

## 2.0 Resource Inventory

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#### 2.1 Land and Status

Anzac Park is classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and zoned as Recreation Reserve in the District Plan<sup>7</sup>. The Park covers an area of ~3.0929 ha and is described as Lots 7 to 24 inclusive and Lot 42 on DP 1480, Lots 2-6 on DP1411, and Lot 3 on DP 2400. It is made up of a series of parcels of land purchased by and gifted to Council. On the non-riverbank boundaries of the Park are General Residential zone.

CT No.	Area	Legal Description	Status	Background
GS5D/268	2.1 ha more or less	Lot 7-24 and Part Lot 42 DP 1480	191588.1 Resolution by the Gisborne District Council pursuant to Section 16 (2) (A) Reserves Act 1977 classifying the within land as a Recreation Reserve 22.04.1993.	Sold to the Borough of Gisborne by Douglas Blair and Gilbert Thomas Bull, 20 April 1916 for 4000 pounds for the purpose of Recreation Grounds.
GS2D/1451	5108 square meters more or less	Lot 3 DP 2400 and Lot 2-4 DP 1411	191588.1 Resolution by the Gisborne District Council pursuant to Section 16 (2) (A) Reserves Act 1977 classifying the within land as a Recreation Reserve 22.04.1993.	Sold by G. Walter Palaiet, 23.02.1920, to the Borough of Gisborne for the purpose of recreation reserve 1187 pounds and 10 shillings.
GS3A/1175	4778 square metres more or less	Lot 5-6 DP 1411	191588.1 Resolution by the Gisborne District Council pursuant to Section 16 (2) (A) Reserves Act 1977 classifying the within land as a Recreation Reserve 22.04.1993.	Sold/gifted by Martin Bertram Mander 07.04.1917 to the Borough of Gisborne for the purpose of public gardens, with possibly bowls, tennis for 10 shillings.
GS5D/267	4952 square metres more or less	Section 2 and Part Section 1 Survey Office	Stopped road.	

The parcels of land have various origins which are outlined below:

<sup>7</sup> CRLPD 2006

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### 2.2 Locality and Access

Anzac Park is located on the eastern bank of the Waimata River in the urban suburb of inner Kaiti. It is surrounded by General Residential zone and access to the Park is from secondary roads, Hurahura and Score Roads, which both intersect with Harris Street. Walking access is also currently provided from Heta Road, which similarly intersects with Harris Street. The Management Plan recommends the necessity of this walkway be reviewed due to local security reasons.

The Park is a 5 minute drive from the main centre of Gisborne City and within easy cycling distance (15 minutes). Anzac Park is a popular recreation node for local residents, sports clubs and families/individuals. Visitors to the Park arrive on foot, on bicycles and by car. Anzac Park provides access to the Waimata River via one boat ramp and one side set of stairs leading down to the water.

### 2.3 Climate

Mean rainfall is approximately 70.4mm in summer and 120.8mm in winter. Rainfall is sporadic throughout the year.

The prevailing wind is north-west which is normally warm and dry after crossing the ranges to the west. Winds from the north-east and south-east are also common but the region is below average in the country for windiness.

The area is warm in summer and mild in winter. Mean temperature for summer is approximately 18.8 degrees centigrade. The mean temperature in winter is 9.55 degrees centigrade. Sunshine is approximately 2200 hours per year. These climate factors make the Park desirable for recreation for most of the year.

### 2.4 Soils

Three soil types are found in Anzac Park. Close to the river are alluvial soils formed by the river system. Waipaoa silt loam forms a buffer zone around the riverbank with Matawhero silt loam friable topsoil. Te Hapara mottled sandy loam forms the bulk of the park including the soccer field<sup>8</sup>.

Drainage during the winter months can be a problem with the football field sometimes being flooded for extended periods.

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<sup>8</sup> Soil Bureau Bulletin 20 *Soils and Agriculture of Gisborne Plains* 1962, W. A. Pullar, published scale 1:15,840 and older lands and survey imperial cadastral reference sheets.

