### Historical Information

### Māori Pre-1840

Pukenamu (Sand-fly Hill) was the site of a pā located on the high-ground in the Reserve overlooking a bend on the west bank of the Whanganui River, about four kilometres from the coast. In 1832 a Ngāti Te Āti Awa war party from Taranaki unsuccessfully attacked the pā which was defended by Whanganui and Ngāti Tūwharetoa.<sup>2</sup> A pre-1840 urupā is also located in the vicinity of the pā site.3

# Pākehā Settlement - 1840s

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in Whanganui in May 1840 and later that month the New Zealand Company completed its purchase of approximately 40,000 acres (16,200 hectares) of land in the district including the Reserve.<sup>4</sup> The first New Zealand Company settlers including Martha King (1802/1803?–1897)<sup>5</sup> arrived on 27 February 1841.<sup>6</sup> The town and country sections were surveyed and a map was produced in 1842 which included the Reserve shown as 'The Queen's Park'. The significance of the Reserve, its location, and its vistas were reported on in Wellington in May 1843.8 'But suppose, Mr. Editor, you accompany me to the Queen's Park — our Acropolis ...', '..., from its position in the very

 $<sup>^{8}</sup>$  The writer, K, was probably Samuel King the senior civil servant in Whanganui at that time and brother of both Martha and Maria King. (Maria Place, previously part of the Reserve, was named for her.)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Smith, Stephenson Percy, History and traditions of the Maoris of the west coast North Island of New Zealand prior to 1840: New Plymouth, 1910: pp. 494-495; Also Cochrane and Stewart, Wanganui Heritage Study, Vol. 2, 1990, Q/1, suggests the only archaeological site within the Reserve identified as possibly pre-dating 1840 is a small terrace above the corner of Drews Avenue and Ridgway Street.; Possibly part of the site mentioned in Smith: 1910.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> No archaeological evidence of physical occupation by Māori has been located in the Reserve during work undertaken by HNZ Authorities; Michael Taylor, An Archaeological Assessment of the Refurbishment of Paving and Steps Surrounding the Cenotaph, Queen's Park, R22/440, Wanganui, 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The discovery of at least eight bodies in the Reserve in 1934 strongly suggests that this area is an urupā; Auckland Star, 6 April 1934, p.5; A Wai Tapu application or similar is expected to be made to HNZ by Whanganui tangata whenua in the future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Chapple, L. J. B., and Veitch, H. C., Wanganui, Hawera: Hawera Star Publishing Coy Ltd., 1939,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Martha King was New Zealand's first resident botanical artist; Moira M. Long. 'King, Martha', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1990. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1k12/king-martha (accessed 6 May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Chapple and Veitch, *Wanganui*, p.37

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Whanganui Regional Museum Archives, Ref: 1971.70.1 MAP: Hand-drawn and coloured plan of Petre, 1842. Scale is 20 inches to a mile; See Appendix 4.2 Historical Photographs.

centre of the town, and its command of ocean, earth, and sky, must be a place of frequent

However, the 1840 land purchase continued to cause tensions between all the parties involved. In 1846 the settlers requested protection from the Crown and a British military force arrived in Whanganui on 13 December 1846. Under the direction of Lieutenant Thomas Collinson (1822-1902) Royal Engineers, the 58th Rutlandshire Regiment began building fortifications on the high ground in the Reserve and by April 1847 the Rutland Stockade had been completed. For the settlers the substantial military presence was a comforting symbol of the Crowns protection and authority.

