

## 6.11 Te Henui Cemetery

### Description

Location:	Southern end of Watson Street, New Plymouth
Legal description:	<u>Acquired through 'Public Cemetery Ordinance, 1861':</u> Section 2174-2177, 2184-2192, 2199-2207, 2214-2222, 2228-2237, 2247-2259, 2269-2270, 2270A, 2348 Town of New Plymouth, and Part Section 2157-2161, 2170-2173, 2183, 2198, 2212-2213, 2227, 2246, 2268 Town of New Plymouth and Parts of Calmady Terrace (closed) Pendarves Street (closed) Watson Street (closed) Gilbert Street (closed) Gardner Street (closed) and Hendrie Street (closed) Town of New Plymouth <u>1930 acquisition:</u> Section 2146, Part Sections 2145, 2158-2161, Part Section 2173 <sup>1</sup> , Town of New Plymouth <u>2012 – addition to cemetery through Council resolution</u> Sections 2128-30, 2142-44, 2394 Town of New Plymouth, part of Pendarves Street (closed)
Size:	11.125 hectares
Reserve status:	Subject to Reserves Act 1977 (except Sections 2128-30, 2142-44, 2394 Town of New Plymouth, part of Pendarves Street (closed) which remain as fee simple)
Reserve classification:	All local purpose (cemetery) reserve except the 2012 addition



<sup>1</sup> Note the alternate parts of part sections 2158-2161 & 2173 occur in the 1861 & 1930 acquisitions.

### **Physical description**

The Cemetery is bounded by the Uria Stream to the west, the unformed legal road named Lemon Street to the north, and the Te Henui Stream to the east and south.

The cemetery is accessed at the southern end of Watson Street. Although the road through the cemetery links through to Hendrie Street, this entrance has been closed but can be used by arrangement with the Council.

The cemetery land rises up from the stream bank to a central hill that dominates the immediate area. Two monuments are located near the top of the hill. There are views down the river valley to the sea and up the valley to Mount Taranaki.

Burials in the cemetery span from 1861, to the present day and there is a mix of denominational burial areas, returned services area, soldiers buried from the Taranaki Land Wars and an unmarked grave area for still and new borns.

### **Tangata whenua interests**

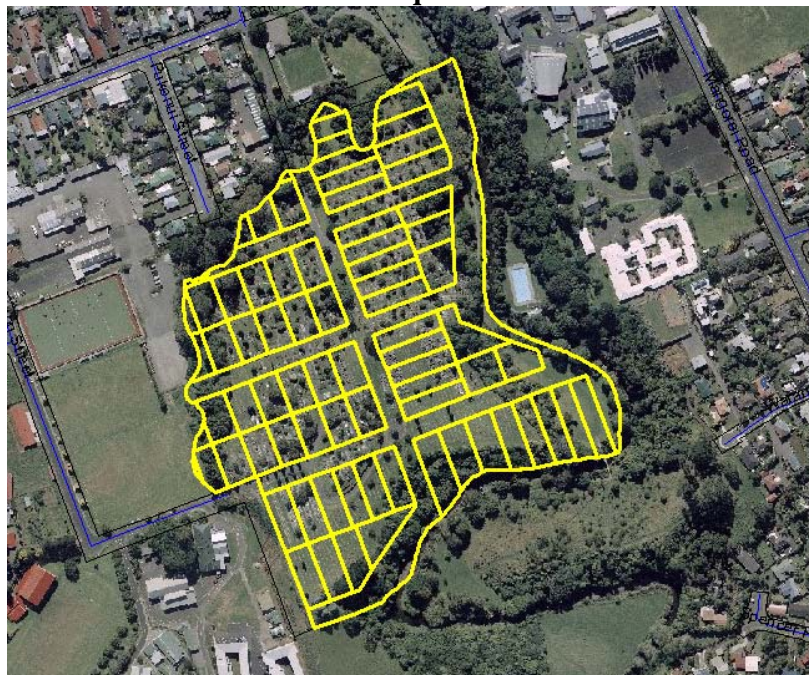
This reserve is of historic and cultural significance to Te Atiawa and Taranaki Iwi and to Ngati Te Whiti, Ngati Tuparikino, Ngati Tawhirikura and Nga Mahanga-a-Tairi hapu.

