



# FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET CEMETERY INCORPORATED

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<http://www.boltoncemetery.org.nz>

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Editor: Kate Fortune

## RITA ANGUS AND THE CEMETERY



Our feature story concerns the strong connection of the artist Rita Angus with the Bolton Street Cemetery in the last 15 years of her life. Living nearby in Thorndon, she was dismayed by the idea that her neighbourhood was to be disrupted by Government plans for the final section of Wellington's urban motorway. Priscilla Williams' account of the development of a new tour is on page 2.

*Left: Rita's picture shows her friend Juliet Peters sketching the BUSK headstone.*

*The three sketches used in this newsletter – '4156 t3509' on page 1; '4140 cross 1402' on page 2; and '4130 tombstone rows' on page 7 – are from the **Bolton Street cemetery sketchbook 1968-69**. Courtesy of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, on loan from the Rita Angus estate.*

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## RITA ANGUS: A NEW HERITAGE FESTIVAL TOUR

In October a new tour was introduced during the heritage festival featuring Rita Angus and her work focusing on the Bolton Street Cemetery. This tour was made possible through the assistance of Lizzie Bisley, Curator Modern Art, Te Papa, who gave us access to the sketches they hold in two note books. In the last year of her life, Rita developed these sketches into about seven oil paintings and water colours. Why did she focus so obsessively on the cemetery during this time?

In November 1955, aged 47, Rita Angus purchased a cottage at 194a Sydney Street West in Thorndon, selling her property in Hawke's Bay. 'The light is beautiful,' she observed of the capital. 'There seems to be a fusion of the colder south and the warmth of the far north of New Zealand to be found in the light and colour about Wellington'. Just opposite was the cemetery and for many years it was one of her favourite places – 'its huge old trees, clumps of great ferns, ivies and garden plants of the first settlers all growing in wild profusion', wrote her fellow artist Juliet Peter. Rita was therefore shocked by the news in the 1960s that it was to be partly destroyed by the motorway. She joined protests against this but the 'engines of destruction' advanced up the valley in spring 1968, depositing the uprooted tombstones in a Sydney Street section very near her cottage.

Helpless to stop them, she and Juliet decided to record the poignancy of this loss. The two artists would slip quietly and illegally into the cemetery each fine Sunday over the summer and autumn of 1968/69, sketching tombstones with their surrounding fences, trees and plants. Later Rita, now fascinated by the tombstones and their recorded lives, went into the Sydney Street storage site which was poorly protected, and sketched their tumbled heaps, filling sketch books with poignant drawings of the uprooted memorials. She then started several works in either oil or water colours, some of which were not completed. She was at this stage ill with cancer, and died in January 1970.



Our main challenge in researching this tour was to identify the depicted tombstones. Some were easy as they are distinctive and unique shapes, for example the Flyger tombstone which replicates the Statue of Liberty and is poignantly depicted in the water colour 'Headstones, Liberty'. Other tombstones had large numbers painted on them as a means of identification which were replicated by the artists, though not always accurately. They are the old plot numbers for the two cemeteries: four numerals for the Anglican cemetery, a letter and two numbers for the public one. Our database carries both the old plot numbers and the new grid numbers so that we can identify the tombstones

through the numbers, most of which have since faded from the reinterred memorials.

*Above: This sketch by Rita Angus of an unusual small iron cross prompted Priscilla Williams to track down its current location. (Rita had written '1402' although in fact it had been at 'plot 4702'.) Priscilla then arranged for urgent restoration of the broken fragments, and the restored cross (see photo, page 5) was ready for the Heritage Festival Tour.*

Using this system and our knowledge of other distinctive features, Barbara Mulligan and I were able to identify about 25 memorials that had been sketched by Rita. Omitting those which were less interesting or not easily accessible, we developed a tour of 13 stops. These included Rita's cottage which can be seen from the cemetery Lookout, the mass grave where the disinterred were buried, and the museum which contains the Cecilia Ticehurst angel which became one of Rita's unfinished paintings. To round out the tour, Barbara researched the families belonging to the selected memorials. Our information about Rita Angus was drawn from two excellent publications: *Rita Angus: Life and Vision*, the catalogue for the Te Papa exhibition held in 2008, and Jill Trevelyan's book, *Rita Angus: an Artist's life* (Te Papa Press, 2009).

