

# EXPLORE WELLINGTON

Discover the Heritage and Public Art in the City



FROM COURTENAY PLACE TO CUBA STREET including Oriental Parade

Absolutely **POSITIVELY** WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington

www.feelinggreat.co.nz



**1 EMBASSY THEATRE**  
Majoribanks St and Kent Tce

Designed by Llewellyn E. Williams and built in 1924. Known as the Deluxe Theatre until 1945. Noted for its stunning restored interior, the entrance and booking areas being completed in 2001 for the Australasian Premiere of Wellingtonian Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy.



**2 KENT & CAMBRIDGE TCES**  
(see over)



**3 POST OFFICE**  
Cambridge Tce

A fine former Post Office building built in 1930, designed by John T. Mair the Government Architect. The upper storey sections were added in 2003, when the building was converted to a backpackers.



**4 WESTPAC BLDG**  
10-14 Courtenay Pl

An Art Deco building designed by Prouse and Wilson and built as a shop and office in 1936. The building's first tenants were probably Turnbull and Jones whose name appears on the façade.



**5 HANNAH PLAYHOUSE**  
Cnr of Courtenay Pl & Cambridge Tce

The home of Wellington's first professional theatre company, Downstage, was built in 1974. The first performance by the company was in a café on the site in 1964.



**6 TAJ MAHAL**

Locally known as the Taj Mahal, originally a public toilet designed and built in 1928 by Wellington City Council's engineers department. Transformed in 1980 into a restaurant.



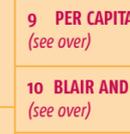
**7 CENTRAL FIRE STATION**  
2-38 Oriental Parade

A Modern building completed in 1937 to a design by C.H. Mitchell of Mitchell and Mitchell with its tower housing the clock, a gift to the city from the Blundell family. The Fire Station was built to house nine appliances and had accommodation for 21 married and 33 single men. The Wellington destructor stood in this area in the early part of the 20th century. It was built to destroy ship's dunnage, material such as matting and brushwood used to prevent the wetting of cargoes and often the repository of rodents and diseases.



**8 POST & TELEGRAPH BUILDING**  
Herd St

Completed in 1939 and designed by Edmund Anscombe. Its outstanding feature is the Moderne styling on the southwestern corner. Anscombe was born in Sussex and came to New Zealand as a child. He studied in America, worked in Dunedin, Hawkes Bay and Wellington and designed many Art Deco buildings. The Building, now known as Chaffer's Dock, contains 64 apartments on the upper level and a range of cafes, galleries and restaurants on the ground floor.



**9 PER CAPITA**  
(see over)

**10 BLAIR AND ALLEN STREETS**  
(see over)



**11 COURTENAY PLACE**  
(see over)



**12 ADELPHI FINANCE HOUSE**  
15 Courtenay Pl

The Chicago style Courtenay Chambers was built in 1928 and also designed by Llewellyn E. Williams. The building next door at 11-13 has an unusual brick façade. Most Wellington masonry

structures were finished with cement plaster.



**13 PARAMOUNT THEATRE**  
29 Courtenay Pl

A neo-classical building constructed in 1917 as Wellington's first purpose built cinema. It originally seated 1200 patrons and was the first in New Zealand to show 'talkies'. This is the last remaining Wellington theatre designed by James Bennie. He was known for his theatres and houses. Between the Paramount Theatre and 55 Courtenay Place there is a row of six interesting buildings of different periods.



**14 55 COURTENAY PL**  
Cnr Tory St

An elegant neo-classical bank building erected in 1922 designed by Swan, Lawrence, Swan and Hamilton. Note the elegant entranceway to the building next door.



**15 NATIONAL BANK**  
60-64 Courtenay Pl

Built in 1898 and designed by Thomas Turnbull & Sons with the classical detailing typical of Turnbull senior's work. Note the Italianate arched windows. Thomas Turnbull was born in Scotland in 1825 and

trained there as an architect. He settled in Wellington around 1870 and was joined in 1891 by his son William. Their practice was one of the most successful in Wellington.



**16 ST JAMES THEATRE**  
77-81 Courtenay Pl

One of two remaining Edwardian theatres. Originally the site of a United Methodist Free Church built in 1879 and subsequently owned by theatre promoter J. Fuller & Sons who converted it for vaudeville shows. In 1911 they demolished the building, by then known as His Majesty's and built the present theatre which was designed by the famous Australasian theatre designer Henry E. White. It was used for live shows and as a cinema and in 1942 the name was changed to the St James. The building operated as a cinema until 1987. Following a public campaign the theatre was acquired by Wellington City Council in 1993 and saved from demolition. It has a wonderful opulent interior.



