THEME 9: PUBLIC SPACE, CULTURE AND AMENITY

9.1 TOWN BELT AND RESERVES

Background: Public lands were defined under legislation that required development, management and maintenance policies. The traditional division of agricultural vegetation production was vegetables, grain, pasture, and trees. The latter two were preferred forms of public land vegetation cover, with trees providing timber, shelter and amenity landscapes. The design of both public and private lands was done by expert landscape gardeners who prepared plans and specifications and who usually then organised the planting of the trees.

Twelve notable designers of Dunedin's public landscapes, including surveyors, landscape gardeners and landscape architects who were prominent during the 19th and 20th century included:
Alfred Buxton; Douglas (Mick) Field; Adam Forsyth (1830-1898); J. N. Grigor [1870s]; Mary Lysaght (1917-2005); William Martin (1823-1918); Henry Matthews (1856-1908); L. F. McIlroy (*The Commercial Gardeners Journal*, 1951); Graham Miller (*Duncan & Davies, Nursery Catalogue*, 1969); S. H. Mirium (1866-1901); David Tannock (1861-1952) and I. V. Thornicroft (1903-1990s).

As culturally managed native bush areas were placed into temporary 'Government Bush Reserves' in the 1860s they were sometimes gazetted by national laws, especially under the Wasteland Acts of the period. Soon rangers were appointed to police this legislation. The land laws also appointed rangers to manage the new grasses growing on the 'commonages' where, as new towns such as Outram were surveyed, unenclosed spaces were allocated for public use. As these grazing lands evolved into Public Domains (and were enclosed by fences) they were increasingly used for active recreation both by local inhabitants and those making special train excursions in order to enjoy them.

The nineteenth century pleasure ground would be superseded by the 'reform park' (Cranz, Galen. [1982] *The Politics of Park Design.* MIT Press]. This change began to be felt in the late years of the 19th

Century when both the American 'City Beautiful' movement, with strong aesthetic values along with progressive social reforms, and the British 'Garden City' planning movement dominated the period internationally and locally. It was a time of rapid technological change. A retired Superintendent of Dunedin City Parks, David Tannock, has said of this period that, when he came to the Dominion in 1903, "In New Zealand this was about the beginning of a new era in civic progress - electric trams [and later cars] were taking the place of horse drawn ones... drainage schemes... hydro-electric schemes... Borough [amalgamation]... [was occurring and] it was only natural that there should be a demand for the amenities of life". (Goodman & Jellyman, 1984)

The development of these new 'reform parks' brought with it changes to the face of public landscape design, especially with regard to the materials used. Local rock replaced timber as a boundary material in the expansive late Victorian ribbon borders of annuals and perennials. This also helped reduce the high labour input and costs.

Town Belt: The idea of enclosing the town area of Dunedin within a belt of managed woodland is one of the most remarkable features of Kettle's 1846 plan. The extent of the Town Belt, in relation to the area of land for future development and sale, marks it as something different from similar schemes in New Zealand 19th century planned cities, but its protection and preservation was by no means guaranteed. The Town Belt and other reserves were regarded as Crown Waste Lands until 1863, which left them vulnerable to encroachment. There was some debate about whether the extent of the Town Belt was a burden that the city authorities would be better without. Squatting, timber cutting and livestock grazing was a fairly constant pattern of use around the Town Belt until the Otago Provincial Council passed an ordinance in 1866 vesting the management of the recreation grounds to the Dunedin City Council.

Charles Kettle identified three 'recreation grounds' in the 1847 plan. These were the South Ground (now the Oval reserve), North Ground

and the Botanical Garden reserve. The notion of the Town Belt can be associated with the theories of Edward Gibbon Wakefield and the plan for Adelaide, where a belt of park lands up to half a mile wide was used to divide the settlement into two major areas. Something similar was intended for Wellington under surveyor Charles W. Mein Smith, who was Charles Kettle's overseer. While areas of recreational use were requested in the brief for Dunedin, there is no specific mention of a 'town belt' and this must be seen as Kettle's interpretation of his instructions.

Various leases that had been handed out to use land in the Town Belt were gradually withdrawn following the Otago Provincial Council's decision to discontinue leases in 1872. Cemeteries were established at the south and north ends of the area, despite some public opposition. However, the need was clearly evident. A Fever Hospital was constructed overlooking Pelichet Bay in 1875. Samuel Mirams laid out Queens Drive through the Town Belt in 1876. Parts of this roadway used Maori labour provided by the Taranaki prisoners who were held in Dunedin during the 1870s. Other works in the reserve were carried out by labour from the Dunedin Benevolent Institute and gangs of unemployed. Areas of landscaped parkland including Jubilee Park and Woodhaugh Gardens were also formed from the Town Belt reserve, as was the Oval cricket ground. An area of land set aside for a cattle market high up Serpentine Avenue was released for residential leasehold. Other civic amenities in the Town Belt include the ambitious Moana Pool constructed on the site of the old Moana Tennis Club.

