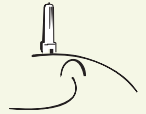


Right beside our school



The National War Memorial Park and the tunnel below



Your stories are welcome

This booklet is intended as an overview of the National War Memorial Park and Underpass Project, putting it in its historical and future context for the children of Mount Cook School. As an overview, it cannot include all the information there is about this area or this project. If you have knowledge that would help the Memorial Park Alliance to tell more stories about this area, your input is welcome. Please visit the project information centre on the corner of Taranaki Street and Martin Square.

Alliance stakeholders



[New Zealand Government](#)



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29 October 2012: Pupils from Mount Cook School, from left, Jasleen Ghuliani, Lilly O'Driscoll and Logan O'Driscoll, turn the first sod at the site blessing for the National War Memorial Park.

What is happening beside our school?

Road workers have moved the road in Buckle Street out of the way so they can dig deep into the ground beside Mount Cook School. A new road will be built which will go down under the ground in a tunnel near the school.

The road workers, who belong to a team called the Memorial Park Alliance, will put soil on top of the tunnel and will plant grass and trees to make a park. Many of the children who walk to school will not need to cross the road any more but will cross the park instead.

A temporary road has been built beside the school for traffic to use until the new tunnel and road are ready.

All this is happening right beside our school.





2013: King posts are driven into the ground to be the supports for retaining walls when the trench is dug for the National War Memorial Park Underpass.

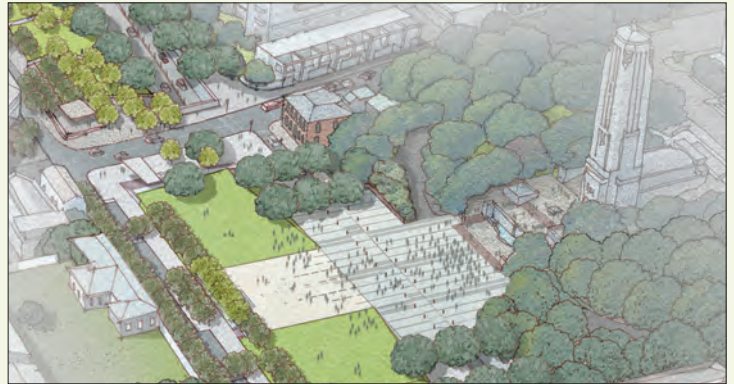
The National War Memorial Park

A beautiful park called the National War Memorial Park will be built beside our school on Mount Cook in Wellington. It will reach from the Basin Reserve to Taranaki Street.

The heart of the park will be the Ceremonial Plaza built in front of New Zealand's special place for remembering the people who died in wars.

This special place is the National War Memorial which has three parts – the Carillon, which is a musical instrument of 74 bells inside a tower, the Hall of Memories and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

The Māori name for the Mount Cook hill is Pukeahu so the park will also be known as Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.



2014-2015: The Ceremonial Plaza will be built in front of the National War Memorial.





The National War Memorial is the Carillon tower, the Hall of Memories and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior – our national monument to those who died in wars.

Making room for all the people

Every year people come to the National War Memorial for services to remember the 30,000 New Zealanders who have died in wars and the 300,000 who have served their country and survived to come home again.

Memorial services are times when we reflect on the impact wars have had on our lives. Huge crowds often come to the services at the National War Memorial and they will have more space to gather together once the park is created and the road is underground in a tunnel.



2014-2015: The road will descend into a tunnel under the National War Memorial Park.



23 January 1946: War affects everyone, including the people waiting at home. At the wharf in Wellington, a young boy wearing a soldier's cap welcomes the Māori Battalion home from the Second World War. Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: 1/4-001659-F; Photograph John Pascoe



A special Anzac Day for the park to open

The National War Memorial Park is being built for the 100th anniversary of the First World War that was fought from 1914 to 1918. All over the world, countries are making plans to remember what happened to their people in that war.