Priscilla Williams

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## NEWS FROM THE AGM IN JULY

The change from an early evening AGM to an afternoon one held on Saturday 8 July 2023 at the Botanic Gardens Tree House Seminar Room was very successful.

Karl Bale and Jennifer Robinson stepped down from the committee, and we welcomed newly elected Christine Harper (previously a coopted member, introduced in Newsletter 95), and **Jillian Wellings – whom we asked to introduce herself here:**

*“I had an early introduction to the Bolton Street Cemetery. My father, Hugh Fullarton, was the District Commissioner of Works and therefore was in charge of putting the Motorway through the Cemetery. He had a great love of the Cemetery and it hurt him as well as those whose homes and graves were disturbed.*

*“I always love strolling through the Bolton Street Cemetery – reading inscriptions on the headstones, visualising the life that they led, how they died: the famous and infamous, and the tragedies that they suffered. This Cemetery is a ‘living story’ of the early settlement of Wellington. I try and walk through it every week. There are so many stories and sometimes I feel so sad to think about what the early settlers had to contend with. I enjoy reading ‘Unquiet Earth’ by Margaret Alington, with all her insights. And it is a pleasure to be able to help out with tours through this wonderful Cemetery.”*

After the AGM, guest speaker, Clare Shearman of the Botanic Gardens, shared her impressive experience working with historic gardens. This included her work in Haver Castle, UK, looking after the formal gardens; Government House in Wellington as head gardener while major renovations of house & garden were undertaken; and Fernside Gardens creating new gardens for a private historic property. Clare has managed the BG plant collections for 5 years. In the cemetery she has been GI mapping heritage roses and planting heritage daffodils.

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## COMMITTEE LIST 2023–24

Jenny Button <i>President</i>	Policy & strategies, Tours support
Priscilla Williams <i>Vice President</i>	Repairs, Research, Guide
Kate Fortune <i>Treasurer</i>	Membership Secretary, Guide, Newsletter editor
David Dunsheath	Tours support, Newsletter editorial support
Elizabeth Fletcher	Minutes Secretary
Christine Harper	Working bees
Nick Perrin QSM	Biographical & burial list, Research
Dr Anne Phillips	Community & iwi liaison; Daffodil project
Jillian Wellings	Tours support



## RICHARD PRESTON PRICHARD

*In the course of researching the sketches by Rita Angus of headstones in the cemetery, Priscilla wanted to find out whose grave had once had the unusual iron cross that had caught the eye of the artist. And so began the unravelling of the story of Richard Preston PRICHARD.*

Richard was born on 26 December 1842 in Bloomsbury, Middlesex (i.e. part of Greater London) to William Taylor PRICHARD (1811-1862), Attorney at Law, and his wife Frances Waldegrave PRICHARD, née HENDERSON (1816-1893). He was fourth of about 10 known children of this marriage, and in the 1861 census he was living with his parents and 8 siblings, a nurse and two or three servants in the area of Westbourne Park (to the west of Paddington Station) in London.

*Below left: Westbourne Park in 1866: No. 22 is just above the 'u' of Westbourne. Right: The image from Google Earth shows that the streets and houses are still there today.*



After his father died in 1862 Richard seems to have set off to see the world, and in 1865 he sailed from Melbourne to Port Chalmers on the *ss Albion*, which arrived on 6 March 1865 after experiencing a gale on the night before arrival. Richard and nineteen of his fellow ‘Saloon Passengers’ saw fit to publish a letter of commendation in the *Otago Daily Times* to Captain Edward Kidney and his officers for the ‘attention and courtesy shown’ to them during the voyage, and especially complimenting the captain’s ‘judgement and seamanship during the severe gale on the night of the 5<sup>th</sup>’.

He probably moved to Wellington soon afterwards, and in 1866 he was mentioned in a newspaper as working as a teller in the Bank of New Zealand.

Richard made his will on 28 March 1867, apparently after a diagnosis that he was terminally ill, and he appointed Charles Plimmer Powles as his executor. He left his gold watch and chain to his widowed mother, Frances Waldegrave PRICHARD, of 22<sup>A</sup> Westbourne Park, Middlesex, with the remainder of his estate to be sold up to pay his ‘just’ debts (which included funeral and burial expenses), and any residue to be also sent to his mother.

He would have known that he was suffering from consumption (tuberculosis) long before his death, and may have come to Australia and then New Zealand for the sake of his health, as a warmer climate was considered to be beneficial for consumptives.

