
1.0 Introducing Anzac Park

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Reserves in Gisborne provide passive and active open space and recreational amenities. They also provide access to lakes, streams, the coast, and, in the case of Anzac Park, rivers. Anzac Park is situated on the eastern bank of the Waimata River in the urban suburb of Kaiti North, Gisborne. The provision and maintenance of reserves by Council is mandatory under legislation. Reserve land in the Gisborne District covers 1500ha of which 225 are dedicated and maintained for recreational activities. Anzac Park falls within this 225 and is considered a Primary Reserve, which are the most high profile recreation and scenic resources within the reserve portfolio. Primary Reserves deliver recreation, landscape, cultural, ecological and heritage values to both residents and visitors to the District¹.

Anzac Park is a mostly flat, open grass space, fringed by mature exotic and native trees, with two native bush areas as well as storage facilities for several water-based recreation groups at its north-western point. Anzac Park has a large open field space, children's playground apparatus, public toilets, car parking, some seating and barbeque facilities. It is made up of a series of parcels of land purchased by and gifted to Council. The Park is classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. The non-riverbank boundaries of the Park site are zoned General Residential in the District Plan².

The local residents of Gisborne City, and in particular Kaiti North, are proud of Anzac Park and appreciate its open space amenity values and other facilities. With the residential population growing slowly over the years it should be kept in mind that the demand for open space from youth and other members of the community will continue to grow at the same rate. The main management issues identified after public notification of the preparation of a management plan for Anzac Park are:

- ◆ Appropriate development within the Park which maintains open space amenity values.
- ◆ Optimized river access and vantage points of the river.
- ◆ Growing congestion around access points to the river from watersports groups during the summer months.
- ◆ Growing car park congestion from watersports and other visitors during the summer months.
- ◆ Storage and safety of waka ama on grass areas close to the riverbank.
- ◆ Vehicles driving too fast within the Park.

¹ LTCCP 2004-2014 Volume II Part III Reserves and Public Conveniences, s. 3.0.

² CRLDP 2006

1.0 Introducing Anzac Park

- ◆ Undesirable activities, such as loud music, drinking and associated noise, in the Park at night.
- ◆ Noise from watersport groups can disturb local residents in the mornings (5 -7am).
- ◆ Continued maintenance and planting of native and exotic trees.
- ◆ Sports turf susceptible to become unusable in winter rain periods.

Recommendations for development at the Park to address some of the above issues can be found in Annex 1: Map of Proposed Development for Anzac Park.

1.1 History and Management

Originally, Anzac Park was a portion of the Kaiti 228 Block given to Eruera Harete by the Crown in 1888. On old maps the area is marked as Te Warau³.

Before becoming a park, the area's name was 'Score's Point' after the owner of the land, John Score (1856-1913), who had subdivided the land for housing development before he died⁴. After Mr Score passed away, the main area of the Point was owned by Douglas Blair and Gilbert Thomas Bull, who sold it to the Gisborne Borough Council in 1916 for recreation purposes. Martin Bertram Mander later gifted the southern river-bank parcels of land to Council for the purposes of public gardens, bowls or tennis. In 1920, G Walter Palairet sold the last sections to Council.

On the 26 April 1916, C Lawless proposed to Council that Scores Point Recreation Ground be named 'Anzac Park' and the name was adopted. The name commemorates the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps which served in World War I in Europe and the Middle East.

The rich alluvial soils of the Point had been used for crops by local Maori, and later by the early settlers. In 1932 the Park was again used for growing vegetables under Scheme 5 for unemployment relief⁵.

Proposals of plans for tennis courts were first considered when the Park was established. This idea continued until 1921 when it lost momentum.

³ Streets Database, H. B, Williams War Memorial Library, August 2006.

⁴ Obituary, Mr. John Score, Gisborne Times 02-09-1913

⁵ Anzac Park Draft Management Plan (N.D.)

1.0 Introducing Anzac Park



Figure 2 Harris Bend, Score Point, 1872, when it was used to grow vegetables. Gisborne City is in the distance. Photographer: Not Known.

In 1949 the Anzac Park Sports Club and Improvements Society was founded and by 1951 they had raised funds to erect play equipment on the site. One of their fund raising ventures was to hold a rodeo in the park which caused much damage to the grounds. The Society kept going until 1966. Their last cheque to Council was for 366 pounds, being the outstanding balance of accumulated funds. The Society requested this money be spent on seating, tables and a barbeque facility.

Since its varied use in the early to mid 1900's, Anzac Park has been used as a recreation space.

Various activities have taken place over the years including hockey, rugby league, football, archery, rowing, power boat racing, highland fling gatherings, rodeo's and camping and cook-outs by the Sea Scouts⁶. Today, it is popular with families who use the children's playground facilities and individuals and groups who picnic, barbeque and stroll through the park. It is also well-used by sports clubs who have equipment, clubrooms or storage facilities located at the Park such as football, rowing, kayaking and most recently, Waka Ama.

⁶ Council meeting minutes volumes 23-33.

1.0 Introducing Anzac Park

1.2 Location Plan



**Anzac Park
Land Parcels**

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Orthophotography - Terralink International 2005 Ltd.
Plot Date ~ August 22, 2006 11:38:53 a.m.
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Scale 1:2,000