Our park will open in time for Anzac Day on the 25th of April in 2015. On that day it will be 100 years since our young country's first major battle.

Anzac Day is named after the ANZACs – the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought in that battle at Gallipoli in Turkey.



*Anzac Day 25 April 1932: At the dedication of the newly built Carillon.
Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: 1/2-195136-F; Photograph Crown Studios of Wellington*





1 December 2012: At the National War Memorial, the survivors of the 28th Māori Battalion assemble to remember fallen comrades.

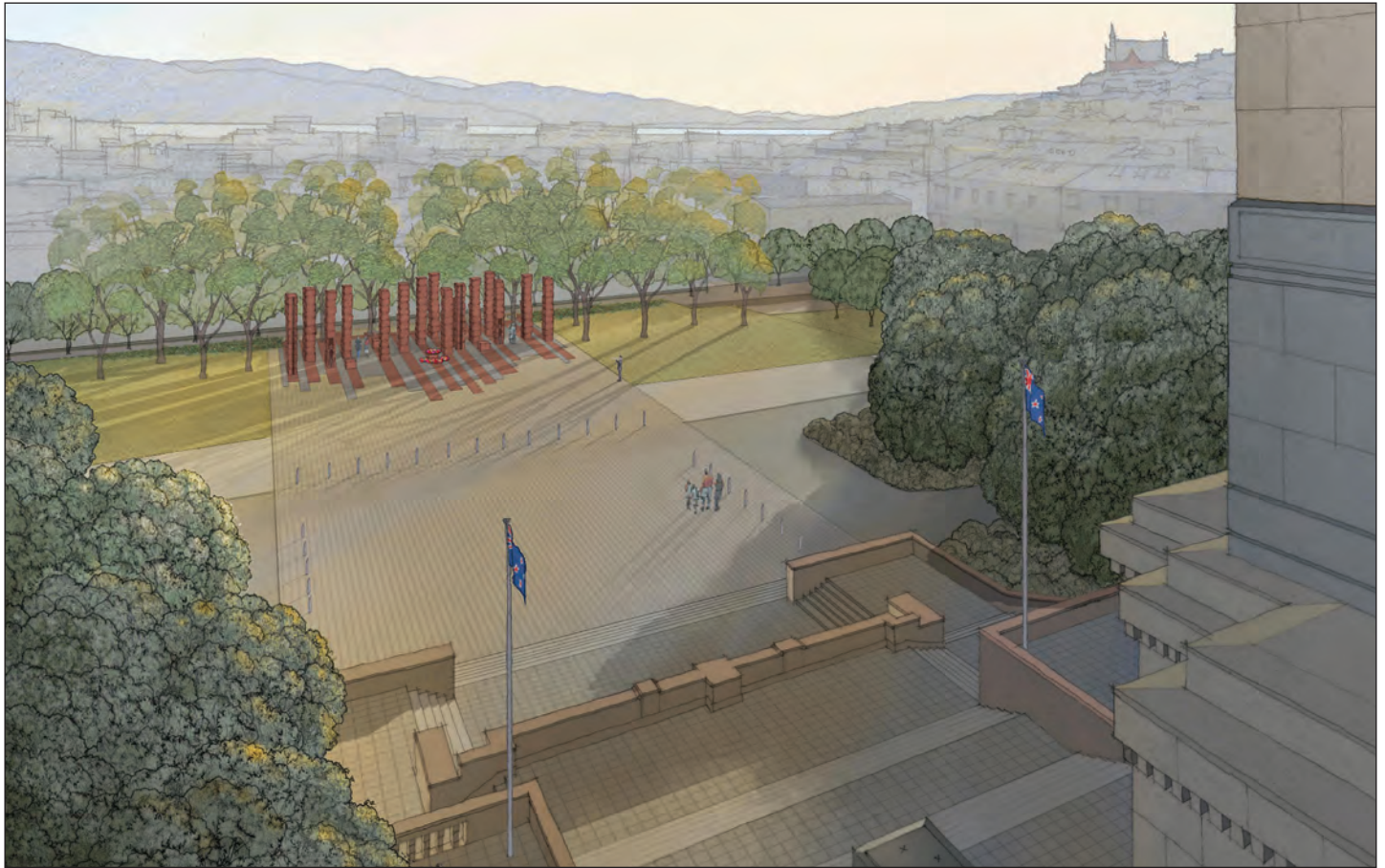
Creating the National War Memorial Park

The drawings of the Memorial Park are like a big picture. We can see what it will look like but the details are still being filled in.

The Ceremonial Plaza will be a paved area between the National War Memorial and the boundary of Mount Cook School.

Australia, which is New Zealand's Anzac partner, will also build a war memorial on the plaza. The memorial will be a tribute to our two countries' shared military history and will be built from Australian materials with columns of red sandstone and rows of gum trees.





2015: Our Anzac partner, Australia, will build a memorial in the park opposite the New Zealand National War Memorial.

Mount Cook's important place in our history

Buckle Street and Mount Cook have always played an important part in the history of Wellington and New Zealand.

The hill was a special place from the earliest settlement of Māori around Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington Harbour. It was known as Pukeahu – meaning a sacred hill. An ahu is a sacred mound used for ceremonies. The slopes leading down to the harbour were gardens from the earliest times.

When the first settlers arrived in 1840, they saw Mount Cook was a good place for defence so they built their army and police barracks and prisons along Buckle Street. Prisoners made bricks from the Mount Cook clay soil which they marked with the shape of an arrow and used to make buildings and walls on the hill.



The arrows on the prisoners' bricks can be seen in the Tasman Street wall.





Wellington Harbour -
from Road leading to the Barracks -

1852: Painting by John Pearse of two small Māori figures heading up towards the Buckle Street army barracks, possibly along the track that became Tory Street. Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: E-455-f-034-1; Watercolour: John Pearse 1808-1882

