

Place Name Submission Report

Te Motu o Poutoa

(Restored Name)

Palmerston North

General Background

The submitter is seeking to restore an original Māori name to an area that is currently reserved and known as Anzac Park, located on an elevated bank above the Manawatu River, overlooking Palmerston North and beyond.

The submitter has mentioned that this area has been included in the Treaty negotiations for Rangitaane o Manawatu, so it is possible that the restoration of Te Motu o Poutoa is proceeding through that process – confirmation is being sought from OTS.

The reserve known as Anzac Park is under the jurisdiction of the Palmerston North City Council, and is also referred to locally as Porkchop Hill. Te Motu o Poutoa is the commonly used name by Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Inc.

The submitter has provided substantial evidence to support the original Māori name and has also advised that the City Council will not rename the reserve, which is presumably why the submitter has approached the NZ Geographic Board.

The Board does have naming jurisdiction over historic site names.

There may be concern over two different names over, effectively, the same area, notwithstanding that one name is for the reserve, and the other (proposed) is for the historic pa/urupa site.

The submitter advised that a nearby (small) walkway has been named Poutoa Walkway, but this does not satisfy the iwi's desire to restore Te Motu o Poutoa to its rightful place.

Lake Poutoa, just north of Helensville, is the only duplication of Poutoa in NZ. There are many instances of Motu being used in place names throughout the country, but as a generic feature type, this is a common occurrence. Duplication is not therefore considered to be an issue.

There may be some concerns about the length of the name. However, given the significance of the site and the documentary evidence supporting this original Māori name, the Board would likely wish to acknowledge its statutory functions to collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names.

Early cadastral/topographic maps show:

NZMS 1, N149	Edition 1, dated 1942	Not named
NZMS 1, N149	Edition 2, dated 1949	Not named
NZMS 1, N149	Edition 3, dated 1959	Not named, but descriptor 'Park' shown
NZMS 1, N149	Edition 4, dated 1969	Not named, but descriptor 'Park' shown
NZMS 13, WN 52	Edition 3, dated 1955	Not named
NZMS 16, Palmerston North sheet 3	Edition 1, dated 1960	Shows Anzac Park and Reserved for Purposes of a Park and Public Gardens
NZMS 177, N149	Edition 2, dated 1966	Not named

Early survey plans show:

SO 14026	Dated 1896	'Town of Poupoa' pencilled
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Several early historical maps/plans were searched, with little return, though W(D)39, dated 1860, clearly shows Motua Poutou.

TPK has advised that since the submission proposal has been made by the Rangitane iwi, there is no need to obtain views in terms of the 'Protocol for Māori Place Names'.

Possible confusion could arise with the existing reserve name of Anzac Park. It would be preferable to obtain the Council's support for this proposal, and an indication that they do not consider location identification would be compromised by having two names covering the same area; one being for the reserve and the other being for the historic pa/urupa. Emergency services may also have some concerns regarding this.

The submitter has been requested to confirm the exact extent of the pa, and comment on whether it extends beyond the boundaries of Anzac Park.

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At its previous meeting of 9 November 2007, the Board queried the spelling as Motua Poutou as shown on the earliest map dated 1860 [W(D)39].

Motua means garden, whilst Motu, in this context, refers to a clump or island, and can also mean 'cut up/chop up/dismember'. The submitters use of 'o' instead of 'a' as the possessive for a personal name is not the standard syntax in Te Reo Māori; it would be more correct as Te Motu a Poutoa, which gets closer to Motua.

At the previous meeting, the Board accepted the proposal in principle, but wanted assurance that there was no invention of tradition to support an articulation from Tanenuiarangi. The Board also sought to investigate records of the Māori Land Court to confirm the spelling. The Board had no particular concerns about the feature/pa name being different to that of the park name.

Further investigation has since revealed that the Crown Purchase Deed for 'Te Ahuiarangi – Upper Manawatu' Block of 1864, showed the named as 'Motua Poutu' (see Wellington Deed 13 and Turton's copy). The Secretary had insufficient time to search the Māori Land Court records, but found the earliest SO plans 10603 (Roll 418) and 10604 (Roll 418A), dated 1860, which show Motua Poutu. These plans are listed in the Block Registration Book for 'Te Ahuiarangi – Upper Manawatu' held by LINZ. There was no ML plan listed.

