

THOMAS CAWTHRON

LEGACY TOUR



Thomas Cawthron

26 May 1833 - 8 October 1915

Numerous Nelson landmarks and institutions stand testament to the outstanding contribution of philanthropist Thomas Cawthron who built a considerable fortune in trade, shipping and investment dealings.

Before his death in 1915, Cawthron lent and gifted money to the Nelson Institute Library and Museum, Nelson Hospital and the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts. He also paid for the continuation of the posts and chains on Rocks Road, gifted 1000ha on Dun Mountain to Nelson City Council and funded the Cathedral Church Steps.

When Cawthron died he bequeathed £231,000 (equivalent of more than \$100m today) to purchase land and develop an industrial and technical school called the Cawthron Institute. This opened in 1921 and has now grown into a world-class research facility employing about 300 staff.



Cawthron Institute,
98 Halifax Street East, Nelson

Use the street map below to discover Thomas Cawthron's many enduring legacies in Nelson City.

KEY

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fellworth House (original Cawthron Institute location) 2. Church Steps 3. Nelson Centre of Musical Arts 4. Rocks Road chains and posts 5. The Nelson Institute Library and Museum Building | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Brook Waimārama Sanctuary which sits near The Cawthron Park and embodies Cawthron's vision 7. Cawthron Atkinson Observatory at Clifton Point School 8. Wakapuaka Cemetery (burial location of Thomas Cawthron) |
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For more on Thomas Cawthron, visit The Prow: www.theprow.org.nz/people/thomas-cawthron



- 1 Fellworth House in Milton Street - the original location of the Cawthron Institute which officially opened in 1921. Nowadays the Cawthron Institute is based just around the corner in Halifax Street East.

Fellworth House. Nelson Provincial Museum Collection: C2461



- 2 Cawthron's most visible gift to the city – the granite church steps which he fully funded. These were officially opened in 1913, replacing the wooden steps built in 1858.

The new Church Steps, Nelson, N.Z. Presented by Thomas Cawthron, 20 September 1913. Photograph by FN Jones, Ken Wright Post Card Collection



- 3 Cawthron donated £5000 and loaned £2000 towards the establishment of the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts and in 1912, he brought and installed the organ that remains in use at the centre today.

Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, corner of Collingwood and Nile Streets, Nelson. Nelson Provincial Museum, Tyree Studio Collection: 180649



- 4 In 1912, Cawthron paid £668 for the iron chains and posts to be continued along Wakefield Quay and Rocks Road to Tahunanui as only a small section had been completed up until then.

At Port Nelson, N.Z. Photograph by F N Jones, Nelson Provincial Museum Collection: NPM.2001.42.47.309022



- 5** The Nelson Institute Library and Museum Building in Hardy Street was opened in 1912 after its earlier premises were destroyed by fire. Cawthron lent £700 to the museum and then gifted £500 towards its replacement.

Nelson Institute Library & Museum opening, 27 November 1912.
Photograph by F N Jones, Nelson Provincial Museum Collection: C1827J



- 6** In 1913 Cawthron gifted 1000ha on Dun Mountain to Nelson City Council, requesting it become a sanctuary for native flora and fauna, especially birds. In 2012 The Cawthron Trust Board gifted \$150,000 towards the development of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary which sits nearby.



- 7** Cawthron was seeking to develop a solar physics observatory prior to his death. In 2008 the Cawthron Institute Trust Board funded a new dome for the Atkinson telescope and observatory in the grounds of Clifton Terrace School. It became known as the Cawthron Atkinson Observatory at this time.



- 8** A prominent headstone in the Presbyterian new section at Wakapuaka Cemetery marks Cawthron's final resting place.