In April 1847 the accidental wounding of a minor chief resulted in a group of six young upper river Māori attacking the farm of John Gilfillan (1793-1863); killing and wounding several members of the family.<sup>15</sup> Five of the perpetrators were captured and four were hanged for murder at a gallows constructed in the Reserve on 26 April 1847.<sup>16</sup> Their bodies were buried in an unmarked location near to the stockade.<sup>17</sup>

On 19 May 1847 upper river Māori led by Te Mamaku (?–1887) unsuccessfully attacked the settlement. On 20 July 1847 another indecisive skirmish, The Battle of St John's Wood, was fought between British soldiers who advanced from the Rutland Stockade and engaged



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser, 16 May, 1843, p.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.60

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Power, W. Tyrone, *Sketches In New Zealand, With Pen And Pencil*, London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, 1849, p.53

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Collinson was also an artist and several of his drawings of the Reserve are held at the ATL. Diana Beaglehole, 'Whanganui region - European settlement, 1840–1860', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <a href="http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/artwork/19021/whanganui-settlement-and-its-stockades-1847">http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/artwork/19021/whanganui-settlement-and-its-stockades-1847</a> (accessed 6 May 2019)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.62

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.231

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Chapple and Veitch, *Wanganui*, p.62; See John Gilfillan

https://collection.sarjeant.org.nz/persons/9045

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.63

Waitangi Tribunal, He Whiritaunoka: The Whanganui Land Report (Vol 1), p.122; David Young, Woven by water: histories from the Whanganui River, Wellington: Huia Publishers, 1998, p.272; notes that Pugsley, Chris, Walking the Wanganui War, p.33, writes that a request for the bodies was declined; however, Reverend Richard Taylor, Journal, 28 March, 1848, records that the bodies, buried close by, were later disinterred for burial on their family lands. MS-Papers-1008 (ATL).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.63

Te Mamaku's forces near St Johns Hill. 19 With neither side able to achieve a decisive victory a truce was called and Te Mamaku and his allies returned home.<sup>20</sup>

The Crown repurchased the land in the district including the Reserve in May 1848. 21 In 1852 the town became part of the Province of Wellington which took over control of all reserves not under direct control of the central government. 22 In 1862 legislated local government begin in Whanganui<sup>23</sup> and in 1872 it was constituted a Borough.<sup>24</sup>

The British military had occupied the Rutland Stockade near continuously for over twenty three years before their final departure in January 1870. 25 The provincial government purchased the stockade from the central government in 1871.<sup>26</sup> It was then used to accommodate numerous central, provincial and local government agencies and facilities. 27 In 1875 with the abolition of the provincial government system the Reserve, which was on two grant titles, Reserves K and E, was reinvested in the Crown '...in trust as a reserve for Public Buildings'. 28 Both grants were later reissued to the Borough. 29

A physical legacy of the British military presence was the more than thirty dwellings and other structures they had built throughout the Reserve which were later occupied by some

<sup>19</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.68

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Public Reserves Amendment Act 1878, http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\_act/praaa187842v1878n34402/



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> This was the last armed conflict within the Whanganui town boundary; The Siege of Whanganui', Ministry for Culture and Heritage, updated 2-Apr-2019; https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/wanganui-war/siege-of-wanganui

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Chapple and Veitch, Wanganui, p.71

New Zealand Constitution Act; <a href="https://nzhistory.govt.nz/proclamation-of-1852-constitution-act">https://nzhistory.govt.nz/proclamation-of-1852-constitution-act</a> (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 1-Dec-2016.

Wanganui Streets, Sewerage and Drainage Act;

https://atojs.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/atojs?a=d&d=AJHR1863-I.2.1.3.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Chapple and Veitch, *Wanganui*, p.284; Municipal Corporations Act 1867, http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\_act/mca186731v1867n24381/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> The Rutland Stockade is remembered in the Reserve with the Rutland Memorial Boulder and

Wanganui Herald, 5 December, 1871, p.2

Uses of the stockade complex included; Confiscated Land Office (Wanganui Herald, 28 April, 1871, p.3); Native Office (Wanganui Herald, 25 February, 1871, p.2); Police Gaol (Wanganui Herald, 8 April, 1872, p.20); Immigration Barracks (Wanganui Herald, 24 November, 1874, p.2); Militia Office (Wanganui Herald, 2 June, 1871, p.3); Military Store (Wanganui Chronicle, 28 June, 1877, p.2) Meteorological Station (Wanganui Herald, 5 July, 1871, p.2); Fire Bell Tower (Wanganui Chronicle, 13 August, 1875, p.2) and a Telegraph Station (Photographic Reference, Ref: 1/1-000051-G. ATL).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Abolition of the Provinces Act 1875,

http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist act/aopa187539v1875n21360/

of the town's less affluent residents. 30 The 'Rookery', as it became known, was purposely destroyed in the early 1870s after repeated requests from citizens; however, by 1875 new small wooden cottages had begun to reappear. These structures were demolished in 1882 as part of a plan to further develop and beautify the Reserve. 31

