

# LOWER TRAIL

## 23 Te Ropiha MOTUROA died 1874

A chief of Te Ati Awa's Pipitea Pa, he had been a warrior but converted to Christianity. He sided with the Government over a number of contentious issues and accompanied Governor George Grey to Taranaki in 1847.

## 24 Daniel DOUGHERTY 1804-1857

Daniel and Sarah came to New Zealand in a whaling ship in 1838. After a brief return to Canada and England, they settled in a whaling station at Port Underwood in 1842. Sarah nursed the men injured during the Wairau Incident of 1843. In 1849 Daniel and his pregnant wife crossed Cook Strait in an open whaleboat to take up the post of harbour pilot in Wellington. Later their home was destroyed by the 1855 earthquake.

## 25 William Barnard RHODES died 1878

Rhodes, the oldest of four brothers who came to New Zealand, became a wealthy merchant, property owner and sheep farmer and a Member of Parliament from 1853 onwards. His tombstone, the largest in the cemetery, reflects the fact he was probably New Zealand's richest individual at the time of his death. His grandson, William Barnard Rhodes-Moorhouse, was awarded a Victoria Cross in World War I.

## 26 James Edward FITZGERALD 1818-1896

Superintendent of antiquities at the British Museum before emigrating in 1850, he became involved in New Zealand politics while editor and owner of The Press, and became superintendent of Canterbury Province. As MP for Lyttelton, he argued for Maori representation and became Minister of Native Affairs.

Alongside, note the memorial erected by the Star Boating Club. This was the first New Zealand rowing club, started by whalers in 1866.

## 27 Rira PORUTU died 1866

The flat stone slab marks the grave of the chief of Pipitea Pa, a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi and uncle of the prophet Te Whiti.

## 28 Henry Middleton BLACKBURN

A young soldier killed by Te Rangihaeata's kinsfolk in a skirmish at Horokiri, near Paremata, in 1846. Of the funeral a friend wrote, "The melancholy notes of the fife really went to one's heart. It was bitter to think that these savages had cut off such an amiable promising young man in the pride of youth."

## 29 WALLACE family

Five Wallace children died of scarlet fever in May 1865 and the sixth died three months later. Scarlet fever was then the most common cause of children's deaths, causing blood poisoning and circulatory failure.

## 30 Ellen TAYLOR 1826-1851

Ellen ran a shop in Wellington with her cousin Mary (later a noted English feminist and a friend of novelist Charlotte Brontë). Ellen's cousin Waring Taylor (Mary's brother) was a businessman who has a street named after him.

## 31 Col. William, Edward Gibbon, Daniel and Selina WAKEFIELD



Edward Gibbon Wakefield created the New Zealand Company and assisted by his brothers founded settlements throughout the colony in the 1840s, including Wellington in 1840. Visit the chapel for a detailed history of the Wakefield family and to see William Wakefield's original headstone.

As you cross the grass to number 32, look for the faint line of bricks marking the boundary between the Church of England Cemetery and the Public Cemetery.

## 32 YIP Ah Chung (Ah Jeung)

Three of the Chinese graves in the cemetery are believed to be those of seamen who became ill and died in Wellington. Each has a Chinese inscription naming his home village. Mr Yip's headstone reads: "Doak Gon village, Ling district, grave of Mr Ah Chung Yip, died in February 1889, aged 51". The Evening Post (19 February 1889) gave no information about Mr Yip, but reported that his funeral procession with 10 carriages of mourners (probably his crew mates) attracted "large numbers of spectators" to the cemetery.

## 33 Alexander Horsburgh TURNBULL 1868-1918

Turnbull, born in Wellington, left his library of 55,000 books and other items to the nation, and his collection became the Alexander Turnbull Library, now part of the National Library of New Zealand. This is a relocated tombstone as the Turnbull family is now interred in the burial vault.