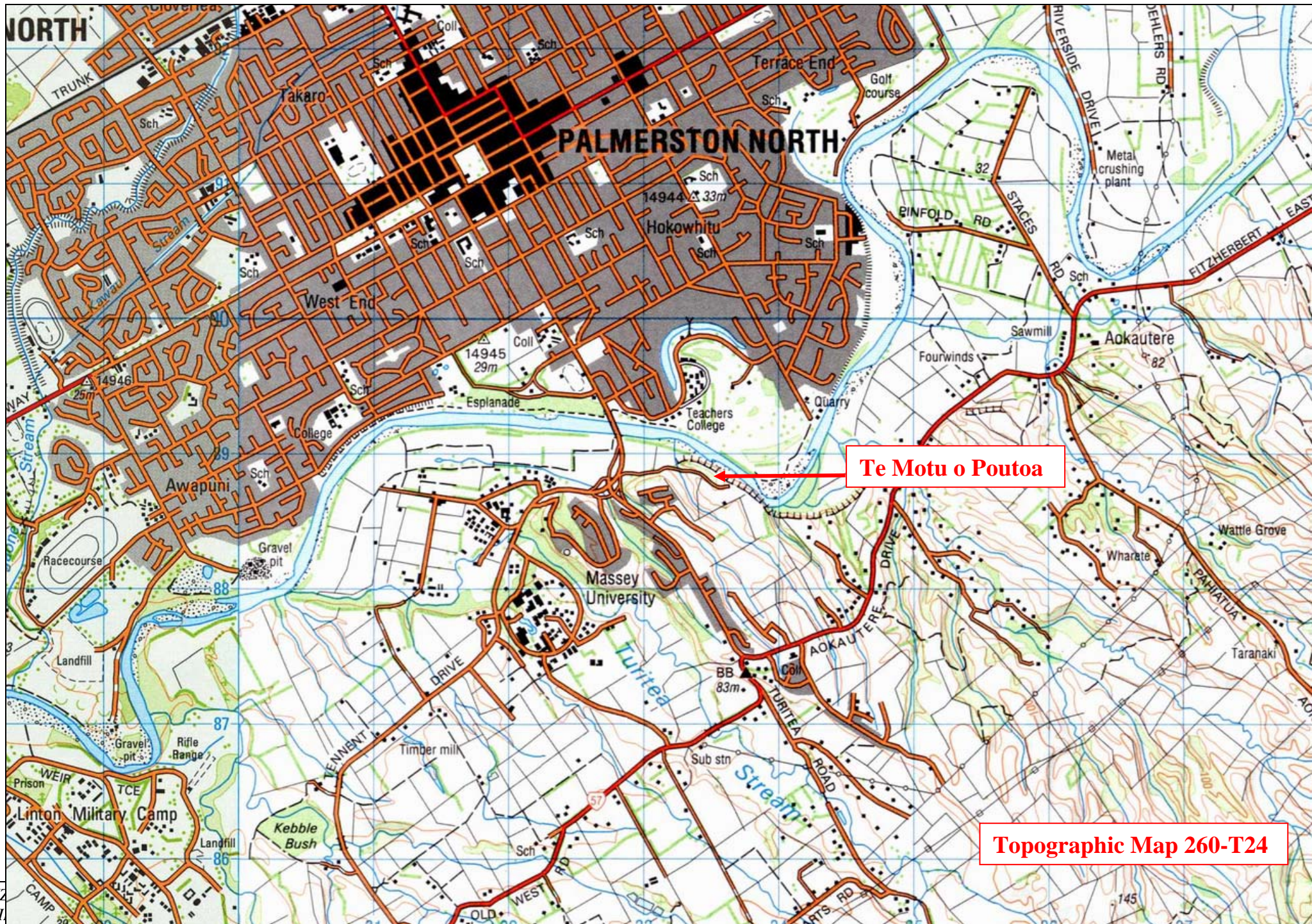
In response to this matter, Danielle Harris of Tanenuiarangi wrote the following on 14 November 2007:

"It's our understanding that the spelling on the 1860 map was a misspelling by the surveyor. The name we put forward is how Rangitāne spell it. It's not our intention to do a Wanganui. We genuinely wish to have the name changed in recognition of our ancestral association to the site which is significant. It is in our Heads of Agreement as an area to be discussed between us and the PNCC in terms of its ongoing management etc and we are currently also involved with the Council in terms of any work undertaken on it. We have raised the change of name with them but they vacillate so we just made the application to the NZGB. There's no hidden agenda."

A photo has been provided by Mike Roche, showing that the geography supports that the pa site was a separate and elevated area, similar to an island or a distinctive clump.

TPK advised that the submitter's organisation represents Rangitāne ki Manawatu, who are tangata whenua. The assertion that 'Te Motu o Poutoa' comes from their oral tradition, cannot be ignored.

Acceptance by the Board of 'Te Motu o Poutoa' could be tested through the intention process, and even if it becomes official, there remains an opportunity in the future to assign another version, should more information or evidence come to light.



Te Motu o Poutoa

Topographic Map 260-T24