# **Development of the Reserve from 1879**

As Whanganui developed throughout the 1870s there was an increasing need for suitable sites for civic and cultural facilities. From 1879 areas within the Reserve began to be increasingly used for community needs including educational, military, civic and cultural purposes. The north east section of the Reserve was given to the Education Board and several schools occupied the site from 1880 until 1977. 32 A parcel of land fronting Bell Street was also taken from the Reserve for government purposes; including a new Police Station<sup>33</sup> and a gift of land for a Masonic Hall.<sup>34</sup> The strong military connection was retained in the Reserve when the Volunteer Drill Hall<sup>35</sup>, Garrison Band Rooms<sup>36</sup>, and later a parade ground<sup>37</sup> were all built near the site of the current War Memorial Hall. The Reserve's central location coupled with its new multi-purpose facilities saw it being used for a wide range of civic and cultural activities and events. 38

In 1880 the purpose of parts of both reserves were changed from a site for public buildings to municipal purposes only and were vested in the Mayor, Councillors, and Burgesses of the Borough. 39 Later in 1880 the purposes of both Reserves were changed again from municipal purposes to recreation. 40 The central government gifted a section of the Reserve fronting

<sup>30</sup> Wanganui Herald, 7 November, 1870, p.2

31 Kirk, Athol, History now: people, places, machines, events Wanganui: Wanganui Newspapers,

http://maps.whanganui.govt.nz/Wanganui/Photos/HeritageInventory/334.pdf

<sup>33</sup> Wanganui Herald, 1 April, 1880, p.2; Being Section 541 TN OF Wanganui and Part Res E TN OF Wanganui.

<sup>38</sup> Wanganui Chronicle, 8 October, 1879, p.2

<sup>39</sup> NZ Gazette, 1880, p.305

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Special Powers and Contracts Act 1880; http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist\_act/spaca188650v1886n16366.pdf



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Section 547 Town of Wanganui; See Appendix 4.2 Cadastral Information). The school is remembered with the Queen's Park School War Memorial Gates and plaque and is now the site of the Davis Library;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Wanganui Chronicle, 19 April, 1884, p.2; Timber from the stockade was used in the Masonic Hall. 35 Wanganui Chronicle, 8 October, 1879, p.2; The Volunteer Drill Hall had seating for over 1000

Wanganui Chronicle, 27 October, 1891, p.2; Built by Nicholas Meuli (1856?-1926). <sup>37</sup> Wanganui Herald, 29 September, 1892, p.2

Ridgway Street for a public library which opened in 1882.<sup>41</sup> The intention was that the new public library would eventually become a site for both a public museum and an art gallery with the addition of two wings at a later date.<sup>42</sup>

In 1882 the government's interests in the Reserve were vested in the Queen's Park Domain Board. The good work of the Domain Board was commented on in 1886. Those who by business or pleasure are led to Queen's Gardens cannot help noticing the large amount of planting now being done there by the Domain Board. To add to the ambience of the Reserve in June 1887 the Domain Board built the Queen's Jubilee Band Rotunda on Rutland Hill which was opened by the Governor, General Sir William Jervois (1821–1897), in the presence of a large and enthusiastic crowd. The highly successful Wanganui Garrison Band played regular concerts in the Band Rotunda.