Choosing where to put the memorial

When the Government decided to build the National War Memorial after the First World War, Mount Cook was chosen as the best spot because it had been a place for defence and because a tall memorial tower built here would be seen from all around.

The Carillon tower was the first of the three parts of the National War Memorial to be built. The 74 huge bells weigh a total of 70.5 tonnes to make it the third-largest Carillon in the world.

When the 51-metre tall Carillon opened more than 80 years ago in 1932, it could be seen from any part of the city and by ships entering the harbour. Skyscrapers block that view from people in the inner city of Wellington today.



*1931: Labourers carry out earthworks near the site for the National War Memorial Carillon and Dominion Museum.
Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: 1/2-090207-G; Photo: Evening Post*





Anzac Day, 25 April 1932: 50,000 people stand in silence for the dedication of the Carillon on Mount Cook - the first of the National War Memorial buildings. Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: 1/1-020293-G; Photo: Sydney Charles Smith 1888-1972

An important place for learning

Mount Cook has been important for education since the late 1800s and is home to Mount Cook School, Wellington High School and Massey University. The university uses the historic building that was the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum.

Mount Cook School was the first public school on the hill and opened in 1875 as the Buckle Street school for boys and girls. During the next three years the boys moved to their own school in Taranaki Street and an infants' school opened in Buckle Street near the girls' school.

The three schools - infants, boys and girls - joined to become one in 1926 when a brick schoolhouse was built in Buckle Street. New timber buildings opened in the mid-1970s and became the Mount Cook School we know today with an entrance on Tory Street.



1877: Mount Cook Infants' School on Buckle Street.

Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: EP/1975/3057/21; Photo: Evening Post





26 July 1975: Children in the playground by the new buildings at Mount Cook School.

From a track to a main road

Buckle Street was just a muddy track in the early days when the settlers were building Wellington but it turned into one of the busiest roads in Wellington.

