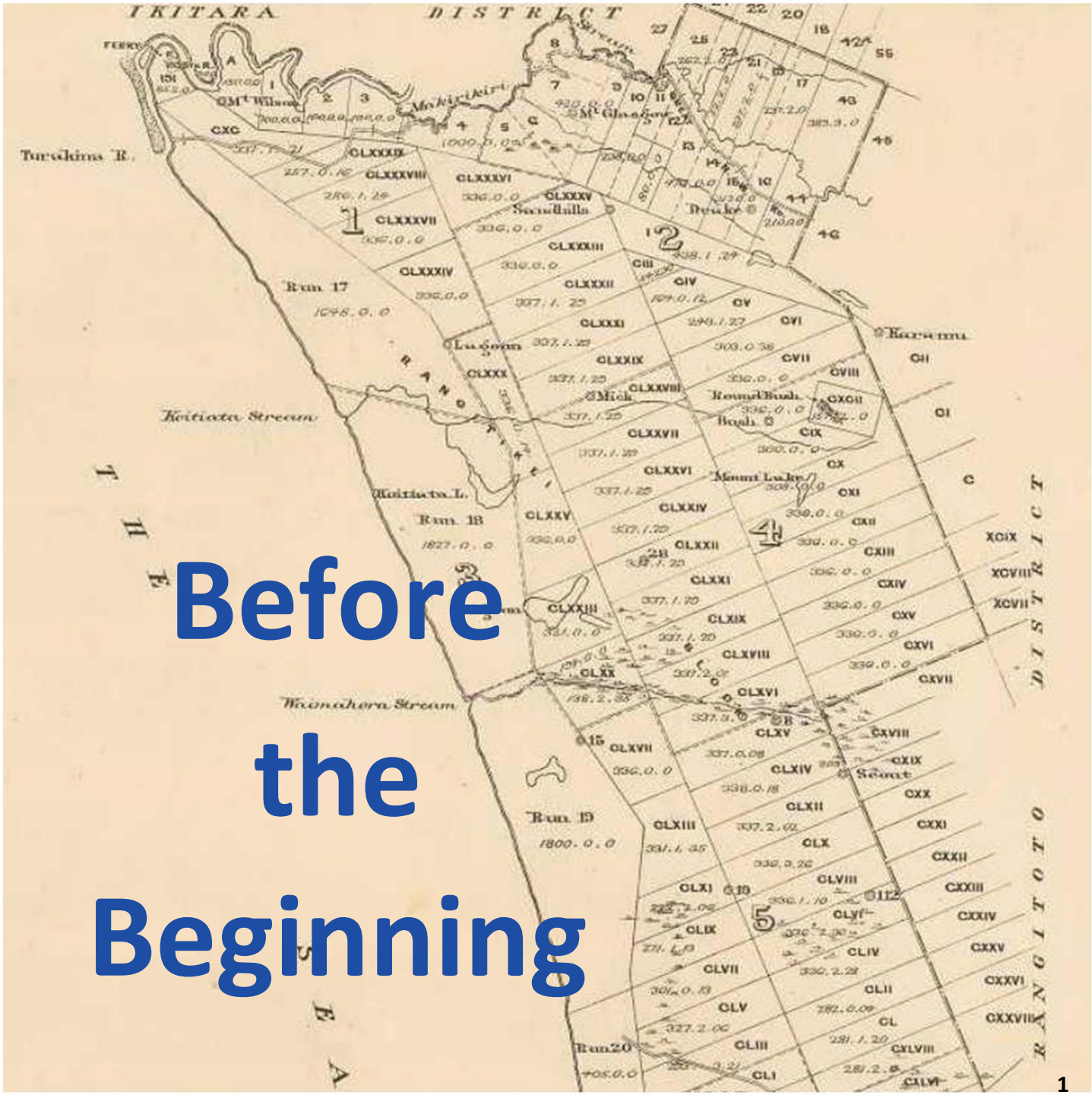
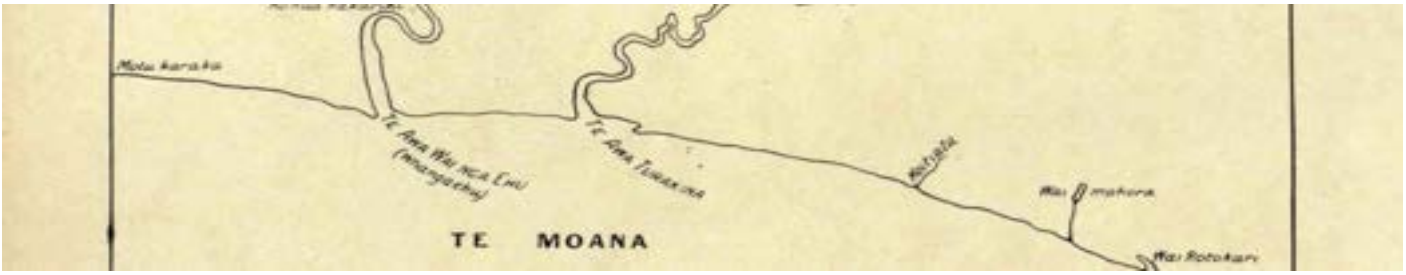


