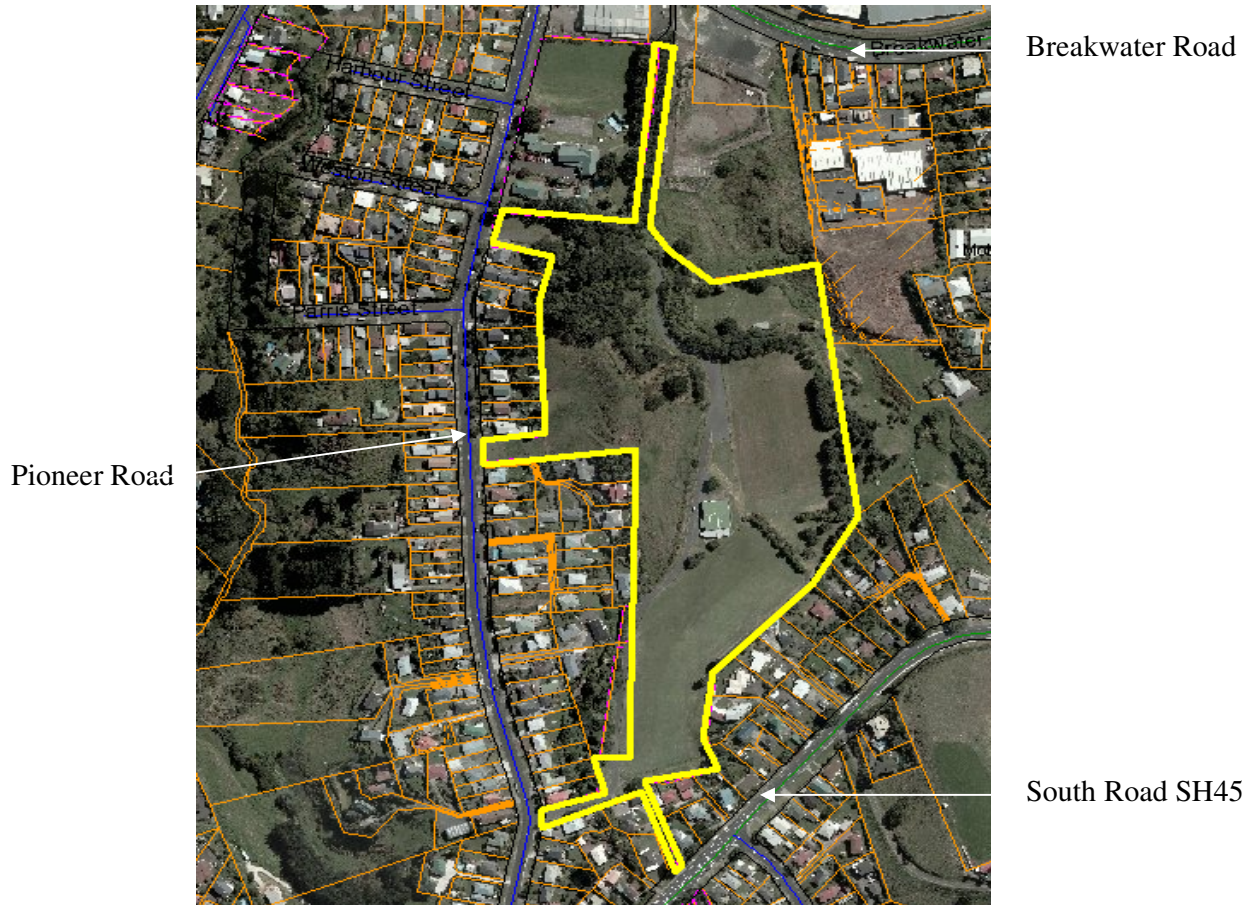


#### 4. *Ngamotu Domain Recreation Reserve*

##### **Description**

Location: Pioneer Road, New Plymouth  
Legal description: Sect 1010 Grey District  
Lot 3 DP 9266  
Lot 4 DP 9266  
Size: 8.62 hectares  
Reserve Status: Subject to the Reserves Act 1977  
Reserve Classification: Recreation reserve



##### **Physical description**

Ngamotu Domain is a sports park located in Moturoa. Two vehicle accesses are located off Pioneer Road with additional pedestrian access from SH 45 South Road and Otaka Street (an unformed street) which is off SH 44 Breakwater Road.

