, and former mayor of Wellington—are available for purchase as a fundraiser to support our work. They are printed on card ready for framing. A4 size \$10, B5 size \$5.

### Headstone repairs... Do you have ancestors interred at Mount Street Cemetery?

We have a heritage stone-mason quoting on all masonry repairs required in the Cemetery.

Where there are known descendants, we will get in touch.

Families may wish to contribute towards the cost of heritage standard restoration of their ancestor's headstone.



**A FRIEND-LY  
REMINDER ...**  
Next year's  
subscription is due  
from 1 April

## Archaeological work has now cleared the way for restoration of the main path

Towards the end of 2011 the Historic Places Trust granted archaeologist Mary O'Keeffe, of Heritage Solutions, an Authority to undertake test trenching within the Cemetery.

### Confirming pathway plan

The purpose of this archaeological work was to assist in confirming the proposed change to the current pathway so that it avoids crossing marked and unmarked graves.

### Test trenches

Under Mary's supervision, three exploratory trenches were dug in the area just inside the Waiteata Road entrance-way.



The gradiometer survey of the Cemetery conducted by Dr Hans-Dieter Bader (see Issue 3) had indicated the presence of under-soil features in this area. The Committee was concerned to determine whether this could be the foundations of a built structure on the site—perhaps even an above-ground burial structure.

### Displaced debris

However, the results of Mary O'Keeffe's test trenching indicate that this area, being the lowest point in the Cemetery, has accumulated displaced material over the years which has slowly eroded down the hill slope (see page 3).

### Proposed path sound

In short, there is no reason why the proposed path cannot cross this lowest part of the Cemetery so as to avoid crossing graves on the current 'main path'.

Mary has now delivered her report to the Historic Places Trust.

The Committee is very grateful to Mary O'Keeffe for undertaking this work for us—entirely on a pro bono/gratis basis.

### Archaeological services

We are also very appreciative that Mary has kindly agreed to provide archaeological services as required.

Further photos, page 3...



Left: Volunteer and professional archaeologist Kiri Petersen marks out a test trench.

Right: Volunteer assistant and Friends' member Leoni Hawkins prepares the trench.

Photos: Anthony Scadden

## Mrs. Annie Hope

... "the heroic forecabin stewardess" of the *Penguin*



### Penguin Shipwreck

**On the night of 12 February 1909, during a fierce southerly gale, the passenger steamer *Penguin* was wrecked in Cook Strait, with 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. 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 February 1909**

Annie Hope perished, aged 33, in the wreck of the S.S. *Penguin*, and is buried at Mount Street Cemetery.

Annie worked as the forecabin stewardess on the Union Steamship Company's Nelson-Picton-Wellington passenger ferry *Penguin*.

Although she and other crew and passengers had managed to get clear of the ship in No. 5 lifeboat, according to the coroner's inquest, Annie's body was later found washed up on the beach. She was still dressed in her uniform of service, complete with white apron.

### Angel of mercy

Annie, and Alice Jacobs, the saloon stewardess who also lost her life, were described as "angels of mercy" by survivor Gerald Bridge, a view endorsed by others.

"No one on board the ill-fated *Penguin* played a more heroic part... All the passengers bear emphatic testimony to their cheerful coolness and devotion to duty. After the vessel struck they dressed the children, put life-belts on them and the women, and never manifested the slightest concern for their own safety until all the women and children passengers had been placed in the boats. Their names ought to live in fragrant memory" [*The Free Lance*, 20 February 1909].

Tragically, on this occasion, "the practice of 'women and children first' proved disastrous as the lifeboats they were placed in quickly capsized in the rough seas.

### No children survivors

"None of the children and only one woman, Ada Hannam, survived" - but Ada lost her husband and four children [B. Collins, *The wreck of the Penguin*, 2000]. In fact only 30 of the 102 people who had set out from Picton survived. All but 13 bodies were recovered.

A public funeral was held in Wellington on 16 February, a half-day holiday was declared for the event, and crowds lined the streets as the funeral cortege passed.

### From Scotland

Annie Hope was born Ann Chisholm, the third daughter of John Chisholm and Jessie nee Park of Inverness-shire, Scotland. She came to New Zealand aged 10, and married George Hope in 1896.

The "noble and unselfish conduct" of Annie Hope and Alice Jacobs was recognized by award of *In Memoriam* Certificates by the Royal Humane Society of NZ.



Annie Hope

Annie's father had died in 1888, and at the time of the shipwreck her widowed mother was living at Onga Onga in Hawkes Bay.

Annie had an unmarried sister living in Napier, and another sister a nun, Sister Winifred of Waipawa Convent. A further sister, Mrs S.L. Dean, lived at 42 Buckle Street, Wellington.

*Are you a descendant of these Hope, Chisholm, or Dean families? We would be keen to hear from you.*

The Committee of the Friends is very grateful to **Deirdre Wogan** for providing this information about Annie Hope.

Deirdre regularly conducts guided walks around the *Penguin* graves in Karori Cemetery.

From *The New Zealand Tablet*, 4 March 1909:

The Right Hon. the Premier, in the course of a letter of sympathy to the sister of the late Mrs. Hope, the heroic stewardess of the Penguin, concluded thus: 'One feels so helpless to do anything to lighten your burden in this unusually heavy hour of trial, but if anything can help assuage your grief at the death of your sister, Mrs. Hope, it must be the knowledge that in the hour of danger she acted the part of a heroine, and did her duty nobly to the last. I can only tender my heartfelt sympathy to you and yours in your irreparable loss, and in the grief you have to bear.' Mrs. Hope was the third daughter of the late Mr. John Chisholm, of Inverness-shire, Scotland. Whilst the boats were being launched, we are told, she was untiring in her efforts to comfort and cheer the women and children. One hears of her telling a cluster of terrified little girls, 'Cheer up, darlings; it's only a little way to the shore, and daddy's waiting for you there!' The children were frightened to take the leap into the darkness that seemed to be their only chance of life.



**Archaeological work:** Continued from page 1:  
Above: Archaeologist Mary O'Keeffe gently excavates a test trench, shown Middle.  
Lower: Examples of the debris discovered.  
Photos: Anthony Scadden



### Heritage stonework— further grant received

We were delighted to receive a grant of \$8,000 from the Lion Foundation in December to put towards some more headstone repairs.



### Bouquets

The Friends wish to thank:

› Descendant Nicola Young, for her excellent article in *Tommy's* magazine which made special mention of Mount Street Cemetery.

› Committee member Suzanne Sutton-Cummings, who has worked tirelessly at the Cemetery every Saturday morning this year, doing gardening to maintain gravesites.

Thanks also to Ken Scadden for his assistance in putting this issue together.



## FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY

The *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery* was established in 2010 to preserve, protect and enhance the heritage of the Mount Street Cemetery for the benefit of all. Consecrated by Bishop Pompallier in 1841, the Mount Street Cemetery was the first Cemetery in Wellington for Catholic burials, and contains the graves of about 1100 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 enquiries you may have to: Karen Adair, President, Friends of Mount Street Cemetery, Email: [mountstreetcemetery@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:mountstreetcemetery@wn.catholic.org.nz)

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I would like to become a member/renew my subscription to the *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery*.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Please indicate the type of membership for the year 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013:

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

***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 [Westpac]

(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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