Before the Beginning



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Page 4 Map-pre-1909: Map of Rangitikei, from “Early History of Rangitikei” by T. W. Downes.

Page 5 Map-pre-1909: Map of Lower Whangaehu and Turakina Valleys, from “Early History of Rangitikei” by T. W. Downes.

Page 6 Map-1914: Map of Koitiata Survey District

Page 7 Map-1915: Survey map for seaside resort and recreation reserve.

Page 8 Map-1916: Map of Survey District showing Koitiata Domain & Koitiata Town.

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Page 17 Document-1916: Official notice for Koitiata Recreation Reserve.

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 Māori 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.

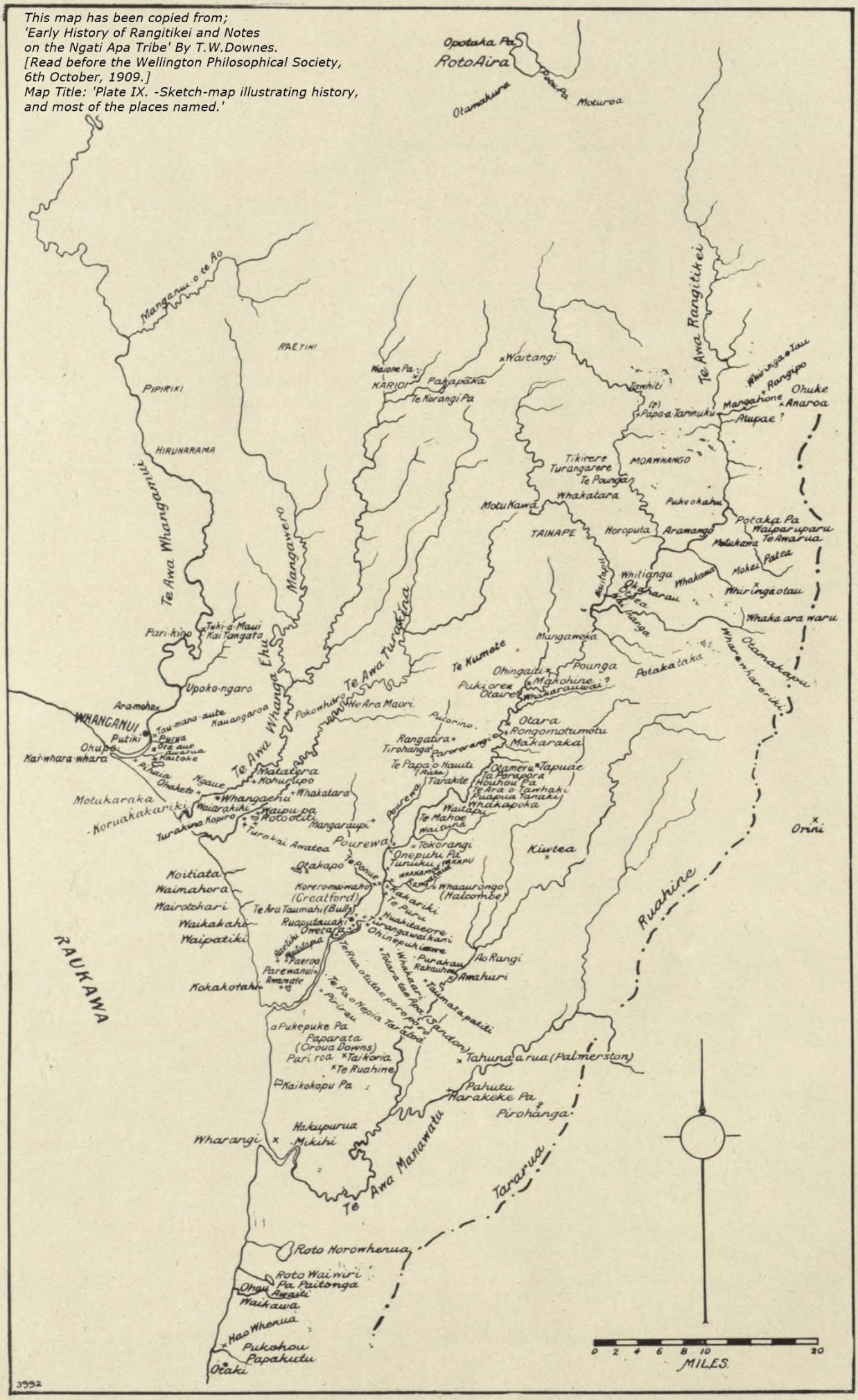
A report in The Rangitikei Advocate in July 1913, tells of Turakina Heads being very popular for camping and fishing during the summer. The area used was under lease from the Crown and farmed by Simpson Bros who permitted access. The report says that several Turakina residents were seeking to have land 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 riverbank 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 riverbank 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.

