

# A hundred years of the Church Steps

Friday 20 September marks a century of Nelson's iconic granite Church Steps.

Hon. Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage will be unveiling a new historic plaque in honour of 100 years of great memories.

The landmark Cawthron Steps, which lead up Church Hill (Piki Mai) to Christ Church Cathedral, were gifted by philanthropist Thomas Cawthron and formally opened on 20 September 1913.

The impressive granite steps replaced the original wooden steps built in 1858. Since then the Cawthron Steps, better known as the Church Steps, have been the place where residents come together in celebration and thanksgiving, protest and adversity, fun and relaxation.

Everyone is welcome to join the celebrations at 4.00pm led by the Nelson Cathedral Choir and ending with a haka from Nelson College. A hundred children from Nelson Central

School choir will sing and release 100 balloons.

As part of the celebrations a new book about the history of the steps, and the events held on them, *Meet You At The Church Steps - A Social History Of A Nelson Landmark*, will be launched on the day by local history writer Karen Stade.

Supported by the Nelson City Council, the book captures the unfolding social tapestry that has played out on Church Hill and its historic steps and features many images from the Nelson Provincial Museum's photographic collection and the Nelson Mail.

It will be for sale at the Museum where there will also be a small photographic display.

Trafalgar Square and Church Hill were secured for public ownership in 1865 and the Nelson City Council acts as Guardian.



# Fun at Founders Fling

Founders Fling this Sunday 22 September, is the park's public open day, a perfect chance to bring the family, explore the park and all it has to offer and discover some of the activities now running throughout the year.

## What can you do?

- Sample the new range of beers at the beautifully renovated Founders Brewery Cafe and Bar; view the brewery through the glass window and enjoy the sunshine in the extended courtyard.
- Ride the recently refurbished award winning train leaving Founders Station throughout the day.
- Experience the Hillbillies animated display at Santa's Shed. Put 20 cents into the old fashioned meter to start The Hillbillies singing.
- Visit Harvestland in the Baigent museum and take the time to listen to the new audio visual series to discover more about Nelson's agricultural heritage.
- Take advantage of the free wifi now available in The Village Green.
- Fresh FM, our community radio station, is opening its doors. Pop into the recording studio to record your own message at their Open Mic session; messages will be played on Fresh FM. Take the opportunity to browse through the pre-loved CD's and vinyl on sale.
- See "Little Flick" our fire truck in action.
- Let the kids bounce at the Legend Kids Holiday programme sponsored bouncy castle.
- Search round the park for clues in our

treasure hunt – great fun for all the family.

- Decorate our pavements with your own chalk drawing.
- Watch Jill screen print Madcat skirts at the Anchor Inn and see the display of vintage inspired wedding dresses in the luxurious renovated Puss Puss Parlour.
- Attend Sunday Church service at Old St Peters at 10.30am with Rev Andy Joseph.

## What can you see?

- The weather shed is a joint project between Nelson City and Tasman District Councils with input from the Cawthron Institute. It tells the story of Nelson's sun and rainfall records and on display is a water flow meter which was used in the Roding Dam up until the 1950s to measure the city's water intake.
- The Rudolph Steiner Playgroup meets in The Jaycee Room on Thursdays. Find out what they have to offer at their stall on The Village Green.
- Meet members of Samba de Sol to find out about their introduction courses in percussion and dance.

## Meet our new businesses

- Ruck 'n' Co Chocolate Cookies. Come into



the Goodman's Bakery building to enjoy milk and luxury chocolate chip cookies which are baked and sold on site.

- Natural Living Yoga and Health is now available upstairs in the Nelson Printery. Come to the Fling to find out about their yoga classes, natural therapies and massages.

## Remember

Entry to Founders Heritage Park is free for locals with ID all year round except when we have public events. Open: Daily 10am – 4.30pm.

[founderspark.co.nz](http://founderspark.co.nz)

