



Mount Taranaki and rural landscape, Stratford District.

(B) SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES IN THE STRATFORD DISTRICT

Mount Taranaki and the Egmont National Park dominate the landscape in the Stratford District. The hill country in the eastern portion of the district also possesses significant scenic natural features and landscape qualities. Scenic landscape qualities of particular significance include views of Mount Taranaki from State Highway 3, Pembroke Road, Monmouth Road, Opunake Road and Manaia Road north of Opunake Road and the views of both the mountain and the hill country from Sangsters Hill and from the Strathmore, Pohokura, Whangamomona and Tāhora Saddles along State Highway 43.

There have been some developments along State Highway 3 in the past five years but these have not had significant adverse effects overall on landscape qualities.

(C) SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES IN THE SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT

Mount Taranaki is visible from many parts of the South Taranaki District and so, not surprisingly is regarded as a significant landscape feature. Other key landscape features in the district include:

- the Egmont National park noted for its significant indigenous forest and associated habitat;
- the volcanic ring plain surrounding the mountain including the distinctive lahar mounds in the northern part of the district;
- the coastal strip which runs the entire length of the western and southern boundaries of the district and includes dunelands and uplifted marine terraces;
- the rivers flowing from the mountain in a distinctive radial pattern; and
- the rugged eastern hill country comprising strongly rolling to steeply dissected hills.

These natural features and landscapes contribute to the high quality of the environment in the South Taranaki District and feature prominently in what residents like most about living in South Taranaki⁹.

The South Taranaki District Council is to undertake a landscape assessment of the district to enable it to protect and enhance outstanding landscapes from the adverse environmental effects of activities in the future.

7.2 WHAT IS THE STATE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE?

The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act. The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is also a matter of national importance that must be recognised and provided for.

A total of 1,345 heritage buildings, structures or items have been identified by the three district councils (Table 7.2), a reduction from the 1,405 sites identified in the 2003 *State of the Environment Report*⁶. Heritage buildings include houses, churches, towers, memorials and commercial buildings. Historic heritage items identified include a wide range of elements important to the district's historic heritage and which may be architectural, cultural, historic, scientific or technological in nature.



Mount Taranaki and lahar mounds, coastal South Taranaki.

⁵ Hastings, A and N. Newman, 2008. *Taranaki Community Survey: Report to the Future Taranaki Facilitation Group by the Nielsen Company.*
⁶ Taranaki Regional Council, 2003. *Taranaki-Our Place, Our Future. Report on the State of the Taranaki Environment - 2003*



Manaia Memorial Band Rotunda and old Post Office building, South Taranaki District.

Heritage buildings, structures or items are not limited to those listed on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register. Of all the identified heritage sites in Taranaki only 150 are listed on this register. This is because the New Zealand Historic Places Trust targets heritage at a national level and has limited funds to maintain the register and to purchase heritage items. A total of 193 historic heritage sites are protected by the three district councils through their district plans.

Archaeological sites are historical sites that pre-date 1900. They include sites from early Māori settlement such as middens, pits, ovens, horticultural sites, defensive pā sites and burial grounds as well as sites from early European settlement such as flour milling, historic settlements and shipwrecks.

The New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme was established in 1957 and is an important database of information for planning and legal decision-making. A total of 1,774 archaeological sites are now identified in Taranaki on this database (Table 7.3), an



Archaeological excavation of Elizabeth Jury's farmhouse at Ōmata near the site of the Battle of Waireka during the first Land Wars in March, 1860.

increase from the number recorded in the 2003 *State of the Environment Report* which identified 1,651 sites. This increase has come about due to an increasing amount of archaeological work being undertaken for resource management purposes and also from a project to update the data undertaken by the New Zealand Archaeological Association in conjunction with the three district councils, the Taranaki Regional Council, iwi, hāpu and landowners⁷. Sites discovered through roadworks or other excavations will continue to be added to the database which can never claim to be a complete list of all archaeological sites within the region.

The greatest number of archaeological sites occur in the South Taranaki District (Table 7.3), with 920 sites and in the New Plymouth District (727 sites). The most common type of archaeological site in Taranaki is defensive pā (745 sites) and pits or terraces (461 sites).

Table 7.2 Number of historic heritage and archaeological sites in Taranaki.