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

#### 1861 acquisition

The cemetery was established through the 'Public Cemetery Ordinance, 1861' by the Taranaki Provincial Government under the provisions of 'The Public Reserves Act 1854'. The ordinance was acknowledged in a gazette notice in November 1861 (page 298). The land therefore has underlying Crown ownership. The cemetery comprised of a land area of 24 acres, one rood and 34 perches (9.9097 hectares).

#### **1861 acquisition**



The ordinance established the management of the cemetery by a Board of not less than three persons to be appointed by the Superintendent with the approval of the Provincial Council.

Shortly after the establishment of the cemetery in 1861, the New Plymouth Borough commenced administration of it, as shown through a Council resolution dated 23 March 1885, stating “That the government be informed that this Council agree to take over the charge of the New Plymouth Public Cemetery”.

### 1930 acquisition

A Certificate of Title dated 13 May 1930, names the New Plymouth District Council as proprietors of approximately 3,335 m<sup>2</sup> being Part Sections 2158-2161 and Part Section 2173.

A Gazette notice on 24 April 1930 (page 1465) by Governor-General Bledisloe pursuant to the Public Works Act 1928, vested in the Borough of New Plymouth additional land for cemetery purpose, being:

Section 2146

Part section 2145

Part Sections 2158, 2160 & 2173

Part Sections 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161 & 2173

Situated in Block V, Paritutu Survey District.

### **1930 acquisition**



Section 2146 was the site of the recently demolished Waiwaka Women’s Bowling Club building. Both Section 2146 and Part Section 2145 have never been used for the cemetery purpose that they were initially acquired. These two parcels have not been included in the list for declaration as reserve. Section 2146 and Part Section 2145 were resolved by the Council on 22 May 2007, to be retained for recreation purposes following a report that had recommended their disposal.

The Council have considered on two occasions, the sale of Council owned land on either side of Watson Street between the existing cemetery gates and the Uria Stream. The western side being an unused Parks operation depot and the eastern side being once used by the defunct Waiwaka Women's Bowling Club. A proposal to sell this land resulted in the Council decision in May 2007, to retain the land for recreation purposes.

The matter of selling the area on the western side, the old Parks operations depot site to part cover costs for the construction of a new Council storage building was considered by the Council in August 2010, where status quo (no change) was the resolved.

Cemetery land taken for adjacent school

A Gazette notice on 6 May 1965 (No. 22, Page 627) declared that part Section 2227 contained in the cemetery is to be taken for the New Plymouth Boys High School.

A further Gazette notice dated 1 February 1968 (No.5, page 140) revoked part of the earlier 1965, gazette notice by removing part Gardner Street from the land taken for the New Plymouth Boys High School. This did not affect the cemetery, however, as the part of Gardener Street mentioned was outside of the cemetery boundary.

2012 - Land added to cemetery by Council resolution

The area added to the cemetery through Council resolution on 7 August 2012 adds on to the northern area of the cemetery established in 1930. The new area added to the cemetery will comprise of in part a car park, in part public open space and in part ash interments for the sloping ground on the eastern part of the parcels.

**2012 addition to the Te Henui Cemetery**



The new area adds the following land parcels to the cemetery: Sections 2128-30, 2142-44, 2394 Town of New Plymouth, as well as part of the closed Pendarves Street.

The above land parcels are recorded on a certificate of title as being in the Councils ownership since March 1952 and were progressively acquired from the Crown from

1921 to 1951. The Crown had put the area aside as a reserve for secondary education in 1878. The parcels are held in fee simple. Previously the land was transferred to the New Zealand Company in 1850 for the purposes of general settlement.

