

Awapuni Race Course Memorial



Memorial circa 1929



Memorial - 2007

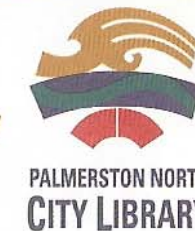
Location: Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North

During World War One the Awapuni Racecourse was used for training by the New Zealand Medical Corps. Following the War in 1929 a Memorial was unveiled at the Racecourse to honour the 662 members of the Corps who were killed or wounded during the conflict. The Memorial was officially opened by the Governor General of the day Sir Charles Fergusson.

The Memorial consists of a pool in the shape of an ambulance cross with a marble cairn in the centre. The cairn is a fountain as seen operating in the 1929 photo above. A small marble plaque is attached to the cairn and a larger version with the same inscription is on the side of the pool. The beginning of the inscription reads “In Arduis Fidelis” – which translates as “faithful in adversity”. The Memorial has been changed by the removal of the surrounding raised gardens and the addition of a taller fence.

The Memorial was designed by Mr J M Johnston, the Secretary of the Manawatu Racing Club. It is assumed the Club built and paid for the Memorial.

Living room
of the city



For more information about the Memorial see the following:

New Zealand and Pacific Zone – 2nd Floor:

Photographs: Palmerston North City Library Photo Collection

Photos: Ra 2, 3

Newspaper Articles: Newspaper Index

Manawatu Standard card and computer index: Awapuni Racecourse Memorial

Ian Matheson City Archives – Ground Floor:

Research File: A/175/445/3 Wars – Memorials

Other Sources:

National Archives of NZ: Record Title – “Memorial – War – Awapuni Racecourse (NZMC [New Zealand Medical Corps])”
Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps Museum – Burnham Camp, Burnham

Websites:

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/node/1024>

Other references and resources on the War Memorial may be found in the New Zealand and Pacific and Archives zones of the library.