The nature of open space, and in particular the Town Belt that has always been a feature of Dunedin, would suggest that little of archaeological interest should occur there. However, this is not always the case. In 2006 a gun barrel was excavated from the Queens Gardens. It had been part of a canon on display in the gardens, but was cut up and the barrel buried during a period of pacifist feelings following the First World War. This barrel is now being restored.

Figure 98: Dunedin Botanic Garden. *circa* **1925**

9.2 DUNEDIN BOTANIC GARDEN

The Dunedin Botanic Garden (Fig. 98) was established in 1863 on the site now occupied by the University of Otago. This was a block on Kettle's plan between St David Street and Albany Street, bounded by Leith and Castle Streets and with the Leith running through it. The Garden was initially funded by the Otago Provincial Council and was handed over to the newly created Dunedin City Council in 1866. Two oak trees, known as the Royal Oaks, were planted in June 1863, a date regarded as the public opening of the gardens, although work had taken place on the site earlier.

Plantings and paths were established, including an ornamental bedding surround to the Royal Oaks. The raised area of garden, known as Tanna Hill or the Hillock was on a volcanic spur that retained the Leith until it reached close to Albany Street. A destructive flood in 1867 washed much of the newly established Botanic Garden away, along with stone breastwork built to retain the bank and the garden was relocated to a site in the Town Belt upwards of the course of the Leith already partly developed by the Otago Acclimatisation Society.

The transfer of plants from the old Botanic Gardens site was achieved by 1869. In that year, a competition for a garden design was won by George Scott but the plan itself is lost and it is not known how much of

the later layout of the Gardens can be attributed to him. The new layout followed the tradition of Victorian public spaces with serpentine paths and groups of structured plantings. Much of the heavy work was carried out using prison labour. The utility of the Gardens was important to the Otago Provincial Council and the role of tree nursery to the city and wider Otago region was taken on as the cost of its support. By 1874, the Gardens had stocks of over 64,000 seedling trees. Other areas were added to the Botanic Garden before its management was passed over to the reluctant Dunedin City Council in 1884.

The development of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens related to both scientific and social agendas. Plants were grown to ameliorate the unsavoury aspects of the 19th century environment which was linked to theories such as health, sanitation and climate change. The appointment of David Tannock in 1903 enhanced the Garden's scientific credentials and this Kew-trained horticulturalist led a major programme of development that involved links with international institutions. As well as providing a major public amenity, the Gardens propagated plants for botanical study and provided a platform for Tannock's progressive ideas on forestry and the employment of women. From the 1920s onwards many of the Botanic Gardens staff members were female. This was unique in New Zealand at the time and based on Tannock's experience at Kew, where the training of women horticulturalists was also becoming established.

In the Dunedin Botanic Gardens a recent archaeological assessment has been carried out on the site of the Acclimatisation Society's manager's house (SPAR 2008). These Acclimatisation Society gardens were established in their present location in 1868 after a flood caused severe damage at the original location where the University now stands (Dunlop 2002). The surviving elements of the early gardens layout and plantings can be considered as an archaeological site (as they were designed and planted, in contrast to the more naturalistic Town Belt), the archaeology of gardens being an area of serious research (e.g., Currie 2005). As already discussed above, the Truby King Reserve at Seacliff is the location of the archaeological remains of the Seacliff Lunatic Asylum and its historic gardens. (Refer page 123.)

Reserves in 19th century Dunedin: Further reserves were being added around the city and the Council became responsible for the Town Belt (improved and unimproved), Jubilee Park, Southern Market Reserve, Southern Recreational Reserve (Oval), Triangle Reserve (Queens Gardens), Octagon Reserve, Old Cemetery Reserve (Arthur Street), Museum Reserve, Northern Recreational Reserve, Duke Street Reserve (Woodhaugh Gardens), and the Botanical Gardens on both sides of the Valley Road. Other spaces under the Council's care were in Maitland Street, near the council quarry, Hillside Road, the unformed part of Clark Street, overlooking the Serpentine Avenue gully, and Robin Hood Park.