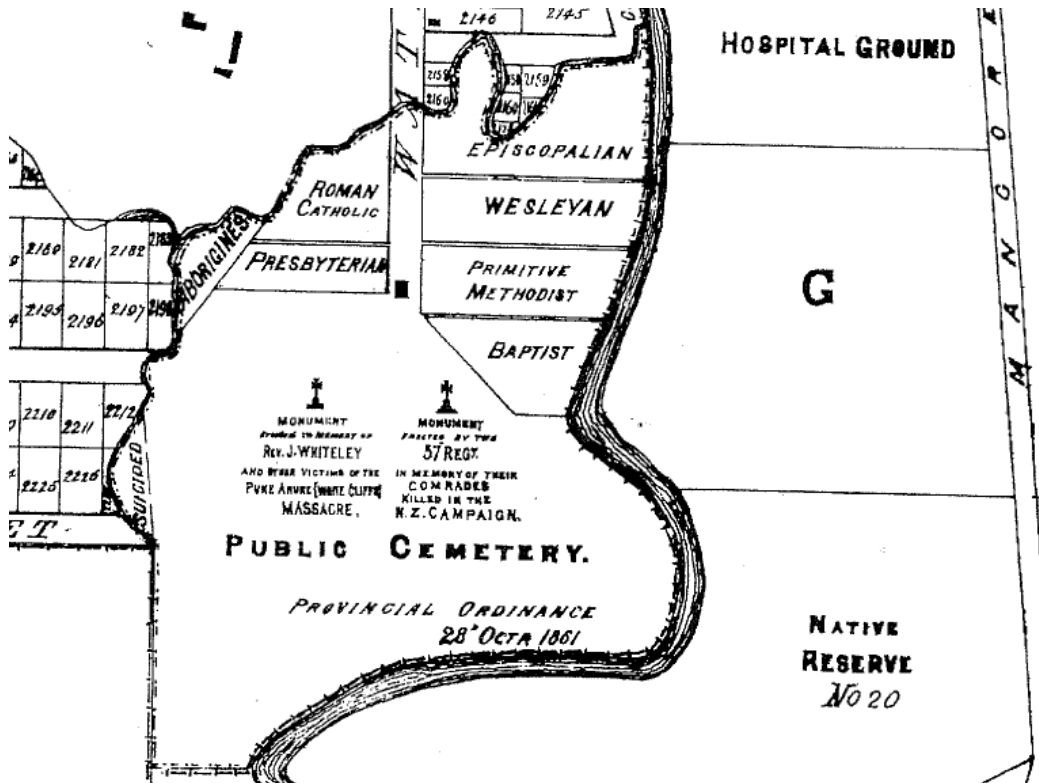
In July 2011 the Council considered the sale of the former Parkscape Depot opposite the 2012 designated area, to fund the construction of an archives centre at the Hobson Street Parks Depot.

The decision to include the designated land as part of the cemetery came about in part as the Council received an offer for the former Parkscape Depot which indicated a requirement might be that a car park facility could be developed nearby in the former Waiwaka Women's Bowling Club site.

### History and cultural values

The cemetery opened in 1861, and includes a lot of social and cultural heritage for the New Plymouth and wider Taranaki areas. Graves of soldiers who died in action during the Land Wars are located in various older parts of the cemetery. For the first 74 years the cemetery was developed as a traditional monumental cemetery, with sections set aside to serve seven different religious denominations. In 1935 the cemetery became interdenominational.

### T. Kingwell Skinner's 1880 map showing early burial areas, monuments on the hill and position of the chapel.



Approximately half the cemetery is in traditional monumental style and this area has undergone considerable deterioration. Between 1984 and 1985, the Council reviewed its bylaws and made amendments that allowed the Council better discretion on the

treatment of older areas, including the removal of deteriorating kerbstones, preserve or restore key sites where there was no evidence of purchaser interest or care. Work was funded by the perpetual maintenance fund. Work involved the infilling of sunken graves, removal of broken concrete work and the planting of groundcover plants.

