

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** TD Burnett and Downlands Water Supply Memorial

**ADDRESS** 1232 Pleasant Point-Cave Highway, Cave

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(14 December 2018)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** New      **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Part RS 34264

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2482013300

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** c.1947

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown

**STYLE** Rustic

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Symmetrical stepped structure of random rubble masonry construction. Trough on lowest level is flanked by small inlet reservoir with ball cock. Two-step base behind trough supports inset plaque and is surmounted by a large boulder. Stone plaque has polished lettering (see below).

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Stone and cement mortar.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Unknown, if any.

**SETTING**

The water trough is located within a grassed and planted reserve on the north side of Pleasant Point-Cave Highway, two kilometres to the east of Cave. A Lands and Survey Department benchmark (No. UC 72) is located on the same site. The scheduled setting encompasses the immediate environs of the water trough, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

Thomas David Burnett (1877-1941) was born at Cave and schooled at Timaru Boys' High School. He worked on his parents' Mt Cook run as a young man and inherited the property when his father died in 1927. Burnett's parents Andrew and Catherine had emigrated from Scotland in 1861. TD Burnett was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 1919 and he held the Temuka seat until his death in 1941. Burnett gifted St David's Pioneer Memorial Church at Cave in 1930 and was also a generous donor to many local building projects, including the Temuka Public Library and Strathcona Homecrafts School at Pleasant Point. As a tribute to Burnett and his leading support for the Downlands Water Supply Scheme (1937-41+) a memorial water trough was erected by the grateful ratepayers of the four contributing county councils in c.1947. The trough is still maintained although it is not known whether it remains in use.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The TD Burnett Memorial has historic significance for its association with Thomas Burnett and the Downlands Water Supply scheme that he championed. The memorial also demonstrates the connections between the Mackenzie and Timaru districts and the importance of water supply to increasing farm production and developing rural communities in South Canterbury.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The TD Burnett Memorial has cultural significance as a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century commemorative structure that contributes to a sense of place.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The TD Burnett Memorial has aesthetic value as a rustic water trough. It is comparable in design and/or genesis to the Rhodes Spring Fountain erected on the Summit Road by Sir Heaton Rhodes in 1914 and the 1929 Colonel Brett Memorial at Kirwee, both of which are located in Selwyn district. The designer of the memorial is currently unknown.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The TD Burnett Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its stone construction and detailing. The stonemason is currently unknown.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The TD Burnett Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark. It is also related to the Mackenzie and World War I memorials erected by TD Burnett and to St David's Pioneer Memorial Church, all of which are located in Mackenzie district.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the water trough post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance of the site would likely relate to its earlier use and development.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The TD Burnett and Downlands Water Supply Memorial has overall heritage significance to the Cave area and the district of Timaru as a whole. The water trough has historical and social significance for its association with TD Burnett and the Downlands Water Supply Scheme and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The TD Burnett Memorial has aesthetic value as a rustic water trough and craftsmanship value for the quality of its stone construction. The TD Burnett Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark on the Pleasant Point-Cave Highway.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