9.3 OTAGO ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY

The Otago Acclimatisation Society was formed in 1864 with the aim of "the introduction and sale of all innocuous animals, birds, fishes, insects, trees, plants and vegetables, whether useful or ornamental". One of its first concerns was developing a timber industry in Otago. Work on the eleven acres of the Town Belt overseen by the Acclimatisation Society progressed rapidly. A house was built for the overseer, fences constructed and trees planted. A large tree nursery was set up at the southern end of the site. Ponds were dug for breeding fish and waterfowl and the basic outlines of these are preserved today in the Lower Botanic Garden.

The Otago Acclimatisation Society imported the ova of brown trout from Tasmania in 1868 and released fish into the Waitati Stream the following year. It also attempted to introduce *quinnat* salmon but the species did not survive. An important project of the Acclimatisation Society was the establishment of a marine laboratory in New Zealand. Purakanui was initially chosen as a site in 1895 and land was set aside by the Government for a fish hatchery but the site was changed to the present Portobello location in 1902. Construction began there in 1903, financed by a government subsidy, and funds raised by the Otago Institute and Otago Acclimatisation Society, amongst other groups. The Fish Hatchery and Marine Investigation Station at Portobello

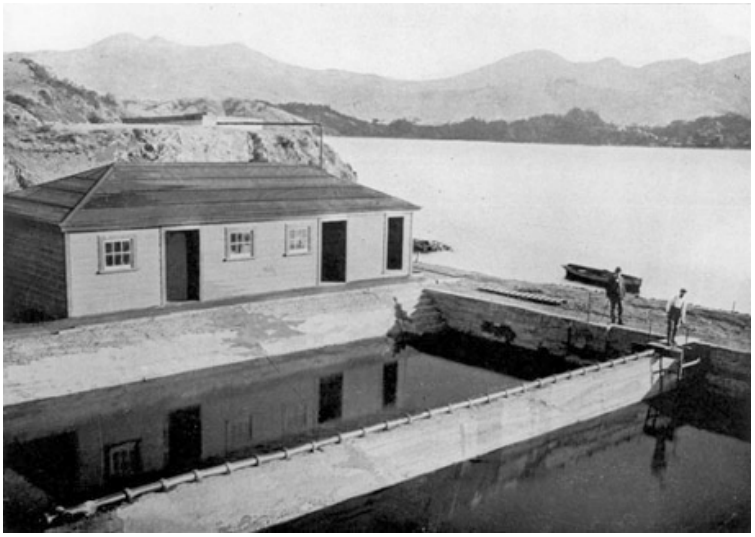

Figure 99: Portobello Marine Laboratory.

was opened in 1904 (Fig. 99). Funding difficulties hampered its work until 1951, when the University of Otago took over the operation and relaunched it as the Portobello Marine Biological Station, under the management of Doctor Elizabeth Batham. A new laboratory building was commissioned at Portobello in the 1980s and the Marine Studies Centre was opened in 1996.

9.4 TRIANGLE/QUEENS GARDEN

The Triangle (Fig. 100) was developed from the disused site of the Dunedin-Port Chalmers Railway Station and yards, when the railway ran closer to and in a tighter arc towards the old commercial city centre. A triangle of reclaimed land was set aside as railway reserve and was used as a storage yard after the Dunedin Railway Station was relocated further down Rattray Street. This remained a blot on the city environment until its rehabilitation as public space was instigated by the Dunedin Suburban Reserves and Conservation Society, otherwise known as the Dunedin Amenities Society. Improvements were to be coordinated with the opening of the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition in 1889. A fountain was offered by Wolf Harris but the cynical public response to this generous act was mirrored by the *Otago*

Figure 100: Queens Garden following the placement of the Cenotaph and the removal of the Edwardian-era plantings. *circa* **1927**

Witness where it was suggested that it would soon become "a trysting point for Salvationists who are even now heard howling in the streets, 'Will you meet me at the fountain?' ".[PASSING NOTES: *Otago Witness*, 15 August, 1889]. The garden was enclosed behind an iron fence and planted with native shrubs and cabbage trees. Statues of Queen Victoria [**B502]** and Doctor D. M. Stuart [**B503]** were later added and the garden provided pleasant respite from the noise of the commercial city when Rattray Street was the main thoroughfare to the wharfs. Its development is discussed in K. C. McDonald's *City of Dunedin* and in Eric Dunlop's *The Story of the Dunedin Botanic Garden: New Zealand's First* (2003)

New Zealand Public Parks

Immediately after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi between the Crown and Maori tribal leaders in February1840, New Zealand came under the jurisdiction of New South Wales law for over a year. But the most important law defining colonial public landscapes were the direct instructions from Britain; *The Royal Instructions of 1840*, stated that

places should be set aside for recreation and health, and also forbade the alienation of public land. Clause 43 stated:

> "And it is our pleasure, and we do further direct you to require and authorise the said Surveyor-General further to report to you (the Governor) what particular lands it may be proper to reserve... as places fit to be set apart for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants in any Town or Village, or for promoting the health of such inhabitants ... or which it may be desirable to reserve for any other purpose of public convenience, utility, health or enjoyment... [and] not permit or suffer any lands to be occupied by any private person for any private purpose..."