## 34 Thomas Wilmore MCKENZIE 1827-1911

A printer and founding partner of the Independent newspaper in 1845, McKenzie later managed The New Zealand Times, established by Julius Vogel in 1874. At 13 Thomas unwittingly breached a tapu over a Maori house under construction. Chief Porutu would have killed him had his wife not thrown a cloak over the boy to prevent it.

## 35 Charles Decimus BARRAUD 1822-1897

Barraud arrived in Wellington in 1849 and set up a successful pharmacy, later forming the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand. He went on to become a respected artist (watercolours and oils), highly regarded for his landscapes, and instrumental in founding the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.

## 36 Charles and Jessica PHARAZYN

Charles died aged 101, having arrived in 1841. After running a store at Pipitea Point, he was a run-holder in Palliser Bay, and then returned to business and politics in Wellington. Jessica,

his second wife, wrote several popular songs, set to music by Irish musician Michael Balfe (composer of the popular opera *The Bohemian Girl*).

## 37 John FERGUSSON

John was the baby son of Sir James Fergusson, Governor of New Zealand 1873-74, and his second wife. John died shortly after birth in 1873 and the little relocated coffin-shaped tombstone is simply marked with his first name and date. Sir James was the first of three Fergussons to occupy the vice-regal position.

## 38 BURIAL VAULT

Beneath the Early Settlers Memorial Lawn outlined in bricks, is the vault for the bodies (about 3700) reinterred during motorway construction. A list of names is located in the chapel [47].

## 39 John PEARCE (PIERCE?)



This may be the oldest memorial in the cemetery, probably erected in 1841. Several details on the tombstone are incorrect, including possibly the spelling of his name. Pearce, with eight others, drowned when his boat capsized in a storm off Petone Beach on 25 August 1840. Ironically, Pearce had emigrated for the good of his health and had written letters for publication in London extolling the virtues of the area for settlement.

## 40 Louisa JOHNSON



Louisa (a widow) and her five children were killed in a fire in 1877, which swept through three houses, stables and a hotel kitchen. Fire was a serious threat in the wooden settlement. Fire brigades were efficient, but this time a water blockage let them down.

## 41 Dr John DORSET died 1856

Dorset, a successful army captain, was appointed Colonial Surgeon and arrived in Wellington with Colonel Wakefield on the Tory in 1839. Prominent in colonial affairs, he owned several central city properties. Point Dorset, Seatoun, was named after him. This is one of 28 wooden grave markers still surviving.

## 42 Kate MAIR (nee Sprerrey) died 1893

Kate was a well-known artist famous for her portraits of prominent leaders such as Harry Atkinson, George Grey and John Ballance. Her husband was the official Maori interpreter for Parliament. Only 31 when she died, Kate is buried beside her father, John Sprerrey, property tax commissioner. The unusual headstone is marble and shaped like a rock.

# Bolton Street



**KEY**

- Downhill path to the city
- Main path
- Secondary path
- Grass path
- Steps
- Tree

As you cross over the motorway you can see on the eastern side a grassed area that had been allocated for an on-ramp. It now incorporates memorial tree plantings for eminent environmentalists.

Lower Trail starts here

The line of bricks crossing the lawn marks the boundary between the Church of England cemetery (to the south) and the Public cemetery (to the north)

Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council  
We Here Ki Pōkeke

Wellington Gardens

# Memorial Trail

at Bolton Street Cemetery



## 43 THE SELWYN OAK

This tree is believed to have been planted by Bishop Selwyn, New Zealand's first Anglican Bishop, perhaps as early as 1842. To the north is the grave of Archdeacon Fancourt, first vicar of St Mary's Church in Karori.

## 44 John BALMER

This bandsman of the 65th Regiment, a keen ocean swimmer, died in the jaws of a 4-metre shark in Lambton Harbour on Wellington Anniversary Day 1852.

## 45 Andrew Hagerty GILLESPIE

Father and son died in a revenge attack by tenants of Te Rangihaeata, after the burning of what they thought were derelict Maori huts on their newly acquired land in Hutt Valley. Te Rauparaha, anxious to clear his own followers of blame, told Governor George Grey where to find the murderers, although they were never captured.

