

# Memorial Walk



Start at the attractive granite Cawthron Steps **1** leading up Cathedral Hill. The steps were originally planned by the city as a memorial to Colonel, Hon. Albert Pitt, M.L.C., Volunteer division. When they proved too expensive for the city to fund, the wealthy, public spirited merchant Thomas Cawthron stepped in and defrayed the whole cost of building the church steps. They replaced the old wooden steps in place at the time. In 1942 the sculpted marble Centennial Memorial was added on the first landing.

A path to your left goes past information panels that relate to the history of the hill. Remnants of the 1843 fortified stockade from the time of the Māori wars can be found at the back of the Cathedral. Commemoration plaques nearby recall the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the local army regiment in 1845.

Further along the path a traditional white marble statue of a New Zealand soldier in uniform tops the Memorial to the Fallen in World War 1 (1914-1918) **2** No names are listed here of the fallen, these can be found in various places including Anzac Park, and memorial gates around Nelson.

A short walk along Selwyn Place and Collingwood Street leads to the Hardy Street entrance of the Queens Gardens. See information panels about the history of the gardens in the central lawn area. Nearby is the Memorial to the Boer War **3** which lists 13 names of those killed in the South African conflict 1899-1902. During the conflict New Zealand sent ten mounted contingents and sundry detachments away, totalling 6,500 men and 8,000

horses. Half of these were volunteer corps and many were from the Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast battalions.

At the Bridge Street entrance of the Queens Gardens are the wrought iron Albert Pitt Memorial gates. **4** Pitt was the Minister of Defence, Lt Colonel of the NZ Militia and C.O. of the Nelson Military District 1877-1899.

Walk along Bridge St and turn right into Rutherford Street to reach Anzac Park. Some of the park's history is noted on the information panels by the Rutherford Street entrance. Anzac Park Cenotaph **5** is the main war memorial for the city commemorating all wars. The names on the central memorial pillar relate to both World War I and World War II and were supplied by the Nelson RSA. All were residents of Nelson prior to enlisting for services and living within the boundaries of Nelson as they were at that time. Residents of Stoke are listed on the plaque at the entry of the Marsden Valley reserve, and on the memorial gates beside the Stoke Hall. Residents from Wakapuaka and the Whangamoia area are on the plinth beside the Wakapuaka Hall (See Remembrance Trail for locations of these memorials.)

Bridges around the city were originally memorials to those killed in the war and paid for by public subscription. The Anzac Park memorial was part of a bridge crossing Saltwater Creek in 1958 and all 15 tonnes of it were moved to the present park site in March 1988.



# Memorial Walk

ANZAC Day on 25 April each year is a time to remember those who died in war. Nelson pays homage to the fallen with a number of memorials within easy walking distance around the central city area. A Remembrance Trail is also available which covers memorials further afield.

For more information on any of these sites and images go to [www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz](http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz), where you will also find other heritage trails. Stories of some of the soldiers can be found on [www.theprow.org.nz](http://www.theprow.org.nz)