District	Historic heritage buildings, structures or items			Archaeological sites	
	Number identified ¹	Listed in district plans	Listed in NZHPT Register ²	Number identified ³	Listed in district plans
New Plymouth	805	80	75	727	694
Stratford	284	30	11	127	127
South Taranaki	256	83	64	920	*
Totals	1,345	193	150	1,774	821*

¹ By district councils

² Includes historic places, historic areas, wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas

³ By the New Zealand Archaeological Association in its Site Recording Scheme

* None currently listed in *South Taranaki District Plan*

LANDSCAPE, HERITAGE & AMENITY VALUES

Table 7.3 Types of archaeological sites in each district area.

Site type	New Plymouth District	Stratford District	South Taranaki District	Total
Agricultural/Pastoral	3		2	5
Art	3		7	10
Artefact find	10	22	17	49
Botanical evidence	1	2	1	4
Burial/cemetery	9	1	7	17
Cave/rock shelter	1		1	2
Defensive – military	58		28	86
Defensive – pā	405	17	323	745
Defensive – Island/swamp pā			4	4
Fishing			2	2
Flax milling			5	5
Flour milling	7		11	18
Forestry	1			1
Gold mining	1			1
Historic – domestic	16	1		17
Historic – settlement/township	1	6	8	15
Industrial (unspecified)	5		1	6
Māori horticulture	10		60	70
Marae	1		3	4
Midden/oven	51	53	59	163
Mission station			1	1
Pit/terrace	86	8	367	461
Shipwreck	9		3	12
Source site	4		1	5
Traditional site			5	5
Transport/communication	5		1	6
Unclassified	38			38
Whaling station	1			1
Working area	1	17	3	21
Total	727	127	920	1774

(A) HISTORIC FEATURES OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

Heritage sites within the New Plymouth District include those from early European settlement, the 1860s land wars and the dairy and energy industries. Heritage sites are categorised into 3 categories A, B and C – with A being the ‘best of the best’ and afforded protection under the New Plymouth District Plan.

Eighty Category A sites are recognised in the district plan, an increase from the 68 recorded in 2003. These sites include early colonial houses and commercial buildings, the Bertrand Road Suspension Bridge, Inglewood Railway Station and Town Hall and St Mary’s Church and grounds.

A total of 75 sites in the New Plymouth District are registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (up from 66 such registrations in 2003) with 10 buildings including St Mary’s Pro Cathedral and grounds,



The historic wooden Bertrand Road Bridge over the Waitara River.

Hurworth cottage, Pridham Hall at New Plymouth Boys’ High School, and the Gables, registered as Category 1 historic places⁸.

⁸ A Category 1 historic place is the highest classification given to historic places in New Zealand by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Apart from its 80 Category A heritage buildings and items, the New Plymouth District Council has identified 621 Category B heritage buildings and items and 104 Category C buildings and items. Category B and C buildings and items are not regulated under the district plan. The New Plymouth District Council has advised that 30 Category B and 8 Category C heritage buildings and items have been destroyed since November 1998 but that no Category A heritage buildings or sites have been demolished over this period.

When the New Zealand Archaeological Association upgraded its site recording scheme in the New Plymouth District in 2006 it was noted that the condition of the sites visited was variable⁹. Most recorded sites in the district are located in rural areas, with the land used



St Mary's stone church and churchyard, New Plymouth.

HI-TECH MEETS HERITAGE

Hi-tech has met heritage in central New Plymouth as part of efforts to protect and enhance New Zealand's oldest stone church.

Ground-penetrating radar has been used to search for unmarked graves in the grounds of the 162-year-old St Mary's Pro Cathedral, which has a Category 1 Historic Places Trust listing and Category A heritage status in the *New Plymouth District Plan*.

St Mary's remains the focal point for New Plymouth's Anglican congregation today as it has been since the 1840s, when it was built

mainly for grazing. Although many of the rural sites remained relatively unchanged except for slow natural infilling, a significant number had been damaged, predominantly by bulldozing for farm tracks or had surface features smoothed to varying degrees by repeated cultivation. In extreme cases, sites had been destroyed by bulldozing as part of farming activities or by earthworks for building platforms, roads and quarries.

It was also noted that sites along the coast were subject to ongoing coastal erosion and that residential subdivision in coastal areas is an increasing threat to site survival. Other works in coastal areas such as erosion management and escarpment enhancement can also affect archaeological sites.

on land acquired by Bishop Selwyn and subsequently overseen for decades by the Rev. Henry Govett. Features of the church and its grounds are tombstones and memorials reflecting the turbulent times of the Land Wars.