Public parkland of substantial size was added to the public estate under the *Public Domain Act, 1860*. This act was drawn up by the new Zealand's first Prime Minister, Edward Stafford who, before coming to New Zealand, had been an active Chartist campaigning for male suffrage in Edinburgh, Scotland.

9.5 THE OCTAGON

Figure 101: Rough map of Dunedin showing selections, 1853-4 [Walter Mantell]

The development of the Octagon mirrors much of Dunedin's early history as a planned settlement striving to achieve the high ambitions of its founding group. Kettle's survey made little forecast of the eventual use of the space. A study of the 1847 plan shows the Octagon radiating out to Moray Place and potentially to a third ring which breaks down, like ripples in a pond, in the face of the steep uphill terrain of the Octagon itself and the mud flats and harbour edge below. The reserve in the centre (Fig. 101) was left untended for the first years of the settlement. The roadway around it was roughly marked out and levelled

by the time the Hospital was constructed in 1851. A furore over the 1853 proposal, backed by magistrate Chetham Strode, to build an Anglican church in the centre of the Octagon, stirred the Provincial Council to look again at Kettle's intentions for Moray Place. In a memorial to the Governor Sir George Grey, the Council established its position on the 'town square', noting that Kettle had laid out the 90 degree streets so that they met at the perimeter rather than running straight through the centre. Clearly seeking to appease the Anglican Grey, the Council undertook to assist in finding another site and the Church settled on the sections uphill of the Octagon, despite concerns that the poor state of the roads would keep worshippers away. [COPY OF MEMORIAL FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL: *Otago Witness*, 17 December 1853] The Dunedin Public Lands Ordinance, 1854 made it official that "It shall not be lawful to erect any building whatever within or upon the centre area of the Square called Moray Place, delineated on the Record Map of the Town of Dunedin, except a parapet wall and railing, or fence, for enclosing the said area, which shall for ever remain otherwise an open area."

Little was achieved to improve the area until the 1864 decision to site the memorial to Captain William Cargill (Fig 102) in the centre of the reserve.

Figure 102: Cargill's Monument after being moved from the Octagon to the Government Reserve.

The Provincial Council had earlier proposed to site the monument on Bell Hill [PROVINCIAL COUNCIL: *Otago Witness*, 10 October 1863,] but uncertainty about the future of the site and its extensive reshaping led them to reconsider. The monument was designed by the Otago Provincial Council engineer, Charles Swyer, whose elegant drawing is in the collection of the Otago Settlers Museum. The *Otago Witness* was highly critical of the translation from Swyer's vision to reality, deploring the "ill taste" of the "flimsy, light, trifling structure, more fitted for a pleasure garden than anything else". [NEWS OF THE WEEK: *Otago Witness*, Issue 669, 24 September 1864, Page 13.]

The area around the Octagon itself remained rugged until it was brought to a reasonable level by prison labour in 1868. Asphalt footpaths were laid around its edge but the desire to cut paths through the centre remained strong. Cargill's Monument [**B499]** was shifted to Custom House Square in 1872 to make way for the new city tramway. At the same time, the monument was modified to provide the first public drinking fountain in the Otago Province.

Figure 103: Dunedin Town Hall. *circa* **1885**

Improvements in the Octagon followed the general raise in public profile of the area following the construction of the Municipal Chambers in 1880 (Fig. 103). By this time, the ring of buildings around the central space was quite substantial but, as pointed out in Norman Ledgerwood's book *The Heart of the City. The Story of Dunedin's Octagon*, these buildings were of varying standards. The lower southern

quadrant was the most developed while the upper section, opposite St Paul's Church, remained a mixture of masonry and timber. The reserve was planted in the 1890s with silver birch trees placed on either side of the newly installed Robert Burns statue, in reference to Burns' frequent use of birch (birk) imagery in his poetry

Ledgerwood records the removal of these trees in the past "few years". There are many very old birch trees dating to the 1890s throughout the city parks and school grounds, perhaps associated with Robert Burns, or simply arising from the popularity of the 'birks' in Scotland itself.

Another monument was set in the lower section of the Octagon in 1891 to commemorate the Reverend Thomas Burns. Designed by Arthur Burnside, its funereal appearance was never welcomed by the public and it was removed, without a great deal of comment, in 1948.