Buckle Street became part of the main highway, State Highway 1, which runs from the bottom of the North Island to the top and is the main route for people travelling out of Wellington from the airport.

Once the new road is built through the tunnel underneath the park, it will be called the Memorial Park Underpass.





28 March 1900: Crowds walk east on Buckle Street to Basin Reserve, on the right, for a Māori carnival. Ellice Street is ahead on Mt Victoria. Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: PA1-o-127-11.

Big projects take teamwork

The National War Memorial Park and Underpass Project started in August 2012 with 32 months to meet the deadline of opening the park on Anzac Day in 2015.

A large project needs teamwork because a lot of different skills are needed to make a tunnel, a road and a park. The people who have joined together in the team called the Memorial Park Alliance include designers, engineers, and road and construction workers. The team is working with people whose job it is to know all about our country's history.

All these people are involved in the design of the park and preparing for the special Anzac Day ceremony to open the park in 2015.





2012-2015: The Memorial Park Alliance team.

Mount Cook School involved in the project

The National War Memorial Park and Underpass is an exciting project for the Alliance team members because they are part of something that is important to New Zealand as a nation.

The team members want the children of Mount Cook School to feel a part of this important project and are involving them in some of the interesting things that are happening. They are telling the children about the jobs they do and keeping them informed as the project progresses.

Every day the children and teachers see and hear what is happening on the site so the team is interested to learn how it affects them when they are in the classroom.





18 April 2013: Mount Cook School's Kiwi Class poses with crane drivers by the giant 70-tonne crane the children named *Cranosaurus*.

Finding buried treasures of the past

The road workers are being very careful when they dig up the ground in Buckle Street because things that people used long ago may be buried here. It is like finding buried treasure.

The Alliance has a team of archaeologists whose job is to preserve the pieces of the past that are found. They have already found a gun pit which once housed a cannon and brick foundation walls from the former army drill hall.

Some of the smaller treasures they have found are on show at the Alliance information centre in Taranaki Street.



2012: The remains of a gun pit used for training and brick foundation walls from the army drill hall uncovered by earthworks in Buckle Street.





May 1930: Roadworks on Buckle Street with a cannon visible at the barracks gates. Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: 1/2-075035-F.
Photo: Evening Post newspaper.

Taking care of treasures

One treasure that has always been above ground is the historic Home of Compassion Crèche building near Basin Reserve. It was a childcare centre built in 1914 for the nun, Mother Suzanne Aubert, who was famous for helping poor families.

The Alliance will move the crèche a short distance away from the new road and it will have its own place inside the Memorial Park.



Front view of the former Home of Compassion Crèche.



1950s: Children play in the backyard of the Home of Compassion Crèche built in 1914 for the nun, Mother Suzanne Aubert.

Digging deep into Buckle Street

The workers are digging a trench 300 metres long, 18 metres wide and 12 metres at its deepest point. Imagine this: the Mount Cook Police Barracks building could easily fit inside the trench 20 times. The building measures 15 metres at the front, 13.5 metres at the side and is 10 metres tall.

It will take at least 4,500 truck and trailer loads to take the soil away. That is a lot of dirt – 48,000 cubic metres – and other projects that need soil will be able to use it.





10 April 1894 was the official opening date of the Mount Cook Police Station and Barracks built in 1893 on the corner of Tasman and Buckle Streets. Today the building is occupied by business offices.

All the pipes in the ground

Many pipes carrying gas, water, telecommunications and electricity services to homes and businesses are buried in the ground. Other pipes take rainwater to the sea and sewage away to treatment plants. These services need to be moved out of the way so the trench can be dug for the new tunnel and road.

Using a digger risks breaking the pipes and stopping services to the city. To avoid damaging the pipes, water will be sprayed into the soil to make it slushy and a giant vacuum cleaner on a truck will suck it up from around the pipes and take it away.

