

## First World War memorials in your area

If there are any doubts about how seriously New Zealanders took their contribution to the First World War you need look no further than your own community.

The [memorials register](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/the-memorials-register) found in NZHistory is a register of which includes oever 500 public First World War memorials. Each record contains information about the location and appearance of the memorial. Some also include the unveiling date and the number of soldiers who died in the First World War. Most of the records link to images of memorials.

There is also a useful section on interpreting these memorials, which stresses how they 'have become part of the common fabric of our lives, like stop signs or lamp-posts' and that no two memorials are exactly the same. Every community that sent and lost people in the war commemorated not only individual sacrifice but the contribution of their community as a whole. Sacrifice on this scale saw an enormous outpouring of grief from parents, lovers, siblings and friends. The war gave New Zealand the opportunity to stand tall on the world stage and the commemoration of this also gave every community a chance to express their pride and their sorrow.

Find the following sites.

NZ memorials register map http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/map/memorials-register-map

Media Gallery <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media_gallery/tid/708>

Take your time to look at a variety of images, then record your thoughts, use the following to guide your thinking

* What is the style of memorial?
* Is there any mention of how it was paid for?
* What are the inscriptions? Are there any references to God, 'King and Country' or Empire?
* Look at the names; what stands out?
* Are ages given?
* Would we build memorials like this today?