

## 6.4 *Lepperton Cemetery*

### **Description**

Location:	Cross Street off Richmond Road, Lepperton
Legal description:	Section 2 - 3, Town of Lepperton
Size:	0.4 hectares
Reserve status:	Subject to Reserves Act 1977
Reserve classification:	Request with the Department of Conservation to classify as Local purpose (cemetery) reserve



### **Physical description**

The cemetery is situated on flat land and accessed from Cross Street. There is a white picket fence and ornamental trees along the street frontage. Shelter belts and hedging exists along the other boundaries of the cemetery. The western shelter belt is encroaching on some of the memorials.

The cemetery consists of established family plots and is nearing capacity.

### **Tangata whenua interests**

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

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

In 1881, James Prendegast the Chief Justice of the Colony of New Zealand, pursuant to 'The Special Powers and Contracts Act 1881', changed the purpose of the following reserve from educational to public cemetery; Sections 2 and 3 on the map of Manutahi Township (North) Paritutu Survey District. This was recorded in a gazette notice dated October 1881 (page 1308). Note Manutahi Township is now named Lepperton Township.

Governor Onslow in 1890, pursuant to Section 227 of 'The Lands Act 1885' declared Sections 2 and 3 Town of Manutahi as a reserve for the purpose of a cemetery. This is recorded in a Gazette notice published in September 1890 (page 1064)<sup>1</sup>.

In a Gazette notice published in October 1890 (page 1193), Governor Onslow pursuant to Section 6 of 'The Cemeteries Act 1882', appointed the following trustees of the Lepperton Cemetery:

George Hall  
George Cartwright  
William Crowe  
John W. Henweek  
William Brown

In 1933, Governor-General Bledisloe pursuant to Section 4 the 'Cemeteries Act 1908', delegated the Taranaki County Council the powers to appoint and remove Trustees. This is recorded in a gazette notice dated September 1933 (page 2429).



### **History and cultural values**

The cemetery is administered and managed by the Lepperton Cemetery Trustees.

Lepperton Cemetery is listed as a Category B heritage site in the District Plan. The cemetery's neighbour St. Mark's Church is also a Category B heritage item.

### **Existing improvements**

A white painted 1.5m high picket fence is set along the frontage of the cemetery. A block equipment shed located at the south west corner of the Section 2.

### **Management and administration**

The cemetery is controlled and managed by the Lepperton Cemetery Trustees. The underlying title to the land is with the Crown.

---

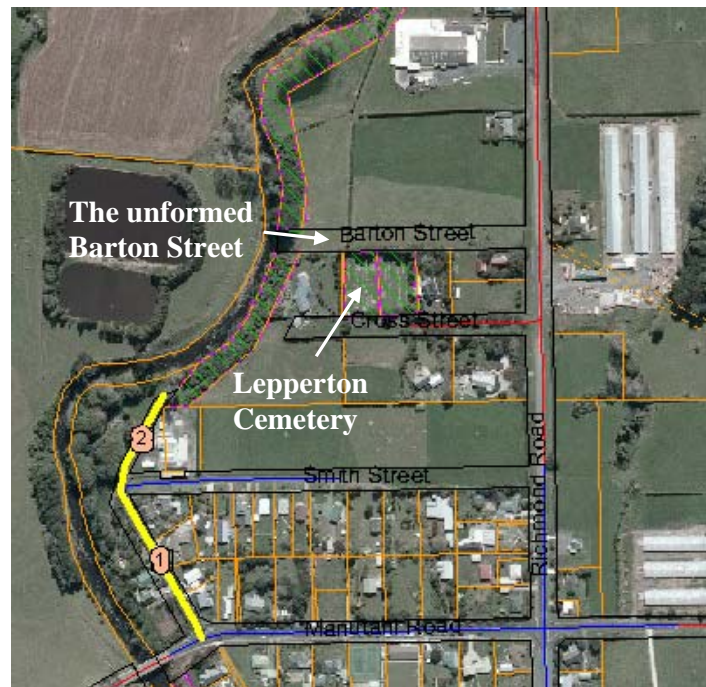
<sup>1</sup> This land was permanently set aside as a reserve under the Reserves and Domains Act 1908 and, through subsequent Acts of Parliament, is deemed to be a reserve for the purposes of the Reserves Act 1977.

Following the North Taranaki District Council's<sup>2</sup> practice, the New Plymouth District Council makes an annual grant to the cemetery trustees, dependent on a request from the trustees and presentation of the previous year's accounts.



The trustees approached the Council in March 2007, requesting the use of the neighbouring legal but unformed Barton Street for cemetery purposes. Although the paper road could be stopped as it would not isolate any properties, it would remove the existing legal access to the esplanade reserve. The other legal road accessing to reserve to the south, Sisson Terrace (yellow on aerial) north of Smith St has a possibility of being closed, leave Barton St as the only remaining access point to the reserve.

The closing of a paper road would entitle the cemetery to half of the paper road that it neighbours given that the neighbouring farmer is interested in acquiring the land, which is likely as they are currently using it. This would result in the addition of some 620m<sup>2</sup> to the cemetery.



---

<sup>2</sup> Amalgamated into the New Plymouth District Council in 1989

The other consideration is the establishment of a district cemetery at Plantation Road, whose purpose is to accommodate all district burials as existing cemeteries attain capacity.

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

- This cemetery is managed as an open cemetery.
- The extension of the cemetery into the unformed Barton Street is not considered appropriate, as this action would remove the existing legal access to the esplanade reserve located at the end of Barton Street.
- A request be made to the Department of Conservation to classify this cemetery as Local purpose (cemetery) reserve.
- A request to be made to the Department of Conservation that the reserve be vested with the New Plymouth District Council, with control and management of the cemetery remaining with the Lepperton Cemetery Trustees.
- The Council has the delegated powers to appoint and remove trustees since 1933 and these powers have been delegated by the Council to the Chief Executive Officer through Council resolution on the 3 November 2009.

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

