

WALK 1 EXPLORE WELLINGTON

Discover the Heritage and Public Art in the City



WATERFRONT FROM POST OFFICE SQUARE TO TE PAPA

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Absolutely **POSITIVELY** WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington



1 POST OFFICE SQUARE
Once the location of the imposing Chief Post Office building designed by Thomas Turnbull, originally erected in 1884, burnt down in 1887 and rebuilt. The building was next to the waterfront before reclamation took place in the area. It was demolished in 1974. Photographs of the Post Office and others relating to the vicinity are displayed at Clarrie's a private museum and shop in the Square which was once a tram drivers resthouse. Note the British telephone box and post-box nearby. The Huddart Parker Building on the south side remains as a striking example of an earlier streetscape. Built in 1925 it was the largest reinforced concrete building in New Zealand. The architects were Crichton, McKay and Haughton.



2 TOWER BUILDING
50-64 Customhouse Quay
Across from the Square Tower Corporation began as the Government Life Insurance Department in 1869. The Department built its first building on this site in 1893. After the 1931 Napier earthquake it was thought unsafe and was demolished. The present building, designed by John Mair, the Government Architect, was completed in 1936.



3 SHED 11 & SHED 13
Customhouse Quay
Built in 1904-5 and designed by William Ferguson, the Wellington Harbour Board's first Chief Engineer, their forms owe much to Dutch Colonial architecture, displayed in the segmented Queen Anne arches. Note the Wellington Harbour Board crests under the eaves of both sheds. The original Marseilles tile roofs were replaced in 1938. The interior of Shed 13 still contains much of the original lifting and switching gear. Ferguson was born in London in 1852, educated at Trent Grammar School and Trinity College, Dublin. He arrived in New Zealand in 1883. He died in 1935.



4 SHED 21
Waterloo Quay
It replaced an old timber shed which had burnt down. Now converted into apartments. The apse-like extension on the northern end of the building housed an accumulator, part of the hydraulic lifting mechanism. Accumulated water pressure was used to drive lifts to move shipping goods between floors. James Marchbanks was born in Dunedin in 1862 and became a surveyor and engineer



5 OLD FERRY BUILDING
Waterfront
This plain weatherboard building dates from the early 1910s and the Eastbourne Borough Council located across the harbour ran a ferry service from here from 1913 until 1948. The service itself began in 1889.



6 STEAMSHIP WHARF BUILDING
The Steamship Wharf Building was erected in the late 1800s by the Union Steamship Company as one of a number of marine warehouses and laundries adjacent the the Greta Point slipway in Evans Bay. The building was converted into a restaurant/tavern in the early 1980s but faced demolition to make way for further residential developments at Greta Point. It was moved in 2002 to its present position and now houses various restaurants and function facilities.



7 SHED 5
Queens Wharf
Built in 1887 to a design by William Ferguson, this is the oldest building left on the waterfront and one of the last timber warehouses. Now a restaurant and a bar.



8 DOCKSIDE RESTAURANT, SHED 3
Queens Wharf
Built in 1887 as a single storey building, it is one of the last two remaining timber warehouses on Queens Wharf. The top storey was added early in the 20th Century. Now a restaurant and bar.



9 HARBOUR BOARD WHARF OFFICES
Queens Wharf
Also known as Shed 7 and built in 1894 as a woolstore and wharf office. Designed by Frederick de Jersey Clere in a late English Classical style, it features considerable external ornamentation although much more was removed following earthquakes in 1936 and 1942. The outstanding feature of this building is the oriel window at the south-eastern corner. The building now houses private apartments, offices and the galleries of the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.



10 MEMORIAL TO PADDY THE WANDERER
Queens Wharf
On Shed 7's southern façade, next to the gates, is a memorial plaque and drinking fountain to a dog named Paddy the Wanderer. Paddy took to wandering the wharves after his young owner died in 1928. Until his death in 1939 he became a waterfront identity cared for by watersiders, seamen and taxi drivers. He took trips to Nelson, Picton and Australia and flew in a Gypsy Moth. A cortege of taxis took his body to be cremated and a death notice appeared in the Evening Post.



