



Kippenberger Sculpture Kippenberger Avenue, Rangiora

Project Brief

Seeking Artistic Expressions of Interest

1. Summary

Project Summary	
Commission	A sculpture to be placed on Kippenberger Avenue celebrating the avenue's namesake, Sir Howard Kippenberger.
Stages	Stage 1 - Concept Submission Stage 2 - Shortlisting Stage 3 - Design Approval Stage 4 - Full Art Concept development Stage 5 - Fabrication Stage 6 - Installation Stage 7 - Final Acceptance
Commissioner	Waimakariri District Council
Location	Kippenberger Avenue, Rangiora
Audience	Members of the community and visitors. Main audience is in passing traffic, some foot traffic from the nearby walkway.
Project Budget	\$30,000 (+GST if applicable)
Project Concept Submissions	Closes 4.00pm, Friday, 27 February 2026.

2. Overview

Project Background

The Rangiora Ashley Community Board has requested a sculpture be placed on Kippenberger Avenue to commemorate the avenue's namesake, Sir Howard Kippenberger, 1897- 1957.

Kippenberger was best known as a decorated soldier who became commander of the New Zealand Division in the Second World War. Known as Kip, he was deemed as being New Zealand's most popular and talented military leader.

He was also well known for his contributions in the local community.

To date Rangiora has remembered Kippenberger by renaming the road out of Rangiora towards Woodend as 'Kippenberger Avenue', and the Cenotaph site at the corner of High and Ivory Streets as 'Kippenberger War Memorial Reserve'.

Artistic Project Objectives

Rangiora-Ashley Community Board (RACB) members have expressed that this artwork needs to focus on Kippenberger as a person and in particular his time in Rangiora, with an intentional focus on not becoming another war memorial or military statue.

A wide range of artistic styles and approaches are encouraged, from bold, colourful, and eye-catching designs to abstract forms and panel cutouts. While innovative concepts are preferred, traditional statue-style sculptures will also be taken into consideration.

They would like to honour Kippenberger as not only a soldier who served valiantly to protect our freedoms, but also a man with passionate interests and community spirit. It is therefore important that this art doesn't appear as a 'war memorial' but rather celebrates Kippenberger for all aspects of his life.

Elements that could be incorporated are outlined below:

- **Law and Order** – Kippenberger's career as a barrister
- **Democracy** – eight years serving on the Rangiora Borough Council
- **Team Sport** – his passion for cricket and captaining of the Rangiora Cricket Team
- **Recreation** – his interest in golf as a founding member of the Rangiora Golf Club
- **Distinguished Service** – the exceptional military career and leadership shown by Kippenberger through two world wars.

It is envisaged that the artwork would be large enough so that it is easily viewed by road users and pedestrians. The artwork would need to be at least 2 – 3 metres in size in order to be seen well.

RACB have requested an information panel be supplied either at the base or to the side which provides information as to who Kippenberger was, why he is important and the meanings behind the sculpture. This may be produced as a separate item but it is preferred that this is incorporated in the artwork itself.

The Council may decide to enhance the sculpture with complementary fencing or plantings as needed.

Design considerations/limitations:

The objectives for the design should include:

- Artistic excellence and innovation ensuring originality and high-quality craftsmanship;
- Durability with consideration for environmental conditions and long-term integrity;
- Ownership structure including guidelines for movement, maintenance, relocation or disposal;
- Community engagement fostering public interaction and strengthening local identity;
- Site compatibility reflecting the topography, character and intended use of the location;
- Health & safety consideration to exposed areas where children could insert hands or climb.

The structure should not include:

- Moving parts or materials that would prove as a distraction to passing motorists;
- A water feature as this would pose significant long-term operational concerns and would require substantial capital investment.

Site Information

On mound to the east of the wastewater station on Kippenberger Avenue, Rangiora opposite Devlin Avenue turnoff. See site map below.

