Images becoming reality as the days go by

Buckle St now passes underground through the Arras Tunnel which opened to traffic on the night of Sunday 28 September. With traffic out of the way, work is proceeding quickly on Pukeahu National War Memorial Park above the tunnel.

The artist’s images allow us to picture what the construction site will look like by the end of March 2015. Everything happening on site is working to a plan that you will see unfolding before your eyes.

The principle guiding the park design is that it will be a landscape that evokes and hosts commemoration. Stretching east to west from Sussex St to Taranaki St, the long boulevard park will be a southern gateway to Wellington city – a place for ceremonies but also for people to experience every day.

Central to the park will be the formal ceremonial grounds extending from the established National War Memorial on the south side to the Australian War Memorial currently under construction on the north - a tribute to the Anzac spirit. Other countries’ memorials will find a place on the sloping terraces of the park which are designed as a series of landscape “rooms”.

Facts

- An estimated 15,000 people could comfortably gather in the 1.5 hectare (15,000 square metres) park for commemorative ceremonies.
- 20 new car parks have been constructed along the northern boundary of the park.
- 165 trees are being planted: 32 x pohutukawa, 5 x northern rata, 25 x kowhai, 75 x olive, 10 x titoki, 18 x eucalyptus (for the Australian Memorial).
- 3,000m² of garden bed area will contain up to 17,000 plants, including red rose, red tussock, hebe, NZ iris, torch lily, panakenake, swamp astelia, swamp kioiko, purei, muttonbird sedge, creeping fuchsia.
- Tangata Whenua Gardens near the National War Memorial will honour the relationship Maori have with this place and its history.
National War Memorial Park and Underpass

Park development area by area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>AREA OF PARK</th>
<th>CURRENT STATUS</th>
<th>COMPLETION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Northern Lane by Mt Cook School</td>
<td>Completed in September and currently open to pedestrians and cyclists only</td>
<td>Parking area and one-way slip lane for vehicles opens to traffic March 2015, accessed from Martin Square and exiting on to Tory St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Northern Lane by Te Papa Archives</td>
<td>Completed in October and currently open to pedestrians and cyclists only</td>
<td>Parking area opens to vehicles March 2015, enter and exit on Tory St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Western Terraces and Ceremonial Grounds (between Tory St and Taranaki St)</td>
<td>Under construction Installing paving for ceremonial grounds Structures: Tangata Whenua Garden walls, pavilion</td>
<td>Completed March 2015 Ready for Anzac Day official opening on 25 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Australian War Memorial</td>
<td>Under construction</td>
<td>Completed March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Tasman St-Tory St Link</td>
<td>Under construction Road construction and surfacing</td>
<td>Opens to pedestrians and cyclists late December/early January Road link between Tasman St and Tory St opens to traffic March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Eastern Terraces (between Tory St and Home of Compassion Crèche)</td>
<td>Under construction Drainage - rain gardens Lighting</td>
<td>Completed March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Southern Lane Tasman St-Taranaki St</td>
<td>Under construction Surfacing, landscaping and lighting</td>
<td>One-way slip lane for traffic from Tasman St to Taranaki St, exit and egress from Massey University, opens to traffic March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Southern Pedestrian/Cycle Lane Tasman St-Sussex St</td>
<td>Under construction Paving</td>
<td>Completed March 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current status of traffic through and under the park

- Cars are using Arras Tunnel as if it has been there forever.
- Pedestrians and cyclists use the park perimeter – diverting through Martin Square.
- Stop/Go access to Massey University continues while the southern lane to Taranaki St is being developed.
- Tory St no longer opens on to State Highway 1. The Buckle St Diversion road has been removed.

Arras Tunnel opened to traffic at 11.30pm Sunday 28 September 2014. It is named for the men of the NZ Tunnelling Company who extended the tunnels under Arras, France, during WWI to mine enemy trenches and house Allied servicemen.

Souvenir brochure from the Arras Tunnel opening

If you would like to receive a copy of the souvenir brochure, The building and naming of Arras Tunnel, please send your physical address to Lynsey Morgan, lynsey.morgan@memorialpark.co.nz or phone/text 022 089 1090. View our latest videos on www.youtube.com/user/memorialparkalliance.

Part of the crowd at the open day on Saturday 27 September. An estimated 10,000, including families of the Arras miners, attended the official opening by then Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister Christopher Finlayson and walked the tunnel.

Balkan brass band Niko Ne Zna led the crowd through the tunnel.

Photos: Colin McLellan
A look at recent progress we’ve made

Northern slip lane by Mt Cook School.

Preparing to landscape around the crèche.

Foundation for the pavilion, Taranaki St end.

Traffic flows from the tunnel while work on the park proceeds above it. The far right lane is coned off while work continues on the park at the corner.

Paving in front of the National War Memorial.

Our contact details

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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 endeavour to give our neighbours a timely warning of activities they may find disruptive. However, some activities may occur at short notice as we adapt the work programme to optimise progress.