

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

---

**2021 DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NUMBER**      **HH005**  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME**                      Kaiapoi War Memorial  
**ADDRESS**                                        Memorial Reserve, Raven Quay, Kaiapoi

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 22 December 2018)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.**                      H035                      **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**      3763 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**                              Pt Lot 12 DP 1280

**VALUATION NUMBER**                              2176180300

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**                        1921-22

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER**    William Trethewey (figure) & Daniel Berry (base),  
sculptors & stonemasons

**STYLE**     Figurative obelisk

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Flared obelisk mounted on stepped base has cornice forming base on which is mounted the statue of a soldier in combat uniform. Figure faces south-east and bears a rifle with metal bayonet. Memorial tablets mounted on obelisk. Paved surround and garden setting.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Carrara marble, Timaru bluestone, metal, concrete.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Bayonet vandalised (1930) and later replaced. Addition of memorial panels at rear, north-west elevation (post-1945). Reserve redevelopment (2004).

**SETTING**

The Kaiapoi War Memorial stands on the river side of Raven Quay, close by its intersection with Williams Street and the traffic bridge over the Kaiapoi River. Paving in front of the memorial gives way to a grassed reserve with a backdrop of trees and shrubs along the river boundary of the site. The scheduled setting is the south-easterly portion of the land parcel on which the memorial and a number of other commemorative items are sited, including the Ramsay memorial sun dial (1937) and the wall of remembrance and South African War and World War II honour rolls (1987/2004).

## **HISTORY**

Plans to erect a memorial hall in Kaiapoi to commemorate World War I were abandoned in 1919 in favour of a figurative work, which was unveiled by Major-General Sir Edward Chaytor on ANZAC Day in 1922. The soldier who had modelled for the realistic representation of a New Zealand 'digger' was present at the ceremony. Christchurch sculptor William Trethewey had been confirmed as the sculptor of the memorial in April 1920 and he exhibited a model of the statue at the Canterbury Art Society's annual exhibition in March 1921. The memorial was funded through public subscription, including a donation of £250 from the Kaiapoi Woollen Manufacturing Company in view of the 30-40 employees who had served in the war. In late 1934 there was some controversy about the redevelopment of the memorial site by the local Beautifying Association, which had removed some seating and the concrete around the memorial because it had cracked and broken. The association also removed the gun that had been mounted beside the memorial from the reserve at the same time. On 17 December 1937 a sun dial was erected in the memorial reserve in memory of Dr Maxwell Ramsay, who had been the president of the local RSA at the time of the war memorial's unveiling. In 2003 the band rotunda (1908) that had been moved to the Raven Quay site in 1913 was relocated to Trousselot Park across the river. The memorial continues to function as the focal point of local ANZAC Day commemorations.

## **HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi War Memorial has historic significance for its association with the local commemoration of World War I and the proliferation of ornamental war memorials that were erected throughout New Zealand in the 1920s. It is directly connected to the men, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the monument. The names are ordered alphabetically and without rank at the request of the war memorial committee and in keeping with government policy of the day.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi 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 Kaiapoi War Memorial has high aesthetic significance as a major work by Christchurch sculptor and stonemason William Trethewey (1892-1956), who was then in partnership with fellow stonemason Daniel Berry. Although he has been described as largely self-taught, Trethewey studied at the Canterbury College School of Art under Frederick Gurnsey and with Joseph Ellis at the Wellington Technical College. Trethewey made his living as a monumental mason but is best known for his major sculptural works; including the statue of Margaret Cruickshank in Waimate (1923), the sculptural details on the Edmonds Clock Tower (1929), the Captain James Cook statue in Victoria Square (1932) and the Citizens' War Memorial in Cathedral Square (1933-37), all in Christchurch. The only major sculptor of World War I memorials in New Zealand who was born and bred in this country, Trethewey also created statuary for the Centennial Exhibition held in Wellington in 1939-40, of which only the sculptural group of Kupe Raiatea, his wife Te Aparangi and the tohunga Pekahourangi survives. Trethewey also designed the Dr Maxwell Ramsay memorial sun dial erected near the Kaiapoi War Memorial in 1937. Trethewey's Kaiapoi soldier has been described by historian Jock Phillips as one of the 'most authentic monuments of diggers that we have [in New Zealand]'.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi War Memorial has high craftsmanship significance for the quality of the figure, which was carved from Carrara marble especially imported for the commission. The detailed realism of the statue has been praised ever since the memorial was unveiled.

## CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with a number of other memorial structures in the immediate vicinity. The remembrance wall to the north-west of the war memorial encircles the circular footprint of the band rotunda that occupied the site from 1913 until 2003. The war memorial is also associated with the band rotunda (heritage item # H011) and World War II memorial flagpole across the river in Trousselot Park.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the memorial post-dates 1900, its site may have potential archaeological significance relating to its earlier use and development. DP 1280, dated October 1896, shows building footprints in the vicinity of the memorial site. The inscriptions on the memorial offer the potential to gain a further understanding of the impact of World War I on the people of Kaiapoi.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi War Memorial has high overall heritage significance to Kaiapoi and to the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men who died serving in World War I and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Kaiapoi War Memorial has high aesthetic significance for its design by noted New Zealand sculptor William Trethewey and high craftsmanship significance for the quality of its carving using Carrara marble. The Kaiapoi War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its association with other memorials in the immediate vicinity. Its site may have potential archaeological values relating to its earlier use and development.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

A

## REFERENCES

- *Press* 20 February 1908, p. 10; 25 September 1913, p. 9; 10 May 1920, p. 4; 30 March 1921, p. 6; 26 April 1921, p. 2; 9 February 1922, p. 3; 14 February 1922, p. 3; 17 March 1922, p. 6; 22 April 1922, p. 11; 26 April 1922, p. 5; 15 March 1928, p. 4; 30 May 1932, p. 13; 17 June 1937, p. 23; 6 August 1937, p. 12; 31 August 1937, p. 6; 18 December 1937, p. 8; 28 January 2016 (available online).
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 20 October 1933, p. 5; 30 October 1934, p. 5; 2 November 1934, p. 4; 6 November 1934, p. 4; 10 December 1937, p. 4.
- *Lyttelton Times* 7 November 1907, p. 2.
- *Evening Post* 28 April 1930, p. 10.
- *Star* 1 April 1920, p. 8.
- *Sun* 9 April 1920, p. 7.
- J Phillips & C Maclean *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- M Dunn *New Zealand Sculpture – A History* Auckland, 2002.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3763>
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri/kaiapoi/a-brief-history-of-the-kaiapoi-war-memorial>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4t26/trethewey-william-thomas>
- [http://ketewaimakariri.peoplesnetworknz.info/places\\_of\\_the\\_waimakariri/topics/show/15-war-memorials](http://ketewaimakariri.peoplesnetworknz.info/places_of_the_waimakariri/topics/show/15-war-memorials)
- <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2015/waimakariri-world-war-memorials-bus-tour/waimakariri>
- <https://www.sooty.nz/kaiapoiROH.html>

- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/people-of-waimakariri/william-trethewey-1892-1956>
- <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/ChristchurchCityCouncil/ArchitecturalHeritage/LegacyofThomasEdmonds/LegacyofThomasEdmonds.pdf>
- <https://headstones.org.nz/news/2012-08-06/william-trethewey-founding-member-of-the-nzmma>
- *Kaiapoi Band Rotunda Conservation Plan 2003*; available online.

**REPORT COMPLETED**

4 February 2019

**AUTHOR**

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of scheduling, including the garden setting of the memorial, as well as the Ramsay memorial sun dial, the wall of remembrance and South African War and World War II honour rolls, Raven Quay, Kaiapoi.



Parcel as whole with memorial close to pin.



**Memorial Reserve during the 1923 floods. PF/B15 Kaiapoi District Historical Society Inc.**



**This photo is pre 1942 as the gun located between the statue and rotunda was given to the war effort for scrap in that year. PFA638. Kaiapoi District Historical Society Inc.**

Source: Kaiapoi Band Rotunda Conservation Plan, 2002.