



# Douglas War Memorial Domain

Ohura Rd

1956

<b>Use:</b>	Memorial	<b>Historic Value:</b>	2 out of 5
<b>Materials:</b>	Concrete	<b>Architectural Value:</b>	1 out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered:</b>	Not registered	<b>Technical Value:</b>	- out of 2
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Lot 1 DP 7090 Blk XIII Ngatimaru Lot 2 DP 7090 Blk XVI Huiroa SD	<b>Symbolic Value:</b>	2 out of 3
		<b>Rarity Value:</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value:</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Group Value:</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Overall Heritage Value:</b>	6 out of 20



In 1950, the Douglas community started a project to establish some form of war memorial in the district. The Rolls of Honour had previously been unveiled in the Douglas Hall, but the local people felt that more was needed to commemorate those from Douglas who had died in the world wars. A well attended public meeting, in which a secret ballot was taken, voted for the domain project.

Mr. Arthur Walter and Mr. Jackson Brown donated land for the project, and a committee was formed in 1951. The first task that was undertaken was to convert the timber swampland into playing fields. This took four years of time and money, with thousands of feet of field tiles (made at the Douglas Downtraught Kiln) being laid to drain the swamp. Funds were raised for this through local subscriptions of approximately £1,400, which were matched with a government subsidy. Many locals worked as volunteer labourers on the project.



The new ground was completed in about 1954, with the cricket team making full use of it for that season. The official opening, however, was not until May 1956, during the Douglas School's Golden Jubilee. The opening was carried out by Mr. T.T. Murray, the local parliamentarian, with the memorial plaques being unveiled by Mrs. F. Howse, and the gates being dedicated by Rev. A.B. Powell. The first ANZAC day service was held in the domain in 1959.



The playing fields were ploughed and relevelled as the land settled in 1956, again two years later, and finally in 1971. Other modifications and improvements have come about through the problem of keeping the grass at a reasonable length – in 1960 a stock drive was carried out to provide a permanent flock of approximately 40 ewes to carry out this job, and by the next year a rotary mower was purchased.

In 1961, the AA ratified the Douglas War Memorial Domain as a motor-camp, and for this reason, flood lights were installed by 1976.

## Bibliography

*Douglas: A Taranaki Rural Community – Douglas School 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee 1906-1981*