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This has been a problem historically, with the first formal record being in 1974 when the Te Wharau Parent Teacher Association advised the soccer field was a quagmire, games had to be canceled and Council resolved to carry out drainage works the following autumn subsequent to reports from the City Engineer and Superintendent of Reserves<sup>9</sup>. Since this time, the problems have resurfaced and a number of cancellations have occurred during the past few seasons due to flooding.<sup>10</sup>

### 2.5 Vegetation

Anzac Park was planted as a typical 'English Park in the Antipodes' to enhance the riverbank setting. While the majority of the park is flat grass area it has an abundance of mature exotic trees on its perimeter which are mixed with varieties of New Zealand native vegetation. Species of trees include: Liquid Amber, Walnut, Birch, Silky Oak, Jacaranda, Eucalyptus, Oak, Willow, Ginkgo, Plane, Golden Ash, Horse Chestnut, Blue Atlas Cedar, Poplar, Box Elder Maple, Totara and Pohutakawa.

Council regularly maintain the trees by lifting, removing dead-wood and over-hanging branches and epicormic. The most recent review for maintenance was June 2006.

Two areas have been planted in native bush and have walkways for pedestrian access. These areas are mostly left to grow naturally unless maintenance is needed for visitor safety and enjoyment of the area.

The Council manages plant pests in Reserves according to the Gisborne District Regional Pest Management Strategy 2004-2009. Anzac Park is part of wider regional species-led management programmes, however, the Park is also subject to site-led management. This is where the emphasis is on the control of all pests that threaten values in a particular area. The sites may be specific places such as areas of bush.

Several local Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) such as Forest & Bird, Keep Gisborne Beautiful and Weedbusters also undertake weed control and planting work within the Park<sup>11</sup>. These groups liaise with the Reserves Division of Council for guidance when conducting voluntary activities within the Park. Council appreciates the work public groups undertake within the Park and that they follow Council's management objectives for the Park.

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<sup>9</sup> Report of the Meeting of the Reserves Committee 26/11/74.

<sup>10</sup> Personal Communication, Thistle Football Club.

<sup>11</sup> Personal Communication, 2006, Grant Vincent, Gisborne Forest & Bird Society.

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Figure 3 Mature trees provide shaded seating near the Waimata river-bank

### 2.6 Wildlife

Fauna is low in number, however, several species of native and introduced birds are often seen in the Park. Introduced species include sparrows, miner and other. Native species such as tui and kaka can be found around the riverbank area and with appropriate planting could be encouraged in larger numbers to the Park. Further, with the planting of appropriate bushes and trees such as Puriri, species such as kereru could be brought into the Park<sup>12</sup>.

Rabbits are the main animal pests in the Park and are controlled by Council according to the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2004-2009.

### 2.7 Park Use

Since the Park was handed back to Council for administration in 1966, it has been used for passive day visit recreational activities such as walking, swimming/wading and fishing on the river-bank, picnics, barbeques, playing on playground equipment and sports such as football, kayaking, rowing and most recently, Waka Ama. Walking of dogs is also occurring within the Park despite this currently not being a permitted activity.

Following the Department of Conservation's description of recreation user groups, Day Visitors and Short-Stop Travelers are the main visitors to Anzac Park. The differences between the two categories are minimal with both groups showing the following characteristics:

- ◆ Undertake passive to mildly active activities including short walks.
- ◆ Choose low risk and safe facilities.

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<sup>12</sup> Personal Communication, 2006, Grant Vincent, Gisborne Forest & Bird Society.

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- ◆ Choose easy tracks of a high standard that cater for all ages and most walking abilities.



**Figure 4 Designating the Park as a Dog Exercise Area is recommended within the Management Plan**

During the summer months, families picnic along the riverbank, sometimes swimming and playing on the accessible banks of the river.

The Park is used by Gisborne United Football Club throughout the winter football season (April – August) for local matches on Saturday afternoons. The football teams use the public toilets and car park areas. Drainage on the field can be a problem during heavy rains.

Over the recent years, the number of watersports groups, such as kayaking, rowing and Waka Ama, which gain access to the river from the Park, has increased. Recognising the growing pressure on the resource and it's associated congestion issues, in 2000 Council organized a meeting to discuss zoning for various water-sport groups to establish zones for parking, storing boats, use of and access to the river. Despite the positive outcomes gained during the consultation there are still issues amongst the various recreation groups mainly around the parking of vehicles and equipment as well as etiquette when on the river<sup>13</sup>. The popularity of water sports in New Zealand and Gisborne continues to increase, and pressure from these groups grows exponentially.

The Park is sometimes used for undesirable activities at night. Local residents note late-night visitors drive around the Park, play loud music, consume alcohol and generally act as a disturbance.