**17 120-126 COURTENAY PLACE**

Built in 1904. Penty and Blake, architects of Victoria University's Hunter Building were the designers. The firm was formed by

Francis Penty and Edward Blake when they shared the £100 prize for their design of the Hunter Building.



**18 MEN'S TOILET**  
Cnr of Courtenay Pl and Taranaki St

Now closed but the last remaining example of an underground public toilet in Wellington. Used as the Theatre of Convenience during Fringe Festivals. The Kairu Marble sculpture (1999), Te Moana - The Sea, located nearby is by Logan Shipgood.



**19 WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH**  
75 Taranaki St

One of several 19th century timber churches designed by Thomas Turnbull. It has a striking interior. Other Turnbull churches within walking distance are St. John's and St Peter's both in Willis Street.



**20 VAN STAVEREN BLDG**  
36 Taranaki St

An attractive Art Deco building designed by Swan and Lavelle and built in 1937 for Van Staveren Bros Ltd merchants and importers of sporting

goods, tobacco, clocks and watches. Barend Van Staveren founded the firm with two brothers, Isaac and Herman. The firm closed in the 1980s. Opposite is a former 1920s Police Station.



**21 HOPE GIBBONS BLDG**  
7-11 Dixon St

A classically detailed building built in 1927 and designed by Joseph McClatchie Dawson for Hopeful Gibbons, a Wellington merchant who made his fortune selling garden implements and seed. Dawson entered into partnership in 1929 with Jack King and King and Dawson designed several Wellington landmark buildings.



**22 TE ARO PARK AND MURALS**  
(see over)



**23 OPERA HOUSE**  
109 Manners St

Wellington's other remaining Edwardian theatre with a fine decorative interior. The building was designed by Melbourne architect William Pitt and completed in 1912. It was previously known as the Grand Opera House. Saved from demolition in 1977.



**24 JAMES SMITH BLDG**  
Cnr of Manners and Cuba Sts

Known as James Smith's Corner and built in 1907 for James Smith, an early settler who had built up a prosperous drapery business. This former department store remained in the Smith family until 1993. The Art Deco façade was designed in 1932 by King and Dawson. Inside murals are by Ruffo and Steve Templer.



**25 KENNEDY BLDG**  
33-39 Cuba St

Designed by James O'Dea and built in 1905 for Agnes and Anastasia daughters of successful merchant Martin Kennedy. Their initials are shown at either end of the façade. O'Dea designed a number of buildings in Cuba Street.



**26 COLUMBIA HOTEL**  
36-38 Cuba St

The Columbia Hotel, designed by J. M. Dawson was built in 1908. Now converted into inner-city apartments.



**27 BANK OF NEW ZEALAND BLDG**  
Cnr of Manners and Cuba Sts

A Classical styled building built in 1913 to a design by Thomas Turnbull & Sons and an early example of a masonry building with a structural steel frame.

**28 CUBA STREET**  
(see over)



**29 84-90 CUBA ST**  
Cnr of Dixon St

Designed by Thomas Turnbull and built in 1886, and originally known as Te Aro House. This is one of the oldest masonry buildings in Wellington and probably the oldest retail premises in Cuba Street. Now visually unremarkable, its tower was a well known landmark until removed in 1928 along with other details when the building was remodelled. It had been the location of a drapery business established in the 1840s and operated by James Smith.



**30 FARMERS BLDG**  
92-102 Cuba St

Next door is the Farmers building which was erected in 1914 and

designed by Joshua Charlesworth for C. Smith Ltd, a business established by Christopher Smith shortly after his arrival from Melbourne in 1875. His company occupied the building for 45 years.



**31 WORKING MEN'S CLUB**  
101-117 Cuba St

This is actually two buildings designed by Thomas Turnbull and Son and built for Robert Hannah, the prominent shoe manufacturer and retailer who set up business here in 1874. The building on the left was built in 1904 with shops and offices on the ground floor and a factory above. The other building was completed in 1908 and comprised shops with a hotel above. The Wellington Working Men's Club purchased the building in the 1960s.



