

HMNZS Irirangi - Place of Historic Importance



Site No: P172166

Historic Place Category 2, List number 9769

Since 2015 I have had an application with the New Zealand Historic Places to have Irirangi classified a place of historic importance.

I have been in communications with NZ Defence, RNZN Museum, local Iwi and the current landowners. Pages of application notes were eventually sent to New Zealand Historic Places for this to done.

Thinking this would be easy in the start, well I was wrong – it has been a journey of continual lack of interest by New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

We did get allocated a place of historic importance registration number but every year I am told it is still not at the top of the pile. It must be a massive pile.

Every year I have contacted the person I am dealing with and every year is the same – nothing has happened call back next year.

So, it was decided that we would just go ahead and put up a sign at the old camp and a sign on SH 1 directing people to the site and forget NZ Historic Places.

I have approval from the Landowner Mark Sinclair so all we must do is design a sign, get it made and get it erected at the old camp. I would also like a small bronze plaque placed in concrete at the site.

The sign I envisage is an 8 x 4' sheet with a centre image of a map of the camp from the 50's 60's and photos around the edge with arrows going to where the item was on the map. The map I would like to use is held in the RNZN museum so once I get a good copy we can proceed further.

I would like to see this sign placed on the old camp side near the old main entrance.

I have been trying to design something but with me moving in the next month I am afraid I have not gone too far with it.

Costs – currently I have no idea but once I am settled in my new home I can get back into the project. One thing I will be a lot closer to Irirangi in my new abode.

It will happen and Irirangi will never be forgotten along with all those men and women who served there from 1942 – 1992. They were great times.

Frank Lewis