The cemetery contains four distinct types of memorialisation. The older section is characterised by plots being completely covered in concrete and no restrictions existed on the size of headstones installed. The Servicemen's Burial Area, overseen by the Department of Internal Affairs and a Limited Headstone Area and a Lawn Cemetery.

### Chapel

A Mortuary Chapel was located in the vicinity of the roundabout and the interpretative sign, not far in from the legal boundary of the cemetery. The legal boundary for the cemetery is where the road crosses the Uria Stream, although the gates are set further to the north on road reserve at the intersection of Watson and Lemon Street. The construction of the first chapel in the cemetery was advertised for tender in 1862 (Taranaki Herald 26 April 1862). The construction of a larger chapel, likely to be the one eventually moved to Welbourne, was advertised for tender in 1880 (Taranaki Herald, 5 May 1880). A tender was accepted for painting and other work on 23 December 1907. The chapel was relocated to the corner of Upjohn and Bideford Street to become the St Michael's Church from 1951 -1973. It was demolished on the 12 March 1973<sup>2</sup>.

**The second cemetery chapel (1880/1- 1951) - Photo by G.H.White,  
Taranaki Museum file v.1.29**



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<sup>2</sup> Margaret H. Alington: Goodly Stones & Timbers; A History of St. Mary's Church New Plymouth. St Mary's Church, 1988.

**The first chapel (1862-1880) illustrated in this pre 1881 photograph**



Cemetery Cottage

A Cemetery Cottage was also present in the cemetery, this dates back to at least 1887. Additions to the Cemetery Cottage dated in a contract as completed at 12 May 1913. The specifications indicate a considerable amount of addition to the existing building. The location of the cottage is not known and would require further research.

**The cemetery cottage shown in this pre 1881 photograph**



Restoration

Restoration of the cemetery won the Council a conservation award in 1992 from the New Zealand Institute of Park and Recreation Administration. The restoration involved conserving sites in the monumental section that had deteriorated. The project began on Arbour Day 1984, with the aim to restore the older parts of Te Henui Cemetery. In 1985, funding to conserve these sites was initiated, with an aim to

conserve, highlight the monumental artistry, architecture and historical values of the cemetery.

Restoration included the making fixtures (headstones and monuments) safe and improvement of the aesthetics of the cemetery through the removal of broken concrete grave surrounds and lids. These were infilled with soil and planted with ornamental plants. This has made the cemetery into a garden typesetting with the numerous trees, shrubs and flowering perennials, set amongst the textural qualities of the memorials. The restoration programme has been diminished over the 1990s, with safety aspects the priority currently.

Vandalism in the cemetery has been ongoing. Approximately 20 headstones were reported as being damaged in 1992. Ongoing acts of vandalism have unfortunately destroyed many of the porcelain angels and figurines that were located in the monumental section. Also obelisks have been pushed over.

### Monuments

The Whiteley or Pukearuhe Monument was erected in the memory of those who died at White Cliffs on 13 February 1869: Reverend John Whiteley, Lt Bamber Gascoigne, his wife Annie and three children, Laura, Cecil and Louisa and to John Milne and Edward Richards, military settlers. The monument was commissioned through voluntary subscription with no government funding. Those named on the monument are buried at this site.

The Pukearuhe Monument to the Reverend John Whiteley and seven others is a Category A heritage item in the District Plan (85).

A memorial stands near the hill top at Te Henui Cemetery commemorating these members of the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment who were involved in the Taranaki Land Wars, including 8 men killed in a conflict near the Wairau River on 4 May 1863. The names of those mentioned on the monument are buried in different locations in the cemetery. The monument was erected in 1866-67. The monument was commissioned by the regiment.

A letter to the Taranaki Herald by Mr. A.S. Black a surviving Land War veteran, on 22 August 1938, voiced his concern at the proposed relocation of the monument. He stated that the monument was originally sited on Marsland Hill facing the sea, and that it commemorated eight men who were killed by Maori near the Wairau River on 4 May 1863. The proposed site for relocation was on the top of the hill near the Whiteley Memorial in Te Henui Cemetery.

