



Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

INVITATION

You are invited to attend a service of blessing and remembrance at Mount Street Cemetery on 31 October at 3pm, led by the Archbishop of Wellington, John Dew — to commemorate the 170th anniversary of the consecration of the Cemetery by Bishop Pompallier.

**NEXT WORKING BEE:
SATURDAY 31 JULY
10AM TO 12PM**

Headstone repairs... Are you a descendant?

We have a heritage stone-mason quoting on all masonry repairs. Where there are known descendants, we will get in touch.

Did you know?

- Pioneers from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds are buried at Mount Street, including Irish, English, French, Italian, Māori, Scots, Welsh, Austrian, Silesian (German), and Polish.
- Around 22 soldiers from the 65th and other regiments brought in for operations in the Hutt Valley in 1846 rest at Mount Street.

The historic Mount Street Cemetery, established in 1841, has over many years fallen into disrepair. Many in Wellington and elsewhere are enthusiastic to see this heritage area improved. An article in March in the *Dominion Post* prompted over 200 responses from all over New Zealand. A Conservation Plan commissioned by the Archdiocese in 2008 is the guiding document for restoration work including landscape maintenance, until a Landscape Plan is commissioned.

Working bees

We have held working bees over summer and we are truly grateful to all those who have turned up to clear weeds from graves and clean headstones. BNZ staff volunteered to help as part of their 'Closed for Good' community service day. Around 90 students and some

College spent a day working at the Cemetery. They were joined by two members of Victoria University's Catholic Chaplaincy, and all worked hard to give the Cemetery a good tidy up. Thank you to our neighbour Victoria University for providing practical assistance such as arborists to remove trees. The University is building a viewing platform, designed by Athfield Architects, which will look across the Cemetery to the harbour.

The French Ambassador and the Alliance Française, as well as the Italian community, have taken an active interest in restoration plans. Some of the first French Marist missionaries, who came to New Zealand in 1838, rest at Mount Street.

Funding support

We are very grateful to the Wellington City Council for a grant to carry out ground

penetrating radar (GPR) on the present 'main path', which forms part of the City to Sea Walkway. GPR will permit identification of burial sites and optimal location of the path. The Lion Foundation has also provided a very generous grant of \$6000 for an initial set of headstone repairs.



Students from Bishop Viard College clean headstones with care during their working day at the Cemetery in April.

Friends of Mount Street Cemetery: Join Us!

A new Friends of Mount Street Cemetery group has recently been formed, and held its inaugural AGM in May. Committee members are Karen Adair (President), Ken Scadden (Vice-President), Vaughan Stagpoole (Secretary, descendant), Suzanne Sutton-Cummings (Treasurer,

descendant), Kevin Brown (Archdiocese), Peter Prichard (Victoria University), Michael Desmond (descendant), Priscilla Williams, and Micaela Buckley. We are very grateful to the Archdiocese for a donation towards initial running costs. Membership of the Friends group is open to all.

We hope that you will join us to express your support for our efforts: - to restore the burial sites in this sacred ground; to establish full records; and to conserve the landscape of the Cemetery as a link to our ancestors, an important heritage site, and an amenity for all.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY

The *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery* was established earlier this year to preserve, protect and enhance the heritage of the Mount Street Cemetery for the benefit of all. Consecrated almost 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 founding 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

.....

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

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Please indicate the type of membership for the year 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011:

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

.....