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<sup>13</sup> Global Leisure Group (2006) p.14

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There have also been reports of fast-driving vehicles around the park during the day and night as well people parking on the grassed areas where children can be playing and families having picnics.

Similarly, residents have reported that undesirable activities take place along the Heta Road pedestrian access leading to Anzac Park. Residents have requested Council close this access as the access provided by Hurahura and Score Roads is sufficient and located close by.

### 2.8 Recreation Leases

Section 54 (+73-74) of the Reserves Act 1977 provides guidance on the granting of leases, licences and easements over Reserves.

There are four community storage facilities/clubrooms located in two building complexes at Anzac Park. The organizations using the facilities are: Gisborne Rowing Club and Gisborne Kayak Club in one complex; and Gisborne Boys High School and the Gisborne District Sea Scouts Association in the other complex.

Below is a brief outline of each of the three organizations currently operating within Anzac Park from their clubrooms/storage facilities:

**Gisborne Rowing Club** ▶ Originally, the Gisborne Rowing Club was one of two rowing clubs based at the Gisborne gasworks site. The club was moved from the gasworks site, to Anzac Park. The Gisborne Boys High Rowing Club subsequently built a permanent storage facility while Gisborne Girls High Rowing Club became tenants in the Gisborne Rowing Shed as are other schools from the Gisborne District. The Rowing Club has now been at Anzac Park for over 27 years<sup>14</sup>. There is no formal lease arrangement.

Behind the Rowing Club is an orange two-storey building that also backs onto the river. This structure was originally constructed for the Poverty Bay Kayak Club. Gisborne Girls High Rowing Club now use these facilities to store their equipment and provide club-rooms.

**Gisborne Boys High School Rowing Shed** ▶ (Used to be called Anzac Park Aquatics Sport Centre). In the early 1980's Gisborne Boys High, Lytton High and Campion College all worked together to erect clubrooms for rowing teams at Anzac Park<sup>15</sup>. The Boys High School led the project, contributed most financially and their name is now placed on the Shed. All three colleges still operate out of this facility with ~ 60 rowers during the peak summer season (from September) and ~ 12 rowers out of season (winter).

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<sup>14</sup> Personal Communication, Ross Webb, Acting Gisborne Rowing Club President

<sup>15</sup> Approved in principle by Council in March 1981 subject to revised site plans. Discussions ensued for several years until the current arrangement was agreed upon.

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The three colleges fundraised by selling firewood and may have received national grants to fund the building of facilities. At the time, Mr White oversaw the negotiation process for Council. The outcome of the negotiation process was to not build a new facility and instead to elevate an existing building (Sea Scouts). The Sea Scouts now operate upstairs with Gisborne Boys High Rowing Shed located underneath. Public toilets were also built as part of the development and attached to the main building. Council contributed \$10,000 towards the construction of the public toilets located at the rear of the building and maintains them on a regular basis<sup>16</sup>.



**Figure 5** Current children's playground area with storage facilities/clubrooms in the background

**Gisborne District Sea Scouts Association** ▶ The Association paid for construction of their building and now maintain the buildings. Similar to the previous two organizations, Council does not have a formal lease arrangement with the Sea Scouts.

Cubs, scouts and keas all operate from the Sea Scouts facilities, with the building being in use 3-4 days a week. The various scouting groups store equipments such as boats, sails, camping gear, outdoor pursuits and art supplies in their clubrooms. They use the near-by steps down to the river to launch their boats and work closely with the rowing club. The scouting groups do not camp within the Park<sup>17</sup>.

The Scout Association District Commissioner noted that the Park's neighbours across the river, and other local residents, keep an eye on the water-sport buildings and this provides the various recreation groups with some degree of security, which is much appreciated.

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<sup>16</sup> Report of Meeting of the Reserve's Committee 14/08/84.

<sup>17</sup> Personal Communication, Fred Orr, Scout Association District Commissioner

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There is no record of any leases being put in place for the rowing, kayak or scout clubs. It is recommended Council formalize the leases for all four organizations operating storage facilities/clubrooms at Anzac Park.

### 2.9 By-Laws Relating to Reserves

By-laws controlling activities at Public Conveniences and on Reserves are:

- ◆ The Gisborne District Reserves Bylaw 1992.
- ◆ The Gisborne District Public Places Bylaw 1995.

These by-laws will be reviewed by the 01 July 2008.