12 MUSEUM OF WELLINGTON CITY & SEA
Queens Wharf
Completed in 1892 to a French Renaissance design by Frederick de Jersey Clere as the Wellington Harbour Board Head Office and Bond Store. This building is the architectural highlight of the central wharf area. It replaced a wooden building from the 1860s. Note the mansard roof with its pedimented dormer windows, the iron railings around the flagpoles in imitation of sailing ship's lookout posts and inside the staircase and boardroom. Now a



13 PLIMMER'S ARK GALLERY, SHED 6
Queens Wharf
Housing a display about the most famous private wharf in early Wellington which was located nearby on the site of what is now the Old Bank Arcade. In 1849 the Nova Scotia built three masted barque Inconstant was grounded at the entrance to Wellington Harbour. Damaged beyond repair, it was sold to entrepreneur John Plimmer who towed it to what was then known as Clay Point. He converted the hull into a warehouse and auction room. It became known as Noah's Ark or Plimmer's Ark. In 1861 the Ark and Plimmer built a wharf known as Plimmer and Reeve's Wharf. The Ark was demolished in 1883 to make way for a building which is now part of the Old Bank Arcade. The remains were uncovered briefly in 1899 and again when the buildings were renovated in 1997-99. Part of the Ark remains where it was found and is on display there.



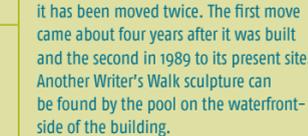
14 DISTANCE MARKERS
Measure how far you've gone with the distance markers in the pavement every 500m from Queens



18 WELLINGTON ROWING CLUB BUILDING
Waterfront
Another Frederick de Jersey Clere design erected in 1894 as a base for the Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers formed in 1879 after a 'Russian Scare'. The building housed two naval cutters for harbour defence. The tower was built to provide a lookout for the volunteers. The Wellington Rowing Club took over the building in 1931. The half-timbering once covered the building more extensively.



16 ROCKGARDEN
Waterfront
The garden features a display of New Zealand native plants in a setting of harbour relics. A Writer's Walk sculpture sits in the garden (see over). The nearby bridge designed by John Hardwick-Smith of Athfield Architects features a wind wall.



17 STAR BOATING CLUB BUILDING
Waterfront
Built in 1885 to a design by William Caulfield. The club was founded in 1866 and is still in existence. Originally sited further north along the waterfront it has been moved twice. The first move came about four years after it was built and the second in 1989 to its present site. Another Writer's Walk sculpture can be found by the pool on the waterfront-side of the building.



19 KUPE OF RAITEA
Waterfront
Sculptured in plaster by William Trethewey for the Centennial Exhibition of 1940 and the sole survivor of several Trethewey statues, Kupe was housed for many years in Wellington Railway Station and was later stored, badly damaged in the Winter Show Buildings in Newtown. Former City Councillor Rex Nicholls led a fundraising campaign to have the statue cast in bronze and it was installed in the present location in 2000. The statue depicts the great Maori explorer Kupe, the legendary 10th Century discoverer of Aotearoa (the Land of the Long White Cloud), and members of his

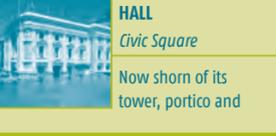
party, his wife Hine Te Aparangi and magician Peka-Hourangi in their canoe Matahoua. Kupe was accompanied by a second canoe, Tawirirangi. It is likely that some of the explorers remained behind after Kupe left. Maori settlement on a larger scale began in about the 12th century.



20 HIKITEA
Waterfront
This floating crane was built in Glasgow in 1926 by Sir William Arrol and Co Ltd and sailed to New Zealand. Behind the crane is the link span bridge, from where another Writer's Walk sculpture is visible.



