

NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL (PUKEAHU) PARK

DESIGN STATEMENT

The design for Memorial Park encompasses five key objectives:

1. To embed the National War Memorial into the City of Wellington
2. To provide landscape as memorial, for memorial and for everyday use
3. To provide a forum for local and international cultural exchange
4. To recognise and respond to its Wellington location, and
5. To provide a framework for future growth.

Park framework

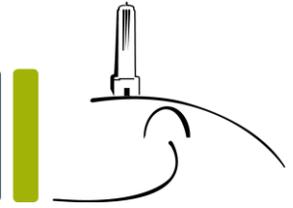
The new park extends the ceremonial functions of the National War Memorial (NWM) with a central stone-paved ceremonial plaza that expands north from the bottom of the National War Memorial's stairs and over the tunnelled State Highway 1 (SH1). The plaza space, aligned on the NWM north-south axis, accommodates the new Australian Memorial NZ at its northern end. At its southern end, the plaza is framed by Tangata Whenua garden spaces to the east and west. Lawns flanking each side of the plaza are gently graded toward the central space and NWM, providing additional informal gathering spaces from which to view ceremonial activities.

Either side of the central space, the Park unfolds east and west as a series of structured landscape terraces that respond to the site's natural topography whilst providing space to accommodate future NZ and international memorials. The rhythm and length of the terraces formulate a landscape crescendo that culminates at the plaza space in front of the NWM. Threshold terraces at Tory St and Taranaki St provide shelter, way-finding signage and gathering spaces at the park's two main entry points. The terrace lawns are designed to be flexible spaces that can accommodate gatherings ranging in size and purpose, and allow for the progressive installation of a variety of memorial types whilst retaining a cohesive park form. Terrace walls and stair structures provide informal seating opportunities throughout the Park, thereby minimising the requirement for additional furniture elements.

The Park is traversed and circumnavigated by a network of accessible pedestrian routes, shared space laneways and connections to the existing city fabric within which it sits. This network provides multiple options through and around the Park.

Framework of Park spaces and circulation routes:

- Central Memorial Plaza (acknowledging and building upon the National War Memorial's north-south axis)
- Tangata Whenua Gardens (acknowledging the site's historical and cultural significance)
- Eastern Terraces (structured lawn terraces designed to accommodate future NZ memorials, recreational uses and ceremonial gatherings, main access of pedestrian/bike path alongside SH1)



- Western Terraces to be constructed over two stages – Stage 1, 2015; Stage 2, 2017 upon completion of the Basin Reserve Bridge project (structured lawn terraces designed to accommodate future international memorials, recreational uses and ceremonial gatherings, main access of pedestrian/bike path alongside SH1]
- Relocated Home of Compassion Crèche building and garden terrace (two easternmost garden terraces accommodating the relocated historically significant crèche building in a garden setting)
- Main Pedestrian/ Bike Path adjacent to SH1, north side (minimum width 3.0m, providing access between Cambridge Terrace/ Tory St/ Taranaki St)
- Low-speed Buckle St East and West partly paved in stone setts (one-way east-west laneway connecting from Sussex St, to Tory/Tasman St through to Taranaki St, traversing the Central Memorial Plaza)
- Low-speed North Lane West (one-way west-east laneway connecting Martin Square to Tory St, providing access to Mt Cook School, drop-off and visitor parking)
- Low-speed North Lane East (two-way shared space from Tory St to north side of the relocated crèche, public parking)
- Pavilion structures at Tory St and Taranaki St threshold terraces.

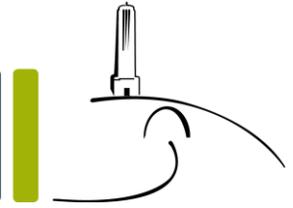
Materials

The Park's terraces and circulation routes are articulated in high quality finishes complemented by a rich brocade of native and exotic planting. Stone is employed to delineate the Park's primary gathering spaces and processional routes. Elsewhere high-spec concrete finishes and asphalt demarcate circulation routes. The Park's primary landscape features - the spine of lawn terraces - are formed using large section precast elements designed to convey a sense of solidity and "groundedness". The walls will be articulated with feature lighting and customised skate guards.

Pavilions at the Park's two entry points share a common form and material language but each has been specifically designed for its site. Timber and steel columns support a simple folded copper-clad roof with timber ceiling – part shelter, part gateway threshold.

Furniture selections for the Park are intentionally minimalist in style and colour and are minimal in number. They convey a sense of civic/urban sophistication and minimise visual clutter, allowing the Park's landscape assets and future memorials to be the central focus.

The Park's planting palette has been developed to interpret the site's history and meaning. The planting palette provides seasonal change and colour aligned to days or months of national importance, remembrance and reflection, and also provides everyday amenity. Avenues of Pohutukawa trees in rain gardens denote the Park's primary pedestrian routes. Olive trees provide street-side amenity along the Park's northern lanes and access routes. The Park's lawn terraces are punctuated by informal tree plantings and mass planted garden beds. Olive trees and a spine of Oak trees inhabit the Western (International) Terraces along with a mixture of exotic and native ground covers in garden beds. The Eastern (NZ) Terraces are dominated by Kowhai and Northern Rata tree plantings augmented by mass plantings of NZ native ground covers. The compacted lime terrace adjacent to the crèche accommodates a small collection of fruit trees reminiscent of the crèche's productive garden history. Mass planting within the crèche curtilage comprises herbs and medicinal planting evocative of crèche's historical cottage garden.



Interpretation and Signage

Aspects of the site's historical evolution are interpreted through metal tracings within the Park's asphalt and concrete paved surfaces. In conjunction with the overall terracing structure of the Park, the site's natural and cultural heritage is expressed within the Tangata Whenua Gardens – Rongoa planting (medicinal plants), The Kakahu (Cloak) sculpture; large boulders representing the North Island's three major mountains; and a text-based sculptural piece mounted on walls either side of the Massey Entry.

In carefully considered locations, new signage elements provide way-finding and interpretive information to support the Park's narratives expressed through paving, sculpture and plantings. The proposed palette of signage blades, incorporating white text on black, reflects the contemplative and civic functions of the Park. The signage blades provide clear and legible information for visitors in a format that is highly visible but does not compete visually with the Park's landscape features and future memorial installations.