New Plymouth Cenotaph – upgrade appeal

The New Plymouth & Districts Returned and Services Association Inc. have a project to raise funds for donations to upgrade our Cenotaph.

Quotes abbreviated from https://nzhistory.govt.nz/memorial/new-plymouth-cenotaph

“Ron Lambert who is the expert on Taranaki memorials was asked about this. He sent a newspaper report from the Taranaki Herald 16 Sept 1924 that confirms that F Messenger was the architect and the contractors were J.G.M. Russell, J. McCracken and A. Hanley of New Plymouth. The sculptured wreaths were the work of W.F. Short. There is no mention of Mouland in this report, however.”
“The JGM Russell mentioned in the Herald article is Jeffery George Mouland Russell, the junior partner of Russell & Son.”



The cenotaph in New Plymouth is a replica of the one in in Whitehall, London. Photo: Puke Ariki Heritage Collections
New Plymouth’s cenotaph was unveiled on Tuesday, September 16, 1924 at 2.30pm.
A replica of the cenotaph in Whitehall, London, it was made out of locally quarried stone and features sculpted laurel wreaths and “Crusader’s crosses” on its four sides.



The petrol station is now an apartment block, and the original clock tower has been replaced, but the area looks strikingly similar to what it did decades ago. Photo: VANESSA LAURIE / TARANAKI DAILY NEWS



The New Plymouth Cenotaph is located at the intersection of Queen and St Aubyn Streets and made of local andesite from a Mangorei quarry. It was designed by New Plymouth architect Frank Messenger and closely based on Sir Edward Lutyen's Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. It was unveiled by the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe, on 16 September 1924.
Public subscriptions were called for and lists of contributions published in the *Taranaki Herald.* Although there was some controversy over the siting of the cenotaph, eventually over £1800 was subscribed. The monument was built by Messrs J.G. M. Russell, J. M. McCracken and A. Handley and the marble wreaths were made by local monumental mason, W F Short. The symbolically empty casket is on the top of the structure.
Inscriptions to conflicts in Korea and S.E. Asia were added by sculptor Filipe Tohe in the 1980s.
The rock walls and gardens between Queen Street and the former Taranaki Club were constructed in 1927 by Pukekura Park's Superintendent, Thomas Horton using stone remaining from the Cenotaph.

Inscription on both sides incised in stone blocks:
1914 -1918
1939-1945
Korea
S E Asia
On inset granite blocks below:

Their Names / Liveth / For Evermore
On eastern side below the above three small bronze plaques commemorating:

Left	Centre	Right
V E Day 9th May 1995	***The Great War***	***VJ Day 15th August1995***
The 50th anniversary of the end of World War II	***75th Anniversary***	***50th Anniversary of the end of WW II***

https://cms.terangiaoaonunui.pukeariki.com/story-collections/war-memorials-first-and-second-world-wars/new-plymouth-cenotaph-1924

Carol Cowling