Richard finally died of consumption, aged just 24, on 28 May 1867; and probate of his will was completed on 18 September 1867. His executor, Powles, reported that his personal effects and household ornaments, etc had been sent to his mother along with the residue of his estate, which was valued at £177-1-11.

Richard was buried in Bolton Street Cemetery, plot 4702 (which was just to the north-west of the original Mortuary Chapel), and an iron cross grave marker was installed, possibly at the instigation of his mother. The cross was made at Wiltshire ironmonger Haden's foundry at Warminster (the shop in front of the foundry still exists as an ironmonger's). The cross would originally have had a painted inscription. The exact same Haden of Warminster iron crosses are found all around the world, and intact specimens can be seen at the Rangiatea churchyard in Otaki, and in the Dunedin Northern Cemetery.

Richard's grave was demolished for the motorway on 14 July 1969, and it seems that his cross was broken in the process. It was then partly reinstated at grid F06 18, where it was mistakenly identified as coming from the grave of 'Richard P PENHAM'. His correct identity was finally established by us in October 2023.

The original painted inscription on the cross may have been partially decipherable in the 1930s when an inventory was made of the entire cemetery, and then he had been wrongly recorded as PENHAM, with the incorrect year (1860 instead of 1867), but with the correct initials and day and month. The original C of E cemetery register for 1867 clearly has him as Richard Preston PRITCHARD (sic), and this is how he had been recorded in our database with his burial date of 31 May 1867, and listed as plot unknown. His actual burial location and iron cross was ascribed to the non-existent 'Richard P PENHAM, died 28<sup>th</sup> May 1860' (also in our database, but now removed).

Note that there is no doubt that his surname was PRICHARD, not PRITCHARD, because it is PRICHARD in every case it appears in his Last Will and Testament, including his signature (despite his will being indexed under 'Pritchard'), and it is correct in his NZ BDM entry, and also in the letter of commendation to Captain Kidney of the *ss Albion*. In other records the spelling alternates between 'Pritchard' and 'Prichard' rather randomly.



*The broken Prichard cross (above) has been repaired very recently, and will be reinstated soon in the upper Cemetery.*

*Photo: Kate Fortune*

*Nick Perrin*



## WORKING BEES

We have held four Spring working bees, all on Sundays: 3 September; 1 October; 5 & 26 November. At the request of the Botanic Gardens team, we have focussed efforts on the area around the gardeners' shed – particularly along the main path. Amazingly, all days have been sunny and great for working outdoors.

In September we had around 12 volunteers and rapidly filled our quota of weed-bags and cleaned a good number of headstones. In October we focussed on the other side of the path, where a number of relocated headstones were brightened up with Amanda's cleaning skills. Hellen and Amanda tackled the Fraser grave with the large obelisk, not only weeding but clearing back the wisteria runners that are likely to break the iron railings. This was WOW season and the cemetery was busy with many tourists who often stopped to share their appreciation for our work!

The two November sessions were well supported with about 8 volunteers. Once again we left bulging weed-bags, and Jacqui's valiant efforts included cleaning most of the headstones in the Jewish section.

Looking ahead we aim to hold one more before Christmas: on 10 December. And in the new year, we plan to continue a regular schedule, probably sticking to the first Sunday of each month. Contact us at [friendsbolton@gmail.com](mailto:friendsbolton@gmail.com) if you'd like to join us.

*Christine Harper*



*Above: Amanda removed weeds (left), while Jennifer scrubbed headstones (right).*



*Left: The Thorburn grave on the Lyon Path was tackled by Kate after Peter had cleared all the overhanging foliage.*

*Photos: Kate Fortune*



*Sketch by Rita Angus: see lead story on page 2. This shows the Sydney Street site used to store the headstones taken from the Cemetery, which was just down the road from Rita's cottage. She and Juliet Peters made many sketches of the headstones. From Bolton Street cemetery sketchbook 1968-69.*

## CONSERVATION & REPAIRS 22/23

Repairs done in the 2022/23 financial year include REAY and VALENTINE, shown here.

