

My name is Chris Turver of Waikanae, formerly living on the corner of Barrett Drive and Tamati Place.

I am a Pakeha and a resident of Waikanae since 1986, serving as the Greater Wellington Regional Councillor for Kapiti for nine years and an office-holder in many community organisations.

As a Vietnam veteran I have been heavily involved with the Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association, including serving as a District President and Board member.

That background gave me a deep appreciation of the value of a burial ground where family can remember those who have died.

Around the world battlefields where significant numbers of people were killed are given honoured status so the sacrifices made are remembered. An urupa, or cemetery, forms part of the history of a locality.

New Zealand does it particularly well with huge turnouts of Pakeha and Maori on Anzac Day in the spirit of remembrance.

Our Karewarewa urupa forms the last part of an undeveloped block of land on which many from this part of Kapiti died in the Battle of Kuititanga – yet there is nothing to record a significant part of the district's history or provide a place of remembrance.

The land is the only remaining part of that history of 187 years ago. It is also part of New Zealand's history just before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and the signing of that Treaty in Waikanae by local chiefs.

I ask that the Karewarewa urupa plan be confirmed in the Operative Kapiti Coast District Plan 2021 as a site of significance for Maori.

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