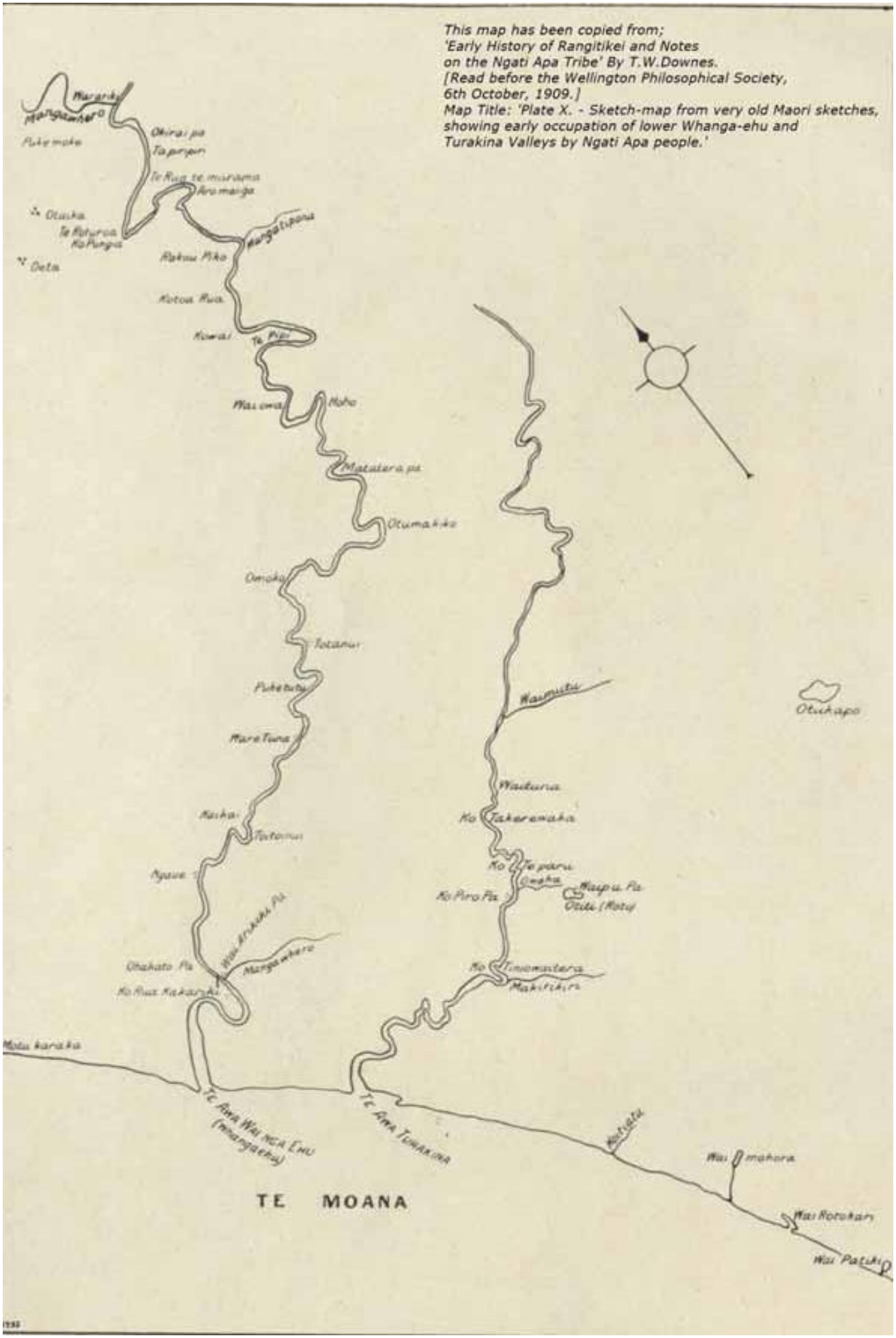
Koitiata Domain Recreation Reserve became the title for the reserve area in 2009.