**32 MCKENZIE BLDG**  
116 Cuba St

Completed in 1917 for the retail chain McKenzies, a business established in Dunedin in 1910 by Sir John McKenzie, a notable businessman and public benefactor. When the business was sold in 1980 there were over 70 stores nationwide. The building was the first in Wellington built by Fletcher Construction.



**33 BARBER'S BLDGS**  
123-125 Cuba St

Built for Barber and Co in 1910 and designed by William Crichton. William Barber had operated a dye works on this site from the 19th century. Barber played an important part in local affairs, serving as a City Councillor and as a Member of Parliament.



**34 HOTEL BRISTOL**  
127-133 Cuba St

Originally an extension of the original Hotel Bristol which stood on the corner of Cuba and Ghuznee Streets with its main entrance on the latter. That building was later demolished. The present building was completed in 1907 and designed by Watney Sibun. Originally there were shops on the ground floor with the hotel above. The hotel's former stables, now a studio, are located at the rear via an alleyway at the side of the building.



**35 FORMER GEAR MEAT STORE**  
Cnr Cuba and Ghuznee Sts

This building was erected around 1896

for the Gear Meat Co as a retail butchery. The date of 1840 on the façade refers to the date that the business started in Petone. At the rear of the building along Ghuznee Street are the only other stables remaining in the area.



**36 ALBERMARLE HOTEL**  
59 Ghuznee St

Designed by James Bennie and built in 1906. The small top storey tower was once surmounted by a cupola and crown. For many years a famous brothel.



**37 HALLENSTEIN BROTHERS BLDG**  
Cnr Cuba and Ghuznee Sts

Bendix Hallenstein opened the first Hallenstein Bros. retail clothing shop in Dunedin in 1873 and by 1900 there were 36 branches throughout the country. This branch was opened in 1920 and remained on the site until 1973. Note the company's emblem on the fanlight windows.



**38 145-149 CUBA ST**

William Berry, whose name appears on the frontage, had this building designed

by William Crichton in 1900 to house his photographic studio and workshop. There was a hat maker on the ground floor. Crichton sold the building in the Depression but it continued to be occupied by photographers for many years. In recent years it has housed dealer galleries. The building once had a parapet, since removed.



**39 134 CUBA ST**

A brick building built in 1908 and designed by James Bennie. Note the Venetian style detailing, especially on the first floor.



**40 THE VIC**  
154-156 Cuba St

Although interrupted by balconies. This building features a distinctive façade with prominent Art Deco decoration, particularly the sunburst motif. The building was erected in 1935 and designed by James Bennie as a private hotel.



**41 MCGUIRE BLDG**  
168-174 Cuba St

This Italianate Renaissance style building, designed by Thomas Turnbull

and Son, was completed in 1901 and comprised four small shops with living accommodation above. There have been numerous retail businesses in the premises over the years.



**42 L.T. WATKINS BLDG**  
176-180 Cuba St

The largest Edwardian commercial building in upper Cuba Street was designed as a department store by R. R. MacGregor in 1904 for William Veitch and James Allan. Printers L. T. Watkins Ltd. occupied the building for many years from the 1930s. Leonard Watkins was a prominent local body politician, businessman and sports administrator.



**43 REID HOUSE**  
Cnr Cuba and Vivian Sts

Atkins and Mitchell designed this Art Deco building in 1930 for draper D.S.Patrick. who had a long standing business on this corner. It has two bays in Spanish Mission style on Cuba Street in contrast to the busy Art Deco decorations on the other four sides.



**44 NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND BLDG**  
Cnr of Cuba and Vivian Sts

Converted into a restaurant in 1996, this building was erected in 1917 and was designed by Claude Plimmer Jones. The octagonal former banking chamber includes an elegant dome above.



**45 201 CUBA ST**

This elegant little building was completed in 1901 to a design by McKay and MacGregor for the dentists William Downes and his brother George. They left in the 1930s and after a period when it was used as apartments it was converted into a restaurant in 1960.



**46 PEOPLE'S PALACE**  
203 Cuba St

Built for Dr Patrick Mackin in 1904 and designed by James O'Dea. Between 1916 and 1928 the Salvation Army rented the building as its National Headquarters. In 1928 it bought the property and converted it into an extension of the People's Palace next door.



**47 FORMER PEOPLE'S PALACE/RAILTON HOTEL**  
213 Cuba St

Built for the Salvation Army in 1908 on land donated by a member, the original People's Palace replaced a Salvation Army rescue home on the site built in 1894. It was intended to provide reasonably priced accommodation in an alcohol-free environment. It later became known as The Railton. It is now Trekkers Hotel.



