



New lease for Piper memorial



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AN eye-catching statue which used to occupy the Ipswich General Cemetery will soon be given a new lease of life.

Brisbane resident and owner of Ghost Tours, Jack Sim has teamed up with Ipswich City Council through the Heritage Consultative Committee to bring the Bertie Piper Memorial back to life after it was destroyed by vandals seven years ago.

Ipswich City council planning and development committee chairperson councillor Paul Tully said Terence Hildebert Piper, known as Bertie, died on January 10, 1904, aged 12 years and three-weeks and was buried in the Ipswich General Cemetery.

"A life-size sandstone statue was later erected by his grieving family as a monument to his life in the cemetery's Church of England section," Cr Tully said.

Cr Tully said the Piper monument had stood in the cemetery for almost 100 years before it was destroyed by



Owner of Ghost Tours, Jack Sim and Cr Paul Tully at the memorial.

vandals in May 2001, greatly angering the Ipswich community.

"Following its destruction the remnants of the statue were being looked after by a number of Mr Piper's descendants but they have since been given for safekeeping to council along with a number of photos of

young Bertie," he said.

Cr Tully said council was hoping to now use these pieces of the monument to make a replica of it.

Mr Sim said he had conducted ghost tours to Ipswich until 2005 and the Bertie Piper Memorial was one of the great highlights of the tour.