

Notable Women

START Enter the Wakapuaka Cemetery at the Atawhai Drive carpark through the Mariano Gargiulo Memorial gates and walk up the hill to the white chapel building built in 1945. The cemetery opened in 1861 and the first burial was of Grace Annie Everett aged 16 months. Use the map to guide you to the following graves.

A Hardworking **Mary Caroline Bisley** (1837-1917) came to Nelson on the *St Pauli* from Germany with her parents in 1843, who farmed briefly in the Moutere. Her husband died young of typhoid and she worked as a housekeeper for Charles Harley, a brewer, who left her a cottage and small income. She wrote her memoirs in 1899.

B **Rosaline Margaret Frank** (1875-1954) was one of New Zealand's first professional women photographers. She first worked for the Tyree Photographic Studio and donated a large collection of glass plate negatives to Nelson Provincial Museum.

C Primary school teacher **Jane Alice Bond** (1867-1956) taught at several Nelson schools until retiring due to ill health. She then assisted her father, owner of the Colonist newspaper, publishing several articles on Nelson's history.

D Nurse **Susan Dalton** (1837-1893) trained in England and came to Nelson to work for the Nelson Provincial Government as matron of Nelson hospital for 25 years until her death at 57 of gangrene in the foot. Her tombstone looks out to views of the Nelson Ranges and the Boulder Bank.

E (Under oak tree) Seamstress **Sophia Anstice** (1849 -1926) came to Nelson in 1873. Her first husband died of TB and she set up a dressmaker's business. She remarried and went on to extend her business called 'St Albans House' with 4 branch stores across the region.

F Princess **Laura Lubecki** (1814-1901) is Nelson's only royalty. Born in England she married a Polish prince at 21 and came to Nelson in 1894 after her husband died.

G **Ann Bird** (1818-1891) is said to be the first woman immigrant to come ashore at Nelson, arriving on the *Fifeshire* in 1842. She successfully ran her husband's butchers shop when he died in 1850.

H **Effie Newiggen Richardson** (1854-1928) and her daughter **Ralphine Richardson** (1887-1969) share a headstone. Effie's husband died five years after they married and in 1908 she came to Nelson with her two daughters. Effie is known for her political and physical battles to protect her family land, fighting council and trespassers with aplomb. **Ralphine** physically managed the Maitai farm, mustering and shearing included, after being retrieved from an unsuitable elopement. This spirited unmarried woman adopted children and was involved with many community groups from the Nelson Chamber Music Society to Federated Farmers.

I Artist **Marjorie Naylor** (1909-1985) became well known for her portraits and landscapes which are found in national and international collections. She ran the Nelson School of Painting and was a director of The Suter when she died.

J Talented **Emily Cumming Harris** (1837-1925) was one of a few pioneering woman artists who tried to earn a living solely by painting and teaching drawing. Her diaries reveal the difficulties she faced. Her passion was for New Zealand flowers and plants which she drew and also wrote about in several small books. Examples of her work can be seen at Nelson Provincial Museum and in other public and private collections.

K Midwife **Alice Mabel Atkinson** (1864-1935) was born in New Zealand, then trained and worked in London as a midwife in the 1890s. She returned to Nelson to care for her parents who lived in Fairfield House. She was 50 when she worked as a nurse in France during World War I.

For more details on all of these women and other walks go to www.nelsoncitycouncil.org.nz (search phrase = heritage walks).



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Enjoy this scenic walk in Wakapuaka Cemetery, one of Nelson's oldest cemeteries, uncovering fascinating stories of some Nelson women from the past with the help of information from the NZ Society of Genealogists (Nelson).

For a full map of Wakapuaka Cemetery go to www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz or see Walk 17 of the *Walk Nelson* guide.

