

GIFT OF HAPURUNUI TO THE BOROUGH BY MR. AND MRS. BURGESS

Statement by His Worship the Mayor.

July 16th. 1936.

The Meeting today has been called at very short notice but in view of its nature I am sure that no apologies are necessary.

It is my pleasant duty to inform you that Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Burgess have intimated to me their intention to give to the Council as a public resort for the recreation and enjoyment of the people of this town and district their beautiful home at the Meetings of the Waters, Mangorei. *The gift is made in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough and this is not the first time by any means that Mr. and Mrs. Burgess have given concrete evidence of their great interest in the town in which they live and of the warm affection they bear for its people. Nor is it the first time that the people of New Plymouth have benefited from their public spirit and generosity.*

will have in mind
All of us ~~will have in mind~~ the beautiful Kiosk in Pukekura Park which they erected, furnished and fitted out entirely at their own cost. Then amongst many other things too numerous to mention we have the Burgess Childrens' Playground at Wallace Place so popular amongst the children of that locality, another gift from Mr. and Mrs. Burgess. Their gifts have been extremely generous and have shown the wonderful public spirit which animates them. These gifts are however, surpassed by the personal work they have done and the personal interest they have taken during a long period of years in everything pertaining to the development of the town and the welfare of its people. They have worked with and assisted so many organisations in this town that I will not attempt to enumerate them.

As Mayor and Mayoress of the town from 1915 to 1919 they did outstanding work and their work for the benefit of the Soldiers going to and returning from the War and for the benefit of the Returned Soldiers after the War form a glorious chapter in their lives and an inspiration to everyone of us. And now as a climax to all that has gone before they have given to the people this beautiful property "Hapurunui".

This property is well known throughout the District. It is situate at the Meetings of the Waters and contains 12 acres 2½ acres of which is beautifully laid out in lawns and shrubberies, the balance being good bush protected from the winds by hedges of exotic trees. The buildings which I believe have cost over £3000 to erect harmonise perfectly with their surroundings and can at a moderate cost be converted into a modern and up-to-date tea kiosk. The property adjoins a large Scenic Reserve owned by the Crown and controlled by a Scenic Board of which the Mayor of the Borough for the time being is a member. The property can be linked up with this Scenic Reserve and the two combined will form a wonderful heritage for the people. The outlook from the property is really inspiring and taken in conjunction with the Scenic Reserve I venture to say it is a beauty spot impossible to equal in its class in the southern Hemisphere. This is a big thing to say but this is not only my impression but it is the impression of many people familiar with beauty spots in all parts of the World.

The only condition attached by Mr. and Mrs. Burgess is that the Council shall maintain the property for the use

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and benefit of the people and we can in all thankfulness accept the trust.

In the transfer of the property to the Council later on it will be necessary to fix the details of the trust but this will be arranged by the Borough Solicitor with the donors. It will also be necessary at a later date to name the property and I am sure that you will agree that the only name we can give it will be "Burgess Park". As such it will remain for all time as an abiding Memorial of the great public spirit of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess and of the warm affection they have always evinced for the town of their adoption and for the people amongst whom they have lived so long.

Steps will require to be taken to arrange for the Official opening of the Park. This I hope may take place next month during the celebrations in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough. In this connection it seems a happy augury for the Celebrations that a gift such as this adding so much to the amenities of the town should have been made just at this time. I suggest that the following resolutions be passed by the Council:-

1. That this Council in the name and on behalf of the people of New Plymouth gratefully accepts the gift of the property "Hapurunui" tendered by Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Burgess as a public resort for the recreation and enjoyment of the people and undertakes that it will be faithfully maintained for the purposes for which it has been given.
2. That in conveying the preceding resolution to Mr. & Mrs. Burgess the Mayor be requested to ascertain whether they will permit the park to be known as "Burgess Park".
3. That this Council again places upon record its appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Burgess to New Plymouth and District and for the spirit of goodwill evinced by them throughout a very long period of public service in actively associating themselves with every movement having for its object the advancement and prosperity of the town and the welfare of its people. That the Council also reiterates its grateful thanks for the gift which they have from time to time made to the town and gladly embraces this opportunity of expressing the hope that Mr. and Mrs. Burgess may long be spared to the town and to each other in the full enjoyment of the best of health and every prosperity and that always amongst the most pleasant memories of their lives may be the knowledge of the efforts so wide so sustained and so varied which they with such unflinching public spirit have made for the welfare of the community on which they have lived so long.