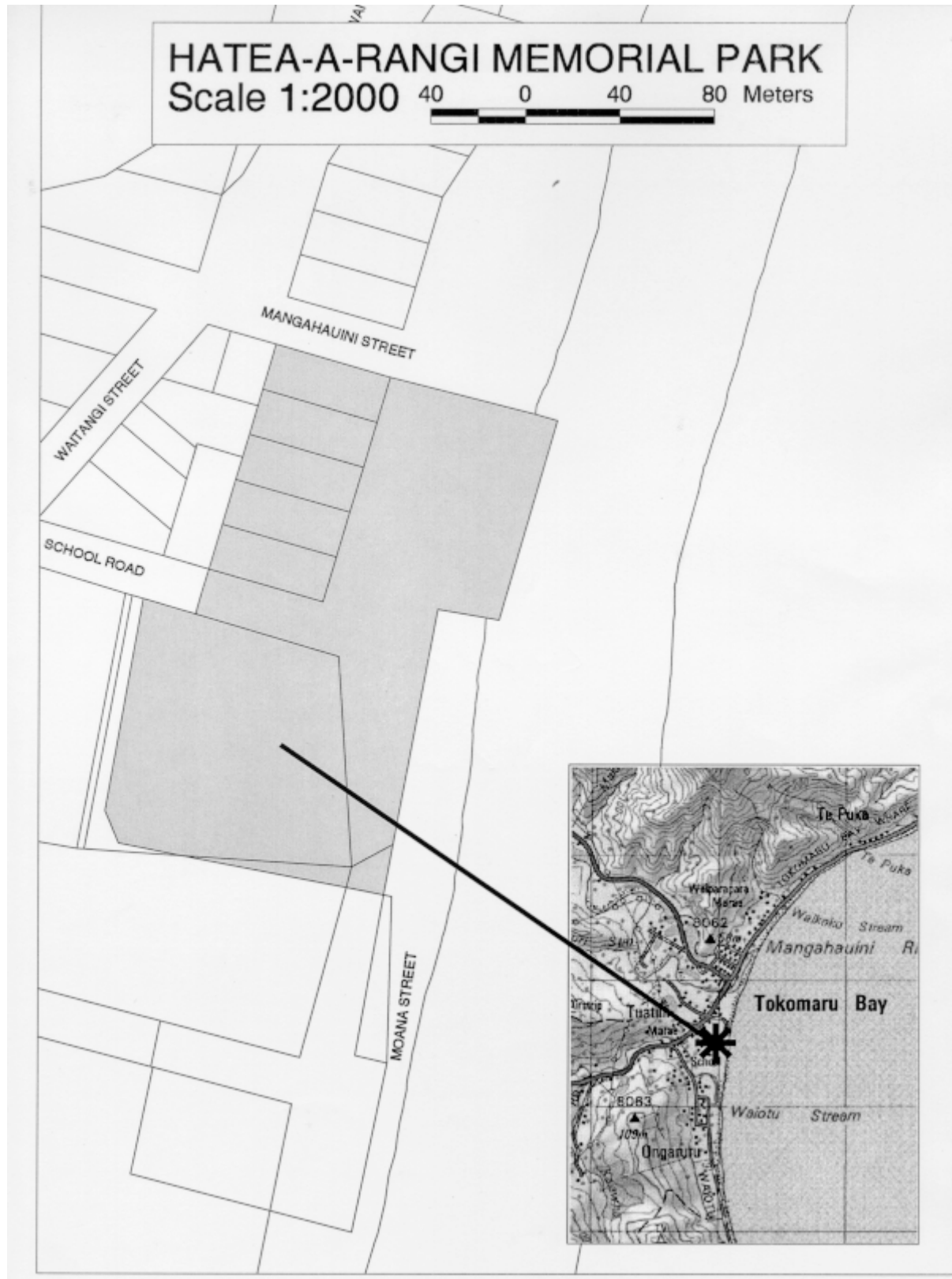


Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park, Tokomaru Bay, East Coast, Gisborne.

**2.1 Location/Access to Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park**



**2.2 Introduction**

Hatea-A-Rangi Reserve is in Tokomaru Bay, 90 kilometres north of Gisborne on the East Coast of the North Island, New Zealand. Tokomaru Bay is a small coastal township with a population of 475 people. The highest proportion of the population are less than five years old years old, with 5-9 year olds being the second highest grouping. Children 9 and under make up 20% of the Tokomaru Bay population. Tokomaru Bay is predominantly a Maori community (83%) (*Statistics from 'New Zealand Census of Population and Dwelling'*).