*The Reay tombstone is a simple wooden marker. The name of his infant son was added as we found he had been buried in the same grave.*

*The Valentine grave had two marble tombstones, rather thin slabs which originally were laid flat. Both have been strengthened.*

*Photos: Kate Fortune*



Our report on the repair work in the previous financial year (Newsletter 94, November 2022) commented that the financial allocation for this work was significantly underspent for the first time in recent years. It is disappointing to report that the situation was even worse in 22/23. Once again a major factor was the delay in a costly project, the Nancarrow grave on ANZAC path, where the front brick wall leans out at a perilous angle. This time the delay was due to the inability of the contractor to do the necessary repairs, and he has finally pulled out of the project due to lack of staff. A new contractor is being sought and the money for this has been rolled over to the current financial year.



Another problem was the departure of Karl Noldan in December 2022. He was Public Art and Memorials Specialist in the WCC, a role that he filled with considerable skill (Newsletter 94). It took some time for a new person to be appointed but it was great to welcome Greg Cairns some months later. This was too late for any substantive work to be done on grave repairs before the end of FY 22/23. Adding to our problems was my unavailability for the first six months of the year and also the continuing unavailability of our premier repair specialist Simon Lewis, the Tombstone Doctor.

Fortunately we still had access to Gavin Smith who continued several wooden repairs for us such as the REAY wooden headstone which had been temporarily in the museum. With a new base, it is now reinstalled in the north end of the cemetery at the end of Woodward path (P10-15). This is where many of our precious wooden grave markers are to be found although it is disappointing that they are in an obscure part of the cemetery seldom visited. The Reay marker is a very simple board one but as part of its restoration the name of the infant son was added as our research showed he had been buried in the same grave as his father.

Both Gavin and Simon were involved in the installation of the Cecelia TICEHURST angel in the museum. Simon repaired the wings, though she is still missing most of one wing, and reinstated her on the base from which she had been separated since the 1960s. Gavin had to strengthen the floor beneath to take the heavy weight. The fascinating story of reuniting the angel with its base is in a 'display book' in the museum's new exhibition.

Simon also had time in one of his rare visits to Wellington to repair the VALENTINE tombstone (B12-27), which is in the Easdale Street area. There were two marble tombstones originally in the C of E plot 1415, one for John Valentine and a similar one for John's wife, Fanny Maria, who was considerably younger than John and survived him by 11 years. John came to NZ with the 65<sup>th</sup> regiment in the 1840s. The 65<sup>th</sup> (2nd Yorkshire North Riding) Regiment of Foot, also known as 'The Royal Tigers', were the longest serving regiment in New Zealand during the NZ wars. About 1300 soldiers were discharged during this time with many staying as settlers, John Valentine being one of these. A button from the 65<sup>th</sup> uniform was found in the cemetery and is displayed in the museum.



These two VALENTINE marble headstones are plain, large but rather thin slabs and it is not surprising that both have been broken. John's one was repaired earlier and the one to Fanny Maria, also broken, needed a second and better repair. This photo taken of the original grave by Sexton Shotter in the late 1960s shows that the two slabs were laid flat on the grave.

When doing repairs, we like to research the stories: two examples, Prichard and Cockroft are in this newsletter. When they are reinterred memorials, we also check the number of bodies that were found in the graves when they were dug up in 1960s as these often are more than those recorded. There is another tombstone in a different area (I15-05) for John Valentine and his aunt Annie Smith. The two Valentine graves, early



ones when records were unreliable, were a big surprise. In Plot 1415 we knew about John and Fanny and assumed there must have been earlier burials. Six bodies were found, which we now believe are three of their children: James in 1860, John in 1861, and Helen in 1865 as well as John's brother Robert in 1867. As for Plot 4102, a later and more accessible grave where we only knew of Annie's burial in 1873, there were seven bodies found. Our records suggest that this is the family of John's other brother Nathaniel: he and his wife Emily are buried with aunt Annie, along with four of their children. (See below for more of the VALENTINE story.)

With a full repair team now back in action, it is expected that the repair programme will pick up pace this financial year.

*Priscilla Williams*

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### **VALENTINE BROTHERS: JOHN, NATHANIEL AND ROBERT**

John & his brother Nathaniel VALENTINE arrived in New Zealand on the *Java* in 1845. Sons of James (1799-1873) & Rebecca née White (1801-1858) of London, John was born in 1823, Nathaniel in 1829 and Robert (even younger) in 1837. We know from John's obituary that he had joined the 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment as a bugler and became bandmaster, went to Australia for the Victorian gold rush, and returned to New Zealand to open the Forester's Arms Hotel, Ghuznee Street, in 1862. Nathaniel was also with the 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment but later ran Valentine's Hotel in Petone, and Robert (whose arrival in New Zealand was surely later) became a Wairarapa farmer.