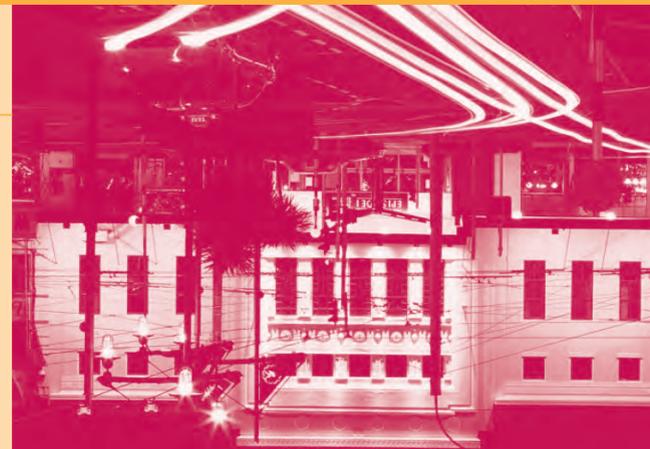
**48 G.H.B. WILKINSON BLDG**  
241-243 Cuba St

A building designed by William Chatfield and completed in 1909 with an attractive façade which, unusually, retains its balustraded parapet.



**49 255 CUBA ST**

These flats were designed by King and Dawson and built for the Downes family in 1932 in a mixture of Art Deco and Classical styles.



Walk through the heart of the harbourside city and discover the early history, the public art and the heritage buildings. Walk 2 takes you from the Embassy Theatre with its magnificently restored interior, through the Courtenay Place entertainment area to bustling Cuba Street named after an early settlers ship.



### CUBA STREET

Named for the second of the New Zealand Company ships which brought over a survey party from England in 1839. The street was originally laid out in 1841 between what were then waterfront

sections in Manners Street and Vivian Street, then known as Ingestre Street. It later continued to Jervois Quay on land reclaimed in the 1880s. The street was rebuilt after a fire in 1879.

Part of the street was converted into a traffic free mall in 1969, the first in New Zealand. The street remains an exciting, diverse retail area and several dealer art galleries are found on the floors above the shops.

The biannual Cuba Street Carnival, a two-day event of music and street entertainment takes place in February.



### BUCKET FOUNTAIN

Designed by architect Graham Allardice as part of Wellington City Council's development of the first pedestrian mall in New Zealand. Much reviled when first installed, it was expected to have a limited life but drew a storm of protest when the Council suggested that it be removed some years later. Originally green with white buckets it was repainted in the present colours shortly after installation because of public dissatisfaction.



### NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL and tomb of the unknown warrior

Rising above Mt Cook is the magnificent art-deco Carillon tower of the National War Memorial, whose bells of remembrance ring out across the city each day. Situated in Buckle Street and designed by the architects Gummer & Ford, the memorial opened on Anzac Day 1932, and commemorates all New Zealanders who died while serving their country in war.

View the nation's Roll of Honour within the beautiful Hall of Memories, a place for quiet reflection. Pay homage at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, New Zealand's symbol of remembrance for all those who never made the journey home.

For more details call 04 385 2496 or [www.nationalwarmemorial.govt.nz](http://www.nationalwarmemorial.govt.nz)

[www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz)

### MURALS ON THE WAY



#### A. TE ARO PARK TOILETS

The murals were painted by Marz Cummings who died in a road accident before they were finished. They were completed by Chris Finlayson. The designs echo murals formerly on the site by William Kerr.



#### B. OPERA HOUSE LANE

Bodhi Vincent was commissioned by the St James Theatre Trust in 2001 to paint this mural. He produced drawings evoking the many faces of opera and performance. The rough and compartmentalised wall surfaces provided a variegated framework on which to weave the imagery, bold bright fragments of a world of performance for pedestrians to stroll past in the walk by nature of the Alley.



#### C. JAMES SMITH CARPARK & D. LOMBARD CARPARK

There are numerous murals in these buildings. The murals at the Wakefield Street entrance and on the ramp to level 1 of the James Smith carpark are by French artist Yvan Mauger who, with colleague Bertrand Thomas, reputedly painted the world's longest mural at 1,136 meters at Le Mans, taking 2000 hours and using 1.5 tonnes of paint. At the rear of this building in Lukes Lane is a mural by Alison Jones inspired by the work of New York artist Keith Haring. A memorial mural to Marz Cummings is located at the entrance to the Lombard carpark.