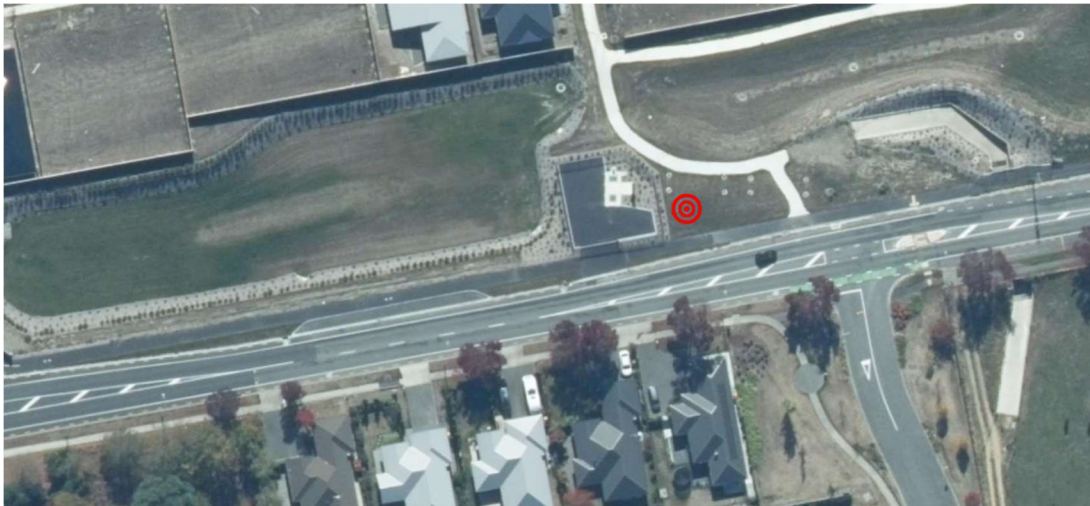


Figure 1 - Proposed site - Kippenberger Avenue, Rangiora.

3. Commission

Artist Opportunity

The Waimakariri District Council with the support of the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust is seeking an artist to create an artwork for display on Kippenberger Avenue.

The project provides an opportunity for skilled and experienced artist/s to make their mark on Rangiora by having their work potentially selected and permanently exhibited on a main thoroughfare.

Concept Submission

Artists are invited to submit a concept/s, including the following information:

- A drawn or computer-generated visual portrayal of the concept (provided as a JPG or PDF);
- Written statement outlining the meaning of the concept;
- Details of estimated size and materials used;
- Projected timeline for fabrication;
- Installation and future maintenance requirements.

Project Stages:

Stage 1 - Concept Submission

All concepts should be submitted to the Waimakariri District Council by Friday, 27 February 2026.

These will be initially reviewed internally to ensure the project criteria has been met before submission to Waimakariri Public Arts Trust trustees for consideration.

Stage 2 - Shortlisting

The Waimakariri Public Arts Trust will discuss and assess the submissions and shortlist the concepts to the three that they consider to be the most suitable in achieving the objectives. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified at this time.

Stage 3 - Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Approval

The three shortlisted designs will be presented in a report to the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board (RACB). At this meeting RACB members will choose and endorse a concept and the three artists will be notified of the outcome shortly thereafter.

Stage 4 - Full Art Brief development

Upon approval, Council staff will work with the artist to fully develop the artistic brief which will be incorporated into a Public Arts Commission and Installation Agreement. This will include expected project timelines and payment schedule.

Stage 5 – Fabrication

Once the detailed design is approved, the artist will proceed with fabrication of the sculpture in accordance with the agreed specifications and timeline.

Progress updates may be requested at key milestones.

Stage 6 – Installation

The artist will coordinate with Council on-site to install the completed sculpture, ensuring compliance with all safety and site preparation requirements.

Stage 7 – Final Acceptance

Following installation, Council will inspect and formally accept the completed work.

Final payment will be made 10 days after acceptance.

Artist's Fee

The successful artist will be paid \$30,000 (+ GST if applicable). This fee covers all aspects of this project including conceptual design, detailed design, artwork fabrication and all installation costs.

This will be split into progress payments as follows:

- Signing of agreement - \$2,500
- Detailed design - \$2,500
- Beginning of fabrication - \$10,000
- Installation - \$10,000
- Acceptance of works (10 days after installation) - \$5,000

Project Partners

This is a project of the Waimakariri District Council's Rangiora Ashley Community Board and is being delivered with support from the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust.

