



FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

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

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# Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

It has been a year since our last newsletter, so this edition provides a summary of work done in the cemetery over the past year. Earlier in 2014, a major project was completed thanks to funding from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board. Under this project fencing was installed along two sides of the cemetery replicating the original and very simple design of posts and wires. Historic photographs also showed clearly the design of the wooden gate at the top entrance near the Priests' grave so this was also able to be duplicated. We have not yet found any detailed photographs of the main entrance off Mount Street, which is now adjacent to the University, or of the lower entrance off Waiteata Road so both entrances are simple gaps in the fencing. The committee has discussed from time to time the question of whether a lych-gate ever existed at the main entrance but there is no evidence of this. We should be interested to know if any readers have ideas on this subject. The lower entrance has been

realigned so that it is now in its original position, and fortuitously between two imposing karaka trees. The final part of the project was to place interpretive signs at all three entrances: these display old photographs as well as a brief history of the cemetery. Completion of this boundary work, along with realignment of the main path, fulfils the basic requirements of the 2008 Conservation Plan.



Main Entrance showing the new sign and fence, with puriri trees behind.

Now that the main path has been completed, the next step is to establish better access from the top of the cemetery by creating a new path along the northern perimeter. It is not possible to resurrect the old path because graves have been dug across its route. A generous donation means that planning is underway and we hope that work will begin on this path soon.

No grants were obtained for repair work, so the Committee has concentrated over the past year on landscape and planting work which can be funded from the Friends' modest resources and a most welcome grant from the Archdiocese. The task of clearing wilding trees continues with four major ones removed along with many smaller ones. One effect of this work is to lighten the main path

considerably and make the cemetery a much more attractive area to visit. Tree planting around the boundary is planned to give shelter and a visual break from the cityscape. This work has started with three pin oaks being planted along the Western boundary near the steep bank above McKenzie Terrace.

Autumn sunshine on the main path



Without sufficient volunteers from our membership to keep the graves weeded, we have joined with Volunteer Wellington who now provide us on a regular basis with willing and energetic teams from corporate businesses or government departments who give up a day of work to help charities such as ours. It is amazing how much work these teams can cover in one day provided the weather is not too challenging.

Rose planting has been part of their efforts. A gift of roses from the Whanganui Heritage Rose Society has supplemented the roses that we have bought in the past year. Rambling roses, chosen for their toughness, now cover the serviceable but unattractive fence along Waiteata Road. As the wilding trees are removed, it is possible to find more sunny plots for the heritage roses throughout the cemetery. As you can see from the photographs below, the roses are thriving in their new surroundings. Help with watering over summer has been provided by two Waiteata Rd residents.

Moonlight and Old Danish on fence (below) and May Queen on grave (right)



Finally we are continuing with the task of recording and mapping accurately the memorials above ground and the many unmarked graves below ground so that descendants can know more accurately where their family graves are sited. Please let us know if you would like more detailed information about the location of any burial.