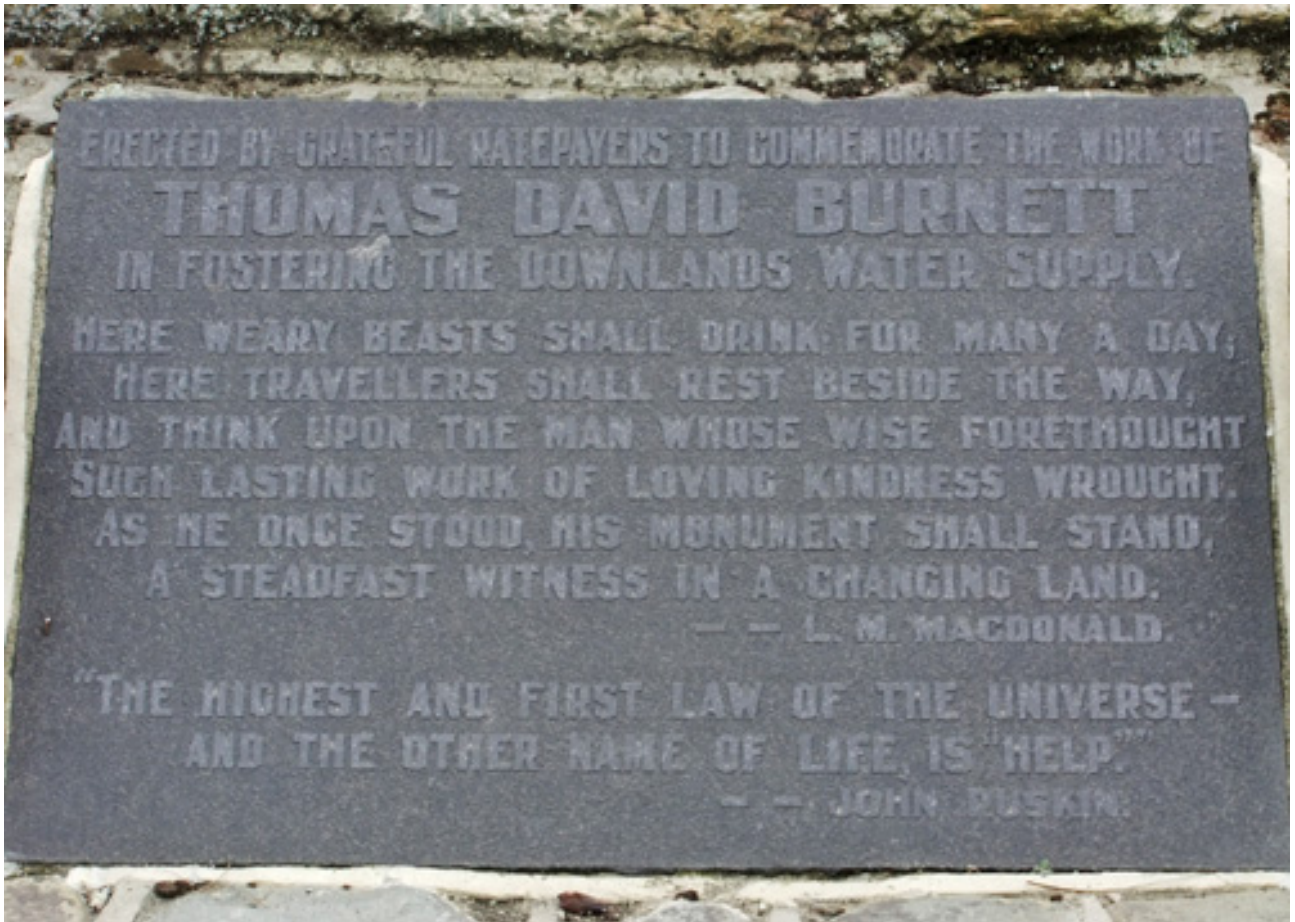
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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 23 September 1927, p. 6; 15 October 1936, p. 13; 4 December 1937, p. 6; 15 March 1941, p. 7; 1 December 1941, p. 4; 2 December 1941, p. 8; 1 July 1943, p. 3; 27 September 1945, p. 4.
- *Auckland Star* 1 December 1941, p. 2.
- *NZ Herald* 25 October 2015 (available online).
- *Otago Daily Times* 30 November 1937, p. 16; 9 August 1946, p. 4; 7 January 1948, p. 4.
- *Northern Advocate* 1 December 1941, p. 3.
- *Fairlie Accessible* 18 November 2015 (available online).
- <https://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/environment/water/water-supplies/downlands>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/thomas-david-burnett-memorial>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/keyword/water-supply>
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/Burnett.htm>



Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting, 1232 Pleasant Point-Cave Highway (SH 8), Cave.



ERECTED BY GRATEFUL RATEPAYERS TO COMMEMORATE THE WORK OF  
**THOMAS DAVID BURNETT**  
IN FOSTERING THE DOWNLANDS WATER SUPPLY.

HERE WEARY BEASTS SHALL DRINK FOR MANY A DAY,  
HERE TRAVELLERS SHALL REST BESIDE THE WAY,  
AND THINK UPON THE MAN WHOSE WISE FORETHOUGHT  
SUCH LASTING WORK OF LOVING KINDNESS WROUGHT.  
AS HE ONCE STOOD, HIS MONUMENT SHALL STAND,  
A STEADFAST WITNESS IN A CHANGING LAND.

— — L. M. MACDONALD.

"THE HIGHEST AND FIRST LAW OF THE UNIVERSE —  
AND THE OTHER NAME OF LIFE, IS 'HELP.'"

— — JOHN RUSKIN.