John's first wife was Jane BOULTON, with whom he had seven children. Their two sons both died young, James in April 1860, aged 11 months and John Alfred in January 1861, aged 4. One daughter, Helen, died in 1865, aged 1; but four daughters survived: Jane Elizabeth married James Atkinson SIMPSON; Rebecca married Arthur Edwin BENNETT; Jessie married John Smith HUTCHINSON; and Annie Cecilia married Sydney George Oliver INGRAM. Jane Valentine died in 1867, aged 35, and was buried at Wakapuaka, in Nelson. John in his 50s married a 35-year-old widow, Fanny Maria SARGENT/SARGEANT, in 1875. He lived to 86 years, and died in September 1909. Fanny died in 1920, aged 79.

Ann SMITH, Aunt Annie to the three brothers, seems to have come to New Zealand as a widow – possibly because her nephews were prospering and she knew she was welcome. But her exact connection – whether to James or Rebecca Valentine – is still unknown. She died at John's home in Ghuznee Street on 7 May 1873, aged 70.

Middle brother Nathaniel married Emily Hook PILCHER in 1852, and they had 10 children. Four are buried in the Cemetery: George Thomas in July 1865, aged 3; William Robert in November 1859, aged 2; Peter William Laing in January 1870, aged 6; and Annie Gertrude in December 1887, aged 16. Two sons (Walter Nathaniel & Stacey Edward) are as yet unaccounted for; but John Dorset died in 1916, aged 61; and Hammond Fraser died in 1942, aged 74. Two daughters married: Emily Alice to William SHANNON in 1876; and Katherine Amelia to Richard MOTHEs in 1886. Emily died in January 1875, aged 41, and Nathaniel died in November 1892 aged 63.

*Story researched by Nick Perrin, Priscilla Williams & Kate Fortune*

## ADEN COCKROFT: TWICE AN IMMIGRANT

Adin COCKROFT was born about 1919 in Halifax, Yorkshire, the 4<sup>th</sup> child and 3<sup>rd</sup> son of George Cockcroft (1789-1856) and his wife Elizabeth née Firth (1788-1857). There are seven children recorded from the marriage of George and Elizabeth, at least three of whom, including Adin, emigrated to New Zealand.

Adin was baptised on 9 March 1820 into the Methodist Church, and aged about 21 he married Hannah Seal at Halifax on 22 February 1841. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born the same year. The following year they decided to emigrate to Nelson as steerage passengers on the *Indus*, which left London on 1 October 1842 and arrived in Nelson on 5 February 1843. On the passenger list Adin is aged 24, Hannah is 21, and there are no children listed. His occupation was given as 'farmer butcher'.

From 1843 to 1850 Adin was working as a butcher in Bridge Street, Nelson, and in early April 1850 they moved to Wellington, where Adin set up in business as a tanner. In 1852 he signed a petition as a 'land and stock owner' of Wellington, and in 1853 he advertised Cockcroft's Leather, Grindery and Shoe Warehouse in Te Aro. In 1854 he moved his business to Clay Point (now Stewart Dawson's Corner), but in January 1857 he advertised that he was selling up and returning to England (possibly connected to the deaths of both of his parents).

Newspaper reports in Wellington in April 1859 welcomed the return via the *Acasta* of Archdeacon Octavius Hadfield and Mr & Mrs Adin Cockcroft and child, describing Adin as 'an old settler of the Province'. The Cockrofts travelled 'Second Cabin' on the *Acasta*, which would have been much more luxurious and expensive than their first voyage in steerage on the *Indus*. Also on the voyage were Adin's elder sister Jane, her husband Giles Youmans and their children.

Adin opened a tannery business in Brougham Street, and in June 1868 advertised 'for sale or lease' three shops on Lambton Quay opposite the Bank of New Zealand, and a four-acre block on the corner of Brougham and Austin streets, containing a house, various outbuildings and grazing. In July 1869 an auction of household furniture, etc, at the residence of Adin Cockcroft, Brougham Street, was advertised. He may have been downsizing his business as a result of ill health.

On 8 February 1870 Adin died at the age of 51. His funeral left 'his late residence opposite the New Zealand Bank' on 10 February for the cemetery, where he was buried in block 23, C of E Cemetery (so it seems Adin must have converted to the Church of England, despite having been baptised as a Methodist).