Design concepts must be submitted to:

Aria Huang, Waimakariri District Council

Email: Aria.Huang@wmk.govt.nz

All design concepts must be received before the application close off date of Friday, 27 February 2026.

Please provide a phone number that you can be reached on when you submit your concept.

4. Timeline

Activity	Date Due
Issue EOI brief to artists	19 January 2026
Deadline for concepts	27 February 2026
WPAT evaluations concluded	6 March 2026
Report taken to RACB meeting – concept choice made	15 April 2026
Applicants contacted	Prior to 20 April 2026

This timeline may be subject to minor changes once Community Board meeting dates have been confirmed.

5. Submission Requirements and Conditions

Communication

All communications relating to this project brief seeking clarification or additional information should be directed to:

Project Manager – Aria Huang

Email: Aria.Huang@wmk.govt.nz

Or

Waimakariri District Council – phone: 0800 965 468

General Conditions

The Waimakariri District Council with the support of the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust reserves the right to:

- Reject all or any concepts if they don't meet the project objectives,
- Request and obtain information from artists as required.
- Discuss a concept with the artist at any time before or after the selection of the preferred applicants and upon any terms and conditions.
- Amend the closing deadline date or any other date in the process.
- Amend, suspend or cancel this Project Brief or any associated documents in its entirety,
- Re issue the Project Brief to receive more concepts if there are not enough submissions or enough that meet the project objectives.

The Waimakariri District Council will not be bound to give reasons for decisions made because of the Project Brief, or as an outcome of the evaluation, but may do so where it considers this appropriate.

Error and Omissions

If the Waimakariri District Council discover errors and/or omissions in your response, Waimakariri District Council staff will attempt to notify you as soon as practicable and will require you to either confirm or as the situation requires, withdraw your concept. The Waimakariri District Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or inaccurate descriptions in this Project Brief, or any associated application documents.

No Warranties or Representations

The Waimakariri District Council makes no representations and give no warranties as to the information provided in this Project Brief.

Ownership of Response Documents

The concepts submitted to the Waimakariri District Council in response to this Project Brief shall be retained by the Council. Concepts will not be returned to the parties at the end of the project process.

Information Complete and Accurate

By submitting your Concept, you warrant that all information provided by you to the Waimakariri District Council in relation to your Concept is complete and accurate in all material respects and will not breach any third-party intellectual property rights.

Notification of submission Outcome

Council project staff will notify by phone or email the applicants that have been short listed to Stage Three. No legal relationship is created between the parties. Council project staff will notify all unsuccessful applicants by email within one week of the RACB meeting to let the know if their concepts have been successful.

Elimination

The Waimakariri District Council may eliminate any party from this process if that party:

- Has materially breached a term or condition of the process in this design brief.
- Has submitted a Concept that considers a material error, omission or inaccuracy.
- Has not submitted all listed requirements for the concept submission.

Confidentiality

To the extent that it is legally able to, the Waimakariri District Council will use best endeavours to keep Stage One and StageTwo, confidential and not disclose confidential information to third parties without the applicant's consent. However, it is likely that notification of those artists selected to Stage Three will be made public via a staff report to the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board and Councillors.

It is acknowledged by applicants that the Waimakariri District Council is subject to legislation including (but not limited to) the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and accordingly information provided by the applicants may be required to be disclosed under such legislation.

The Waimakariri District Council will not be in breach of its obligations if it is required to disclose confidential information to an appropriate authority because of relevant legislative processes.

Disclaimer

The Waimakariri District Council will not be liable in any other way whatsoever for any direct or indirect damage, loss or cost incurred by any applicant or any other person in respect of or in relation to this process.

6. Complaints Process

The Waimakariri District Council is committed to ensuring the process is impartial and without prejudice.

If you wish to raise any concerns related to the listed processes, please contact us to register your feedback.

Waimakariri District Council Arts Facilitator

Mel Foster

Email: Mel.Foster@wmk.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 965 468 (0800WMKGOV)

Appendix A

ABOUT SIR HOWARD KIPPENBERGER

See full details of Kippenberger's life at Appendix B, sourced from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, Te Ara.

