



**World War I Memorial Band Rotunda, South Road** **1921-1922**

<b>Use</b>	Band Rotunda	<b>Historic Value</b>	<b>3</b> out of 5
<b>Materials</b>	Concrete, shingle roof	<b>Architectural Value</b>	<b>2</b> out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered</b>	Category II Register Number 940	<b>Technical Value</b>	<b>1</b> out of 2
<b>Valuation No</b>		<b>Symbolic Value</b>	<b>3</b> out of 3
<b>Legal Description</b>		<b>Rarity</b>	<b>1</b> out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value</b>	<b>2</b> out of 2
		<b>Group Value</b>	<b>1</b> out of 2
		<b>Overall Cultural Heritage Value</b>	<b>13</b> out of 20
<b>Reference</b>	S11		

**Description**

The World War I Memorial Band Rotunda is constructed of roughcast concrete. The shingle roof is supported by eight pillars in the shape of an octagon. Stairs lead inside the rotunda from both north and south directions. Plaques commemorating the local men whom fought during World War I are inset into the outside walls of the rotunda.

**History**

Manaia is known for the World War I Memorial Band Rotunda because it is one of the few places where a war memorial is situated in the centre of town. The rotunda was built in memory of those who left these shores to fight in World War I.

The idea for the memorial rotunda was mooted by the Manaia Patriotic Society in August 1917. In February 1920 the Town Board gave permission for the rotunda to be built in the octagon. Mr George Edwards submitted plans and costs (\$1700) in 1921, and by 1922 it was built.

The rotunda was built in the middle of the main road, but has since had a roundabout constructed around it. Before the roundabout was formed, traffic through the centre of Manaia seemed to go anywhere. The obelisk facing Yarrows (the Bakers) Limited was originally situated at the centre point of the octagon but it was moved so that rotunda could be built there.

The rotunda has always played an important role in Manaia. The local brass band practised there every Friday night until the early 1950s, and in the early days it was a common sight to see cows congregated there before afternoon milking. Today it is a meeting place for many events such as the ANZAC Day Dawn Parade & Christmas Eve celebrations. A time capsule was buried on the site of the rotunda in 1982.

**Architect**

Not known, possibly Mr George Edwards

**Builder**

George Edwards and unemployed workers.

**Sources**

Roberts C (1939), *Centennial History of Hawera and the Waimate Plains*

Hosie J (1982), *Centennial History of Manaia and Manaia School, 1882-1982*, Ekdahl Print; New Zealand

New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register

**Date**

January 2000