The sports park has two fields available. The current sport played at the park is rugby league.

The eastern side of the park is Open Space A Environment Area in the District Plan. These areas are used primarily for organised sports and recreation. Such areas will normally have associated buildings such as clubrooms, changing sheds or toilet

facilities. To the West is Open Space B Environment Area which is characterised by those areas that are predominantly focused towards informal recreational pursuits, usually of a more passive nature, such as walking and playing. They are more open, with less built features than the Open Space A Environment Area. The park is surrounded by a mix of Residential A and B Environment Areas, Industrial D to the north and Motorua Primary School to the northwest.

### **Tangata whenua interests**

This reserve is within the tribal rohe of Te Atiawa and Taranaki Iwi. It is of historic and cultural significance to Ngāti Te Whiti and Ngā Mahanga-a-Tairi hapū.

### **Land status and acquisition history**

Between 1921 and 1955 the Governor General declared various lots that are now known as Section 1010 Grey District to be known as Ngamotu Domain and be managed, administered, and dealt with as a public domain by the Ngamotu Domain Board.

Between 1963 and 1979 Lot 3 and Lot 4 DP 9266 were purchased by the New Plymouth City Council. In 1979 the Minister of Lands declared all parcels classifying Ngamotu Domain as Recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Under the Reserves Act 1977 local authorities became domain boards and therefore the New Plymouth District Council is the administration body of the whole reserve. The underlying title remains with the Crown for Section 1010 Grey District.

### **History and cultural values**

Ivan Bruce, Archaeologist provides an account of the history of Ngamotu Domain in his report "Preliminary Assessment of the Ngamotu Domain – January 2011 -

*"The area of the Ngamotu Reserve was originally part of the lands purchased by the New Plymouth Company as a result of a agreement brokered by Moturoa based whaler and trader Richard "Dickie" Barrett, acting as a land agent for the New Plymouth Company. This land claim was later repudiated when the individuals who made the sale were found to be acting outside their jurisdiction. The New Plymouth Company's land sales were significantly reduced to an area of 60,000 acres as a result of Commissioner Spain's award in 1844. This included the sections now occupied by the Ngamotu Reserve. This award was in turn repudiated by the incoming Governor Fitzroy who repurchased 3800 acres for the settlement of New Plymouth. For this Maori accepted £350 in goods and money as full compensation (Hursthouse 1849: 59). The area of the Ngamotu Reserve was included in this final purchase.*

*The land was purchased by the NZ Govt as prison reserve. The Prison Reserve was created following the proposal in 1874 to build a prison for long sentence prisoners from all over NZ. It was proposed that a prison for 200 men would be constructed at Ngamotu, whose labour would then be used to complete the nearby breakwater (Tullet 1981). NZ Govt set aside \$20,000 and the land was procured. The scheme was*

*abandoned following public rejection of the scheme. Instead work began on current stone jail, constructed at Robe St in 1879<sup>1</sup>.*

*Newspaper correspondence indicates that an argument for use of the site as a central prison was still being debated in 1886. The land remained as Prison Reserve until the proposed land use was effectively cancelled by Reserves and other land disposal and public bodies' empowerment act, 1919. The area been administered by the City of New Plymouth ever since. The area of this reserve is depicted on early land plans (ML242)) as Prison Reserve."*

The Ngamotu Domain Management Plan was prepared in 1980. Originally the area was developed for summer and winter sports including rugby league, soccer and softball. The three fields (two senior, one junior) were developed from a landfill site to provide turf surfaces for the summer and winter sport. The land also contained a hall, public toilets/changing facilities building, and sealed access and carparking.

There are two monuments at the northern end of the sports field in the bush section. The seat and plaque were donated by the Honeyfield family. The plaque is etched into the seat and painted silver.

Ngamotu pa is located on the western side of the park and is related to the Ngati Te Whiti Iwi.