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.



MAP ILLUSTRATING EARLY HISTORY OF RANGITIKEI.—DOWNES.

Face p. 96.



Pre-1909 Map shows Koitiata Stream *(Turning-In-Creek)*

KOITIATA SURVEY DISTRICT

IKITARA DISTRICT

SANDY DISTRICT

RANGITOTO DISTRICT

TE TI SEA

Turakina R.

Koitiata Stream

Waiuahara Stream

Makirikiri

Koitiata L.

Run 17 1098. 0. 0

Run 18 1827. 0. 0

Run 19 1800. 0. 0

Run 20 705. 0. 0

Run 21 277. 0. 0

Run 22 1818. 0. 0

Mt Wilson

Mt Glasgow

Scandhills

Drake

Lagoon

Mick

Round Bush

Bush

Mount Lucky

Lagoon

Scout

Bungle

Mt Annon

Mt Taylor

Kaiaamu

SANDRIDGE

LINE

Reference

Survey District Boundary shewn thus

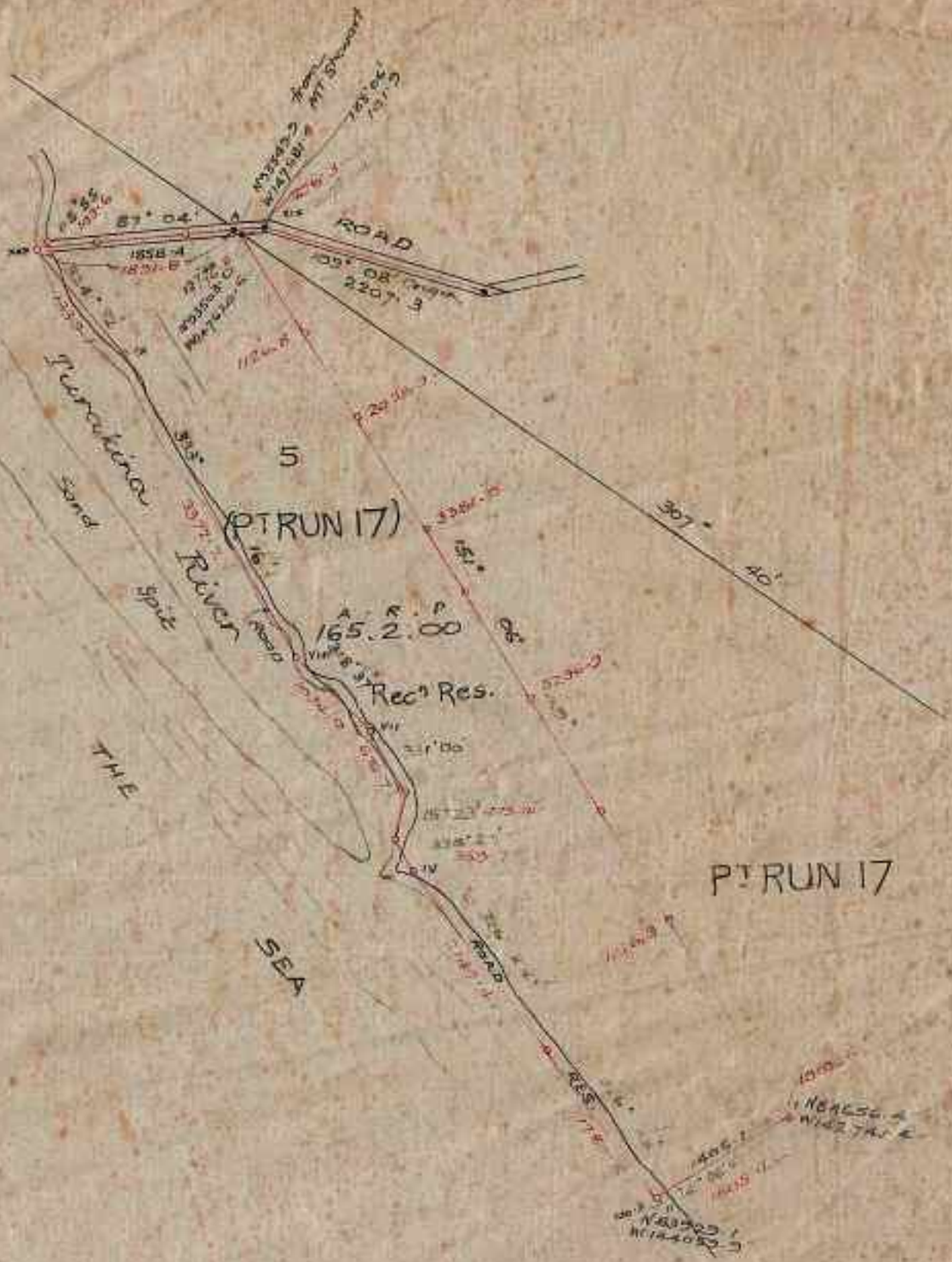
Block " " "