The memorial to the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment is a Category A heritage item (number 86) in the District Plan.

The Cross of Sacrifice – was donated to the cemetery in 1927 by Mr. and Mrs. Burgess who were the Mayor and Mayoress of New Plymouth during the First World War and who had a strong interest in the services area of the cemetery. The monument memorialises the sacrifice of the men buried near it and also the sacrifice made by all those brave men who laid down life for the liberty of others in the Great War.



## Te Henui's Cross of Sacrifice



The cross is a replica of those marking the burial places of British soldiers on the battlefields of France and Flanders and also parts of England and elsewhere<sup>3</sup>. The Cross is traditionally erected in a cemetery containing over 50 'true war graves'<sup>4</sup>, there are 31 true war graves from the World War 1 and 2 period located at Te Henui Cemetery. The Department of Internal Affairs (now Ministry for Culture and Heritage) expressed an interest in shared funding of maintenance costs for this monument and have been since 2000.

Salaman's Tomb is a significant structure in Te Henui Cemetery and commemorates a colourful character's final resting place. Abraham Walley (Wali) Mahomed Salaman was born in Amritsar, Punjab, India, probably in 1885 or 1886. The son of Muslim parents, Salaman arrived in New Zealand about 1903. He lived in Auckland and Wellington, but in 1930 he had moved to New Plymouth. Administering herbal remedies he found himself in trouble with the law on a few occasions including jail sentences. He gifted land (later known as the Salaman Reserve) to the city, and designed a large tomb in Te Henui cemetery which occupied 10 plots and needed special permission. By late 1940 the tomb was finished, at a cost of £2,500: a solid, square structure with heavy wooden doors, and a brass star and crescent moon on top of a blue dome. Salaman died on 8 February 1941 at his home in Gill Street<sup>5</sup>.

"Following embalming, he lay in state for a week, robed in a silver-patterned green wrap over a white satin gown, and watched night and day by his family and friends. On 15 February, in a picnic-like atmosphere, more than 2,000 people gathered at the cemetery to pay their last tributes. Green candles in massive brass candlesticks were

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<sup>3</sup> Taranaki Herald, 12 November 1927

<sup>4</sup> True war graves are graves of serving members of the forces who died during wartime or shortly afterwards, from war related causes.

<sup>5</sup> Louise Buckingham: [www.dnzb.govt.nz/dnzb/alt\\_essayBody.asp?essayID=4S1](http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/dnzb/alt_essayBody.asp?essayID=4S1)


lit in the chapel and the tomb, where the funeral rites were performed in Arabic and English<sup>4</sup>.

## TE HENUI CEMETERY


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




### Key

-  Taps


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-  Trees


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-  Seats


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-  Flagpole

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-  Salaman Tomb

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-  Memorial Plot Reference



### Cemetery Gates

The gates were erected in 1924 funded through a donation from Alice Honeyfield who is notable for her other donations to the New Plymouth community. These include the Honeyfield Fountain on Regina Place, the Western Park gates, Fitzroy School war memorial and children's paddling pool at Kawaroa<sup>6</sup>.

The gates were designed by the architects Messrs Messenger, Griffiths and Taylor and a company Julian and Sons Limited is listed in the correspondence; possibly the masons.

<sup>6</sup> Other funding by Honeyfield taken from DM 1198563 New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga 'Honeyfield Drinking Fountain, New Plymouth' 10 March 2011.

The gates are located outside of the legal boundary of the cemetery, which was the Uria Stream until 1930, when a few additional land parcels were added. The gates are located at the intersection of Watson and Lemon Streets.

#### Garden of Remembrance

A ceremony on the 13 June 1999, commemorated the lives of more than 25 babies, at the memorial wall built to remember babies buried at unmarked graves. There were close to 100 people at the ceremony organised by the Stillbirth and New-Born Death Support Group (SANDS). The area is known as the Garden of Remembrance. The granite wall has the names of babies etched onto it<sup>7</sup>.