Hatea-A-Rangi Reserve is classified under the Reserves Act 1977 as a Recreation Reserve. This reserve is also zoned in the *proposed* Gisborne District Combined Regional Land and District Plan as a Recreation Reserve.

Hatea-A-Rangi Reserve is the only Recreation Reserve in Tokomaru Bay. Tokomaru Bay United Sports Club leases part of this reserve (the site of the clubrooms). The lease expires on 31/1/2014. This club is a Rugby sports club focusing on providing sporting and community opportunities. The new clubrooms have become the social well of the community. The reserve is situated in Rimuroa Street adjacent to the commercial centre of Tokomaru Bay. The reserve borders Hatea-A-Rangi School and the Marae. It also fronts the foreshore reserve or beach dune system. The main pedestrian access to the reserve is through the memorial gates at the end of Rimuroa Street. Vehicular entry is available from the foreshore reserve side. This is the entrance to the Tokomaru Bay United Sports Club. Car parking is available.

A sealed accessway to the adjacent school runs between the reserve and the adjoining Marae. When the reserve was established it was considered that the accessway should not form part of the reserve and the strip was omitted from the *gazetted*. It therefore retained its status as a reserve for public buildings.

Adjoining land use: The reserve backs onto the commercial centre of Tokomaru Bay and extends through to the foreshore reserve. The primary school adjoins on the southern boundary and the Marae to the west.

**Topography**

Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park is located on an essentially level surface with no obvious depressions within the field. On the western boundary, a bank (school driveway) is present which could create runoff problems onto the field area. However this is unlikely to be a major problem except under heavy use/substantial rain given the free draining nature of this site.

### **Vegetation**

The field area exhibits a very low density, clumpy rye grass sward. Weed content is high with plantains, mallow and wire weed being the main species evident.

### **2.3 Historical analysis**

When this Reserve was formally established in 1946 it was named Hatea-A-Rangi Park Domain. In 1949, at the request of the Domain Board, the name was changed to Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park to commemorate the sacrifice made by members of the armed services from the Tokomaru Bay District who served in the First and Second World Wars.

Previous oral history states Chief Hatea-A-Rangi was slain on the site during tribal wars, along with many others who were left where they fell. Rua Tuapare, an ancestor of Te Whanau-A-Rua, is also reportedly buried there. Subsequently the area was also said to have been used for victims of the great influenza epidemic of the 1920's.

On Saturday 1st October 1960 , there was a dedication service for all those from the area that had served in the First and Second World Wars. The Tokomaru Bay War Memorial Gates were opened at 10.30am by D W W Williams. The Memorial Gateway and associated structures are now part of the Heritage List (788/44).

In 1980 Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park was classified as a Recreation Reserve under Sections 16 and 17 under the Reserves Act 1977 .

In 1981 the Crown and the Tokomaru Bay United Football Club entered into leasing arrangements over a portion of land on the reserve for the purpose of establishing clubroom facilities. With the reorganisation of local government in 1989 all administering powers to the reserve were passed from the Crown to the Local Authority. The original leasing arrangements between the Crown and the Tokomaru Bay United Football Club cover the maximum term allowed by the Reserves Act 1977 (a period of 33 years). The expiry date for the current lease is 31 January 2014.

On March 2nd 1997, a dedication of a Pou-Rahui-Whenua was erected to show respect for those who remain buried at the site.

### **Te Wharekura**

On 20 January 1997 began the commencement of the Tokomaru Bay United Sports Club Clubrooms. The building of the clubrooms on the reserve was compliant under the Resource Management Act 1991. The Gisborne District Council granted a building consent.

The building of the clubrooms required some earthworks. Amongst the diggings there were some accusations from the local people that bones had been uplifted. Those there believed it was rubbish (tin foil from a Hangi). Some whanau and hapu with associations to the area say that the site is waahi tapu in the view of Uri Whenua.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust became involved. They described an archaeological site as *“any place in New Zealand that was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 and is able, through investigation by archaeological methods, to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand”*.

