

## Design Statement

The Tawa Historical Society in association with the Tawa Community Board and the Tawa Returned and Service's Association are seeking to erect a Memorial at the end of Oxford Street, Tawa, immediately adjacent to Grasslees Reserve and close to the RSA building.

The Memorial is intended to recognise those people from Tawa who have lost their lives in the service of the nation, both in war and in the pursuit of peace. It is therefore specifically not a 'war memorial'.

The proposed site at the end of the formed carriageway part of Oxford Street is on legal road and extends to the Porirua Stream and is well suited as a memorial site. It not only aligns with the end of Oxford Street, but also on a perpendicular axis, to the longest formed pathway within Grasslees Reserve. As well, it is alongside the high use walkway to Tawa Swimming Pool and utilised for access to and from Tawa Intermediate and Tawa College.

These long views are an essential part of the Memorial. Successful memorials are often seen from a distance and in a long, but contained view. This gives them both presence, and a processional character.

The proposal seeks to create a 'memorial space' rather than a memorial 'object' in the way that a Cenotaph or, for example, the Porirua War Memorial is.

By creating an enclosing wall which can be used to present much of the narrative of the memorial, the space which the wall contains becomes a reflective, orienting space which is part of the Memorial. Seating, labelled to identify significant events associated with the memorial, adds to the total reflective experience. The ground treatment, paving and landscaping, is proposed to complement the work recently undertaken at Grasslees Reserve.

The axes discussed above are important in leading the eye from a distance to this space and in encouraging movement towards it. We therefore see that it is important that existing vegetation within the contained space is removed. Most is of little significance and some likely are self-sown. Of interest are two Casuarina, native to Australia and normally found in tropical or subtropical locations these specimens are a surprising presence. The northernmost of the two does not particularly affect the memorial site although the larger southern tree is directly on the Grasslees Reserve axis and would therefore destroy the relationship of the memorial to the reserve.

This tree is somewhat misshapen, and we believe that its removal while unfortunate is significantly important to both the visual and processional success of the Memorial. We propose that in mitigation, it be replaced with a 3-4 metre tall specimen of Council's choice at the periphery of the memorial space.

The enclosing wall will be designed with the client to develop the narrative story of the Memorial and will include the names of those Tawa residents who lost their lives in the service of the nation (along with the campaigns in which they served) and will leave room to accommodate the names of others who in the future may come to this fate whether in the course of conflict or in the pursuit of peace.



## Tawa Memorial

Prepared for the **Tawa Historical Society**  
For the Tawa Community Board and Tawa Returned Services Association

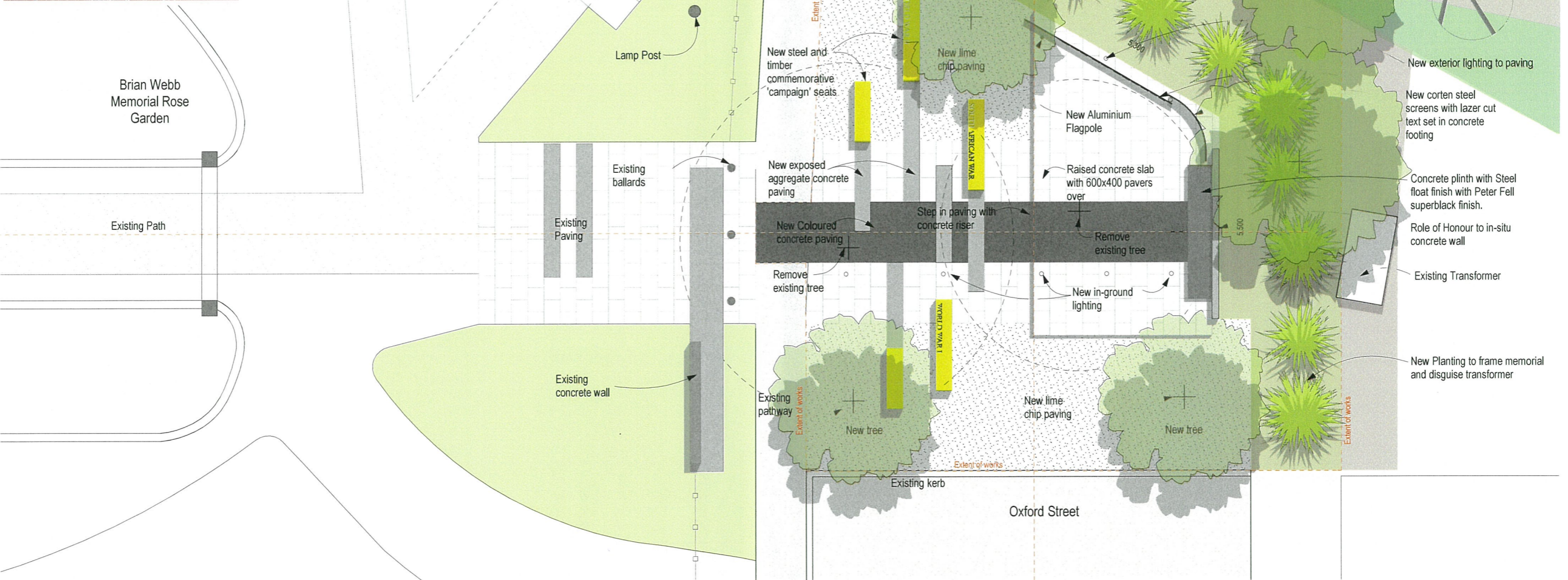
Project 07190

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**Sketch Design Proposal**  
April 2014





0. Memorial Plan  
scale 1:100

**Tawa Memorial**

Prepared by Tawa Historical Society for Tawa Community Board & Tawa Returned Services Association





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Board & Tawa Returned Services Association

Indicative Views Scale: 1:100 April 2014  
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