22 CAPITAL E
Civic Square
A centre providing events, activities, exhibitions and theatre for children.



23 WELLINGTON TOWN HALL
Civic Square
Now shorn of its tower, portico and

other external decoration it remains an imposing building. Architect Joshua Charlesworth won a national competition for its design and it was built in 1904. In 1983 a public campaign saved the building from demolition and it was refurbished in 1992. A feature is the Grand Organ constructed by Norman and Beard of London and Norwich and assembled and installed by J. Justin in 1905-6. Robyn Kahukiwa's 1988 painting He Tatai Whetu is located within the main reception area of the nearby Municipal Office Building. The main entrance to the Town Hall is situated on the pathway that runs from Civic Square to Wakefield Street between the Michael Fowler Centre and the Town Hall.



24 CITY GALLERY WELLINGTON
Civic Square
Formerly Wellington Central Library. Designed by Auckland architects Gummer & Ford and the New Plymouth firm of Messenger Taylor & Wolfe, was erected in 1939. After a public competition this stripped Classical building became the City Gallery after the new Wellington Public Library was built nearby in 1990-1. The City Gallery exhibits frequently hanging exhibitions but does not hold a collection.



25 WELLINGTON CENTRAL LIBRARY
Victoria Street
Designed by Athfield Architects and opened in 1991. The Nikau Palms outside were also designed by Athfield Architects and built in conjunction with Wellington marine engineer Johnny Mines. Inside the Library are a number of artworks, including clocks designed by Duncan Sargent. The Information Desk in the form of an abstract of a waka/canoe by Alan Brown, children's curtains by local children and hanging paintings by Fergus Collinson. The Returns Desk in the form of The Language of Deconstructed Reality by John Scott draws attention to the hidden structure of the building. Located on the second floor is the symbolic gateway to the New Zealand section Bird Gate-Waharoa (large mouth/wide opening) by Para Matchitt. This is based on the gateway to Te Kooti's Pa.



26 58-60 VICTORIA ST
A surviving example of the early 20th century buildings that once lined this street. This area was once under the sea. During excavations for the foundations of more recent neighbouring buildings

a reclamation wall dating from about 1860 was uncovered.



27 DOMINION BUILDING
27-35 Mercer Street
Constructed in 1926 for The Dominion newspaper which was founded 26 September 1906, the day that New Zealand was declared a Dominion. Designed by Crichton, McKay and Haughton. Note the platform for public speeches above the entrance. The building is now apartments and offices. The Dominion and the Evening Post, Wellington's first newspaper established in 1865, were incorporated in 2002 into The Dominion Post, which operates from Press House nearby at 82 Willis Street.



28 NEW ZEALAND RACING CONFERENCE BUILDING
Wakefield and Victoria St
Designed by Ron Muston of Struction group and built in 1959 for the Racing Conference, hence the horseshoe motifs on the balconies. The site is on the old shoreline and during construction the remains of an old jetty were found. Reclamation began in this area in 1852.



29 MICHAEL FOWLER CENTRE
Wakefield St
Designed by architects Warren & Mahoney. It was built on the site of the Edwardian central fire station and was completed in 1983. Wellington's premier auditorium is also the location of several artworks. Two totara poles carved in 1979-83 by Petone Technical Institute students Te Pou O Taui and Te Pou O Witako stand inside. The trees were felled in the Minginui State Forest and were dried for a year before carving commenced. Taui and Witako were prominent chiefs in the 1840s. Each pole is in six sections representing the generations since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. The figures at the top of each pillar represent a Maori and a European standing back to back with their arms entwined. There are also a number of banners and hangings designed by Gordon Crook, a 1998 ceramic piece by Kazuyo Hiruma from Sakai and US artist Robert Shay's Core Sample made from molten glass and earthenware.



30 FREE AMBULANCE BUILDING
Waterfront
Designed by William Turnbull and built in 1932 the style is a transition between Art Deco and Moderne. The Wellington Free Ambulance, now relocated to Thorndon and the only free ambulance service in New Zealand. It was founded on funds raised by Sir Charles Norwood, businessman, philanthropist and Mayor of Wellington 1925-27. The building currently has apartment buildings on the top level and a restaurant and bar on the ground floor.