One thing that will not be moved is the 100-year-old sewer that is underneath Tory and Buckle Streets. The sewer, which is made of bricks and is nearly a metre high, will come very close to the road tunnel at one point. The Alliance team will make a special effort to protect it.





2013: A careful operation is needed to move the pipes out of the way. At left, the vacuum cleaner sucks up slushy soil with a hose. At right, the ground at the sides is held in place by retaining walls so workers can put in a new water pipe.

Being good neighbours

An important job for the Alliance engineers and designers is to work out what might go wrong and how to avoid it. Careful planning helps the Alliance to be a good neighbour to the schools, businesses and people passing by.

The construction workers have built a wall by the school so the noise from the machinery is not too loud in the classrooms. The workers keep the project site clean and tidy and make as little dust as possible. A monitoring machine at the school measures how much dust gets into the air the children are breathing.

The workers have bored deep holes by the school so they can monitor the ground water levels while the trench is being dug. If necessary, the workers will pump water into the holes if the ground gets too dry. This will stop the soil from shrinking and prevent any damage to the buildings' foundations.





2013: A wall beside Mount Cook School helps reduce the noise from the project site for the children in their classrooms. It is also a gallery for their artwork about the roadworks and park.

Making a safe tunnel

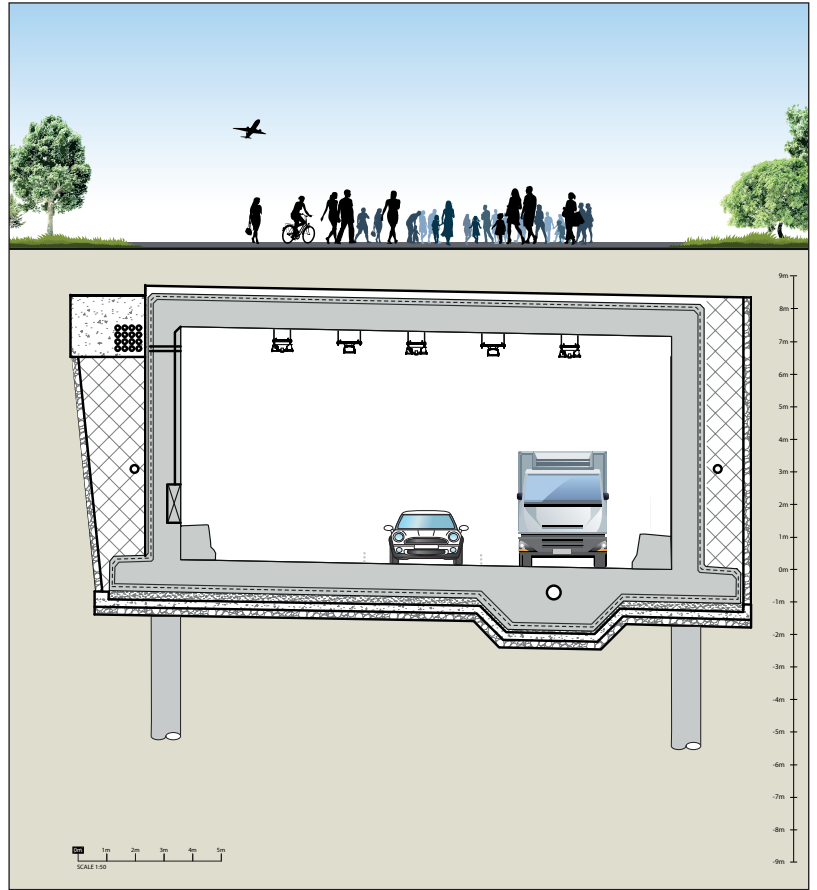
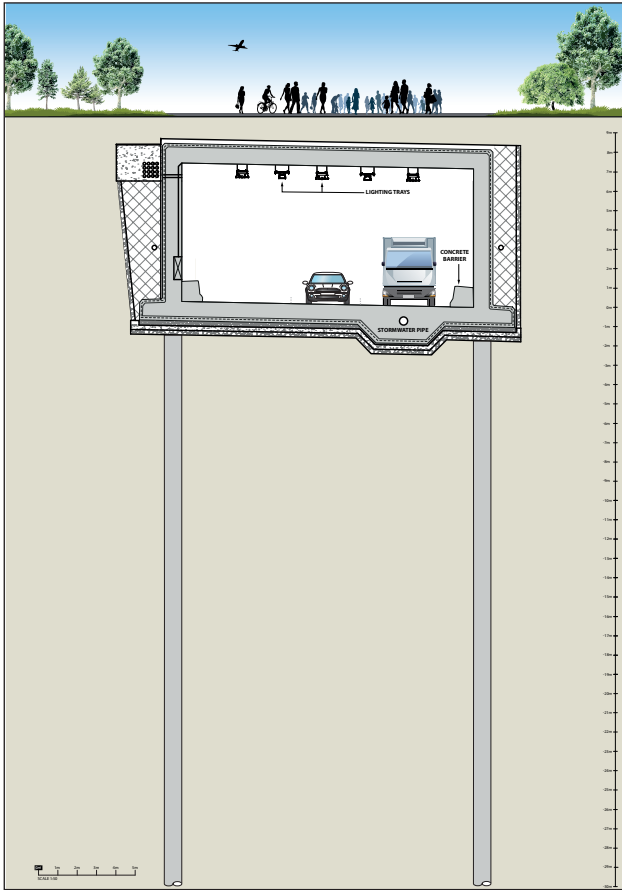
The tunnel and the road for the National War Memorial Park Underpass have been designed with people's safety in mind.

