



Kopuatama Cemetery

East Road

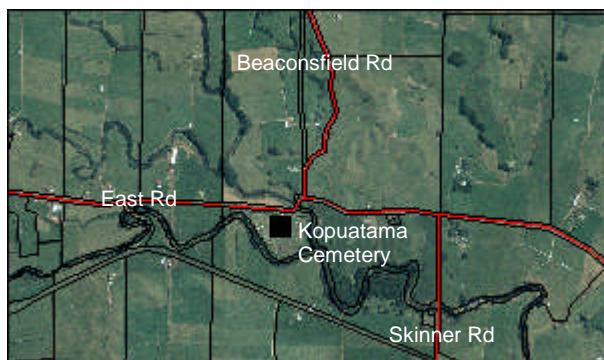
1905

Use: Cemetery
Materials: -
NZHPT Registered: Not registered
Legal Description: Sec 113 BlkII Ngaere SD - Cemetery Reserve

Historic Value: 4 out of 5
Architectural Value: 2 out of 4
Technical Value: 1 out of 2
Symbolic Value: 2 out of 3

Rarity Value: - out of 2
Townscape Value: 1 out of 2
Group Value: - out of 2

Overall Heritage Value: 10 out of 20



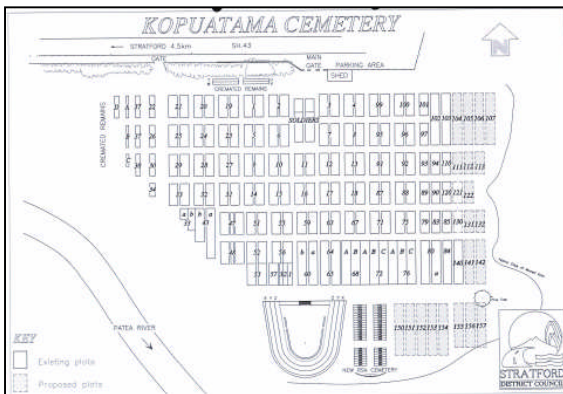
Kopuatama Cemetery is Stratford's second official cemetery and is still open for interments today.

Stratford's first cemetery, the pioneer Cemetery, (Regan Street) was opened in 1885. By 1900 however, the Borough Council decided that a site needed to be sought for a new cemetery. They inspected many suitable sites, especially considering a section at the corner of Monmouth and Mountain Roads, however a land-swap was finally decided upon. The Council approached the Education Board with a view to exchange part of the land designated as Education Reserve for a portion of the Borough Cemetery Reserve. The Board duly agreed and the transaction was confirmed at the ordinary meeting of Council on 12 August 1902.



In 1904 it was decided that the actual naming of the cemetery would be left up to the Mayor, Mr. N.J. King, and Councillor James. The first mention of the chosen name was in the minutes of the special meeting, 14 February 1905, when the draft Kopuatama Cemetery by-laws were minuted.

In October 1904, it was decided that segregation of religious denominations would be most suitable, consequently, it was carried that:



- Parts 1-3: Presbyterian
- Parts 4-9: Church of England
- Parts 10-11: Strangers
- Parts 12-14: Other Denominations
- Parts 15-20: Roman Catholics

The blocks were pegged in February 1905 and the first interment was that same month.

The Cemetery has continued to be a known for its beautifully kept grounds and has an extensive soldier's section as well, commemorating Stratford men who served in both World Wars.

Bibliography:
 Stratford District Council Records
 'Stratford Jubilee: 1878-1928'