

ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOMMENDED READING

General

Muir, James C. *Opus works: a short history of the New Zealand Government's infrastructure development*. New Zealand: James Crow Muir, 2020.

Neutze, Diana. *Design for a century: A history of the School of Engineering, University of Canterbury, 1887-1987*. Christchurch: Canterbury University, 1987.

Noonan, Rosslyn J. *By Design: A brief history of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Works, 1870-1970*. Wellington: Government Printer, 1975.

Smith, Nigel. *Heritage of Industry: Discovering New Zealand's industrial history*. Auckland: Reed, 2001.

Thornton, Geoffrey G. *Cast in Concrete: Concrete construction in New Zealand, 1850-1939*. Auckland: Reed, 1996.

Thornton, Geoffrey G. *New Zealand's Industrial Heritage*. Wellington: Reed, 1982.

Wrigglesworth, Karen. *Take me with you!: a self-drive guide to Whanganui's engineering heritage*. Whanganui: Cliff Creatives, 2020.

Wrigglesworth, Karen. *Take me with you too!: a self-drive guide to Dunedin's engineering heritage*. Whanganui: Cliff Creatives, 2022.

Wrigglesworth, Karen. *Take Me With You 3!: Engineering Heritage of Coastal and Central Otago*. Whanganui: Cliff Creatives, 2025.

Wright, Matthew. *New Zealand's Engineering Heritage, 1870-2000*. Auckland: Reed 1999.

Chemical Engineering

Hogan, Dennis and Bryce Williamson. *New Zealand is Different: Chemical milestones in New Zealand history*. Christchurch: Clerestory Press, 1999.

Electricity and Telecommunications

Baird, Rosemary. *The middle of nowhere: stories of working on the Manapōuri hydro project*. Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 2025.

Coney, Sandra. *On the Radar: The story of Piha's World War 2 radar station*. Auckland: Keyhole Press and Protect Piha Heritage, 2013.

Martin, John. E. *People, politics and power stations: electric power generation in New Zealand 1880-1990*. Wellington: Bridget Williams Books and Electricity Corporation of New Zealand, 1991.

Offer, R. E. *Walls for Water: Pioneer dam building in New Zealand*. Palmerston North: Dunmore Press, 1997.

Robinson, John, Bill Duncan, Mike Williams, and Trevor Jones. *Designers and builders of dams: Power Division - Ministry of Works: a short history*. Wellington: The New Zealand Society on Large Dams (NZSOLD), 2014.

Wilson, A. C. *Wire and Wireless: A history of telecommunications in New Zealand, 1860-1987*. Palmerston North: Dunmore Press, 1994.

Engineers

Furkert, F. W. *Early New Zealand Engineers*. Wellington: Reed, 1953.

Maiden, Colin. *An Energetic Life: Sir Colin Maiden: An autobiography*. Wellington: Dunmore Press, 2008.

Utick, Stephen. *Captain Charles, engineer of charity: The remarkable life of Charles Gordon O'Neill*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2008.

Transportation - General

Douglass, Malcolm. *A Wheel on Each Corner: History of the Engineering New Zealand Transportation Group: Transportation engineering in New Zealand, 1956-2006*. Wellington: Engineering New Zealand Transportation Group, 2007.

Transportation - Railways, Roads and Tramways

Atkinson, Neil. *Trainland: How railways made New Zealand*. Auckland: Random House, 2007.

Brett, André. *Can't get there from here: New Zealand passenger rail since 1920*. Dunedin: Otago University Press, 2021.

Bush, Graham. *From survival to revival: Auckland's public transport since 1860*. Wellington: Grantham House, 2014.

Dangerfield, J.A. and G.W. Emerson. *Over the Garden Wall: The story of the Otago Central Railway*. Dunedin: Otago Railway & Locomotive Society, 1995.

Feilding and Districts Historical Society. *The Last Spike: A pictorial essay celebrating the centenary of the completion of the North Island main trunk line*. Feilding: Feilding and Districts Historical Society, 2008.

Johnstone, Mike. *Nelson's First Railway*. Nelson: Nikau Press, 1996.

Mahoney, Paul. *The Era of the Bush Tram in New Zealand*. Wellington: Transpress, 2004.

Ogilvie, Gordon. *From gigs to rigs: Steel Bros and 120 years of road transport in New Zealand*. Christchurch: Hazard Press, 1997.

Roberts, F. K. *A Compendium of Railway Construction: Part Two - North Island Main Trunk New Zealand*. Wellington: Railway & Locomotive Society, 1990.

Taylor, Ivan D. *Road to the West Coast: A history of the road over Arthur's Pass*. Palmerston North: Heritage Press, 2005.

Thornton, Geoffrey G. *Bridging the Gap: Early bridges in New Zealand, 1839-1940*. Auckland: Reed, 2001.

Transportation - Shipping

Jennings, Murray. *The era of coastal shipping in New Zealand: the small motor ships*. Wellington: Transpress, 2003.

McLean, Gavin. *Captain's log: New Zealand's maritime history*. Auckland: Hodder Moa Beckett, 2001.

Water Supply and Treatment

Cooke, Peter. *Our water history - on tap: water supply in the Wellington region 1867-2006*. Wellington: Greater Wellington Regional Council, 2007.

Firth, C. W. *A Century of Water Supply for Auckland, New Zealand*. Auckland: Auckland Regional Authority, 1967.

Peate, Des. *Water treatment in New Zealand from 1910: Company records, photographs, personal accounts*. Warkworth: D. Peate, 2001.

Audio visual

Gunn, Ian. [*Beacons at the End of the World: Civil Engineering in New Zealand, 1850s to 1980s*](#) Television series, Pandora Productions, 1987.

Making New Zealand, Television, television documentary series, 2014–2019,
<https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/making-new-zealand-2014/series>

Online

Department of Conservation - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/heritage>

Engineering Heritage Australia news - <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/engineering-communities/engineering-heritage-australia>

Grid Heritage - www.gridheritage.org.nz

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga - www.heritage.org.nz

ICOMOS New Zealand - www.icomos.org.nz

Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand - <https://railheritage.org.nz/>

Unesco World Heritage Site - <https://whc.unesco.org/>

Department of Conservation online publications

Jones, K.L. “[*Caring for archaeological sites: practical guidelines for protecting and managing archaeological sites in New Zealand*](#).” Department of Conservation, 2007.

Mandeno, W. “[*Conservation of iron and steelwork in historic structures and machinery: maintenance handbook*](#).” Department of Conservation, 2008.

Petchey, P.G. “[*Gold and electricity. Archaeological survey of Bullendale, Otago*](#).” Department of Conservation, 2006.

Prickett, Nigel. “[*Fortifications of the New Zealand Wars*](#).” Department of Conservation, 2016.

Reed, P; K Schoonees; J Salmond. "[**Historic concrete structures in New Zealand: overview, maintenance and management**](#)." Department of Conservation, 2008.