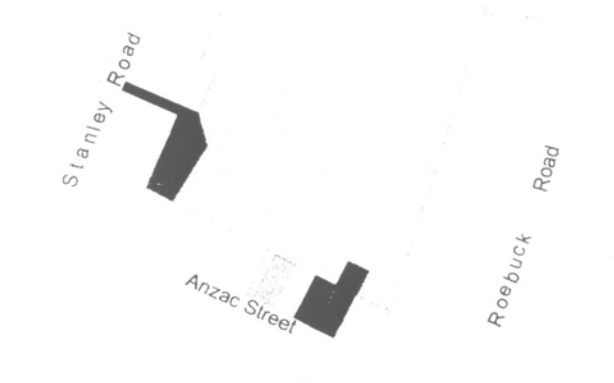




2.0 Location / Access

2.0 LOCATION / ACCESS



Oval Recreational Reserve

Key

-  High School Old Boys Club Rooms
-  Old Boys- Marist Club Rooms
-  Pirates Club Rooms
-  Proposed Development Areas
-  Victoria Child Care Centre

2.1 Introduction

The Oval Reserve is situated between Roebuck Road and Stanley Road to the north of Anzac Street. There are three major points of access to the reserve. Access points to the reserve can be found on Roebuck Road, Stanley Road and Anzac Street.

Vehicle access to the site is controlled by a locked gate on the Stanley Road side of the reserve. This gate is only opened on request, mainly for service and ground maintenance requirements.

Although there are no formed pedestrian pathways, the reserve is frequently used as a through route, particularly by school children who attend the local Gisborne Intermediate and Gisborne Boys High Schools which are located within close proximity to the Reserve.

Presently, parking space for vehicular traffic is limited to the road verges of Stanley, Anzac and Roebuck Roads. Plans are currently in preparation for a carparking site next to the High School Old Boys Rugby Clubrooms in Anzac Street.

2.0 Location / Access

2.2 Status / Area

The total area of the Oval Reserve is 4.9409 hectares. Its legal description is allotment 1 DP 2834 and Lot 38 and Part Lot 39 DP 3069. Presently, the Reserve is zoned under the proposed District Planning Scheme (No. 2) as (OS 2) 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 a controlled use under the proposed District Planning Scheme (No. 2). Recreational buildings and clubrooms 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 the Oval Reserve is classified as a **Recreational Reserve**. Further definition under the City of Gisborne Planning Scheme (Proposed Review No. 2) zones the Reserve as Open Space Two.

2.4 Relationships to Other Reserves in the Area

The Oval Reserve is one of a series of reserves in the Waikanae area. Other prominent reserves in the immediate vicinity include:

- ◆ Childers Road Reserve
- ◆ Alfred Cox Park
- ◆ Victoria Domain

Both Victoria Domain and Childers Road Reserve are actively used by various sporting codes. Victoria Domain caters for bowling, tennis and netball while Childers Road Reserve is Gisborne's premier soccer ground.

2.5 Historical Analysis

In 1928 the Poverty Bay Rugby Union (formed in 1890) invested £6,600 in a part of the Waikanae Block. Discussions between the Council and the Rugby Union in 1968 resulted in an agreement being made that the Council would take over the management and ownership of the reserve free of capital outlay, giving the rugby union a 28 year rent free lease.

From 1928 until the development of Rugby Park in 196=54, the Oval was the premier venue in the Gisborne area for all major rugby and cricket fixtures. With the acquisition and development of Harry Barker Reserve in 1962, premier cricket was also moved away from the Oval. Soccer was also a recreational sport that was enjoyed at the Oval. In 1927 for example, Poverty Bay played Canada in a game which they unfortunately lost 6 – 1.

2.6 Site Characteristics

The Oval Reserve is situated on a relatively flat area of land. It has a number of tree species situated around the boundary area of the playing fields. Species of mature trees on the Oval include:

- ◆ Sycamore
- ◆ Gum
- ◆ Silky Oak
- ◆ Plane Tree
- ◆ Russian Olive

During the winter months the Oval has a good level of moisture retention. This situation changes during the summer months when the grounds tend to dry out through lack of watering and poor moisture retention. These harsh climatic conditions also impede on the flora growth.

2.7 Current Landuse

As previously mentioned the predominant recreational use of the Oval Reserve is cricket and rugby. Both sports are classified as active recreational codes. Rugby is the predominant sport during the winter months while mercantile cricket predominates during the summer time. At present there are four major wickets under contract maintenance at the Oval Reserve. These wickets are used for local club games while representative play is based largely at Harry Barker Reserve. A number of mercantile cricket wickets also exist. These are designed primarily for junior play and training purposes.

In recent times, with the growth in the popularity of touch rugby the Oval has become one of many reserves in the Gisborne District which is actively used for both training and social competition.

2.8 Development

During the mid 1960's the Gisborne High School Old Boys Rugby Club (H.S.O.B.) became the first rugby club in the district to admit women into the club through its incorporated squash code. This saw the development of a new club house to cater for both rugby, cricket and squash members.

In 1975 the Club purchased an adjoining private residential property with the hope of future development to their clubroom facilities. In 1995 the club proposed to extend their current facilities onto this property with the hope of establishing a car parking and landscaped barbecue area. The club also wishes to utilise a corner of the Oval adjacent to their club rooms for tennis and netball court development. The major aim of this project is to make the club a multi-sporting organisation which meets the needs of a number of different sporting codes. The expansion of the sporting complex will hopefully also cater for a much larger representation of women, juniors and family groups.

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The proposed development of the tennis and netball courts will encroach part of the Oval, but will not affect any of the current recreational codes which utilise the grounds. Leasing arrangements with the High School Old Boys Rugby Club will be considered by Council with the completion of this management plan.

In 1992 a development proposal was put forward to Council by the Old Boy's Rugby Club to erect a fence on the portion of land adjacent to their clubrooms on the Oval Reserve. The aim of this concept was to establish a car parking facility within the fenced area. Council moved that the development proposal be passed with the condition and understanding that the use of the car parking facilities would be for the benefit of the whole community rather than the exclusive benefit of Old Boys Club members.

Due to the scale of development proposals and the fact that there are a number of sporting codes which utilise the reserve, separate leasing arrangements are not considered appropriate on the Oval Reserve. A more appropriate arrangement would be to set aside different parts of the Reserve for the provision of different recreational facilities and/or activities. Subsequently, with the expiry of the current leasing arrangements on the Reserve (between the Poverty Bay Rugby Union and the Gisborne District Council), Council approval will be sought to set apart an area of some 1200 square metres immediately in front of H.S.O.B.'s Club Rooms for the sole use of tennis and netball competition. Permission will also be sought for the construction of a suitable surface for these activities. The two major sports fields on the reserve will be set apart for winter use as rugby fields and for summer use for mercantile, junior cricket and touch rugby.