Ivan Bruce, Archaeologist provides an outline of the archaeological records for the Pa in his report "Preliminary Assessment of the Ngamotu Domain – January 2011 -

*"The NZAA site recording scheme indicates that a pa site has been recorded on the reserve. The site is recorded as P19/4. The site record dates to 1962, when the site was visited by local amateur archaeologist D. W. Robinson, who describes the pa as "destroyed but for the slightest vestiges".*

*The site is listed on the NPDC District Plan, where the site is listed as Waahi tapu site ID No 4. The site is named Ngamotu Pa in the plan but I am unaware of any historical sources that refer to the site as Ngamotu Pa. The site was not identified by Keenan in the New Plymouth CBD Heritage Inventory (in Cochrane 1991).*

*Early ethnographic accounts attribute the name of Ngamotu Pa as synonymous with site of Otaka Pa (Smith 1910), situated below the Ngamotu domain and recorded as NZAA site P19/10. However, the attribution of the name Ngamotu to the site at*

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<sup>1</sup> The rejection of the prison appears to have been a result of public opposition to having long serving convicts in their back yard rather than a humanitarian objection to prison labour as prison labour was indeed used during the construction of the breakwater and many submissions were made in support of the Use of prison labour. Following the construction of the Robe St Jail, prisoners were marched under armed guard through New Plymouth to the work site at Ngamotu.

*Ngamotu domain may relate to later Maori occupation of the general area by Maori from the mid 19th C. A kainga at Ngamotu became the focus of Ngati Te Whiti settlement following the removal of the people from Te Kawau Pa in 1860. This settlement was in turn demolished by the Harbour Board in 1935. An unnamed Maori reserve consisting of two settlements is depicted in the general vicinity in an early map of the area (Carrington, W. 1848a).*

*The Maori settlement in this area was also known as the Moturoa Pa, and is named as such in early maps (Carrington, W. 1848b, Carrington, O. 1862). The block of land immediately east of the reserve was originally set aside as native reserve, known as the Moturoa Native Reserve No 1 (ML242). This land plan indicates that this Native Reserve was not part of what is now the Ngamotu Reserve.*

*A number of recorded pa sites in the Spotswood – Moturoa area testify to an intensive occupation during the prehistoric period. A number of sites have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the Ngamotu Reserve including, Pukewero (P19/51), Te Poki Te Rangi (not NZAA - site destroyed prior to 1950), Takahere (P19/1), Otaka (P19/10), Papawhero (P19/49), Pukehe (P19/341) and Mamamaratumai (P19/7). All have now been destroyed or modified beyond recognition as a result of subdivision and development, most occurring as recently as the 1970s.”*

### **Existing improvements**

Existing improvements include:

Barriers, fences, wall, gates, steps, seats, two water features, three rubbish bins, two monuments, path, three walkway tracks, eight street lights and six floodlights, signs, road, a carpark, and a storage shed which is concrete with a corrugated iron roof.

There is a storm water pipe running along the south-east boundary of the domain and another at the northern boundary. There is also a waste water pipe running vertically along the western boundary and through the centre and a water supply pipe running diagonally through the centre of the domain.

A new barrier was installed in June 2010 due to on-going vandalism.

### **Uses and activities**

Ngamotu Domain has two fields available which are currently used for rugby league.

There are a number of buildings located at Ngamotu Domain. Western Suburbs Rugby League Club (formally Taranaki Rugby League) lease land and have erected a changing facilities building. The Western Suburbs Rugby Football League Club New Plymouth Inc purchased the former recreation hall to be used as their club facilities. Greenwood Archers lease Council land to practice their target practice and have also constructed an amenities building to store their gear. Until recently, the Council leased the building formally known as Ngamotu Domain Depot to Guides New Zealand Inc. The Council is currently in discussions to enter into a temporary lease for this building with the Men’s Sheds group, however should they not lease the building, or at the time they vacant, whichever is the sooner, the Council will demolish the building.