## 46 Anglican Cemetery SEXTON'S COTTAGE.

Built in 1857 by Charles Mills and soldiers of the 65th Regiment, this is one of the two oldest houses in Wellington. Now an artist-in-residence cottage, it is not usually open to the public.

## 47 Anglican MORTUARY CHAPEL

This is a replica of the original mortuary chapel, which was designed by Frederick Thatcher and built in 1866 using some materials from the first St Paul's Church of 1844. Now an information centre, it contains historical displays and a register of burials. Open every day, 10am-4pm.

# BOLTON STREET CEMETERY

Free entry - open every day  
Phone 04 499 4444  
wellington.govt.nz

# TRAIL GUIDE

## Route guide

Markers direct you around the trail - follow them in reverse if you like. The Upper Trail is steeper than the Lower Trail. Some parts of the trails are unsealed and include steps. There is limited wheelchair access.

## Step back in time

This trail gives a glimpse into the life and times of a growing colony. The cemetery is as old as the settlement of Wellington, founded in 1840.

Stories told by the headstones reflect the growing pains of the colony - poor sanitation, lack of welfare, fire, racial tensions, as well as the growing prosperity in this thriving port town and (from 1865) political seat of the nation.

By 1892 the Public and Anglican sections of the cemetery were reaching capacity and a new cemetery was opened in Karori.

## Motorway

Huge controversy arose in the 1960s when the cemetery area was selected for the route of the city's motorway. A protection society was formed which still exists today as the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery.

The cemetery was closed for three years while about 3700 burials were exhumed and reinterred in a vault under the lower cemetery lawn. Where there were headstones, these were relocated as near to the original site as possible. The cemetery, now in two parts linked by a footbridge, was made a memorial park commemorating the first 50 years of the city, but retains its earlier name of Bolton Street Cemetery.

## Gravestones

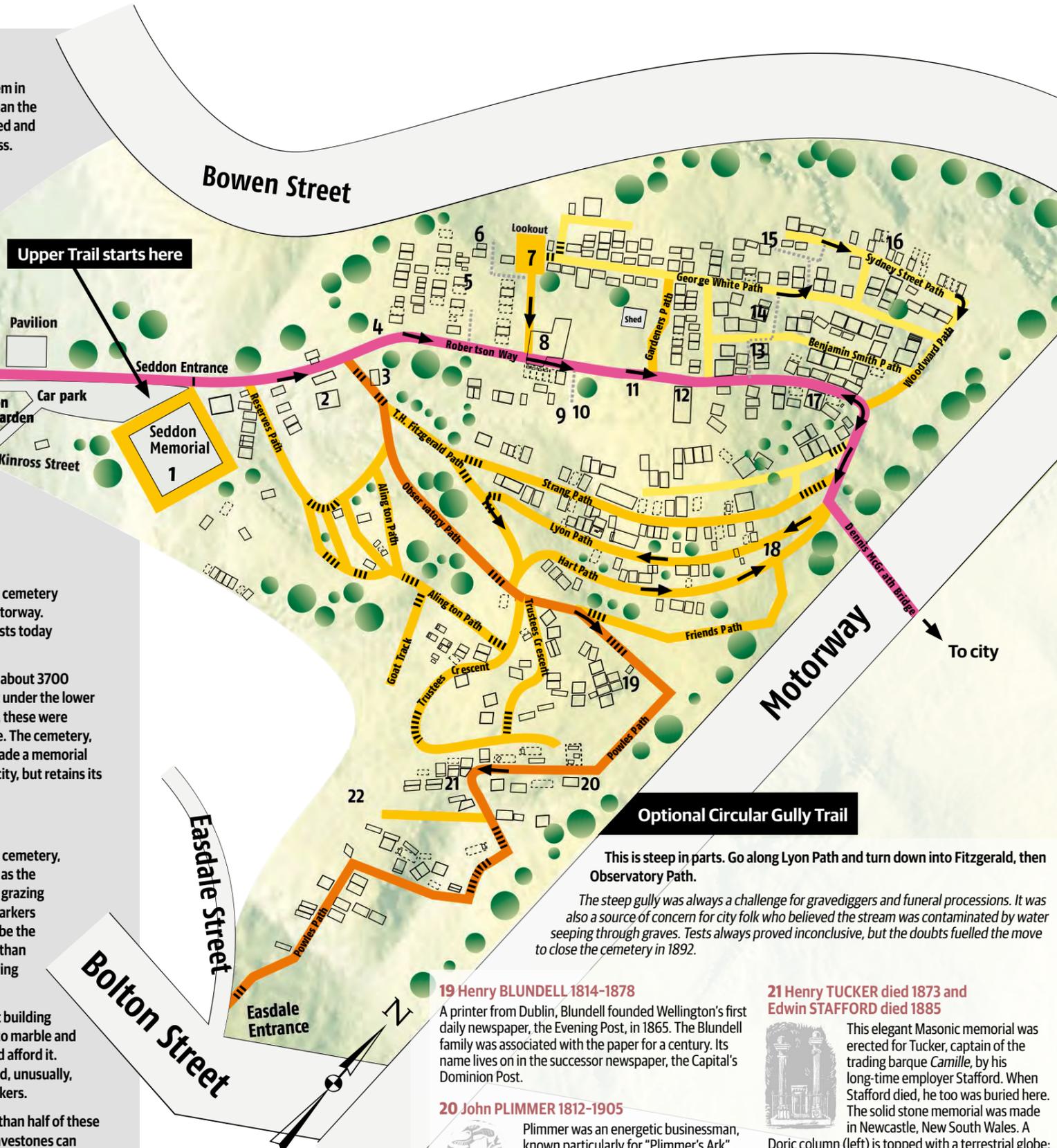
Although over 8500 people were buried in the cemetery, many of the oldest graves are no longer visible as the simple wooden picket fences, erected to deter grazing stock, have disintegrated. The earliest grave markers were also made of wood and this continued to be the cheapest material for the poorer settlers. Less than 30 of these still remain and their painted lettering has disappeared.

