

## 6.16 Waitara Cemetery

### Description

Location:	Bayly Street, between Silby and Elliot Streets, Waitara.
Legal description:	Lot 1 - 2 DP 5060 and Part Section 9, Waitara East District
Size:	5.75 hectares
Reserve status:	Subject to Reserves Act 1977
Reserve classification:	Local purpose (cemetery) reserve



### Physical description

Most of Waitara Cemetery is situated on flat ground apart from a low point with some wetland, near the midpoint on the western boundary. The cemetery is on the eastern edge of Waitara with farmland to the north and east and residential houses to the west and south.

### Tangata whenua interests

This reserve is within the tribal rohe of Te Atiawa Iwi. It is of historic and cultural significance to Manukorihi hapu.

### Land status and acquisition history

Section 9 of some 14 acres and 10 perches was temporarily reserved from sale under section 44 of The Land Act 1877 for the purpose of a cemetery, on 15 January 1879 by Governor Normanby by gazette notice.

A list of regulations governing the activities of the cemetery was published in a gazette notice dated 28 December 1880, by H. A. Atkinson for the Colonial Secretary pursuant to the Cemeteries Management Act 1877. The trustees at that time were:

- Thomas Bayly
- Burton C. Lawrence
- Wm Tate
- Henry Faull
- John Elliot

In 1898, Governor Ranfurly pursuant to Section 6 of 'The Cemeteries Act 1882', appointed the Raleigh Town Board as trustees of the public cemetery, being Section 9, Waitara East, Waitara Survey District, some 14 acres and 10 perches recorded in a gazette notice on 9 August 1898 (page 1308). The notice revoked any previous trustee appointments. The notice identified swamps to the northwest and southwest.

Governor-General Jellicoe in 1923, pursuant to section four of the Public Reserves and Domains Act 1908, vested Section 9 Waitara East Registration District (14 acres and 33 perches) in trust with the Waitara Borough Council for a public cemetery. This is duplicated in the certificate of title TN 106/137 dated 19 June 1923.

The cemetery was classified as local purpose (cemetery) by L.M. Kenworthy, Commissioner of Crown Lands pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, recorded by gazette notice September 1981 (page 2924); an area of 5.75 hectares.

On the 6 November 1986, certificate of title TN H1/1228 has separated Section 9 into Part Section 9 and Lots 1-2 DP 5060, vested with North Taranaki District Council as a reserve for local purpose (cemetery), subject to the Reserves Act 1977; an area of 5.749 hectares.

## **History and cultural values**

### Unmarked and unrecorded graves in the cemetery

There are numerous unmarked and unrecorded graves in the cemetery. On one occasion, at private expense, G.P.R. Geotechnical Services reported on a ground penetrating radar survey on the 2 June 2000, of a specific area of the cemetery to identify any unmarked burials. On this occasion they found one at five metres from the area of interest.

### Grazing

The grazing of the cemetery has been an ongoing practice to this day, with the certificate of title TN 106/137 showing a 10 year lease with Farmers Union Incorporated from the Waitara Borough Council in April 1926, for part of the cemetery.

### Proposed highway deviation through the cemetery

In March 1967, the Ministry of Works wrote to the Waitara Borough Council to inform them that the possible highway deviation planned to go through the Council's planned extension of the Waitara Cemetery had been dropped for an alternative proposal.

### Proposed land exchange

A letter from a registered public valuer on 22 December 1983, involved the valuation for an exchange proposal of 610m<sup>2</sup> of the Waitara Cemetery along the western boundary, in exchange for gaining 780m<sup>2</sup> of private land in the southwestern corner.

The valuer estimated the private land to be worth \$500 more (1983 values) than the cemetery land. The exchange did not proceed.

#### Services area

With the existing area reaching capacity a request for information from the Waitara Returned Services Association (RSA), the Secretary on 11 April 2003, wrote to the Veterans Affairs indicating the number of members and likely burial demand. A new Services area has been developed in the cemetery.

An area of the cemetery was set aside as the Services Area in 1947. On 1 September 1950, the Waitara Borough Council waived the charge of plot purchase to those eligible service personnel. With the amalgamation of Councils to form the New Plymouth District Council in 1989, a uniform fee was introduced in the district for the purchase of Service area plots with a 55% Council subsidy.