The following clubs have leases at Ngamotu Domain:

- Greenwood Archers who lease land for a range and amenities building (lease renewable every 21 years)
- Western Suburbs Rugby League lease land for the Ngamotu Recreation Hall they own (final lease expiry 2036)
- Western Suburbs Rugby League Club (ex Taranaki Rugby League) who lease the land for their change/shower rooms facility (lease renewable every 21 years)

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

- 1) The Ngamotu Domain Management Plan 1980 shall be revoked and replaced with this plan.
- 2) The developed areas of this park will be managed as a sports park suitable for formal and informal sport and recreation, including providing off road connectivity from Spotswood to Motorua.

### **Archaeological pa site**

- 3) The pa site within the Domain is a registered Historic Place Archaeological site and a Waahi Tapu site in the New Plymouth District Plan.
- 4) No earthworks should be undertaken within the area containing archaeological features, including the installation of structures, fencing, tree planting and track construction, without prior authority from the NZHPT. Such work within this area will also require resource consent from NPDC.
- 5) Surveying and mapping of the aerial extent of summit platform will be undertaken by an archaeologist, including the remaining archaeological providing an inventory of the recognised archaeological features. This mapping will allow monitoring to take place and should land use practises be found to be affecting the site, the appropriate management response can then be taken.
- 6) The development concept indicates the development of viewing platforms above the playing fields; viewpoints should be restricted to the area below the summit of the site already affected by significant earthworks. Suitable viewing points are proposed to be developed overlooking the sports ground below south of the summit. An area of the Honeyfield seat to the north is also proposed to be opened up to present viewpoints overlooking the Port of Taranaki. Following surveying and mapping of the site to identify areas already affected by earthworks, it is likely these viewing areas can be developed without an archaeological authority.
- 7) An interpretation board is proposed to be installed outside of the area containing archaeological features, near the road way alongside the playing fields.
- 8) The removal of vegetation from the archaeological area, particularly large trees should be assessed by an archaeologist prior to taking place. In many cases, even large trees can be removed from on or around archaeological sites without affecting the site, depending on the technique used, type of machinery involved and the skill of the contractor. However should the removal of

- vegetation be undertaken in such a way as to cause subsurface disturbance to the site then prior authority from the NZHPT will be required.
- 9) Grazing, even by large animals such as horses, has been assessed by an archaeologist as unlikely to have any further negative effect on the site. Features visible today can be seen in similar condition in the 1950s aerial photographs. Grazing will therefore be the continued management practice of the site in the short to medium term with specific conditions to ensure low stock numbers and avoidance of overgrazing.
  - 10) Grazing is preferable to fencing off the archaeological area from grazing and allowing the site to re-vegetate, obscuring and damaging the remaining archaeological features. Every effort should be made to ensure that the site is not allowed to regenerate to the point where machinery and earthmoving equipment are required to regain control of the vegetation.
  - 11) Consultation will be undertaken with Ngati Te Whiti hapu and Nga Mahanga A Tairi iwi when any change in management of the park or a new development is proposed that is not contemplated in this plan, particularly in regards to Ngamotu pa.
  - 12) The Council will work with Ngati Te Whiti hapu and Nga Mahanga A Tairi iwi to develop a protocol regarding the management of vegetation on Ngamotu pa.

#### **Future development**

- 13) Future development of Ngamotu Domain will be in accordance with the development concept including:
  - New signage at all the entrance ways
  - Upgrade of the access way from South Road and connecting pathways through to Moturoa to promote this park as an off-road walking and cycling route
  - Clearing and opening up the Honeyfield monuments (seat and plaque)
  - Future upgrade of access to archery range
  - Formalising of overflow parking near the pioneer entrance
  - Re-levelling of field 2 (closest to South Road)
  - Creation of path and viewing areas below summit of pa site.
  - Installation of a retaining wall along parts of the roadway to stabilise the bank.
- 14) Through the Sports Field Demand Analysis Study this park has been identified as having potential for the establishment of a cricket wicket if future demand required.

#### **Building ownership and leases**

- 15) The Council is currently in discussions to enter into a temporary lease with the Men's Sheds group for the building formally known as Ngamotu Domain Depot. However should they not lease the building, or at the time they vacate, whichever is the sooner, the Council will demolish the building.
- 16) A lease will be maintained with the Western Suburbs League and the Greenwood Archery Club for their clubrooms and sites. Any extensions to the

footprint of the existing building will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with General Policies for Council administered reserves.