As the settlement prospered, more permanent building materials were used, ranging from local stone to marble and even rose-coloured granite for those who could afford it. Cast iron was used for more durable fencing and, unusually, this material was also used for some grave markers.

Only 1334 gravestones are still visible and less than half of these are in their original location. The reinstated gravestones can be recognised as they are grouped closely together without fencing or bases. About a quarter of the burials were of children, reflecting the high mortality rate in the pioneer colony.

## Heritage roses

The cemetery also contains a heritage rose collection of national significance.



Upper Trail starts here

Optional Circular Gully Trail

This is steep in parts. Go along Lyon Path and turn down into Fitzgerald, then Observatory Path.

The steep gully was always a challenge for gravediggers and funeral processions. It was also a source of concern for city folk who believed the stream was contaminated by water seeping through graves. Tests always proved inconclusive, but the doubts fuelled the move to close the cemetery in 1892.

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# START TRAIL AT SEDDON ENTRANCE

## Upper Trail

### 1 Richard John SEDDON 1845-1906

Seddon was Prime Minister from 1893 and died in office. He arrived from England via Australia in 1866, working as a storekeeper and a gold miner. His government made many social reforms including giving women the vote in 1893 - the first country in the world to do so. Wellington's first time-keeping observatory was relocated to make way for his tomb. The bronze statue of a mourning figure is by Henry Poole.

### 2 Henry Edmund HOLLAND 1868-1933

Originally Australian, Harry was a printer by trade who became leader of the New Zealand Labour Party from 1918-1933. He died while attending King Mahuta's funeral. He wanted to be buried on a windswept cliff and at that time his tomb would have had unobstructed views over Wellington City. The very striking sculpture of idealised figures was carved from Carrara marble by Richard Gross who also designed the Cenotaph sculptures.

### 3 William FLYGER died 1861

In 1919 the marble statue of Liberty replaced an earlier monument. It was vandalised during relocation when the motorway was built and is poignantly depicted in a watercolour painting by artist Rita Angus.