Military background

Kippenberger fought with distinction, leading men in Greece, Crete, North Africa, Italy before losing both feet on a landmine in Cassino. Following the war, he continued to serve, being appointed chief of the War History Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs.

Kip was genuinely loved and respected by the 28th Battalion and was in later years quoted as saying *"Nothing in my life has given me greater pride than to have been brigadier of the Maori Battalion in six important battles and about 12 lesser ones"*.

On Anzac Day 1983, a brass plaque in honour of Kippenberger was unveiled in the Christchurch Cathedral. Dedicated by returned service men and women of Canterbury, it commemorates a great man and inspiring military leader who became a symbol of New Zealand achievement, as well as acknowledging the pain and cost of New Zealand's war involvement.

Other interests

Kippenberger served on the Rangiora Borough Council from 1927 – 1936, during which time he chaired the Finance Committee until 1931. Kippenberger was a barrister and managed the Rangiora office of the Christchurch law firm Johnston, Mills and White.

He had a passion for golf and was a founding member of the Rangiora Golf Club and Captain of the Rangiora A Grade cricket team.

Sources:

Glyn Harper. 'Kippenberger, Howard Karl', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 2000. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand).

<https://28maoribattalion.org.nz/photo/treasured-gesture-kip-28th>



Figure 2 - Major-General Kippenberger in 1946
Credit: National Library of New Zealand, Wellington



Figure 3 - Sir Howard Kippenberger, 1952
Credit: National Library of New Zealand, Wellington



Figure 4 - Battalion C.O. Lt. Col. Peta Awatere (28th (Maori Battalion) presenting a carved walking stick (tokotoko) carved by Rua Kaika to Kippenberger after his partial recovery and return to North Italy in 1945.

Credit: Kippenberger Library photo. Denis Clough archive

APPENDIX B

by Glyn Harper

Howard Karl Kippenberger was born at Ladbrooks, south of Christchurch, on 28 January 1897. He was the eldest child of Karl Kippenberger, a head teacher and Methodist local preacher, and his wife, Annie Elizabeth Howard. His great-grandparents had emigrated from Germany in 1862.

Howard attended school at Ladbrooks and later at Prebbleton. When the family moved to Oxford to take up farming, he went to board in Christchurch in order to attend Christchurch Boys' High School. His secondary schooling was not a great success, and he was invited to leave for lack of attendance and general poor performance.

Kippenberger enlisted in the New Zealand army in January 1916, advancing his age by 18 months to ensure he would serve overseas. Joining the New Zealand Division just as it was committed to the third phase of the battle of the Somme on 15 September 1916, he survived this nightmare of trench warfare, experiencing constant artillery barrages and taking part in two frontal attacks. During his 23 days in the front line all of Kippenberger's close friends in the Canterbury Battalion were killed or wounded.

After the division was withdrawn from the Somme, Kippenberger was made a battalion sniper. On 10 November 1916 he was wounded in the arm by shrapnel from a New Zealand artillery shell that had dropped short of its mark. The wound was serious, and his arm was temporarily paralysed with some doubt as to whether he would ever regain full use of it. He was hospitalised in England for two months. On 18 December 1916 the medical authorities recommended that he be returned to New Zealand as unfit for war service for 12 months. He was discharged from the army in April 1917.

Kippenberger then turned to the law for a career. He enrolled at Canterbury College, and by 1920 had qualified to practise as a solicitor. He moved to Rangiora to manage an office of the Christchurch law firm of Johnston, Mills and White. Four years later he was made a partner. He qualified as a barrister in 1926. On 28 September 1922 Kippenberger married Ruth Isabel Flynn at Lyttelton; they were to have two sons and a daughter.

Kippenberger kept busy in Rangiora. From 1927 to 1936 he served on the borough council, chairing the finance committee in 1931. He pursued his passion for cricket as a slow bowler, and captained the Rangiora A grade side.

A keen golfer who played off a handicap of eight, he was a founding member and later president of the Rangiora Golf Club.

