

6.13 Tongaporutu Cemetery

Description

Location:	End of Pilot Road, Tongaporutu
Legal description:	Section 34 Tongaporutu Village, Block 1 Mimi Survey District and Section 1 Survey Office Plan 395892
Size:	0.32 hectares
Reserve status:	Subject to the Reserves Act 1977
Reserve classification:	Local purpose (cemetery) reserve



Physical description

Tongaporutu Cemetery is located on the north bank of the Tongaporutu River downstream from the State Highway 3 bridge. It is accessed from the end of Pilot Road and slopes upward from the road to the riverbank. A path leads to the burial area which is contained in Section 34 in the area parallel to the river bank. There are no burials at present in Section 1.

The cemetery has views of the coast and estuary.

Tangata whenua interests

This reserve is within the tribal rohe and of historic and cultural significance to Ngati Tama Iwi.

Land status and acquisition history

In a gazette notice dated January 1897 (page 937), James Prendergast, Administrator of the Government of the Colony of New Zealand, pursuant to section 235 of 'The Land Act 1892', permanently reserved Section 24 (3 acres and 10 perches) for the purpose of a public cemetery.

In February 1969, Survey Office Plan 10055 shows the subdivision of Section 24 into Section 33 and 34. The cemetery part now being Section 34 and is 1009m².

In a gazette notice dated January 1935 (page 39-40), Governor-General Bledisloe pursuant to Cemeteries Act 1908, delegated the Clifton County Council the powers of appointing and removing trustees for the cemetery.

R Lancaster the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, in 1983, pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, classified Section 34 being 1009m² more or less (formerly part Section 24) Tongaporutu Village, Block 1 Mimi Survey District, vested the reserve in trust with the Clifton County Council as local purpose (cemetery) reserve. This is recorded by way of gazette notice dated September 1983 (page 3331).

In 2008, R J Sutherland for the Minister of Land Information pursuant to Section 20 of the Public Works Act 1981, that Part Section 33 Tongaporutu Village (some 2221m²) shown as Section 1 on SO 395892 is acquired for cemetery purposes and shall vest in the New Plymouth District Council. This is recorded in a gazette notice dated June 2008 (page 2713).

Underlying land ownership of Section 34 is with the Crown.

History and cultural values

On 28 August 2007, the Council resolved that pursuant to the Public Works Act 1981 to acquire by agreement the acquisition of approximately 1795m² from the adjoining owner (O'Sullivan family) to be declared as acquired for the purpose of Local Purpose Reserve (Cemetery) and amalgamated with the Tongaporutu Cemetery. The Council also resolved to acknowledge and accepts the donation of approximately 385m² of additional land from the O'Sullivan family to be declared as acquired for the purpose of Local Purpose Reserve (Cemetery) and amalgamated with the Tongaporutu Cemetery, in exchange for 15 full burial plots to be allocated at no cost to the family.

Management and administration

The cemetery is administered and managed by the Tongaporutu Cemetery Board.

The New Plymouth District Council have an annual grant that is available to the cemetery trustees, dependent on a request from the trustees and presentation of the previous year's accounts.

The cemetery is listed in the District Plan as being part of a regionally significant landscape, is located in a coastal policy area, a coastal hazard zone and a dune protection area. There is a Pa located on the adjacent seaward section to the cemetery, identified as waahi tapu 316 in the District Plan.

Management objectives and specific policies

- This cemetery is managed as an open cemetery with room for further development of the burial area.
- Development of the newly acquired Section 1 for burials will occur once Section 34 has reached capacity. The undeveloped part of the cemetery will be managed through grazing.

- No planting or building structures to be introduced that would obscure the sea and river views.
- This plan acknowledges that 15 full burial plots have been allocated at no cost to the O'Sullivan family, during the donation of some 385m² (part of Section 1 on SO 395892) of that family's farm to the Tongaporutu Cemetery in 2008.
- The Council has the delegated powers to appoint and remove trustees since 1935 and these powers have been delegated by the Council to the Chief Executive Officer through Council resolution on the 3 November 2009.

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