Figure 104: The Star Fountain.
***Tiki* series postcard.** *circa* **1965**

The installation of the Star Fountain in 1966 (Fig. 104) gave a 'lift' to the area and it became a popular meeting place and a public attraction. Designed to play jets of water and display coloured light effects in time to recorded music, the fountain was attractive when operating but dull when not. It was removed in 1989 and the area was extensively remodelled by the Dunedin City Council after a vigorous public campaign to include heritage context in the design.

9.6 STATUES AND PUBLIC ART

Figure 105: Statue of Queen Victoria in Queens Garden. [Herbert Hampton]

Aside from Cargill's Monument described in the previous chapter, Dunedin has commissioned a number of significant monuments over the past 150 years. Sir John Steel's statue of Robbie Burns was unveiled on the upper section of the Octagon on 24 May 1887. Dunedin was slow to provide a statue to Queen Victoria, waiting until she died in 1901. (Fig. 105) It was carved from marble by Herbert Hampton and shows the Queen in old age and holding the orb and sceptre. The sides of the plinth carry two mourning figures representing Justice and Wisdom cast in bronze. The statue's unveiling was followed by a change of name for the park to the present Queens Garden. The cutting up of Queens Gardens for traffic flow has left this important work isolated, but it does at least hold its original position. The bust of Provincial Superintendent, James Macandrew, carved in white marble at Carrara in 1891 to the design of Dunedin masons George Munro and Sons, was taken from Queens Gardens in 1949 and put on display inside the Otago Early Settlers Museum before being set on a low concrete plinth outside the building. Civis' cutting observation that the bust looked like "a cockatoo sitting on a pole" was reinforced as the plantings outside the Museum grew up around it.

Figure 106: Leslie Morrison's statue of Reverend D. M. Stuart
This was the first public monument to be commissioned from a New Zealand artist.

Figure 107: The Boer War Memorial.

The bronze statue of Reverend D. M. Stuart was also moved, although not to such ill effect, having been relocated from High Street to make way for a tramline. The statue was the first major public commission to be undertaken by a New Zealand resident artist. Scots-born William Leslie Morrison ran the School of Art in Wellington. Doctor Stuart (Fig.106) is shown seated cross-legged with a plaid shawl over his knee and draping the arm of the chair. While the casual pose is similar to that used in the painted portrait of Stuart by Girolamo Pieri Nerli, it is also very close in detail and form to W.W. Story's 1869 London statue of American philanthropist, George Peabody.

A Boer War memorial was proposed in 1904 and was once again designed by a New Zealand resident (Italian born) artist, Carlo Bergamini. It was carved in Carrara marble (Fig.107). The statue stands over 12 metres high and shows a soldier guarding the body of a fallen comrade.

Memorial arches were set outside the gates of a number of Dunedin schools to mark the fallen in the First World War but the city's main War Memorial [**B501**] was not completed until 1927. Designed by Auckland architect, William Gummer, it was a Lutyens-inspired Cenotaph formed from a tall white marble shaft carrying a beacon. Bronze bas reliefs,

which would have carried greater imagery, were not installed and the mysterious rectangular holes around the column mark their absence. The marble carvings of Imperial lions around the base are by Richard Gross.

The Cenotaph replaced the fountain gifted to the city by Wolf Harris and was made of cast iron in England and assembled on its arrival in Dunedin [**B107**]. The fountain was formally gifted to the city on May 28, 1890 and relocated to the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, 1925-26, where it formed the centrepiece for the large reflecting pool in front of the Festival Hall. Again it was moved into the lower northern section of the Botanic Gardens in 1933 following the removal of most of the Exhibition buildings. The fountain was extensively conserved in recent years and is now fully functioning.

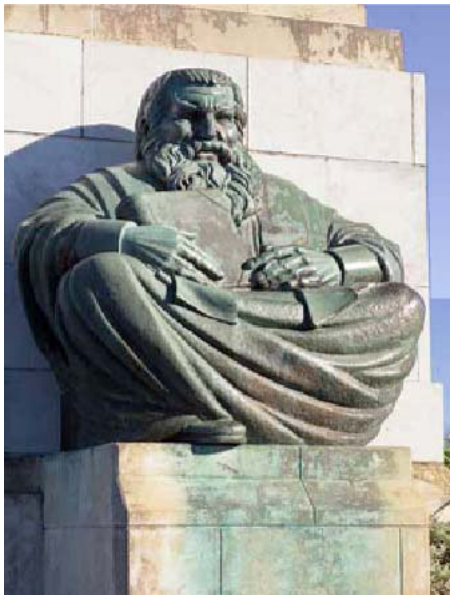

Figure 108: Otago Centennial Memorial.

