

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Soldiers' Memorial / Waikaka Valley War Memorial

ADDRESS 15 Waikaka Road, Willowbank

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No.
(at time of assessment)

n/a

HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY

n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Part Section 7 Block 1 Chatton SD

GDC FILE NUMBER

3266310

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1921

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Unknown

STYLE

Classical obelisk

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Draped urn mounted on an obelisk with pedimented top and flared plinth. Memorial is inscribed 'Erected by the Residents of Waikaka Valley, Maitland, Merino Downs and Benio to the Memory of Those Who Fell in the Great War'. Concrete slab surrounds base of monument.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Granite and concrete.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of the names of WWII war dead (post-1945). Relocated (1989)

SETTING

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial is located at the south-east corner of the Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church site and set against a backdrop of trees and shrubs. The scheduled setting is limited to the immediate surrounds of the monument, notwithstanding the historic values of the site as a whole.

HISTORY

A public meeting to consider erecting a war memorial was held at the Waikaka Valley schoolhouse in August 1920. At the meeting it was proposed that the local Presbyterian church board be asked to provide a site for the memorial within the church grounds. Research to date has not established when the memorial was unveiled. Wreaths were laid at the monument as part of the 60th jubilee celebrations of the Pinnacle School and the Waikaka Valley School's 50th anniversary in 1938. The memorial was relocated on the church site and subsequently rededicated on 21 November 1989; it remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has historic significance for its association with the local commemoration of World War I, as well as later conflicts, and the proliferation of ornamental war memorials that were erected throughout New Zealand in the 1920s. It is directly connected to the sixteen men, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the monument.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The memorial has commemorative significance and remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has aesthetic significance for its classical design combining a draped urn, symbolic of death and the afterlife, and an obelisk with pedimental detailing. The designer of the monument is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its carving and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relationship to the Presbyterian church (1953-54) on the same site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial post-dates 1900 and has been resited, any potential archaeological significance of the site would relate to its earlier use and development. There has been a church on the property since 1885. The inscriptions on the memorial offer the potential to gain further understanding of the impact of World War I, in particular, on Waikaka Valley and the surrounding district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has overall heritage significance to Waikaka Valley and to the district of Gore as a whole. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men who served in World War I and later conflicts and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has aesthetic significance as a classical obelisk bearing a draped urn and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its sculpting and detailing. The Waikaka Valley War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relationship to the neighbouring

Presbyterian church. The site of both church and memorial has potential archaeological significance.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 19 December 1919, p. 1; 11 August 1920, p. 5; 18 November 1920, p. 1.
- *Otago Daily Times* 18 January 1938, p. 4.
- J Phillips & C Maclean *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- J Phillips *To the Memory – New Zealand's War Memorials* Nelson, 2016.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/waikaka-valley-war-memorial>

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13 May 2022

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Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting [shown below the turquoise line], Waikaka Valley War Memorial, 15 Waikaka Road, Willowbank.