### 4 HORT LAWN Jewish Cemetery

The lawn is the part of the Jewish Cemetery that was still vacant when the combined cemetery was closed in 1892.

### 5 Lipman LEVY died 1880

In addition to importing boots, Lipman was one of the earliest members of the Wellington Philosophical Society. He was also involved in Wellington's gold rush of the 1860s, opening a mine at south Makara. Lipman Street and Levy Street on Mt Victoria mark the site of his large house and garden.

### 6 Benjamin Aaron SELIG

When Selig was appointed Reader and Shohet (ritual slaughterer for kosher meat) in 1862, the Jewish community numbered fewer than 50 - not enough for him to make a living, so he took up watchmaking which soon crowded out the religious duties.

### 7 THORNDON LOOKOUT

The view includes colonial houses that were built around the same time as the cemetery.

### 8 ROBERTSON'S COTTAGE

A brick outline is all that is left of the home of the Public Cemetery's sexton.

### 9 MACDONALD family

This is one of only two angel statues in the cemetery and was erected for the three children the MacDonalds lost to scarlet fever within one month. Frances was prominent in the Women's Social and Political League in the 1890s. They lived in Inverloch House and Somerled House.

### 10 James SMITH died 1902

Many Wellingtonians will recall the large department store first known as Te Aro House and later as James Smiths. The store closed in 1993 after 126 years of trading.

### 11 RICHARDSON and WATERS family

This magnificent marble cross is the second biggest monument in the cemetery. Thomas Waters arrived in 1841 with a prefabricated store from Sydney, which was erected on Lambton Beach.

### 12 Christian Julius TOXWARD died 1891

A Danish architect, Toxward designed many imposing Wellington buildings but few remain. After the 1848 earthquake damaged brick buildings, Toxward designed wooden buildings that looked like stone. A nearby example is 22 The Terrace at the foot of Bolton Street. Other work includes the former St Mary's Church in Hill Street and extensions to Old St Paul's.

### 13 Robert and Hannah HANNAH

Robert was an Irishman who came to New Zealand in 1864, aged 18. He set up a footwear business in Hokitika during the goldrush and later moved to Wellington, opening a chain of shoe stores through the North Island. The couple had eight children and lived in Antrim House in Boulcott Street.

### 14 Jonas WOODWARD

Woodward Street was named after Jonas, who was the first trustee of the Public Trust Office, an unpaid pastor, trustee of the Public Cemetery, a businessman and an educationalist. His plain memorial contrasts with the adjacent elegant carving on the Doull headstone.

### 15 Samuel Duncan PARNELL 1810-1890

Parnell is credited with creating the eight-hour working day. Arriving from England in 1840 where working days were far longer, he caused a stir when, contracted by a fellow passenger to build a store, he insisted that his days should

be eight hours work, eight hours sleep and eight hours relaxation. Other carpenters supported his demands and the eight-hour day was born.

### 16 Gwendoline Burnell BEAUCHAMP died 1891

Gwendoline was the baby sister of New Zealand author Katherine Mansfield. The family grew up in Karori and Thorndon, and had a beach house in Days Bay. The Katherine Mansfield Birthplace museum, in nearby Tinakori Road, is open to the public.

### 17 DUFF family

Five Duff children died tragically of diphtheria within 11 days. Note the recent memorials for well-known City Councillor Stewart Duff, who died in 1981, and his wife.

### 18 Rev. Robert WARD

Ward was the first Primitive Methodist missionary to cross the equator, arriving here from England in 1844. He worked in Taranaki, Auckland and Wellington. The former Ward Memorial Methodist Church in Northland, Wellington, was named after him.

Either cross the footbridge to the Lower Trail or first take the circular Gully Trail by following Lyon Path down to the gully.

The Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery hold working bees in the cemetery and can provide information about conservation work and details about individual graves. For more information check [boltoncemetery.org.nz](http://boltoncemetery.org.nz) or write to the Friends at PO Box 12426, Thorndon, Wellington 6144.