#### D. TROMP L'OEIL (FRENCH FOR TRICK THE EYE)

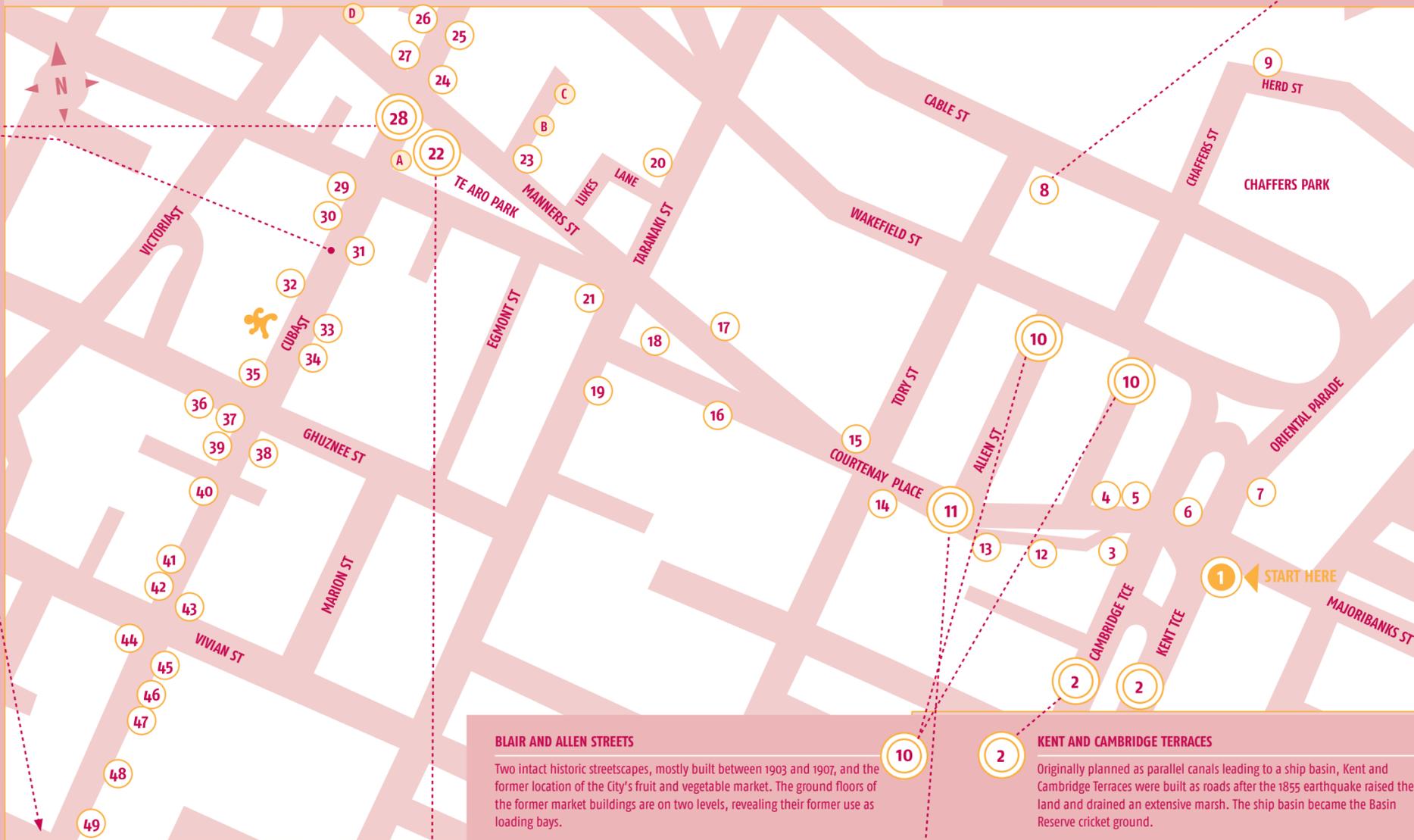
Commissioned by Caz Interiors, artist Mike Ting painted this mural in 1990. It was based on the red light district in the area and the lady is modelled after an actual prostitute called Lyn. It was retouched in 2004 by artist Marty Simpson.