What marked Kippenberger out from the ordinary during these years was his preparation for potential military command. This involved an intensive study of past campaigns in order to master the theory of warfare, and then military training to convert this theory into practice. He joined the Territorial Force in 1924, and on 14 July 1936 was made a lieutenant colonel and given command of the 1st Battalion of the Canterbury Regiment. In September 1939, when war was declared on Germany, Kippenberger was given command of the 20th Canterbury–Otago Battalion, and in January 1940 he again sailed for war.

Like all the units of the division, 20th Battalion had to be built up from scratch and first saw action in the ill-fated Greek campaign of March–April 1941. Most units spent many days preparing fortified positions only to evacuate them without firing a shot. The division was involved in several rearguard actions, yet for most the campaign resembled one long withdrawal – the hardest and most tiring of all the phases of war. Kippenberger commanded his battalion well and did not lose control of it during the difficult stages of the withdrawal. He also oversaw the demolition of two strategic passes, which he carried out with great coolness and determination.

The withdrawal from Greece was followed by the battle for Crete. In a campaign that highlighted the command failings of the New Zealand Division, Kippenberger was one of the few senior New Zealand officers to emerge with his reputation enhanced. His performance while leading the composite 10th Brigade earned him a DSO and marked him out as a cool and decisive battlefield commander. Throughout the campaign Kippenberger was well forward with the action. His quick thinking and command abilities prevented a rout of panicking New Zealand troops, while the counterattack on Galatos, which he organised, was a stunning success; unfortunately, it brought only a temporary respite. During the difficult withdrawal to Sphakia, and while suffering from a sprained ankle, Kippenberger kept an iron grip on 20th Battalion when many other units disintegrated.

Kippenberger's next action, his first in North Africa, was in November 1941. Operation Crusader was a mixed success. During the fighting he commanded seven successful actions in four days and was promoted to temporary brigadier after the battle. He enhanced his own reputation during the campaign and was mentioned in dispatches. But he also made several serious mistakes, which led to his wounding and capture (he and 19 others subsequently made a daring escape). Most painful of all, his mistakes contributed to his beloved 20th Battalion being virtually annihilated on Belhamed.

Kippenberger's appointment as brigadier was made permanent in May 1942. He developed his full potential as a military leader while commanding 5th

New Zealand Infantry Brigade in the desert campaigns of 1942 and 1943, and earned a bar to his DSO in February 1942. He began rather shakily with successive disasters at Minqâr Qaim, Ruweisat Ridge and El Mreir. But from August 1942 success followed success: Alam Halfa, El Alamein (where Kippenberger's brigade was one of only two in the Eighth Army to take all its objectives), Medenine (the most successful defensive battle in North Africa), and the left hooks of El Agheila, Tripoli and Tebaga Gap. However, at the end of the campaigns in North Africa, a worn-out Kippenberger committed his greatest tactical blunder of the war. At Takrouna he marched his brigade into a lethal killing ground and the resultant heavy casualties reduced him to tears.

Kippenberger's abilities confirmed him as the most obvious successor to Bernard Freyberg as commander of the New Zealand Division, which he had led in North Africa for short periods during Freyberg's absence. In Italy, Freyberg was elevated to a temporary corps command and Kippenberger was appointed to command the division. Unfortunately for him, his first battle was at Cassino, the strongest part of the Germans' defensive line. Kippenberger's first attempt to take Cassino was very narrowly defeated, and while planning a second attack he was seriously wounded on 2 March 1944 when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine while descending Mt Trocchio and lost both his feet.

Kippenberger was hospitalised in England and fitted with artificial feet. He received the rank of major general, and in September 1944 was appointed to command the unit responsible for the smooth relocation of prisoners of war to New Zealand. The appointment was made at the specific request of the New Zealand War Cabinet. He held this post until 1946. It was an administrative task in which he was largely a figurehead and signing authority, the demanding paperwork being carried out by a dedicated staff who came to revere their new commanding officer. Kippenberger insisted on personally seeing off each departing draft of ex-POWs and speaking to every man in it.