The Dunedin City Council commissioned a Centennial Memorial to mark the first 100 years of the Otago settlement. Initial designs were prepared by Dunedin architect, H. McDowell Smith for the Signal Hill site but the long delays between design and commissioning saw much of his work omitted from the final scheme. The seated figures by Frank Shurrock and Fred Staub (Fig. 108) were installed in 1955 and the work completed in 1957, with plaques, also by Shurrock, later added to the piece. These show the New Zealand fern, the Scottish thistle and the Otago Provincial seal.

Figure 109: Derek Ball's kinetic wind sculpture in the court of the Dunedin Library.

There was a long hiatus between this work and the next significant public art in the city. Dunedin artist Derek Ball's sculpture in the plaza outside the Dunedin Public Library (Fig 109) was gifted by Arthur Barnett Ltd to mark the opening of the new building in 1981. Its geometric forms and primary colours are far from the representational and allegorical devices used by Shurrock, but they complemented the bold modernist massing of the newly completed Library and Civic Centre. An earlier and equally important Modernist piece by Marte Szirmay was sited on the ground opposite the main ward block of Dunedin Hospital but has since been relocated to a wall as a result of vandal attack. Other contemporary works on public view can be seen on the University of Otago campus, Steamer Basin and at the previous site of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, where a large outside work by Matt Pine remains outside the entrance to the old gallery building.

9.7 OTHER RESERVES IN DUNEDIN CITY

Dunedin City contains over 100 reserves, all of which potentially contain unrecognised heritage significance. It is not possible, within the scope of this report, to comment on each. However, some points relating to the major reserves are listed below:

Caversham Valley Forest Reserve: This is a block of 3.9 hectares situated off Caversham Valley Road. The reserve is formed on a part of a rugged hillside and was not developed for housing. A number of significant early farms were established in the Caversham Valley and research into the early ownership of this land would aid the identification of heritage features.

Island Park: This large area of wetlands in the suburb of Waldronville was established as a reserve in 1870 and later made a Domain under the management of the Green Island Borough Council. The reserve comprises 162 hectares around the estuary of the Kaikorai Stream and contains extensive sand hills which have been partly stabilised by plantings but also altered by the removal of sand. The reserve contains the Ocean Beach Speedway and other community facilities, including the Dunedin Gun Club (1877), the oldest organisation of its type in New Zealand. As a Maori archaeological site has been identified at Brighton [A003 61 Midden/Work Floor Brighton Domain, in Blk 1, Otokia SD], it would seem likely that extensive Maori use of the land around the Kaikorai Estuary would leave evidence. This is not noted in the *Island Park Recreation Reserve Management Plan* (1989). The remains of early timber bridges in the estuary are also suggestive of later European changes.

Ocean Beach: The Ocean Beach Domain is made up of the sand hills that separate South Dunedin and suburbs from the Pacific Ocean and the beaches of St Clair and St Kilda. Its history is complex and covered earlier in this report in relation to erosion control and dumping. The Ocean Beach Domain Board was set up to manage the area and to ensure that South Dunedin was not inundated should the sea breach the dunes. This happened on a number of occasions and the stablising of the dunes with plantings and structures was an ongoing responsibility

of the Board. The division of responsibilities between the Otago Regional Council and the Dunedin City Council has seen the area divided into landward and seaward zones across the high point of the sand hills.

The geological history of the Ocean Beach Domain area is highly significant as it marks a highly fragile point in the city's defences against rising sea levels and climate change. The structure is known as the St Kilda Tombolo and is formed from sands deposited from the Taieri and Clutha Rivers and spread up the Dunedin coast by sea currents. The area was of significance to Kai Tahu, Kati Mamoe and earlier tribes and includes sites of mahika kai, camps and trails. The major pa Puketahi at Andersons Bay was the bastion of the area which was a key point in the seasonal movements of Maori to the south.

European land use in the area reflected the patterns of suburban expansion around marginal land types in the face of expensive and restricted residential land in the city overall. The city had outgrown its original centre by the 1870s and was expanding beyond the Town Belt and onto the poorly drained land on the old lagoon at the end of the harbour bounded by Anderson Bay Road. The St Kilda Borough Council had initial responsibility for the sand hills but lacked the resources to achieve anything substantial. Instead, large amounts of sand were removed for reclamation elsewhere in the city and the dunes were used as a foul waste and offal-dumping site. From the 1930s onwards, attitudes shifted towards providing public amenity and a large number of groups were allocated space on the reserve. The Ocean Beach Reserve, while extensively modified and subject to erosion and movement, is likely to contain much evidence of both Maori and European use.

