



## Before The Beginning

The earliest reference for the name Koitiata is in two maps from pre 1909. They were created by T. W. Downes from *"old Maori sketches"* and show Koitiata Stream, but there is no Lake Koitiata or any other Koitiata recorded.

A 1914 map of Koitiata Survey District shows Koitiata Stream and Lake Koitiata, but whether Lake Koitiata was just missed off the 1909 maps or was a name applied by settlers is unknown. At that stage, those appear to be the only three uses of the name Koitiata. It is assumed that the Koitiata Survey District gained its title from the stream and/or lake name.

A report in The Rangitikei Advocate in July 1913, tells of Turakina Heads being very popular for camping and fishing during the summer. The area used was under lease from the Crown, and farmed by Simpson Bros who permitted access. The report says that a number of Turakina residents were seeking to have land for a 'seaside resort'. A public meeting was held in Turakina in August 1913 and a committee was formed to pursue the resort project. They met with Mr Duncan Simpson in August and he stated that he was willing to relinquish some of his leased land for the resort. A January 1914 report stated that The Premier had advised Rangitikei County Council that the land requirement would be actioned and Gazette issued.

A survey map dated 1915 shows the planned area for the un-named Seaside Resort. A later Koitiata Survey District map (circa 1917/18) shows the 165-acre reserve named as Koitiata Domain. The NZ Gazette recorded it as being, *"reserve for the purpose of a Public Recreation Ground"*.

Once established its seaward boundary was set along the inland side of a road reserve, which ran along the river bank and then south down the beach. The northern boundary was also established along a road reserve, which ran from Tunnel Hill, along the northern edge of where the village is now and out to connect with the river bank road at the mouth of the Turakina River. Those road reserves were established in 1906 and existed before the Koitiata Domain was established. On current LINZ maps they still appear as originally established.

Koitiata Domain Recreation Reserve became the title for the reserve area in 2009.

The Survey District map (circa 1917/18) has an outline of a proposed Koitiata Town to be established within the domain, and this is the first recorded usage of the name Koitiata being applied to the town.