Although St Mary's has been considerably enlarged and modified over the years, the various sections blend into a harmonious whole in the Gothic Revival style.

Protecting and enhancing its heritage value have been high on civic and ecclesiastical agendas this decade, especially since the preparation of a conservation plan that, according to Vicar David Hollingsworth, is "an inch thick".

The church has already been granted nearly \$25,000 in New Plymouth District Council heritage funding to cover the ground-penetrating radar survey, repair of gravestones and repair of the front wall and railings.

Its heritage protection in the district plan has also been extended from the exterior to interior features that pre-date World War I. This gives the Council the ability to ensure any alterations are consistent with the building's historic status.

The Rev. Hollingsworth said that implementing the conservation plan was a long-term project but one being tackled with enthusiasm, especially as St Mary's moves towards full cathedral status in 2009.



Malone Memorial Gate, King Edward Park, Stratford.

(B) HISTORIC FEATURES OF STRATFORD DISTRICT

Key features of historic heritage values in the Stratford District relate to early attempts at coal mining and farming, war memorials and community or commercial buildings. These sites include the Douglas

brickworks downdraught kiln (which has a New Zealand Historic Places Trust Category I registration), the Municipal Chambers (including the Hall of Remembrance) and Kings Theatre in Stratford and memorial gates at Victoria and King Edward Parks. Since 2005, seven sites have been added to the list of known heritage resources of significance identified for protection in the *Stratford District Plan*. The total number of identified sites has not changed since 2003.

Most recorded archaeological sites in the Stratford District are in rural areas on land used for grazing or forestry or within areas of regenerating native bush. The condition of sites visited in 2005 as part of the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme upgrade was noted as variable with most suffering from stock damage and erosion to some degree¹⁰.

The Stratford District has very few recorded archaeological sites that relate to European settlement, but it is highly likely that sites from this period (for example the remains of extractive industries and early farm settlements) still exist¹⁰.

⁹ Greig, K. 2006. *NZAA Site Recording Scheme Upgrade Project. New Plymouth District Council Stage 4 Final Report.*

¹⁰ Grieg, K and Molloy, N. 2005. *NZAA Site Recording Scheme Upgrade Project. Stratford District Council District Summary.*



The refurbished St Peter's Church, Pūrangi.

ENDURING LINK WITH TIMES PAST

It's high-profile urban locations that generally make the heritage headlines but a lot of quiet work also takes place to protect and enhance the historic value of sites out in the backblocks.

One example is at Pūrangi in Taranaki's east, closer to Whangamomona than to Stratford as the crow flies.

On a hill overlooking the village is 102-year-old St Peter's Church, steeped in history beyond its years and listed in the *Stratford District Plan* as a significant heritage building.

St Peter's was built to replace a church established in nearby Pukamahoe by Māori missionary the Rev. Henry Govett in the 1850s.

This had fallen into disuse during the land wars and was destroyed in a bushfire in the 1890s.

The original church's bell, however, hangs outside the front door of St Peter's, whose altar cross is made from the old Pukamahoe centre pole.

St Peter's was well looked after by its parishioners over the decades. That parish, however, has now dwindled so resourcing for the latest maintenance work had to come from further afield.

The work involved lifting and repiling the church, replacing rotten weatherboards and painting the exterior. The entry porch decking and steps were also replaced.

Hawera architect Clive Cullen – no stranger to heritage projects – drew up the plans and Stratford District Council expedited the consent process, satisfying itself that the outcome would be in keeping with the building's historic status.

The project's cost of \$21,000 was funded largely by a Taranaki Electricity Trust grant of \$20,000 and donations from the families of former settlers and others.

The church is in the Stratford Anglican parish, which is responsible for its upkeep. Ian and Laurel Aitken whose farm surrounds the site, are unofficial custodians and keep an eye on it for the parish.

All these efforts have ensured an enduring future for a material link with a sometimes turbulent past.

(C) HISTORIC FEATURES IN THE SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT

A range of heritage sites can be found throughout South Taranaki, with many dating from early European settlement. The *South Taranaki District Plan* identifies 83 heritage items for protection, up from 78 in 2003. The number of heritage items identified in heritage schedules held by the South Taranaki District Council totals 256 (258 in 2003).

Heritage items in the South Taranaki District include private dwellings, banks, town halls, churches, courthouses, the Cape Egmont lighthouse, the World War I Memorial Band Rotunda in Manaia and the old library in Kaponga. Three buildings have a New Zealand Historic Places Trust



Turuturu Mokai near Hāwera was the site of a group of three pā.