In July 1887 the status of the remaining stockade blockhouse divided the town. Meetings were held at the request of ratepayers who were anxious to preserve the last remnants of the Rutland Stockade. However, the Council disagreed and accepted a tender to remove the blockhouse. In 1893 the Soldiers Monument, the first of many war memorials to be erected in the Reserve, was unveiled by Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Newall (1843–1919). Following the precedent set by the siting of the public library in the Reserve, a Public Museum, which was based on the private collections of Samuel Drew (1844–1901), was built in 1893 and eventually opened in 1895.

<sup>42</sup> Wanganui Herald, 30 January, 1883, p.2

<sup>45</sup> Wanganui Chronicle, 18 June, 1887, p.5

Yeoman, 20 May, 1893, p.2; the building is now known as the Savage Club Hall.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Wanganui Herald, 9 May, 1882, p.2; The Public Library is now the Repertory Theatre.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> This was the Council sitting under another name. The Queen's Park Domain Board minutes are often vague as matters regarding the Reserve were often discussed at Council and signed off by the Board; Whanganui District Council Archives; Queen's Park Domain Board Minute Books 1882-1954.

<sup>44</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 2 December, 1886, p.2

Wanganui Chronicle, 19 December, 1905, p.7; By 1947 the Garrison Band had won 9 national titles, Otago Daily Times, 6 March, 1946, p.4

<sup>47</sup> Wanganui Herald, 5 April, 1887, p.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Wanganui Herald, 20 July, 1887, p.2

<sup>49</sup> New Zealand Times, 21 December, 1893, p.2; Relocated to Veterans Steps in 1920.

Kaye Noble, External links and sources for 'Drew, Samuel Henry', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1993. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <a href="https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2d18/drew-samuel-henry/sources">https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2d18/drew-samuel-henry/sources</a> (accessed 5 May 2019)

In 1900 the Domain Board approved an application from the Garrison Band for a new site in 'Queen's Gardens' for their octagonal shaped rooms on the lower south-western slope close to Drews Avenue. <sup>52</sup> A tennis club<sup>53</sup> and a croquet club<sup>54</sup> were established in the Reserve in the early 1900's, however, the remainder of the central high ground remained physically undeveloped until after World War One.

## Post World War One - Civic Centre Development

Two generous bequests, one from Henry Sarjeant (1829–1912) in 1912<sup>55</sup> and a later one from Elizabeth Alexander resulted in significant civic construction in the Reserve from 1919.<sup>56</sup> Sarjeant's bequest to the Council for an art collection and gallery resulted in a design competition which also included a requirement for a planned civic centre in the Reserve. Competitors were asked to submit a scheme with municipal buildings in the centre and the gallery and a museum on either side.<sup>57</sup> This concept had emanated from the Council when negotiations were in progress between the Sarjeant Gallery Committee and the design competition assessor Samuel Hurst Seager (1855–1933).<sup>58</sup> Hurst Seager expressed the opinion that few if any sites in the big cities of the world presented such possibilities as Queen's Park for the purpose suggested.<sup>59</sup>

In 1916 Donald Hosie (1896-1917), a pupil of Edmund Anscombe (1874–1948), won the design competition for the gallery. However, Hosie was serving in the army and was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Anscombe took over the supervision of both the gallery's construction and the planning for the proposed civic centre. The Gallery Committee was enthusiastic in their admiration for the lay-out of the civic centre, however, the contractors questioned the site of the gallery and a decision was made by the Council to change the design of the entire civic centre. Protest meetings were held and

WHANGANUI

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Wanganui Herald, 6 June, 1900, p.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Wanganui Herald, 30 March, 1905, p.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 23 January, 1908, p.2

<sup>55</sup> Wanganui Chronicle, 22 April, 1912, p.4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Wanganui Herald, 28 April, 1919, p.5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Wanganui Herald, 10 July, 1917, p.4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Ian J. Lochhead, 'Seager, Samuel Hurst', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1996, updated May, 2002. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, https://teara.gov/t.pa/on/hiergraphics/2-0/

https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3s8/seager-samuel-hurst (accessed 5 May 2019)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Wanganui Herald, 10 July, 1917, p.4