Trig Stations " " " Lagoon

E. H. WILMOT, Surveyor General.

Scale of 80 40 0 80 120 240

T.N. Brodrick Chief Su



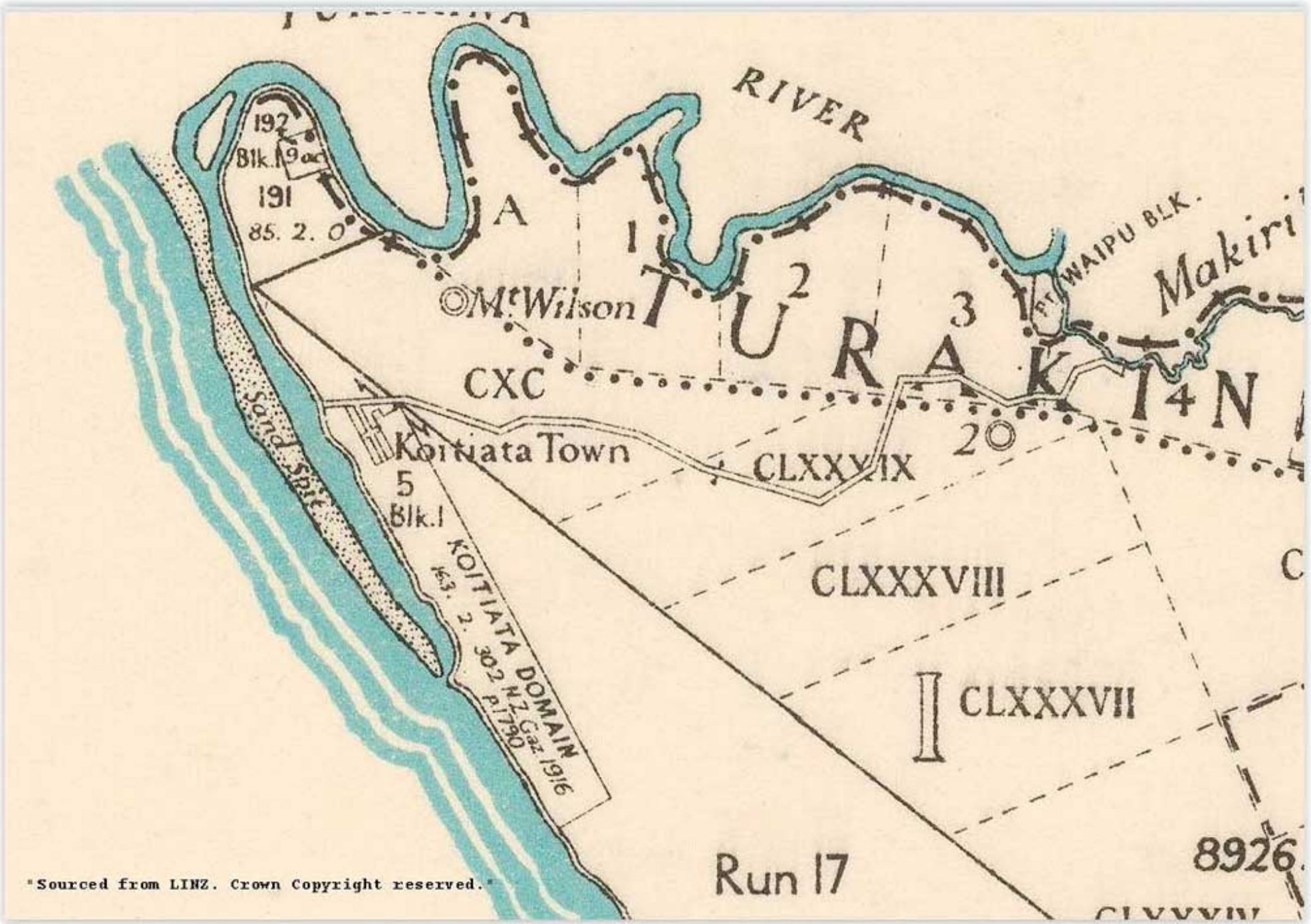
Plan of Seaside Resort, Sec 5 (part of Run 17)
Surveyed by
A M Roberts 1915