31 ODLINS BUILDING
Waterfront
Built in 1907 on reclaimed land for the C & A Odlin Timber and Hardware Co., it was once right next to the water. Among the interior's impressive features are two huge timber trusses spanning the width of the attic floor. The reclaimed land in this area allowed the railway to be extended and in 1893 Te Aro Station was opened nearby. It closed in 1917 after the introduction of electric trams. For many years the railway ran through Courtenay Place and on to Oriental Bay for wagons



32 WGTN BREWING COMPANY, SHED 22
Waterfront
Erected in 1921 its special feature is the Romanesque arches above the windows, derived from the Marshall Field Wholesale Store in Chicago built in 1886. The building was converted into a brewery and restaurant in 2002.



33 TARANAKI ST GATES
Waterfront
Erected in 1907 these cast iron columns and gates are among the many remnants of the fine gates and railings that once enclosed the wharves.



34 CIRCA THEATRE
Waterfront
Built in 1994, the entrance elevation is the former façade of the Westport Coal Company building built in 1916 and moved from its original position on the opposite side of Cable Street.



35 TE PAPA
Waterfront
The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa was designed by Jasmx Group of Auckland and built in 1997 at a cost of \$280 million, the biggest single building project in Wellington's history. The museum tells the stories of the land, the people, the culture and the history of the nation. Further Writer's Walk sculptures are situated along the northern side of Te Papa and a 'wharf cut-out' nearby shows the underside of the wharf.



Walk through the heart of the harbour side city and discover the early history, the public art and the heritage buildings. Walk 1 takes you along the waterfront from Post Office Square, through Civic Square with its numerous public artworks to Te Papa, The Museum of New Zealand.

21 CIVIC SQUARE

Combining terracotta tiles, trees, water features and grassy areas this popular public space is a venue for street theatre and music, and is enhanced by award winning architecture and works of art. The distinctive nikau palm sculptures around the perimeter of the square lend a strong New Zealand identity to the area. They were designed by architect Ian Athfield to be both inviting and engender public pride. Terracotta paving has been laid in the form of Maui's line (Te Aho a Maui). The mountain anchors Maui's line, which the legendary figure used to fish up the North Island. Sails shelter the entrance to Capital E and fan out to provide a link with the harbour beyond.