Ocean Grove Reserve: This reserve occupies the foreshore and mouth of the Tomahawk Stream to the north of Lawyers Head. It was under the control of the Tomahawk Domain Board from 1928 and was mined extensively for sand. The lapsed role of the Domain Board was taken up by the Ocean Grove Amenities Society and a new Domain Board was established which carried out extensive improvements to the area over the following decades. Their efforts were somewhat undermined by the

1907 sewerage outfall at Lawyers Head that frequently cast foul waste back onto the beach. The Domain Board was vigorous in defending the area against this and other illegal activities, including dumping. The Ocean Beach Reserve has a long history of struggle and is a significant example of a beachside community establishing itself in opposition to overbearing authorities.

Okia Reserve: As well as being a major Yellow Eyed Penguin colony, the Okai Reserve on the ocean side of Otago Peninsula also has a long history of human occupancy and use dating back to the Maori hunter/gatherer era. It is rich in Kai Tahu historical accounts and was the site of Waitaha, Kati Mamoe and Kai Tahu settlements. Wickliffe Bay shelters the remains of the wreck of the steamship *Victory* which went aground in 1861. This was the earliest steamer wreck on the New Zealand coast.

Signal Hill: This large area of land atop Dunedin's Signal Hill is a late addition to the city's amenity spaces. The first section was donated in 1926 and a roadway opened to the future site of the Centennial Memorial in 1935. By 1940 the land surrounding this site was planted as part of the New Zealand Centennial Commemorative Lookout development—a project of the Dunedin Amenities Society. The foundation stone was laid in 1940. However the war delayed further work and the project was not completed until 1957 in a form considerably reduced from the original scheme. The adjacent Burns Scenic Reserve was added and a telecommunications transmitter building constructed in 1964. A proposal to establish an Arboretum on the reserve has struggled to gain traction since the mid-1980s and efforts to manage this large and exposed site have remained stalled.

Mosgiel Recreation Reserve: The town of Mosgiel came into existence in the early 1860s around a small shop and associated string of houses originally named Ballarat. The settlement adopted the alternative name from the nearby farm of Arthur Burns and early official communications for this area such as the East Taieri District Board of Road Trustees, were sent from 'Mosgiel'. [TOWN BOARD: *Otago Witness*, 2 January 1858.] The town developed around the intersection of Gordon and Bush Roads and the gold rush saw a westward route to

Central Otago branch off from the town. The establishment of the Mosgiel Woollen Company's mill and factory in 1871 saw workers' cottages built along Factory Road and in 1875 the opening up of rail lines created another axis for the town. Mosgiel was made a Town District in 1882 and a Borough Council in 1885. Mosgiel's recreation reserve was a block of around six acres, used principally by cricket and football clubs.

The Truby King Reserve was created in part of the grounds of the Seacliff Mental Hospital described earlier in this report. (Refer page 123). It is a woodland garden with pathways and extensive planned plantings of exotic trees. It is noted in the various accounts of the Seacliff Mental Hospital that patient labour was used to construct buildings and undertake major landscape works, including levelling and terracing. King was an enthusiastic gardener and guided the development of the grounds. This adds a further level of social significance to the Reserve which is not noted in the *Truby King Recreation Reserve Management Plan (*1998).

9.8 CEMETERIES AND URUPA

The following section on Dunedin cemeteries is quoted without change from *Conservation Management Plan for the Northern & Southern Cemeteries, Dunedin, New Zealand*. (2004) prepared by Chris & Margaret Betteridge, MUSEcape Pty Ltd and reproduced with the permission of the The Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand:

Dunedin's first cemetery was a reserve of 15 acres 1 rood and 12 poles (approximately 6 hectares) in Arthur Street granted by the Crown to the Superintendent of the Provincial Council. Of the original grant, only a small portion in the southeastern corner, bounded by Arthur and Rattray Streets, was used for interment.

The first burial was performed by the Wesleyan minister, Reverend Charles Creed, for a member of Kettle's surveying team, labourer

James Campbell, on 29 October 1846. It is thought that 80 settlers were buried on the site between 1846 and 1856. Perched on the side of a steep hill, the burial ground soon became an eyesore for the fast growing city and was considered inconvenient for burials. Further, the risks from drainage, particularly after heavy rain, were considered injurious to the health of neighbouring residents.