Block 1 Koitiata S D

140
1K

Scale 10 chs to an inch

T. 6


RIVER
192
Blk.I 9 ac
191
85. 2. 0
A
1
2
3
4
M.cWilson
TURAKINA
Ft WAIPU BLK.
Makiri
CXC
Koitiata Town
5
Blk.I
Sand Spit
KOITIATA DOMAIN
143. 2. 30.2 NZ Gaz 1916 p.1790
CLXXVIX
CLXXXVIII
CLXXXVII
Run 17
8926
"Sourced from LINZ. Crown Copyright reserved."

The Rangitikei Advocate
July 3, 1913

SEA-SIDE RESORT AT TURAKINA.

The Turakina Heads are now becoming a very popular resort for holiday seekers during the summer months, and within the past few years a number of people have camped on the banks of the Turakina river and enjoyed the fishing in the river and the sea bathing. Among the sandhills are several beautiful camping places, and through the kindness of Messrs Simpson Bros., who hold a lease of this land, advantage has been taken by a number of families to spend some very pleasant holidays away from the bustle of the towns. Several Turakina residents are now interesting themselves in an endeavour to procure about 100 acres of this land as a seaside resort, and there is no doubt that if they are successful in inducing the Government to vest a sufficient portion of this land in the Lethbridge Town Board, it will not be many years before it will become a popular seaside resort.

At present the Town Board has a ferry reserve, about two miles from the mouth of the river, which is leased to Mr A. Glasgow, and the rent derived from this reserve is spent in planting sand grass. Unfortunately this reserve is inaccessible both from the seashore and Turakina, as the road has been washed away by the river shifting its course. Originally this reserve was used as a camping place for cattle travelling along the coast, but on account of its present isolated position the Town Board has leased the reserve for grazing purposes, as it is practically useless as a seaside camping place.

It is the intention of the Turakina enthusiasts to call a meeting of persons desirous of establishing a seaside resort at the mouth of the Turakina river, and with the co-operation of residents along the main road to Marton, there is every likelihood of their claims being recognised by the Department, as it is understood that the Crown lands Ranger has reported very favourably on the site. A deputation will, in all probability, be appointed at this meeting to wait upon the authorities in Wellington to further their cause, and there is very little doubt that the Department will grant the concession asked for.

The Rangitikei Advocate
August 15, 1913

NOTICE

A PUBLIC MEETING for the purpose of considering the advisability of acquiring a Suitable Reserve at the mouth of the Turakina River will be held in the Turakina Town Hall on THIS MONDAY, August 21st, at 8 p.m. All interested are cordially invited to attend.

J. ANDERSON,
Chairman.

The Rangitikei Advocate
August 27, 1913

TURAKINA SEASIDE RESORT.

Yesterday afternoon a deputation consisting of Turakina and Marton residents waited on Mr R K Simpson, chairman of Rangitikei County Council.

Mr W H. Gomez, on behalf of the deputation stated that the object was to secure a suitable reserve at the mouth of the Turakina River as a camping ground and seaside resort for the people of the district, explaining that the approach to the land was at present through private property, and stating that the co-operation of the Council in this matter was desired.

It was also pointed out that the present Domain for which the Lethbridge Town Board acted as trustees, was quite unsuited for the purpose required as the approach to the beach therefrom was cut off by the river.

Mr Duncan Simpson, who holds a lease of the Beach Run at the mouth of the river, and which has access to the public road laid off and formed some time ago by the Council, was present. Mr D. Simpson stated that that he was quite willing to relinquish his lease of some 250 acres of the Run fronting the road and the beach provided the land relinquished was vested in Rangitikei County Council, and that he was not called upon to do any fencing.

The deputation unanimously decided to recommend the acceptance of Mr D. Simpson's offer, and requested the chairman of Rangitikei County Council to have the necessary application made to the Government to get the land vested in the Council for purposes of a seaside resort for the people of the district.

The Rangitikei Advocate

January 14, 1914

Land for Turakina Beach Resort

The Premier in his letter to the Rangitikei County Council on Saturday stated that there was no necessity to introduce legislation to set apart portion of the run at the Turakina River for a seaside resort. There is power under the Land Act, 1908, to reserve Crown land, notwithstanding that the same may be held under pastoral license, for any public domain. Action will be taken to have the proclamation plan prepared of the 280 acres required for recreation purposes, and the necessary Gazette will then be issued. Messrs Simpson Bros. have already generously decided to forego their title to this land, and there is no doubt that in a short time the seaside resort at Turakina will be open to the public, who should avail themselves of this popular means of spending their summer holidays.

