

Hidden Shoreline Walk

The Refinery Gallery **1** is an attractive art gallery and sculpture garden. The heritage building was built around 1932 as the factory of the Nelson Tobacco Company who used locally grown tobacco to create their popular cigarettes and pipe tobacco. A disastrous fire in 1948 resulted in Council acquiring the building and using it as a Works Depot before the gallery was created there in 2002.

The Croquet Club lawns **2** were the first part of Rutherford Park to be reclaimed. The lawns were established in the 1930s and became home to the combined Nelson and the Hinemoa Croquet Clubs, founded in 1905 and 1908 respectively. Early popular sports like croquet were often played on private property until demand led to the provision of public spaces for clubs.

Saltwater Creek disappears further inland and is exposed here as it travels out to sea. Saltwater Bridge was built in 1842 where the roundabout is now. A causeway leading to the bridge was the first piece of major reclamation made by early settlers in 1841 to enable easy access to the port.

Matangi Awhio is the heart of Nelson for local iwi. An interpretative panel tells its history. **3** Once an important pa site and trading area, waka could draw up on the original shoreline sheltered from the open sea by the Boulder Bank.

Moller Fountain **4** was donated to the city by the widow of Bernard Henry Moller, a seed, fruit and potato merchant in Bridge Street in 1878. The fountain is lit at night and the grassy surrounding area is an informal gallery at various times for sculptures by the adjacent Auckland Point School.

The Trafalgar Events Centre **5** was built in the early 1970s after huge fundraising efforts by local Jaycees and the public. Its opening linked to the 1973 Self Government Centenary celebrations. *Trafalgar Legends* information panels inside the building celebrate the start of some wonderful local initiatives which have used the centre during their development, such as the WorldofWearableArt™ and Rockquest.

Across the 150th Nelson Anniversary bridge **6** is the access to Akersten Street, Nelson's beautiful marina, and a busy growing port **7** that occupies around 78 hectares of largely reclaimed land. Nelson's main exports are forestry products and fruit.

Point Park **8** marks an important waka landing site on the original shoreline. Trafalgar Stadium **9** was developed in the 1950s and greatly refurbished over the years and hosted three Rugby World Cup 2011 matches. The land was acquired by Council in 1891 and was originally known as the Mudflat Recreation Ground.

Terry Stringer's multi-faceted sculpture *Dance to the Music of Time* **10** marks Nelson's city gateway. It is the first major outcome from the recently developed Nelson Tasman Regional Art Strategy which was driven by the public desire to reaffirm Nelson's reputation as an important art centre of New Zealand.

An early public art initiative from the 1980s is the mural by Hilary Blount on an old part of the stadium wall **11**. Murals in Nelson, arts partnerships and the Art Strategy are discussed on an interpretative panel nearby.



Hidden Shoreline Walk

Reclamation has played an important part in Nelson's history, greatly altering the shoreline of the 1840s (shown on this map). Our busy port, impressive marina and expansive recreation areas all sit upon progressive infill. Early European settlers started reclamation in 1841 which continued over many years until eight hectares of land was reclaimed on either side of the Maitai River forming the Rutherford and Trafalgar Parks.

More information can be found at www.theprow.org.nz.

For other arts and heritage walks go to www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz (search phrase heritage walks).

