



Tahora Cemetery

Armstrong St, Tahora

1926

Use:	Closed cemetery	Historic Value:	3 out of 5
Materials:	-	Architectural Value:	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	1 out of 2
Legal Description:	Sub Sec 64 TN of Tahora Blk VI Pouatu SD-Cemetery	Symbolic Value:	2 out of 3
		Rarity Value:	- out of 2
		Townscape Value:	1 out of 2
		Group Value:	- out of 2
		Overall Heritage Value:	8 out of 20



The Tahora settlement began in 1897, but it was not until 1922 that the Tahora Settlers' Association set in motion steps to have a local cemetery created. It is thought that before this the dead were just buried on their own property, or possibly were taken to the Stratford Cemetery. In 1923, the Tahora Cemetery was vested in the Whangamomona County Council. However, it took three years for the Tahora Cemetery Board to actually be formed, and this occurred at a meeting on 12 October 1926 that was held in the Hall. Mr. R.G. Kennedy was elected chairman – a position he held until at least 1957.

Later on in the year, the cemetery, which was to be located on a hill above the township, was surveyed by Mr. L.C. Sladden. By this stage, the first burial had already taken place, when John Robson Charleton died at the age of 10 years on 25 October 1924.

Five burials were done during the first year of the Tahora Cemetery being officially open, with at least three of these being under three years old. The burial records show a disproportionate number of children and infants from Tangarakau being buried. In fact, out of the 23 burials done at Tahora Cemetery, over 14 were infants or children.

The last recorded burial at Tahora was on the 25th of January 1937, when eight-year-old June Stuart died.

Tahora, Whangamomona, and Midhirst Old Cemeteries were all to be closed and cleared from 14 April 1994, after being sent a Closure and Clearance Notice signed by Bill English, the under-secretary to the Minister of Health. Stratford District Council did not officially close the Tahora Cemetery until 1996, with a memorial listing all those buried in the cemetery being erected in the following year (see *insert picture*).



The Tahora Cemetery holds a special place in the hearts of those who have family or friends buried there.

Bibliography

Church, Ian; *The Stratford Inheritance*, The Heritage Press (1990) p96
Council Records