Hilary Wooding. 'Sarjeant, Henry', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1993. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <a href="https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2s4/sarjeant-henry">https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2s4/sarjeant-henry</a> (accessed 5 May 2019).

disappointment was expressed by citizens and organisations that the original civic centre scheme as presented was not going to be adhered to. 61

With a repositioning of the gallery required, the Council decided to use the civic centre design of local architect Henry Monk Helm (1888-19??), who was runner up in the galley competition. Helms' plan called for an ornate double flight of steps to be centred on Maria Place, with the Soldiers Monument as its centre piece, as the main access to the similarly aligned and symmetrically designed Sarjeant Gallery. 62

The Governor-General, Lord Liverpool (1870–1941), laid the foundation stone of the gallery in September 1917 and it was officially opened by Prime Minister William Massey (1856-1925) two years later in September 1919. 63 There had been a 20-year gap between the opening of the last art gallery of the 19th century, Nelson's Suter Gallery in 1899, and the Sarjeant which was the first gallery of the 20th century. 64 The Sarjeant Gallery's internationally recognised collection now comprises over 8,000 works and archival items spanning four centuries of European and New Zealand art. 65

At this time there was also lengthy debate over the location of the districts' World War One memorial. <sup>66</sup> There was a strong call for a centrally located memorial and after a public vote in 1922 it was decided to site the memorial in the Reserve. <sup>67</sup> The foundation stone was laid on Anzac Day 1923 and the Cenotaph was unveiled on Armistice Day 1923. 68 Whanganui

<sup>63</sup> Wanganui Chronicle, 8 September, 1919, p.5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Manawatu Times, 12 November, 1923, p.4 Unveiled by Colonel Melville, Commanding Officer of the Wellington Military District. Both these remembrance days are still commemorated in the Reserve. At the Cenotaph unveiling ceremony Lorenzdale Park was also presented to the Gonville Town Board by noted local builder Nicholas Meuli (1856?-1926) in memory of his son who died in the war.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Wanganui Herald, 10 July, 1917, p.4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Wanganui Herald, 9 June, 1919, p.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Roger Blackley, 'Art galleries and collections - Galleries and collections, 1900 to 1960s', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/art-galleries-andcollections/page-2 (accessed 5 May 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> The collection, one of the country's most comprehensive surveys of New Zealand art history, and unrivalled in regional New Zealand is now fully searchable online. https://collection.sarjeant.org.nz/explore

<sup>66</sup> Wanganui Herald, 27 August, 1920, p.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Manawatu Times, 1 February, 1922, p.5; The Durie Hill Tower was the other suggest location.

became the first centre in New Zealand to adopt an Anzac Day Dawn Parade and Service in 1935 and this commemoration has been held continuously in the Reserve since that time. <sup>69</sup>

In 1924, with the inclusion of the suburbs of Gonville and Castlecliff, Whanganui, became the country's fifth-largest municipal centre. The building of the new cultural institutions in the Reserve was designed to underscore Whanganui's new city status. <sup>70</sup> The Alexander bequest saw the addition of two significant civic institutions in the Reserve; the Alexander Museum (now Whanganui Regional Museum) in 1928 and the Alexander Library in 1933. The Alexander Library construction also prompted the Council to move the Watt Memorial Fountain (F) to a site in front of the new library. <sup>71</sup>

These new cultural institutions enabled the development of historical and artistic collections within the Reserve and resulted in new scientific research being undertaken. In 1933 George Shepherd (1872-1946), curator of the Museum, discovered a new species of beaked whale. The director of the Dominion Museum, W. R. B. Oliver (1883–1957)<sup>72</sup> confirmed this and named the species Tasmacetus Shepherdi after Shepherd and subsequently published his findings in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London in 1937.<sup>73</sup> Shepherd also recovered more than 2,000 moa bones from Makirikiri and Riverlands during the 1930s and together with James Grant, the Honorary Director, classified and articulated ten skeletons from the bones.<sup>74</sup>

Diana Beaglehole, 'Whanganui places - Whanganui', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <a href="http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/whanganui-places/page-1">http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/whanganui-places/page-1</a> (accessed 5 May 2019).