On his return to New Zealand in 1946 Kippenberger was appointed editor in chief of the War History Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs. It proved an inspired choice. John Pascoe, the illustrations editor of the project, believed that Kippenberger was 'the only man in this country who combined all the qualities of soldier, scholar and administrator necessary for editing an ambitious series of war histories'. He led a team of writers, editors and researchers, and the high quality of the 23 volumes produced under his editorship owes much to the vision and leadership ability of the project's founding editor. Kippenberger held it together for its first difficult decade, during which there was a threat of its being disestablished and attempts to block the publication of three of the volumes. He firmly but tactfully turned such threats aside.

In 1949 Kippenberger's own account of the war, *Infantry Brigadier*, was published to wide acclaim. The book is a detailed and well-written account of his part in the Second World War, and shows much of its author's modesty,

reflectiveness, soundness of judgement, humane concern for his men, and dry sense of humour. It has been translated into seven languages, and is still used as a textbook of infantry tactics.

In 1948 Kippenberger was elected president of the New Zealand Returned Services' Association, a position he held for the next seven years. He was also on the boards of the New Zealand Patriotic Fund, and the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum, and was a member of the Canteen Fund Board, as well as being regimental colonel of the Canterbury Regiment. He remained a prominent public figure until the end of his life, although he was so quietly spoken as to be somewhat ineffective as a platform orator. Many honours and awards were given to Kippenberger in recognition of his war service. In 1944 he was made a CBE, and in 1945 he was appointed a CB and made an officer of the US Legion of Merit. He was knighted in 1948, and received an honorary LLD from the University of New Zealand in 1955.

Kippenberger was involved in controversy over his stand against the 1949 rugby tour of South Africa because of the exclusion of Maori players. After he publicly expressed his views in the Christchurch Press, there was a storm of protest from a rugby-mad New Zealand. While Kippenberger received many letters of support for his statements (including some from South Africa), the tone of the letters of condemnation was extremely hostile and aggressive. For Kippenberger, the issues involved in this dispute were very clear. If Maori were good enough to represent New Zealand on the battlefields of the world, this representation should not be compromised on South Africa's rugby fields. It was a battle he lost. As he wrote to a friend, 'I say it with some bitterness, Rugby is King and the dead are only bones'.

Kippenberger's natural tolerance was strained as the Cold War gave more prominence to the issue of domestic communism. He gave representatives of the Communist Party of New Zealand leave to speak before the RSA's national convention in 1950, but during the Korean War he publicly lambasted communists as 'rogues or dupes or traitors either potential or intended'.

In the post-war years, Kippenberger's health was not good and he suffered from frequent headaches and blackouts. On 4 May 1957, while preparing for his wife's release from hospital, where she had been seriously ill, Kippenberger collapsed and went into a coma. He died the following day in Wellington Hospital of a cerebral haemorrhage. Ruth Kippenberger died in 1967.

Howard Kippenberger was New Zealand's most popular military commander, and perhaps its most talented. He was of average height and rather slight in build and gave the impression of being wiry. Charles Upham said he had 'a keen, alert look about him', while another soldier said that he had 'steely eyes' that 'bloody near looked into your soul'. No other New Zealand commander inspired such loyalty and devotion from those who served with him. In

September 1943 Driver A. O. Eyles composed a military march he named 'Kippenberger'. On Anzac Day 1983, in Christchurch cathedral, a brass plaque in honour of Kippenberger was unveiled and dedicated by returned servicemen and women of the Canterbury province: '“Kip” was the most respected man in the New Zealand Army ... He had a phenomenal memory for names and faces, he was no man to insist on rank, and his very manner of speech seemed to the Kiwis to be absolutely right'.

During the war years, and even more so after them, Kippenberger became a symbol of New Zealand achievement. He symbolised for many, too, the pain and the cost of New Zealand's participation in the war. His military library was purchased from his estate by the New Zealand Army in 1957. It is now housed in the Kippenberger Military Archive and Research Library, Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum, in Waiouru.

Links and sources

Bibliography

Harper, G. *Kippenberger*. Auckland, 1997

Pascoe, J. '“Kip”: the good soldier'. *New Zealand's Heritage* 89 (1973): 2472–2474

Ross, A. 'Kippenberger, Howard Karl'. In *An encyclopaedia of New Zealand*. Ed. A. H. McLintock. Wellington, 1966

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