*Photo by Kate Fortune taken after the cross was restored but before it was returned to the Cockcroft grave.*

His grave can be seen at grid reference B12 15 on the Powles Path close to the Easdale Street entrance. The wooden picket fence and wooden cross on his grave have been restored after being damaged by a large elm tree that took root in his grave. This tree was removed several years ago after it blew over in a gale.

Two years after Adin's death, on 26 April 1872, his widow, Hannah, married Charles Handyside STUTFIELD, whose first wife, Emma, had died in 1861. Charles died on 5 June 1892 and was buried in plot 3617 of the C of E Cemetery (in a grave removed for the motorway) with his first wife and Edward Stutfield (a brother?) who died in 1868. They are commemorated on a marble headstone reinstated at grid L13 01.

Hannah Stutfield née Seal, formerly Cockroft, was involved in a long legal dispute over her second husband's estate in 1894, but won the case. She died on 19 July 1895, and is buried in the St John's Churchyard, Hororata, Canterbury, where her marble headstone has lost most of its lead lettering.

There is no evidence of any descendants from the marriage of Adin and Hannah born in New Zealand, so perhaps their children had died in infancy in England. There were many nieces and nephews, including another Adin Cockroft, and the wider Cockroft family seem to include many South Island residents. Possibly Hannah spent her last days with nieces or nephews in Canterbury, and that is why she is buried there.

Adin's youngest brother, George Firth Cockroft (1831-1875) had also come to New Zealand and settled in Southland as a butcher, and a son, also named Adin, was born in 1859 (wrongly listed as Hayden in BDM). George drowned in the Firth of Thames, and was apparently residing in Tapu, north of Thames, but his death notice said he had a wife and family at Invercargill.

Adin's elder sister Jane and her husband Giles YOUMANS and children (who arrived on the *Acasta* in 1859 with Adin and Hannah) settled in Wellington, where Giles worked as a boatman. In 1870 an infant grandson of theirs, Charles Mace HOWE was buried in plot 2/3.N of the Public Cemetery. Jane was buried with him in June 1888, and Giles joined them in August 1891. The Youmans were buried as Methodists in an unmarked plot later removed for the motorway; they are now in the Memorial Grave.

*[The above information has come largely from various cemetery records, 'Papers Past', NZ BDM Historical Records On-line, and public family trees on Ancestry.com. There may be minor errors in detail from the family tree information used.]*

*Nick Perrin*

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## **REMOVAL OF CYPRESS TREES IN THE CEMETERY**

In the lower cemetery 13 Leyland cypresses were removed in September from above the wall bordering Bowen Street. All the trees were in a long, slow decline, initially from cypress canker, a common fungal disease, but accelerated with the establishment of kākā through the city. Kākā have proven to be particularly partial to Leyland cypress and redwoods. For similar reasons five trees on the Bolton/Easdale streets corner by the motorway have also been removed.

The lower trees have been replaced with evergreen Holm oaks chosen for their hardiness to replace the shelter previously offered by the cypress. This followed on



from initial plantings of Holm oaks funded by Te Araroa Wellington Trust. With changes to wind patterns from the new and modified buildings on Bowen Street, the growing environment should be improved.



*From left: These trees were suffering from cypress canker as well as kākā damage; Easdale Street corner with trees removed; and two views of the newly planted Holm oaks on the Bowen Street boundary.*

*Photos: David Sole & Kate Fortune*



Holm oaks show resistance to kākā browsing, and these established oaks are now producing significant new growth. The bare ground beneath them will be prepared and sown with grass in autumn 2024. Revegetation species, where trees were removed on the Easdale Street corner, will also be planted in autumn 2024. We have deliberately close-planted the oaks to get the tree canopy established. As the trees grow and the canopies start closing in, there will be a progressive removal of up to 50% of the trees. Some of these will be transplantable and others will just be removed.

Looking ahead, the Leyland cypresses adjacent to Bolton Street in the lower cemetery are also in rapid decline and, though we haven't set a timeframe for their removal yet, their days are numbered. The trees above the motorway and flanking either side of the Denis McGrath Bridge are in slightly better condition but are showing evidence of significant kākā damage. Their removal, while not imminent, is inevitable.

There are a number of large and historic trees in the cemetery which are now over-mature and well into decline. We will continue to monitor these and as they move from decline to becoming a danger to both the people and the cemetery's monumental architecture, they will have to be removed.

*David Sole, Manager Botanic Garden*