The Alliance team knows that earthquakes in the past lifted up the land in Wellington several times. The biggest earthquake turned Basin Lake into a swamp in 1855 and the settlers then made it into the Basin Reserve cricket ground.

The engineers are designing the tunnel, which will be more than 120 metres long, to make it safe from earthquakes. A machine will push huge concrete posts 30 metres deep into hard rock and the tunnel will then be stuck tight to them. Posts used in this way are called piles.

The engineers are also making plans in case there are any accidents or car breakdowns in the tunnel. Closed circuit cameras will keep an eye on what's happening – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – and alert emergency services if anything goes wrong.





2014: The tunnel will be anchored to 30-metre deep concrete piles to protect it in case of a major earthquake.

Project Timeline

Phase 1, Site Preparation (August 2012 – Early 2013) The engineers prepare the designs and plan the construction for the tunnel and the road. The main road in Buckle Street is moved to a temporary position close to the school so work can begin. Underground water, gas and electricity pipes and cables are also moved out of the way.

Phase 2, Dig the trench (Early 2013 – Late 2013) The road workers dig out the soil and build retaining walls for the trench where the tunnel and the road will go.

Phase 3, Construct the tunnel (Late 2013 – Late 2014) The tunnel floor, walls and roof are constructed and a new road built to run from the Basin Reserve to Taranaki Street.

Phase 4, Build the park (Late 2014 – Early 2015) The final part of the project is to make the park look like it does in the drawings with terraces covered in grass and trees, pathways and seats, and the paved Ceremonial Plaza in front of the National War Memorial.





April 2013: This panoramic photo shows earthworks for the new tunnel and road to go underneath the National War Memorial Park and also shows where the road in Buckle Street was diverted in January 2013 to run beside Mount Cook School.





May 2013: Mount Cook School students and teachers



21 May 2013: Mount Cook School's Mako Class gave the name Mt Cranea to the 100-tonne crane. Infants from Peka Peka Class came too.



18 April 2013: Alliance Manager Duncan Kenderdine chats with Dov Silberstein at the naming of Cranosaurus.



Alliance members