The Rangitikei Advocate

November 13, 1914

Turakina Notes

(From our Own Correspondent)

Two Government surveyors are at present surveying the Beach Road and Reserve with a view to improvements being made. With a better road the Beach Reserve will be more popular than ever as a picnic resort.

The Rangitikei Advocate

December 20, 1916

Narrow Escape at Turakina

A fair knowledge of swimming often averts a disaster. A case in point occurred at Turakina recently. A visitor to the beach attempted to swim the river near the channel at high tide, with his trousers on and his shirt tied in a bundle round his neck. When half-way across he became exhausted, and in response to his cries that he was "done," a fisherman on the bank gave him the useful advice that "it wasn't very deep and he could bottom it!" However, he did not attempt to reach the bottom on that occasion, and his cries were heard by two bathers, who after running about a quarter of a mile swam to his assistance and landed him in safety on the bank. His first exclamation after recovery was, "I got my shirt wet!" The remarks of a Maori who watched the occurrence are worth recording: "My word, he go fishing, but the fish nearly eat him. I think you two get the Red Cross."

The Rangitikei Advocate
August 22, 1913

SEASIDE RESORT AT TURAKINA

A WORTHY PROJECT.

In response to an announcement appearing in the Advocate convening a meeting of all those interested in acquiring a suitable area for a seaside reserve at the mouth of the Turakina River, a number of Turakina residents and a carload from Marton attended at the Town Hall at Turakina to hear the convener's (Mr F. Sisson's) views on this excellent project.

Mr F. Sisson occupied the chair and stated that the object of the meeting was if possible to form a committee to take charge of the movement to acquire a piece of land at the mouth of the Turakina River as a public reserve for a seaside resort. At present, through the courtesy of Messrs Simpson Bros., they were enabled to reach the seaside, and they were greatly indebted to these gentlemen for that privilege otherwise it would be impossible to reach the seashore, as there was no other road. The time had now arrived when the residens of Turakina and Marton thought it desirable to acquire sufficient land at the proposed site to allow those desiring it to spend a month or two at the seaside, when no doubt in time the land thus acquired would be planted and improved. The beach was an ideal one, and there was plenty of fishing, and sea and river bathing, with a minimum of danger.

Mr W. H Gomez said that he regretted that Marton was not better represented at the meeting. He considered the object a worthy one, and the site one of the best on the coast. Castlecliff was the nearest seaside resort to Marton, and that was about 36 miles by rail, and was not so good as the Turakina beach for seabathing, or for spending a pleasant time in camping. The only objection was having to pass over the sandhill, but no doubt this could be remedied if a strong committee was set up to plant sand grass and level the hill till a solid foundation was reached. Personally he would give his whole support to the project, and there were a number of residents of Marton who would also support the acquisition of a suitable piece of land.

Mr S. E. Lewis wrote, apologising for not being able to be present, and stated that he thought the project, if carried to a successful issue, would meet the needs of a large number of people resident in Marton and surrounding districts. At present the nearest piece of beach conveniently approached is Castlecliff, and for people in the Marton district the distance is too great to be enjoyable, especially where children are concerned. There is a magnificent stretch of sandy beach at the place proposed and if only an easy means of communication can be opened up with the railway it would quickly develop into a favourable resort, and would, no doubt, be taken advantage of by the School Committees when arranging their annual school excursions. He would be willing to act in any capacity in assisting to attain the end desired.

The Chairman suggested that a committee should be set up to take charge of the movement, and Messrs Sisson, Glasgow, Rhodes, Gomez and Franklin were appointed to consider the best way to acquire the land, and it was also resolved to approach the Government with a view to securing the reserve, and to vest it in the Turakina Domain Board.

The committee will visit the site proposed to be applied for as a reserve on Saturday afternoon, and will then interview Messrs Simpson Bros. with a view to securing their co-operation in this matter.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Marton residents for attending the meeting and also to Mr Sisson for presiding.

Recreation Reserve in Wellington Land District brought under Part II of the Public Reserves and Domains Act, 1908.

LIVERPOOL, Governor.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

At the Government Buildings at Wellington, this twenty-sixth day of February, 1917.

Present:

THE HONOURABLE SIR JAMES ALLEN, K.C.B., PRESIDING IN COUNCIL.