#### Servicemen's area

A request from Mrs. Anne Burgess (President of the Women's National Reserve and of Burgess Park note) to have a area of the cemetery set aside for the burial of soldiers was approved by the Council on 16 June 1919, with part of the Baptist Ground allocated.

Service's headstones are supplied by the Department of Internal Affairs. Those permitted to occupy a service's plot are service personnel who have served overseas, home service personnel who died in service up till the date of official peace, and other home service personnel who, prior to death, may have expressed to the NZ Home Servicemen's Association, their next of kin or relative, a desire for burial in a service's cemetery.

#### Cessation of denominational areas

In 1935 an area was developed in the cemetery for all groups and this marked the cessation of the differing Christian denominational areas that the cemetery had previously been separated into.

#### District Plan

Te Henui Cemetery is a Category B heritage site in the District Plan.

There are three pa sites immediately upstream of the cemetery. On the same side of the river bank is Puketarata and Parihamore Pa, on the opposite side of the stream is Pukewharangi Pa.

#### **Existing improvements**

The existing flagpole in the Returned Services area may have been the result of a anonymous donation through the New Plymouth Returned Services Association, offered in October 1956.

The cemetery contains nine monuments, 16 outdoor taps, four rubbish bins, six seats, an internal road, five retaining walls, two information and one entrance sign.

A timber retaining wall was installed in 2004, on the road cut leading down to the Returned Services area.

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<sup>7</sup> Daily News, 14 June 1999.

### **Management and administration**

The cemetery land includes part of the Te Henui Walkway and the burial ground is easily accessed from the walkway, by a path at the southern and northern end, both leading from the walkway up moderately sloping ground.

Payments are received from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage as an annual maintenance grant for historic graves. The Ministry's mandate for maintenance is;

- True war graves; graves of serving members of the forces who died during wartime or shortly afterwards, from war related causes.
- Mandate to care for the graves of casualties of the New Zealand Wars 1840-1872.
- Monuments erected by the central government.