### PER CAPITA

*cnr Tory and Cable Streets*

Wellington artist Cathryn Munro was commissioned to install this very large steel sculpture outside the Museum Hotel. The work consists of four gigantic portraits, up to four metres high, constructed from cor-ten steel. Two pieces are shaped as portraits in profile, and two have profiles cut out from a square - i.e. two are in positive form and two in negative space - evoking, in the artist's words, "a visual conversation about the complexity of New Zealand's cultural identity."



### BLAIR AND ALLEN STREETS

Two intact historic streetscapes, mostly built between 1903 and 1907, and the former location of the City's fruit and vegetable market. The ground floors of the former market buildings are on two levels, revealing their former use as loading bays.

### COURTENAY PLACE

Development started in this area after the 1855 earthquake raised and drained the land. The area is rich in Maori history. The marshland and a nearby Waimapihi stream had been a source of shellfish and eels, and of flax which was traded with the European settlers who made it into ropes and used it for roofing. The loss of food source, illness and the 1860 migration back to their ancestral Taranaki to settle land disputes saw the Maori population dwindle. Early developments were a gas works, a timber mill and a hotel. Reclamation did not start in this area until the 1880s. Fill came from a quarry in Oriental Bay by a railway built for that purpose in 1882. For much of their length the rails ran on trestles across the harbour. In recent years the area has become the city's entertainment centre.

### KENT AND CAMBRIDGE TERRACES

Originally planned as parallel canals leading to a ship basin, Kent and Cambridge Terraces were built as roads after the 1855 earthquake raised the land and drained an extensive marsh. The ship basin became the Basin Reserve cricket ground.



### QUEEN VICTORIA STATUE

At the North end of Kent and Cambridge Terraces stands Alfred Drury's statue of Queen Victoria which is the first statue to be owned by Wellington City Council. It was unveiled in 1905 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and originally stood in Post Office Square near the entrance to Queens Wharf, moving to its present location six years later as it had become a traffic hazard. Nearby is an Edwardian cab drivers stand.

### AROUND THE CORNER: ORIENTAL BAY

Oriental Bay was named after an early immigrant ship. In the 1840s a quarantine station was located here and in the 1880s dead whales were rendered down on the foreshore. The bay was also the source of material for harbour reclamation, the rock carried in railway wagons. In the early 20th century a seawall was built and Norfolk pines and Pohutukawa trees were planted. The original beach was made from sand carried from England as ballast in cargo ships. In 2003 the present artificial beach was constructed with sand brought from the South Island.



#### a. CHAFFERS MARINA

Wellington's first Harbourmaster Edward Main Chaffers sailed the barque Tory from Lands End to Wellington in 1839 on the New Zealand Company's expeditionary voyage. As Harbourmaster he prepared the first comprehensive charts of Port Nicholson, Cook Strait and Tory Channel. During his surveys many features were named, including Lambton Harbour, Somes Island and Baring Head. In 1910 the original Clyde Quay wharf was built. This was upgraded and extended in 1963 when the nearby Overseas Passenger Terminal was built. In 1993 the 185 berth deep water Chaffers Marina was opened by Round the World sailors Peter Blake and Robin Knox-Johnston. This was the first marina in Australasia to use a fully floating system of piers and fingers.



#### b. CLYDE QUAY BOAT HARBOUR

The boatsheds were built in 1905-6 and during World War II were used by the United States Navy as a boat repair depot. This was the location of Te Aro Swimming Baths, established in 1862 and formed by enclosing part of the harbour. Ladies swam from 9am to 2pm, when a red flag was flown, and men at other times, when a blue flag was flown. The Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club, dating from 1883, moved here in 1919.



#### c. FREYBERG POOL

139 Oriental Parade  
Designed by Jason Smith of Wellington architects King & Dawson Limited and built in 1963 it was named after Lord Freyberg the New Zealand Army Commander during World War II and a former Governor-General.



#### d. TAIL OF WHAT

Oriental Parade  
This bronze sculpture was generously gifted to Wellington by artist, Colin Webster-Watson, 2005.



#### e. CHARLESWORTH HOUSES

188-200 Oriental Parade  
Around the point is a row of houses, built in 1906 to designs by Joshua Charlesworth, the architect of Wellington Town Hall. There were originally nine houses in the row but two have been demolished, including 202 where Charlesworth lived. All, except 194, have been modified externally.

*You may like to continue your walk around the bay to the Rotunda built in 1936, as a beach changing pavillion.*