The Museum has one of New Zealand's largest moa bone collections and display gallery's and with the help of DNA the bones from Makirikiri have now been able to be placed into three species; <a href="https://whanganuiregionalmuseum.wordpress.com/2014/09/25/a-treasure-trove-of-moa-in-whanganui/">https://whanganuiregionalmuseum.wordpress.com/2014/09/25/a-treasure-trove-of-moa-in-whanganui/</a>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> The Reserve is now the site of the longest continuously running Anzac Day Dawn Parade and Service in New Zealand, <a href="https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/anzac-day-1920-45">https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/anzac-day-1920-45</a>; The local 5/7 Battalion, 1RNZIR, also holds the Freedom to the City, <a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/wanganui-chronicle/news/article.cfm?c">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/wanganui-chronicle/news/article.cfm?c</a> id=1503426&objectid=11070984

Watt Memorial Fountain (List Entry No. 1003); Note that the memorial has been relocated back to its original site on the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Ridgway Street since its registration in 1982.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> R. K. Dell. 'Oliver, Walter Reginald Brook', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1998. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4o5/oliver-walter-reginald-brook (accessed 5 May 2019) Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand URL: http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/oliver-walter-reginald-brook (accessed 5 May 2019)

The Shepherd's beaked whale remains very rare and only one live specimen has ever been seen – near Nelson in 1994. Gerard Hutching, 'Whales - Beaked whales', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/7102/george-shepherd (accessed 20 May 2019)

When a living memorial to remember those who had lost their lives during World War Two was proposed the site of the Drill Hall was seen as an ideal location for practical, traditional and symbolic reasons. After a Council request for assistance in building a War Memorial Hall the Scottish Pioneer Memorial Hall Society transferred their funds to the Council, as did the Wanganui Highland Pipe Band, the Wanganui Horticultural Society and the Wanganui RSA. Support for the War Memorial Hall was wide spread with people, businesses and organisations giving donations directly from their wages or bank accounts.

The government, who had a strong preference for living memorials, offered the Council £50,000 towards the new hall. A design competition resulted in a building that was a radical departure from the norm for civic memorial buildings in New Zealand.<sup>78</sup> Principally designed by Gordon Smith of Newman, Smith and Greenhough its floating block design is an award winning example of New Zealand modernist architecture.<sup>79</sup>

Since the opening of the War Memorial Hall on Anzac Day 1960 the only major physical changes to the Reserve have been the Maori Court addition to the Regional Museum in 1968 and the new Davis Library which was built on the old Queen's Park school site in 1980. On 24 March 1982 the Reserve was classified as a local purpose site for municipal buildings and was vested in the City Council. This was transferred to the District Council upon the local government reorganisation on 1 November 1989.

Since 2009 the Council with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage has undertaken significant assessment and restoration work on the major historical sites within the Reserve including; the Alexander Library, Whanganui Regional Museum, Veterans Steps and Soldiers Monument<sup>82</sup>, and War Memorial Hall with the exception of the Sarjeant

<sup>82</sup> https://mch.govt.nz/lion-monument-restoration-complete



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Journal of New Zealand Institute of Architects, Wanganui War Memorial Hall, August, 1960.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Ibid

<sup>77</sup> ibio

New Zealand Institute of Architects Gold Medal for 1961 and the Institute's 25 Year Award for 1998; Kyle Dalton, Pukenamu Queen's Park Reserve Site Visit Report, 11 March, 2019.

<sup>79</sup> http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7442;

Reserves Act 1977, New Zealand Gazette Notice No. 48 p.1451 29/04/1982

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> Wanganui District Council, Queens Park Reserve Management Plan, October 1992, [363:155]

Gallery. 83 In November 2018 the Reserve's purpose was changed to culture and heritage and its name was changed to Pukenamu Queen's Park Reserve.<sup>84</sup>



https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/our-district/major-projects/WMC\_upgrade/Pages/default.aspx NZ Gazette Notices 2018, p.5496 and p.5497