

# City Murals Walk

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Feminist **Harriet Blount** painted this mural in early 1980s. **1** It disappeared for a while until the 1950s stand it adorned was uncovered during the Trafalgar Park renovations. Blount saw her work as 'contemporary folk art with integrity' and the energetic work dances around a cheerful sun.

**Janet Bathgate's** mural **2** encircling a pump station provides a witty comment on its location in Weka Street beside a popular cycle trail. The 1840s shoreline references the past when weka and fish were plentiful in this area. Janet is a prominent Nelson artist, holding exhibitions around the region and around New Zealand. See [janetbathgate.com](http://janetbathgate.com)

**Jon Baxter's** mural commemorates the International Year of the Family. The lively beach scene **3** was painted in 1994 and commissioned by Public Health Services to enhance their building.

The *Eat your Heart Out* mosaic **4** by Nelson sculptor **Valeska Champion** was installed in 1999 on this community centre. The heart and star motif has side panels of individually crafted ceramic tiles. These were created as a community arts project involving Nelson schoolchildren and sponsor companies.

A graduate from Nelson Institute of Technology **Marilyn Andrews** painted this mural **5** early in her career. She brightened the lane with native plants and stylized local landmarks for a Keep Nelson Beautiful project in 1988. See later works on [www.marilynandrewsart.co.nz](http://www.marilynandrewsart.co.nz)

The first ploughing in Nelson took place on this site in 1842. **6** Artist **Steve Pike** depicts John Kerr and his sons with their plow and oxen to celebrate the event. Sepia tones were used to create the effect of a snapshot from the past.

The Alma Lane Pavement mosaic **7** by **Tejas Arn** was completed in 2005. The bright colours

represent the primary produce of the Nelson Region including seafood and apples.

**Chris Finlayson** reflected the giant palms in the 1903 Square when he painted *Nature Outgrows the Urban Jungle* **8** in 2010. It creates a lush looking oasis in this inner city site. See more of his work on [www.finlaysonart.co.nz](http://www.finlaysonart.co.nz)

Pomeroy's Coffee Shop has been a Nelson institution for over 20 years and commissioned **Steve Pike's** *The Story of Coffee* mural **9** in 1999. The large progressive painting depicts coffee production, emphasising the home grown product and the old fashioned and manual processes.

Painted in 1995 by Finnish Artist **Sirpa Alalaakkola**, *Modiglianis Trout* **10** is in the style of famous Italian artist Modigliani, known for his use of mask-like faces and elongated forms. It was commissioned by the Youth Hostel Association for their building and features a humorous take on an iconic New Zealand outdoors scene. See more of her work on [www.southpacifica.com](http://www.southpacifica.com)

**11** Artist **Rick Edmonds** painted this mural in 1995. Work and Income, who commissioned the work, wanted him to portray the wide range of people they work with. The artist has used images of his family and friends in this pleasant artwork. See more of his work on [www.rickedmonds.co.nz](http://www.rickedmonds.co.nz)

The *Knowledge Mural* **12** in the Elma Turner Library entranceway can be enjoyed when the library is open, but can be seen other times in part through the glass entrance doors. Painted by **Chris Finlayson** in 1990, it follows a developmental depiction based on rock carvings from Palaeolithic art in 2500BC, to Egyptian Hieroglyphics 1350BC, to Celtic verse of 800AD and to Māori and Aboriginal art. The Māori word matauranga (knowledge) is incorporated into the work.



# City Murals Walk

Temporary art is an important way of enlivening our streetscapes and has been used to express viewpoints of Nelson as a place to be, its history and attitudes.

This walk looks at a range of murals and mosaics in the central city. All are dependent on the lifespan of the public or private structure they adorn but some have lasted well over 20 years already.

More arts and heritage information, walks and events, can be found on [www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz](http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz) (search phrase *heritage walks*). An extended audio guide for this walk can be downloaded from [www.thePROW.org.nz](http://www.thePROW.org.nz)

