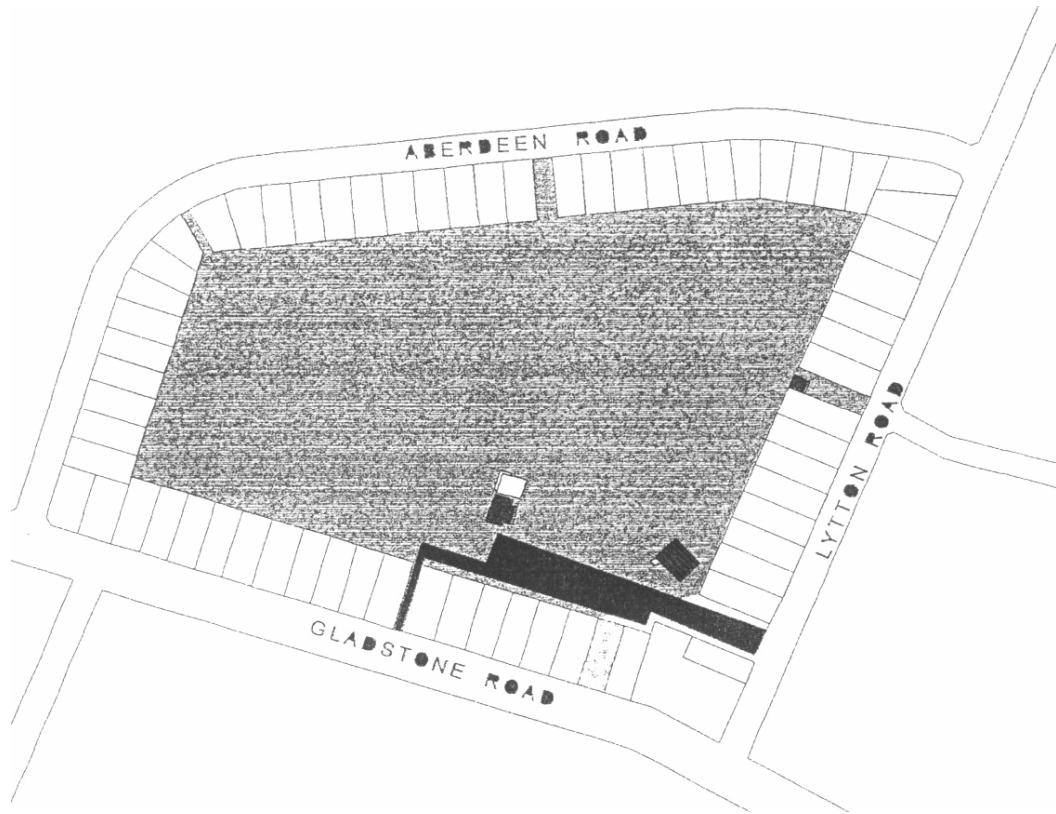


### 2.0 LOCATION / ACCESS



#### Key

Harry Barker Reserve Grandstand

Poverty Bay Hockey/Cricket Pavilion

Proposed Relocation of Cricket Practice Nets

Car Park (existing and extension onto Lytton Road)

Grounds man's Shed

Cricket Cover Shed

Vacant Council Section (Proposed Storage Location of Hockey Goal Nets)

### 2.1 Introduction

Harry Barker Reserve is situated between Gladstone Road, Lytton Road and the Aberdeen Road extension. There are four major access points to the reserve. The first major access point is that of the Lytton Road entrance which allows vehicular traffic to enter and park within the reserve boundary. Pedestrian access is also available on the Aberdeen Road and Lytton Road entrance points to the reserve. Entry only access is also available from Gladstone Road.

Vehicle access is controlled on the Aberdeen Road and Lytton Road sides of the reserve by a series of lockable gates. When required, the major entrance points on Gladstone Road and Lytton Road can also be locked by the erection of a chain gate.

The reserve is frequently used as a through route, particularly by pedestrians who utilise the short cut that the reserve offers between Gladstone Road and Aberdeen Road extension.

### 2.2 Status Area

The total area of Harry Barker Reserve is 10.031 hectares. Its legal description consists of Lot 67 DP 5189, Lot 1 DP 8676 Pt Lot 1 DP 3749 and Lot 2 DP 8676 (which is zoned residential). Presently the Reserve is zoned under the proposed District Planning Scheme (No.2) as Open Space Two. This zone includes the larger reserves and sports grounds which are laid out principally for organised sports. Such zoning allows for utility buildings which are classified as controlled use under the proposed District Planning Scheme (No.2). Recreational buildings and club rooms are classified as conditional uses, in recognition of their potential effect upon the amenities of the zone and the surrounding residential area.

### 2.3 Classification

Under the Reserves Act 1977 Harry Barker Reserve is classified as a **Recreational Reserve**. The purpose of Recreational Reserves under the Act is to provide areas for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public. Special emphasis is placed on the retention of open spaces and outdoor recreational activities.