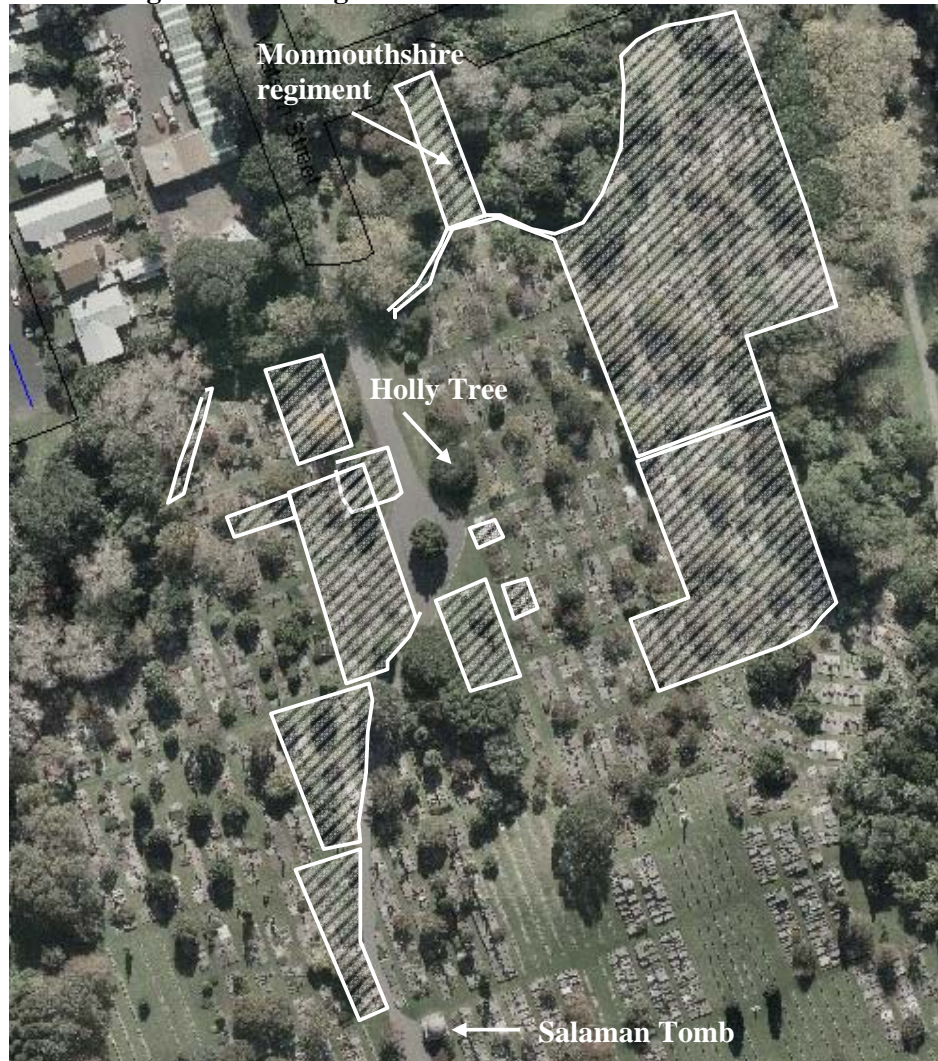
The Ministry for Culture and Heritage maintains 31 war graves at this cemetery, relating to the World War 1 (12 graves) and World War II (19 graves) and historic graves relating to the New Zealand Wars (10 graves, 7 mass graves and 1 monuments – NB Monument to those who died at Pukearuhe 13.2.1869 was handed back to the New Plymouth District Council after restoration). The ministry also maintains the 'cross of sacrifice', described earlier.

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

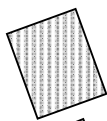
- The cemetery will be managed as a cemetery open for interments into reserved plots and existing graves.
- The eastern part of the cemetery reserve is managed as a recreation area, being part of the Te Henui Walkway.
- Install a better quality gate at the Hendrie Street entrance to the cemetery; currently a chain is used to prevent vehicle entry.
- Markers are to be installed to identify the differing blocks in the cemetery. Blocks are a collection of burial plot rows, identified into a rectangular grouping. The markers will assist with the locating of plots.
- There are numerous parts of the cemetery particularly in the north, that constitute as archaeological sites under the Historic Places Act 1993. These have been identified in the aerial photograph below through cemetery records. The areas identified comprise of the former sites of the two chapels, the cemetery cottage and graves relating to burials that are pre 1900. The location of the chapel and cottage has been identified through a pre 1880 photograph. The chapel site has also been verified through T.K. Skinner's 1880 map.
- Archaeological sites are protected under the Historic Places Act 1993. The general policies section of this plan outlines how archaeological sites should be treated.
- A Conservation Plan is to be developed for the built heritage at Te Henui Cemetery. Built heritage exists at this cemetery reserve and where considered appropriate, Conservation Plans will be prepared in line with the International Charter for Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) New Zealand Charter, to protect their integrity.
- A sign will be installed at the location of the old chapel and cemetery cottage.
- The area added to the cemetery by Council resolution on 7 August 2012 is to be developed in part as public open space, in part as car park (optional) and in part for ash interments on the area sloping eastwards and shown in the aerial image below. If the car park development proceeds, it is anticipated that this will involve

a lease to a third party subject to terms and conditions approved by the Manager Parks.

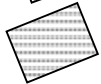
**Hatched areas indicate the areas of pre 1900 cemetery development, constituting an archaeological area under the Historic Places Act 1993.**



**More detailed view indicating the area where the Chapel and Cemetery Cottage were located.**



The hatched area is to be treated as the archaeological area where the two cemetery chapels were located.



The hatched area is to be treated as the archaeological area where the cemetery cottage was located.