The Waitara RSA wrote to the Council in April 2005 concerned at the cost of plots in the Services Area and considered that the Services Area was vested in the War Graves Commission. Prior to the 1989 amalgamation of local Councils the plots had been available at no charge to eligible service personnel.

The Council responded indicating that there is no evidence of the land being vested in the War Graves Commission.

On 13 June 2005, the Council in response to a submission from the Waitara RSA (Inc) opposing the raising of fees in the Waitara Servicemen's cemetery in line with the public charges, resolved that the 55% subsidy of servicemen's burial plot purchase prices be retained and the cemetery fees be increased in line with the proposed adult plot purchase price.

The Council resolved to increase the subsidy on Service persons plots from 55% to 100% on 20 June 2007, following a submission from the Waitara Returned Services Association.

The Veterans Affairs New Zealand approved to fund replacement of the concrete entranceway at the Services Area of the cemetery in 2003.

#### Children's memorial wall

The proposal of a memorial wall commemorating still born and new born babies was published in the Waitara Angle in May and June of 1999. The proposal was initiated to the Council from letters received from the Owae Marae Committee and the SANDS Group (Stillborn and Neo-natal Death Syndrome Support Group), citing the recently installed monument at Te Henui Cemetery.

A resulting granite memorial was installed in 2000 in an area where still born and babies are buried. A wall memorialising the individual names of those buried has not been installed at Waitara Cemetery.

Twelve Canary Island palm trees and one puriri tree are listed as notable in the District Plan.

The Waitara Cemetery is a Category B heritage site in the District Plan.

### Existing improvements

The cemetery contains a war memorial monument, two flagpoles and entrance gates, 11 outdoor taps, seven rubbish bins, five seats, an entrance and information sign and a road within the cemetery.

## WAITARA CEMETERY

For further information please phone 06-759 6060  
or search online at [www.newplymouthnz.com](http://www.newplymouthnz.com)



### Management and administration

#### War graves

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage maintains four war graves at this cemetery; three relating to the World War I and one relating to World War II.

#### Public toilets for the cemetery

There have been several requests for a public toilet facility at the cemetery. On 29-30 May 2002, the Council declined that a recommendation to spend \$50,000 for a toilet facility at the Waitara cemetery be considered for inclusion in the Annual Plan 2002/2003. A further request was made in 2003 by the Waitara Community Board with the Council declining the recommendation at their meeting on 27-29 May 2003, that \$50,000 for provision of a toilet at the Waitara cemetery be added to the "basket" for later consideration by the Council at the meeting.

The Council on 11 May 2004, as part of the Public Toilet Review resolved that a new public toilet at Waitara Cemetery be included in a prioritised list to proceed as finance permits. A public toilet for Waitara Cemetery ranked eighth after seven other locations: Okato CBD, Westown CBD, Bell Block CBD, Rogan St, Oakura CBD, Waiwhakaiho Rivermouth and East End Reserve (Buller St).

#### Natural burials

On 10 March 2009, the Council resolved through the Cemetery Capacity Report to investigate the possibility of designating land for natural burials at Waitara Cemetery. This was followed by a resolution on 20 July 2010, that further investigation for a natural burial area at the Gully Site at the Waitara Cemetery will be considered as part of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan process.

#### **Management objectives and specific policies**

- This cemetery is managed as an open cemetery.
- Further investigation into the development of a natural burial area in the gully site is to part of the 2012-22 Long Term Plan consultation.
- The cemetery is developing eastward from the western boundary of Lot1.
- The undeveloped eastern part of the cemetery will be managed through grazing.

**Hatched area indicates the potential area of pre 1900 development at the cemetery, constituting an archaeological area under the Historic Places Act 1993.**



- As the cemetery nears capacity, investigation into developing the old nursery area and car park at the western end of the cemetery for traditional burials, is to be undertaken. Both these sites would require analysis to identify unmarked graves and to identify sites that will be unaffected by the water table. The cost of surveying the two sites is estimated at \$7,500 and \$8,500 respectively. The sites are identified below.

**Old nursery site** - North at top of page



The old nursery site is the clear rectangular area in the centre of this aerial photograph, an area of some 1,400 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Car park** - North at top of page



The car park is the turfed area at the centre of the aerial photograph, an area of some 3,900 m<sup>2</sup>.