

## Memorial Park (orig. Fitzroy Park)



Memorial Obelisk 1953



Memorial Park Gates 2007

### Location: Main Street, Palmerston North

From 1876 to the 1930s the park was used as a gravel pit by the New Zealand Railways to provide ballast for the region's rail tracks. The resulting pit was purchased by the Council and Fitzroy Park opened in 1938. The obelisk pictured above was dedicated in 1952 by Sir Kippenberger and removed in 1983 due to dangerous cracks in the structure. The gates remain as the official memorial.

Fitzroy Park was officially dedicated as Memorial Park in 1954. The park features a soccer field, which was originally surrounded by a velodrome, and a grandstand. There is also a lake, children's swimming pool, public toilets, skating rink, carparking and many mature trees and plantings. The Memorial Park gates featured above bear a plaque inscribed "Enter not this park in sorrow but in pride, and strive to live as nobly as they died".

For more information about Memorial Park see the following:

### New Zealand and Pacific Zone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor:

#### Books: Local Collection

Matheson, I. R. (2003). *Council and community* (pp. 35, 47). Palmerston North, New Zealand: Palmerston North City Library

#### Photographs: Palmerston North City Library Photo Collection

Monuments: Mo 10, 15, 16 – 19

Parks: P 5, 46, 69, 71, 116, 121, 128 – 132, 140

Official Visits: O 77, 79

#### Newspaper Articles: Newspaper Index

Manawatu Standard card and computer index: 'Memorial Park', 'Fitzroy Park'.

### Ian Matheson City Archives – Ground Floor:

PNCC: 1/1/1 & 1/1/2 Council Minute Books see Research File 175/61/4 for detailed references

PNCC: 1/5/11 Box 1/F8 Public Relations Office – Memorial Park Subject File

PNCC: 4/7/2 Box 13/F10 Contract & Construction Photos

PNCC: 1/5/5 File 83/14 Memorial Park Subject File

Research File: 175/61/4 Memorial Park

Other references and resources on the War Memorial may be found in the New Zealand and Pacific and Archives zones of the library. Many specific references on Memorial Park can be found in the Archives Research File A175/61/4.