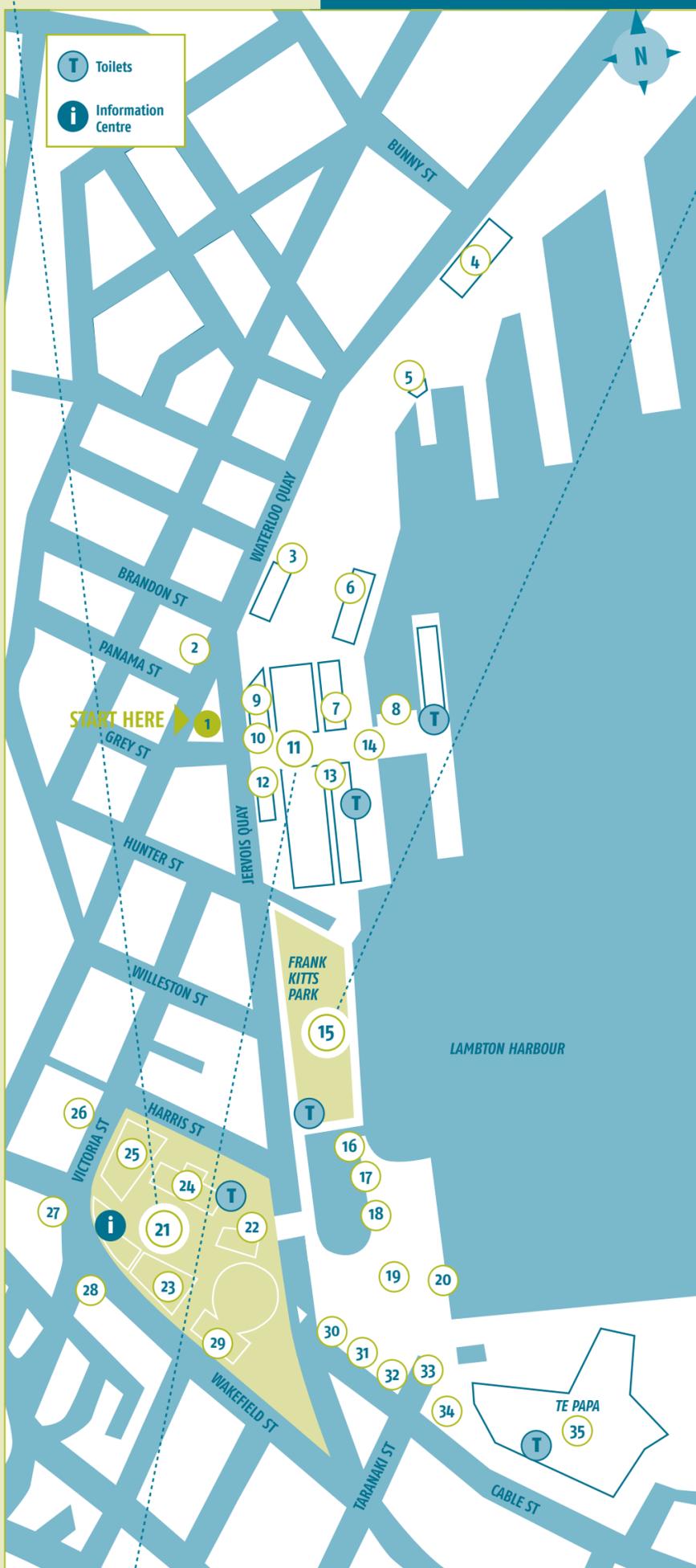
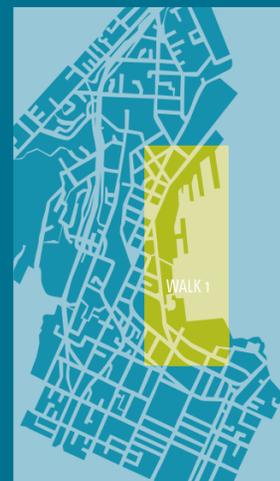
- A** Adjacent to Capital E are the *Mountain and Waterfall* sculptures. The mountain symbol is traditionally used by Maori to introduce themselves. Architect Rewi Thomas says: "Which mountain we come from, says who we are".
- B** *Prow and Capital*; Matt Pine, 1991. Oamaru stone, from the series *Reflections on an ancient past*.
- C** *Ferns*; Neil Dawson, 1998. Weighing 175kgs and suspended 14m above Civic Square by eight multi-strand steel cables. The globe represents five varieties of native ferns.
- D** *Fault*; Bill Culbert and Ralph Hotere, 1993. Fluorescent lights form a fractured artwork in the windows of the City Gallery.
- E** *Seven Steps to Heaven*; Mary-Louise Browne, 2000. Purchased as the first Creative NZ Creative Places award for Wellington City Council's Summer City Programme.
- F** *Silent People*; Chris Booth, 1991. Taranaki andesite boulders and steel.
- G** *Four Plinths temporary sculpture project*; Four concrete "plinths" occupy the Te Papa forecourt. In December 2007 the first sculptural project was realised: *Green Islands* by Regan Gentry. This work will be in place for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years. New artworks are to be commissioned and installed every two years. This project was realised by the Wellington Sculpture Trust, with assistance from Wellington City Council's Public Art Fund.
- H** *Axis to the Gate of Serendipity – The Four Winds*; Bruce Campbell, 1997. Oamaru stone.
- I** *Rabin Memorial*; Harris Street. Installed in 2000, an olive tree and a granite memorial to Yitzhak Rabin.
- J** *Lifework*; Rhonda Grieg, 1991. Central Police Station, Victoria Street. A sail and relief mural.
- K** *City to Sea Bridge*; Large timber sculptures by Maori artist Para Matchitt evoke ideas and stories of the sea, the land, navigation and arrival. On the north side of the bridge, two huge timber whales lie tail to tail to form an unusual safety barrier. Carved timber birds perform a similar duty on the south side. Two Writer's Walk sculptures are visible on the walk towards the bridge; one on the grassy knoll to the left the other on the concrete face before climbing up to the bridge. Another sculpture lies at the top of the steps. The bridge links the city to the sea both literally and figuratively. Constructed 1992–93.
- L** *Grand Head*; Sculpture by Terry Stringer 1987, commissioned by Renouf Properties under Wellington City Council's Art Bonus Scheme.