Figure 110: [George Moore Sinclair] **Arthur Street Cemetery, Dunedin, November 1880.**

The Arthur Street cemetery (Fig. 110), as it was known, closed on 13 March 1858, but continued to accept burials of family members ("the corpse or coffin of the husband, wife or parent of any person already buried there") of those previously interred until at least 1865. New fencing was erected around a small corner to contain the burial area. No longer an active cemetery, it soon fell into decline and the headstones and fences became dilapidated, despite the efforts of the prisoners who were brought to the site to mend the fences in an effort to keep grazing cattle out. A photograph by Burton Bros dated 1879 confirms the neglect, which prompted Councillor A H Ross to report to Dunedin City Council on 3 June that year that "he believed every councillor was aware of the state of the cemetery and thoroughly ashamed of it".

The Council resolved to improve the site, and landscape the area as a memorial park, but not without initial opposition from the families of some of those buried there. Eventually, with the majority support of representatives of the families buried therein, the tombstones and the fences around the graves were removed to other cemeteries and the ground levelled. The remainder of the land was withheld for public recreation and educational use.

On 4 November 1879 the Council adopted the Reserves Committee's recommendation to commemorate the cemetery site with a single monument near the intersection of Arthur and Rattray Streets. George Smith's preliminary sketch for the memorial shows an obelisk mounted on a stepped platform stone base, surrounded by an iron railing fence.

The families of those buried in the Arthur Street cemetery were offered new burial sites in the Southern Cemetery. For those whose families did not take up the offer, their remains were re-interred in a single grave below the memorial. Made of sandstone, the obelisk was dedicated on 20 August 1880. A tablet on the east face of the obelisk records the event thus: "This monument was erected in the year AD 1880 by the Corporation of the City of Dunedin in memory of a number of early settlers whose names, so far as known are recorded on this obelisk". Another tablet inscribed with the names of those buried below was mounted on the base of the obelisk, although it is thought that the list may be incomplete.

Today, Dunedin City Council maintains nineteen cemeteries including:

Allanton Cemetery, Stack Street, Allanton.

Andersons Bay Cemetery, Tomahawk Road, Dunedin.

Broad Bay Cemetery, Virginia Avenue, Broad Bay.

East Taieri Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Mosgiel.

Green Island Cemetery, District Road, Green Island.

Green Park Cemetery, Brighton Road, Waldronville.

Hindon Cemetery, Hindon Road, Hindon.

Macandrew Bay Cemetery, Greenacres Street, Macandrew Bay.

Middlemarch Cemetery, Mold Street, Middlemarch.

Northern Cemetery, Lovelock Ave, North Dunedin. [**B376**]

Otokia Cemetery, Henley.

Port Chalmers (Old) Cemetery, off Church Street, Port Chalmers.

Port Chalmers Cemetery, Church Street, Port Chalmers.

Portobello Cemetery, Harrington Point Road, Portobello.

Purakanui Cemetery, Boundary Street, Purakanui.

Southern Cemetery, South Road, South Dunedin. [**B753**]

Waikouaiti Cemetery, Tumai Farm Road, Waikouaiti.

Waitati Cemetery, Orokonui Road, Waitati.

West Taieri Cemetery, State Highway 87, Outram.

A new cemetery opened in Green Island in 1856 followed by the Eastern Necropolis, (now known as Andersons Bay Cemetery) which opened for burial in May 1867. Although it recorded only 300 burials in its first three decades of operation, Andersons Bay would eventually became Dunedin's largest cemetery, following the closure of the Northern and Southern Cemeteries.

The Northern and Southern Cemeteries, located at the northern and southern extremities of Dunedin's Town Belt, are without doubt the most significant of Dunedin's cemeteries. They were both established by the Municipal Corporation of Dunedin and are currently managed by Dunedin City Council, under the care of the Parks and Recreation Department, with advice from the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand.

The Southern Cemetery on the Main South Road opened on 1 April 1857, following the closure of the Arthur Street cemetery. The cemetery was closed in 1980 and is estimated to hold over 23,000 burials.

The Northern Cemetery opened for burials in November 1872 and the first burial took place on 2 December of that year. The last plot was sold in 1937, although burials continued to take place in family-owned

sites. It is estimated that by the time it closed in 1975 there had been over 17,000 interments in the Northern Cemetery. The site, located on Lovelock Avenue and identified on SO Plan 17821 for cemetery purposes, is subject to the provisions of the *Reserves Act* (1977) and the *Cremation Act* (1964). It is identified as Category 1 on the Historic Places of New Zealand Trust Register.

Today, both the Southern and Northern Cemeteries are closed for disposal of human remains, other than for the placement of ashes in established family plots.

Urupa: There are a number of urupa and wahi tapu associated with the Dunedin area. Urupa are the burial places of Kai Tahu tupuna and are the focus for whanau traditions. Urupa in the Dunedin area include those at Okaia, Purakanui, Otakou, Aramoana and Purehurehu (Heyward Point). Many other undescribed urupa lie in the greater Dunedin area.