### 2.4 Relationships to Other Reserves In The Area

Harry Barker Reserve is one of a series of reserves in the Te Hapara area. Other prominent reserves in the immediate vicinity include Nelson Road Park, Ayton Park and the Gisborne Park Golf Course. In April 1996 the Gisborne District Council, on request from the Poverty Bay Hockey Association began investigations into the feasibility of relocating Poverty Bay Hockey from Harry Barker Reserve to Nelson Park.

### 2.5 Historical Analysis

Harry Barker Reserve was acquired by the Gisborne District Council in 1962 from the New Zealand Insurance Company. During the formative years of the district the reserve was used as a 50 acre golf course known locally as Turanganui Golf Links. The late Mayor of Gisborne, Sir Harry Barker, whom the reserve was named after favoured the site as the ideal location for the new hospital site development. Fortunately for Cricket and Hockey this idea was not fully supported and the Gisborne Hospital was built on what was commonly referred to as the Hospital Farm on Ormond Road.

In 1967 the Poverty Bay Cricket Association was granted a twenty year lease over the reserve as was the Poverty Bay Hockey Association in 1968. 1968 was also the year in which the present grandstand was built. This was followed closely by the construction of a 60 space car parking facility in 1970. The popular Hockey and Cricket Pavilion was constructed in 1983. This facility is jointly owned by the representative Cricket and Hockey Associations.

### 2.6 Site Characteristics

Harry Barker Reserve is predominately flat in topography. The reserve consists of Te Hapara mottled sandy loam which makes the reserve an excellent sports field as it is predominately free draining. Tree Species in the reserve include Birch, Pine, Silver Birch, Liquid Amber, Box Elder, Maple, Liquid Amber and Common Lime.

All Star Grass (Lolium perenne) is the major type of seed on the blocks and wicket areas. All star is a perennial rye grass which is fine in texture and has a high wear and resistance level. All star grass has the advantage of being able to recover quickly from drought conditions, this of course is beneficial especially in the Gisborne region where hot, dry summers are common. This type of Rye Grass also has the added bonus of being able to germinate quickly which ultimately means that a representative wicket can be sown literally a couple of weeks before a major game is due to be played.

Brown Top (Agrostis sp.) is the major type of grass found on the outfield and hockey ground areas of the reserve. Brown Top is a fine textured species which is best adapted to cool moist environments. Hence the reason why watering is essential in temperate regions such as Gisborne. Brown Top grows well on a wide range of soil types and is able to persist very well in low fertility and low moisture situations. However, Brown Top will not survive in poorly drained sports fields which endure a high level of usage. One of the main advantages of using Brown Top on recreational reserves is that it has the advantage of being rhizomateous, meaning that it is a sod forming grass. This gives it the ability to fill in gaps which exist in the outer playing fields.

During the winter months Harry Barker Reserve enjoys a good level of moisture retention. Like many of the reserves in the district this situation changes dramatically during the summer season when the grounds tend to dry out through lack of watering and poor water retention. These harsh climatic conditions also impede dramatically on flora growth around the reserve.

### 2.7 Development

Other than turf development and grandstand improvements major development on the Harry Barker Reserve has not been undertaken since 1983 when the construction of the joint Hockey and Cricket Pavilion was completed.

#### (a) Car Parking Development

With the growth in the popularity of Cricket and Hockey in the last decade serious questions have been raised over the current car parking facilities within the reserve. When constructed in 1970 the current car parking facility was designed to accommodate around 60 car spaces. With the increased opportunities for recreation and the growing popularity in both hockey and cricket, current parking at the reserve has become inadequate. As a result of the car parking problem at the reserve Council has decided to extend the current car parking facilities to provide an additional 81 car parking spaces. This will provide the reserve with a total car parking area of 141 car parking spaces.

In order to cater for the new parking design, additional property has been acquired on the Gladstone Road and Lytton Road sides of the reserve. This purchase includes a portion of land that was acquired from the Gisborne Vet Club on the Gladstone Road site of the reserve, and the vacant Council land on the Lytton Road side of the reserve where the old water reservoir was once located. The portion of land on the Lytton Road side of the reserve is planned to become a new vehicle access and exit point on the reserve, while the present Gladstone Road entrance will be reduced to one way traffic flow only. Speed humps will be incorporated into the plan and vehicle speed will be restricted to 15 km/h within the reserve boundary.

#### (b) Synthetic All Weather Hockey Field Development Proposal

In 1995 Harry Barker Reserve was considered as a possible location for the construction of a synthetic all weather hockey surface. After careful consultation with the sporting groups which utilise the reserve and residents situated around the periphery of the park the decision was made by Council to locate the artificial surface at Nelson Park.

#### (c) Cricket Practice Net Relocation

Presently, the reserve boasts six cricket practice net facilities which are located next to the existing car parking area. With the planned extension of car parking facilities, the current location of the practice nets has become unsuitable. After consultation with the Poverty Bay Cricket Association and



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## 2.0 Location Access

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those residents located around the boundary of the reserve, Council is to re-locate the existing practice nets. Council has identified a new location for the nets in the south eastern corner of the reserve opposite the car park. The nets will be aligned on a 45° angle facing north west of the current north-south line of the cricket playing wickets adjacent to the extended car parking area with the nets opening out onto the reserve.