Category 1 registration - the Hāwera Water Tower, St George's Anglican Church in Pātea and the Waverley Railway Station.

The South Taranaki District contains more than half of all archaeological sites identified in Taranaki on the New Zealand Archaeological Association's site recording scheme, with defensive pā and pits and terraces making up 75% of all sites (Table 7.3). The majority of sites are located on private land. The condition of those sites visited in late 2005 and 2006 as part of the New Zealand Archaeological Association's upgrade project was noted as variable¹¹. While a number of pā sites checked during the project exhibited robust features, many had suffered some degree of damage from bulldozing for farm tracks. There were also cases where pā had been quarried for gravel or levelled to make way for more productive grazing areas. A number of storage or borrow pits had been infilled or 'smoothed' to varying degrees by repeated cultivation.

Erosion is a significant threat to archaeological sites in South Taranaki. During the upgrade project, long-time residents indicated that up to 50 m of land had been lost from coastal margins over the past 20 years¹¹. A number of coastal pā are subsequently showing signs of damage or have completely eroded away. Ridge sites in the district are also vulnerable as a result of slips or slumps caused by extreme weather conditions.

Flooding in recent years, particularly around Waitōtara, has impacted on sites in low-lying areas.



Hāwera water tower.

TOWER POWER HAS HĀWERA STANDING TALL

The people have voted with their feet: Refurbishing the Hāwera Water Tower was a fine idea.

The tower was reinforced, re-clad and re-opened to the public in 2004 and by August

2008 there had been nearly 20,500 visits by people keen to have a look.

The tower had been closed in 2000 because of safety concerns over falling concrete.

The South Taranaki District Council commissioned a conservation plan and refurbishment began in March 2004.

Some 3,000 townsfolk turned out to celebrate its reopening in October 2004, an occasion that culminated in a spectacular laser light show.

The \$1.1 million refurbishment project was funded by the South Taranaki District Council with support from the TSB Community Trust (\$263,000), the Lottery Grants Board (\$250,000) and Telecom and Vodafone (\$100,000 each).

The tower has Historic Places Trust Category I rating. It has national historic importance for the technical skill in design and construction, for both the way the structure is exposed with columns, brackets and tank readily visible, and the raw, off-the-boxing concrete.

Construction started in 1912 with the aim of improving water supply after two

devastating fires in Hāwera. Ironically, the advent of the Inaha water scheme meant the tower was never used for the purpose intended.

But it's become an enduring landmark for the district, surviving a number of calls for its demolition. After the 2004 project its future seems secure.

Among those happy about that is Miranda Cullen, who has lived within the shadow of the tower for most of her life. "It's an important link with those who've gone before us," she said. That's particularly important for Miranda, whose father Dr. Alastair Buist was a noted South Taranaki historian.

Like many in South Taranaki, she sees the tower as part of her identity.

It's also looking to be a significant visitor attraction. Of those 20,500 visits to the end of July 2008, nearly 3,000 were by overseas people and the rest were evenly split between locals and those from other parts of New Zealand. Never underestimate tower power.

7.3 WHAT IS THE STATE OF TARANAKI'S AMENITY VALUES?

Amenity values are those natural and physical qualities and characteristics that contribute to people's appreciation and enjoyment of the environment.

Taranaki residents and visitors enjoy very high levels of amenity values. Amenity values are characterised by the region's pleasant environment and the relative absence of noise, odours and dust. With well maintained and accessible parks and reserves, walkways, outstanding landscape features and community and recreational facilities, the region has an uncluttered rural feel.

People have different ideas about what constitutes a pleasant and enjoyable environment. This variation makes the management of amenity values challenging.

A survey of Taranaki residents carried out in July 2008 provided useful information about amenity values by asking what residents liked and disliked most about where they lived¹². (Table 7.4).

When asked what they liked most about the area they live in, New Plymouth residents cited the close proximity to sea and beaches (32%).

In comparison, Stratford and South Taranaki residents like the quiet, peaceful and relaxing environment, and the fact that they do not live in an overcrowded area (27% and 28% respectively). For all districts, the proximity to Mount Taranaki was one of the top three aspects residents liked most about the area they live in.



A quiet, secluded black sand beach.

12 Hastings, A, and Newman, N 2008. *Taranaki Community Survey 2008*. Report to the Future Taranaki Facilitation Group by the Nielsen Company.