



# Skinner Road War Memorial Hall

**Skinner Rd**

**1958**

**Use:** Hall  
**Materials:**  
**NZHPT Registered:** Not registered  
**Legal Description:** Lot 1 DP 6348 Blk II Ngaere SD

**Historic Value:** 2 out of 5  
**Architectural Value:** 1 out of 4  
**Technical Value:** - out of 2  
**Symbolic Value:** - out of 3  
**Rarity Value:** - out of 2  
**Townscape Value:** - out of 2  
**Group Value:** - out of 2



**Overall Heritage Value:** 3 out of 20





Skinner Road was a reasonably prosperous community – by 1905 it had a school, creamery (which burnt down and so was replaced by a butter factory), railway station and stone crusher.

The need for a local hall had been recognised for a long time. However, it was not until June 1946 that anything was put into action. At a meeting, Mr. H.C. Paynter and Mr. H.A.L. Hann were put in charge of leading the project to build the new hall. This was made easier with Mr. Hann's contribution of a section of land to be used as the site for the hall.

The district got behind this idea, and many years were spent raising money through gala days, raffles, socials, and directly appealing to the locals. This led to a total of £1675 being collected. A pound for pound subsidy was also given by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Finally, after 11 years of raising money and having meetings to discuss the lack of finance, everyone was satisfied that the hall could be built debt-free. Construction began in March 1957, and with the help of well-attended working bees and voluntary labour by 23 men (led by Mr. Hann and Mr. J.R. Pattinson), the hall was finished.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1958, the 6000 pound Skinner Road War Memorial Hall was built and furnished. It was dedicated by the Rev. K.T. Moody, and officially opened by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. W.T. Anderton.

Improvements made to this hall after the opening include a large concrete tank being purchased (and so a better water supply being installed), the stage and storage space being extended, and a bar room being provided for social occasions.

Today, the hall is scarcely used, and at a meeting in a 1998 it was suggested to close it down, put it up for sale, and/or remove it, as it was becoming derelict, and it was difficult to put together a Hall Committee. However, the hall has the potential to continue to be a great asset to this district, if people are willing to make the most of it.

## **Bibliography**

*Bird Road School Centennial* p40

*Meeting of Bird Road-Skinner Road Community held in Skinner Road Hall, 16 Feb 1998*

Church, Ian; *The Stratford Inheritance*, The Heritage Press (1990) p42