

National War Memorial Park and Underpass



Poppy signing in the tunnel on Monday.

Poppies line the tunnel walls

The last of 273 symbolic poppies were fixed to the National War Memorial Park tunnel wall on Monday. They symbolise the 2721 New Zealand fatalities in the Anzac campaign at Gallipoli.

Prime Minister John Key, Culture and Heritage Minister Chris Finlayson and Transport Minister Gerry Brownlee signed the reverse of the final poppies.

Arras Tunnel – the French connection

Mr Finlayson announced the name of the tunnel – Arras Tunnel – to acknowledge New Zealand’s First World War connection to the French town of Arras. In November 1916 the New Zealand Tunnelling Company extended the existing tunnel systems under Arras and created new tunnels capable of housing nearly 20,000 men.

The company tunnelled towards the German lines and laid three mines under their trenches, ready to detonate at the start of the Allied assault on 9 April 1917. This, combined with the Allied attack, saw the German lines pushed back 11km.

After the Battle of Arras, the company was assigned tasks around Arras such as bridge-building. By the time the tunnellers left France in July 1918 they had sustained 41 deaths and 151 injuries.

In April 2007, a memorial in Arras to the 41 who died was unveiled and, in 2008, Le Carrière Wellington, a museum incorporating part of the company’s tunnel system, was opened.

PLEASE COME TO OUR NEIGHBOURS’ MEETING

- Wednesday 17 September
- 6.00pm – 7.00pm
- Memorial Park Alliance Information Centre, 175 Taranaki St

We welcome our neighbours and other interested people to our Neighbours’ Meeting where we will bring you up to date with park developments.

- Please RSVP to info@memorialpark.co.nz.

Tunnel Open Day

- Saturday 27 September
- 11.00am – 2.00pm
- National War Memorial Park Underpass

We welcome you to a public walk through the underpass – to be known as Arras Tunnel.

- **10.50am:** An unveiling ceremony for the name over the tunnel entrance. All are welcome to attend.

Tunnel opens to traffic

Top of Tory St closes

- Monday 29 September

Traffic using the Basin Reserve route will travel through the Arras Tunnel from 29 September. The Buckle St Diversion will no longer be used and traffic will no longer turn onto the State Highway from the top of Tory St.

Access to businesses on Tory St will be maintained.

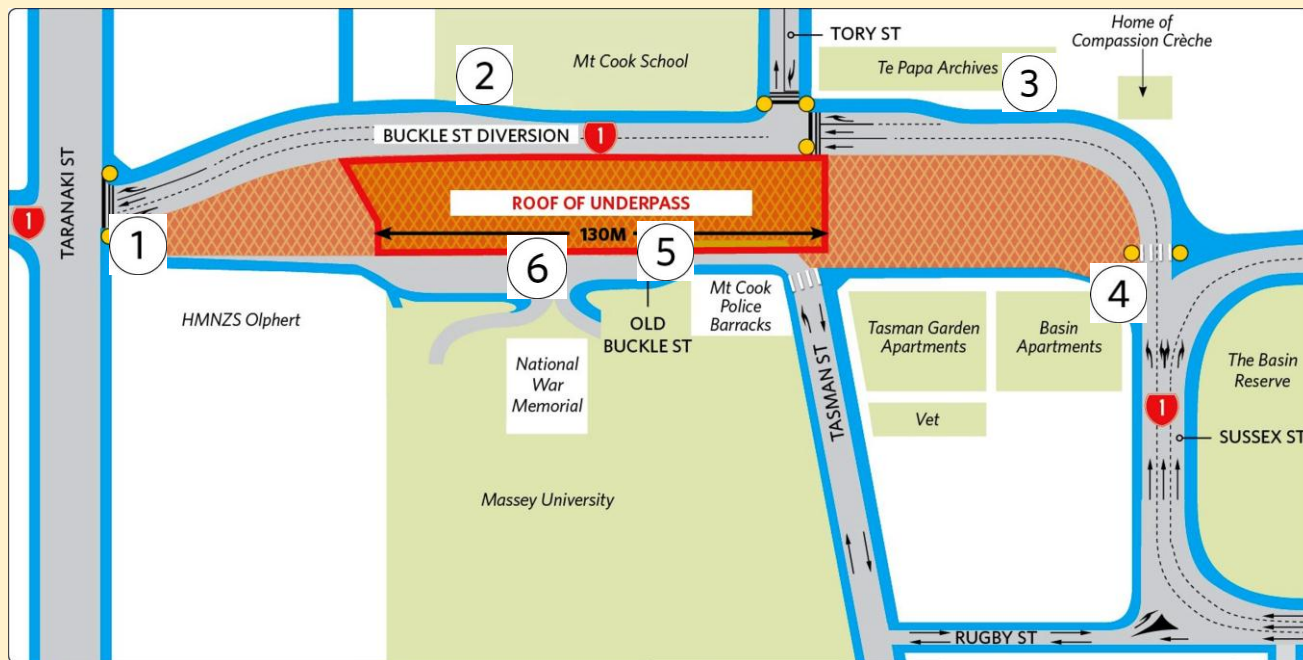
Pedestrian and cyclist routes remain open with diversions at times to allow park construction.

The link between Tory St and Tasman St will be reinstated when the park is built.

REMINDER: NIGHT WORKS AND TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE SUSSEX ST SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM–5.00AM
The Sussex St junction with Buckle St Diversion closes overnight on Sunday 7 September for asphaltting. Please detour via Cambridge Tce. If you didn’t receive a copy of the advance notice, please email info@memorialpark.co.nz.

Contact us

What's happening around the project site



National War Memorial Park development

- ① **Taranaki St – preparation for southern access lane**
 - Excavation of corner beside old Defence GHQ
 - Pedestrian access will be maintained
- ② **Northern perimeter of park – Martin Square to Tory St**
 - Asphaltting northern access lane, week of 8 September
 - Planting gardens
 - Installing street lights
- ③ **Northern perimeter of park – Tory St to Home of Compassion Crèche**
 - Access lane construction continues
 - Asphaltting planned later in month
 - Planting gardens
 - Installing street lights
- ④ **Sussex St connection to the park**
 - Excavation of Sussex St corner for construction of footpath into the park
 - **Sunday 7 September** night works and closures overnight of Sussex St/Buckle St Diversion for asphaltting road into the tunnel

- ⑤ **Access route to Massey University and National War Memorial**

- Expect changes to the access route as park construction progresses
- Traffic controllers will maintain access and manage traffic flow

Garden drainage pipes

- Excavation under the access road for Tangata Whenua Gardens drainage

- ⑥ **Tangata Whenua Gardens and Parade Plaza**

- Tangata Whenua Gardens: Precast concrete panels for the east side garden walls arrive the week of 8 September, requiring cranes for positioning and temporary propping for support
- Central parade plaza: Construction begins the week of 8 September in front of the National War Memorial – excavation and concreting in preparation for blackstone paving

General site work hours

- Mon – Fri: 6.00am–6.00pm, Noisy work after 7.00am
- Sat: 7.00am – 2.00pm, Noisy work after 8.00am

We try to give our neighbours a timely warning of activities they may find disruptive. However, some activities may occur at short notice as the work programme is adapted to optimise progress.

Contact us