

3.4 LYN HARTLEY RESERVE

3.4.1 DESCRIPTION

Lyn Hartley Reserve is located on the banks of the Tarawera River between Ward Street and Porritt Drive. The main part of the reserve is behind houses on Porritt Drive and Payne Crescent and there are narrow sections which give vehicle access from Ward Street and Porritt Drive.

The reserve is separated from the junior soccer grounds of Tarawera Park to the west by the overflow stream which runs into the Tarawera River from the pump house at Pat Baker Reserve on River Road.

There are numerous pedestrian access ways into Lyn Hartley Reserve including across a bridge over the overflow stream from Tarawera Park, along the eastern stream bank from Ward Street, along the bank of the Tarawera River from Firmin Field and through the two vehicle entrances.

Other than the bridge and a large wooden sign carrying the name of the reserve, there are currently no other structures on the reserve.

The reserve is mainly in grass and has a range of exotic (mainly deciduous) and some native trees and shrubs on its boundaries. A number of Harakeke/Flax (*Phormium tenax*) bushes line the banks of the overflow stream. These are utilised by local flax weavers for harakeke craft work.

There is a swimming hole in the Tarawera River accessible from the reserve which is a favourite spot for local people to swim in the summer. A walking track from the Golf Club to the Waterwheel Heritage Park runs through the reserve.

3.4.2 HISTORY

The reserve was originally called the Ward Street Reserve and in the early years of the Kawerau township was informally known as 'The horse paddock.' From 1955 to 1958 Kawerau's first Scout group had a Den on the reserve, referred to as 'The Hut'. Fletcher Timber Company donated the flooring and Tasman Glass Company provided the glass for the windows. 10-12 men from the Tasman workforce were diverted to community work and helped build the Den. The building was also used by Cubs and Brownies. Repeated flooding forced the groups to move to a site in Onslow Street in 1958.

From the 1950s until 1972 the main part of the reserve was indeed a horse paddock, used by the Kawerau Pony Club for riding and gymkhana events. The Club had a building on the site which served as its clubrooms during this period. The building burnt down in March 1972. Following the fire the Pony Club moved to its present site on the northern outskirts of town on Tamarangi Drive. During the 1970s and into the 1980s the grounds were also used by a dog obedience group.

Situated on top of the bank facing the back boundary fences of the properties on Ward Street was the Eastern BOP Vintage Car Club building. The building was an old contractors' cookhouse from the Tasman Mill which was moved onto the site by truck in the mid to late 1970s across a specially-constructed bridge from Tarawera Park.

After many of the Vintage Car Club members moved to Whakatane the building was little used. It was rented to the CB Radio club for a while and also used for rehearsals by the Theatrical Group. Over time the building fell into disrepair and was also a target for vandalism and an arson attempt. It was dismantled and moved off the reserve in the mid 1980s.

The reserve was renamed as 'Lyn Hartley Reserve' in November 2001, in recognition of the service to the community of the immediately preceding Mayor of Kawerau who had recently stepped down from the position. A public ceremony attended by dignitaries and members of the local Community was held in February, at which Mrs Hartley unveiled a sign bearing the new name of the reserve.

3.4.3 STATUS

Lyn Hartley Reserve is vested in, and administered by Council. The Park is a Recreation Reserve as defined by the Reserves Act 1977.

The legal description is: Part of Lot 1 DPS 5882 Recreation Reserve

Lyn Hartley Reserve is approximately 6.8187 hectares in size. It is zoned Reserve under Council's District Plan.

3.4.4 POLICIES

Landscape Character

1. The relaxed and informal nature of the reserve shall be retained.
2. Grounds maintenance shall be to a standard appropriate to the various recreational uses of the reserve.
3. The semi-wilderness character of the river embankment shall be maintained.

Vegetation

1. Planting shall be with tree species complementary to the character of the reserve.
2. Sound horticultural techniques shall be applied in the management of the reserve's vegetation.

Access/Parking

1. Lyn Hartley Reserve is a designated dog exercise area.
2. Access into the reserve shall be maintained.
3. The track along the Tarawera River from the Kawerau Golf Course to the Waterwheel Heritage Park shall be maintained in a semi-wilderness state for walking access.