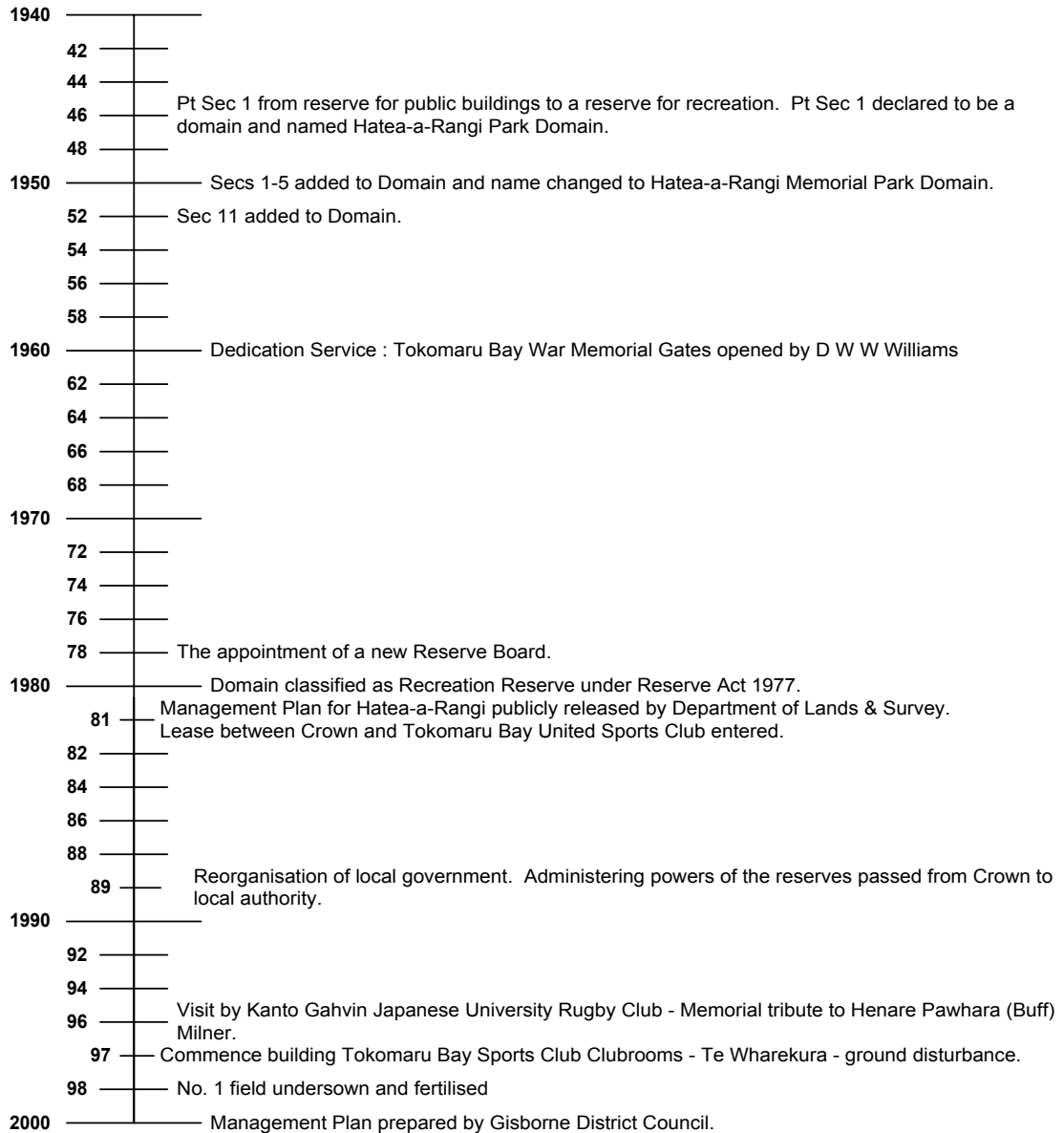
Whanau/hapu associated with the site were considering lodging a proposal to enter the general area of the burial site including the building area into the New Zealand Historical Places Trust as waahi tapu.

Council’s Maori Liaison Officer who met with hapu of the site and worked with the New Zealand Historical Places Trust recommended there was little purpose served in stopping works on the site as the building is significantly constructed and there was no further ground disturbance subsequent to the human remains discovered. The officer had been informed by hapu/whanau sources that there has been a long-standing practice that when human bones are exposed in the vicinity of the Domain the bones are reburied at Tuatini Cemetery.

#### **Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park Recreation Reserve Board**

In 1978 there was the appointment of a new Reserve Board. The Board, constructed of locally elected members, controlled and managed the reserve. In 1950 when sections 1-5 had been added to the reserve four out of the nine positions available on the Board were allocated to representatives of the Maori owners.

**2.4 Timeline of Historical Events since the Reserve was established**



**2.5 Status/Area**

Hatea-A-Rangi Memorial Park Recreation Reserve being Sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 11 Block VIII, and part Section 1, Block X, Tuatini Maori Township, situated in Block VIII Tokomaru Survey District. The reserve is 2.6664 hectares in area.