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The significant research, authorship and information provided by the Heritage Trails publications and by Maribeth Coleman, who has photographed and catalogued Wellington's public art over many years is gratefully acknowledged. Heritage Trails booklets covering specific aspects of Wellington's heritage are available from the City Service Centre.



15 FRANK KITTS PARK
The park was named after Wellington's longest serving Mayor (1956–74) and comprises reclaimed land and an area that was once a wharf. Opposite the Wahine Mast, nestled in the rocks, is the first of a series of large typographic sculptures that make up the Wellington Writers Walk.



MEMORIAL PLAQUES AND ARTWORKS IN THE AREA:

- a** Four masted *Barque Pamir*. One of the last square riggers built in 1905 and taken as a prize of war in Wellington in 1941, she was lost in the Atlantic in 1957.
- b** *Lt. Nabu Shirase* 1861–1946 commander of the schooner *Kainan Maru* which sailed into Wellington in February 1911 with 27 men and 29 dogs on its way to Antarctica in the wake of Scott and Amundsen.
- c** *Wahine Mast* from the inter-island ferry that foundered in a storm in 1968 with the loss of 51 lives. A film and displays about the *Wahine* can be seen in the nearby Museum of Wellington City and Sea.
- d** *NZ United Nations Plaque* commemorating New Zealand's commitment during the Korean War.
- e** *US Marine Corps Memorial* relocated here in March 2000 and dedicated to those who fought in the Pacific in World War II.
- f** *Fruits of the Garden* Paul Dibble, 2001. This cast bronze sculpture was purchased by Lambton Harbour after being on display in the 2002 New Zealand International Arts Festival.
- g** *Albatross* Tanya Ashken, 1986. Originally designed for an Auckland location, this was the first Wellington Sculpture Trust piece. The Trust raised funds for the sculpture with the assistance of a donation from Wellington City Council.
- h** *Water Whirler*, Waterfront, 2006 *Water Whirler* was commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust, in association with Wellington Waterfront. *Water Whirler* is a playful kinetic water-work that has brought to life one of Len Lye's ambitious sculptural designs. The work 'plays' in 12 minute cycles, on the hour.

11 QUEENS WHARF
This wharf was built in 1862 on reclaimed land and was originally known as Deep Water Wharf. It was taken over in 1880 by the newly inaugurated Wellington Harbour Board.

QUEENS WHARF GATES
These fine specimens of Victorian wrought ironwork were made by the British firm of Baylis, Jones and Baylis, shipped out and erected in 1899. Prior to this the wharf was guarded by stockades and two sentry posts. More gates and railings, made locally, were erected along Customhouse and Jervois Quays between 1901 and 1921. Most of these have since been removed.

WELLINGTON WRITERS WALK

The Wellington Writers Walk is a project of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Society of Authors created as a lasting celebration of Wellington's writers. The designer and typographer Catherine Griffiths has created a series of large, concrete, typographic sculptures and each is a quote by well-known New Zealand writer with strong Wellington connections. Most of the quotes are about being in Wellington, apart from Robin Hyde's which is about being a writer.

It is planned to extend the walk in the future. A separate booklet is available from the Visitor Information Centre which contains biographical details about each of the authors and the quote on the sculpture dedicated to them.