BY virtue of the powers and authorities vested in me by the twenty-sixth section of the Public Reserves and Domains Act, 1908, I, Arthur William de Brito Savile, Earl of Liverpool, the Governor of the Dominion of New Zealand, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council of the said Dominion, do hereby order and declare that the reserve for recreation in the Wellington Land District described in the Schedule hereto shall be and the same is hereby brought under the operation of and declared to be subject to the provisions of Part II of the said Act; and such reserve shall hereafter be known as the Koitiata Domain, and be managed, administered, and dealt with as a public domain.

SCHEDULE.

ALL that area in the Wellington Land District, containing by admeasurement 165 acres 2 roods, more or less, being Section No. 5, Block I, Koitiata Survey District. Bounded towards the north by a public road, 1858·4 links; towards the north-east by Run No. 17, Block I aforesaid, 10103·4 links; towards the south-east by Run No. 17 aforesaid, 1405·1 links; and towards the south-west generally by a road reserve one chain wide from mean high-water mark along the sea-beach to the mouth of the Turakina River; thence by a road reserve one chain wide along the eastern bank of the Turakina River: be all the aforesaid linkages more or less. As the same is delineated on the plan marked L. and S. 1/193A, deposited in the Head Office, Department of Lands and Survey, at Wellington, and thereon edged red.

F. W. FURBY,
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

LIVERPOOL, Governor.

WHEREAS by the three-hundred-and-twenty-first section of the Land Act, 1908, it is enacted that the Governor may from time to time, either by general or particular description, and whether the same has been surveyed or not, reserve from sale temporarily, notwithstanding that the same may be then held under pastoral license, any Crown lands which in his opinion are required for any of the purposes in the said section mentioned:

And whereas by the three-hundred-and-twenty-second section of the said Act it is provided that land temporarily reserved under the said three-hundred-and-twenty-first section may, at the expiration of one month but not later than six months after the publication in the *Gazette* of notice of such temporary reservation, be permanently reserved, and that notice of such permanent reservation shall be published in the *Gazette*:

And whereas by the sixty-ninth section of the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, it is further provided that the Governor may from time to time, as he thinks fit, set aside reserves for any specified public purpose out of land acquired under the last-mentioned Act, provided that no land so acquired shall be set aside for endowments:

And whereas the lands specified in the first column of the Schedule hereto were, by the Warrants the dates of which are specified in the third column of the said Schedule, and the notifications of which were published in the *Gazettes* specified in the fourth column, temporarily reserved under the authority of the said Acts for the purposes specified in the second column of the said Schedule:

Now, therefore, I, Arthur William de Brito Savile, Earl of Liverpool, the Governor of the Dominion of New Zealand, in pursuance and exercise of the powers and authorities conferred upon me by the said Acts, do hereby permanently reserve the lands so temporarily reserved as aforesaid, and enumerated in the first column of the Schedule hereto, for the purposes specified in the second column of the said Schedule, being the same purposes for which the said lands were so temporarily reserved as aforesaid.

SCHEDULE.

First Column — Description of Reserves.					Second Column.	Third Column.	Fourth Column.
Land District.	Locality.	Section.	Block.	Area.	Purpose for which Land reserved.	Date of Warrant.	*Gazette.*
				A. R. P.		1916.	1916.
Auckland ..	Waipareira Pariah ..	286	..	5 0 0	Public cemetery ..	16 Feb.	No. 20, 24 Feb.
" ..	Hobsons East S.D.*	14	V	2 0 0	Site for a public school	14 Mar.	No. 32, 16 Mar.
" ..	Cambridge S.D.* ..	16	X	3 0 0	"	14 "	" "
Hawke's Bay	Pohui S.D.* ..	1	III	5 0 0	Site for a Native school	8 "	" "
Wellington	Koitiata S.D.* ..	5	I	165 2 0	Public recreation-ground	24 Feb.	No. 25, 2 Mar.
"	Kaitieke S.D.* ..	15	IV	0 3 39 9	Site for a public pound	11 Mar.	No. 32, 16 Mar.
Otago ..	Conical Hills Settlement	67A	..	3 0 0	Site for a public school	27 Jan.	No. 12, 3 Feb.
" ..	Town of Ranfurly ..	4 and 5	XII	0 2 0	Site for a post office ..	24 Feb.	No. 25, 2 Mar.
" ..	Greenfield Settlement	16A	..	10 0 0	Site for a public school	11 Mar.	No. 32, 16 Mar.

* Survey district.

As witness the hand of His Excellency the Governor, this twentieth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

W. F. MASSEY,
Minister of Lands.