

Lake Windermere

(spelling alteration)

Okarito Lagoon, South Westland

General Background

The submitter is seeking to have the spelling corrected for a lake, from Lake Windemere to **Lake Windermere**, i.e. the submitter seeks to add an 'r'. The submitter provides evidence supporting that this feature was named after a well-known lake in England, which the submitter advises is the largest lake in England. A search of 'Google Earth' and 'The Penguin Dictionary of British Place Names' confirms the spelling of the lake in England as Lake Windermere. The Dictionary reveals the origin of the name as a Scandinavian personal name.

The submitter has provided evidence of reference sources to help verify the spelling of Windermere. Of particular note is the card index by Johannes Carl Andersen, which states the Māori name for the lake is Okaritoito. The Board may wish to consider restoring this original Māori name as per Section 11(1)(d) & (e) of the new Act. The Ngāi Tahu Board member may provide further information about this Māori name at the meeting.

Duplication:

Windermere (locality)	West of Ashburton (also named after the English lake)
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A number of homesteads and roads located around New Zealand are named 'Windermere', but none are in the vicinity of this proposal.

Changing Lake Windemere to **Lake Windermere**, will not significantly change the risk of confusion, as both the current and proposed names are pronounced the same. The other Windemere name is far enough away geographically so as not to cause confusion, and is not a 'lake'.

Cadastral and Topographic maps have shown the following through the years:

NZMS 1, S63	Edition 1, dated 1959	Lake Windemere
NZMS 1, S63	Edition 2, dated 1970	Lake Windemere
NZMS 1, S63	Edition 3, dated 1981	Lake Windemere
NZMS 13, WD 37	Edition 1, dated 1955	Lake Windemere
NZMS 177, S63	Edition 2, dated 1975	Lake Windemere

Some early survey plans show the following:

SO 106	Dated 1894	Lake Windermere
SO 690	Dated 1903	Lake Windemere
SO 4747	Dated 1956	Lake Windemere
SO 6225	Dated ?	Lake Windermere
SO 9001	Dated 1903	Lake Windermere

Early historical maps/plans show:

C(D)10	Dated 1867	Lake Windermere
WD(R)139	Dated 1867	Lake Windermere

There are no archive records of the Board (Westland, Canterbury National, NZGB card indices) relating to Lake Windemere, Lake Windermere or Okaritoito.

Henry James Fletcher's index of Māori place names was searched online through Waikato University for Okaritoito, but it was not listed.

Lake Windemere is located within Waitangioto Nature Reserve, and is adjacent to the Okarito Forest Conservation Area.

The evidence provided by the submitter concludes that this lake was named after Lake Windermere in England. The submitter has requested that the Board exercise its responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling, in terms of Section 8(1)(b) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 [*now Section 15(1)(b) of the 2008 Act*]. The Board should note that its discretion to uphold misspelled place names which have been in long term local usage, may not apply for this place name, given that it does not appear to be a place name that would attract controversy or contention.

There is no conclusive evidence of this lake feature having been named after the English lake – the documentation provided by the submitter does not provide a clear link. However, the documentary evidence of maps and plans shows both spellings spanning back to 1867.

Lake Windermere or Ōkārītoiti/Lake Windermere

(spelling alteration)

North of Okarito Lagoon, South Westland

General Background

At the Board's previous meeting of 27 March 2009, it was agreed that the English spelling of this name should be corrected to Windermere from Windemere, as it has been consistently spelt Windermere on a number of historical documents, reference sources, maps and plans. However, the Board agreed to **defer** its decision on this proposal in order to consult and seek the views of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, on the original Māori name for this lake. The proposal and Board archive records revealed that the original Māori name for this lake appeared to be Okaritoito.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu were asked to provide any further views or information relating to this original Māori name for this lake. In particular the Board is interested in:

- whether Okaritoito is the correct original/traditional Māori name;
- is it spelt correctly and do macrons apply;
- what is its meaning;
- what is the history associated with its naming;
- is Okaritoito supported by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu;
- would a dual name be supported or is there a preference to replace Windermere completely; and
- any other relevant information that can be provided.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu responded in a letter of 10 August 2009, advising that the Māori name for this lake is Okaritoiti, not Okaritoito. The *iti* meaning small, as distinct from the larger Okarito Lagoon, to the south. Ngāi Tahu has said that if this feature is to be dual named, their preference is for Okaritoiti/Lake Windermere.

Henry James Fletcher's entry:

OKARITO	A lagoon in Westland. <i>J.P.S.</i> 18:198. <i>M.B.</i> 2:69. <i>Trans.</i> 2:66; 4:202; 5:175-180, 195, 389; 6:383; 9:580; 10:386-389; 11:386-391, 435-444, 456-458, 534, 573; 12:396-397; 18:127; 28:329; 38:340, 584; 44:56-57.
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J.P.S. *Journal of the Polynesian Society*. Vols. 1-19 (1892- 1910)

Trans. *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*. Vols. 1-42 (1868-1910)

A W Reed's *Illustrated Māori Place Names* provides an entry for Ōkārīto: *ō* (the place of); *kārīto* (bulrush. A place where bulrushes grow plentifully.)"

The Board's card index provides a comment "According to an article in the Grey River Argus, June 17, 1908 Okarito – to stab an evil spirit."

Confirmation of the placement of macrons should be confirmed by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

The Board may also wish to consider altering the spelling of the following geographical names, by adding the macrons, subject to TTWh confirmation:

- Okarito Lagoon;
- Okarito (locality at the south of the lagoon);
- Okarito River (flowing into the lagoon).

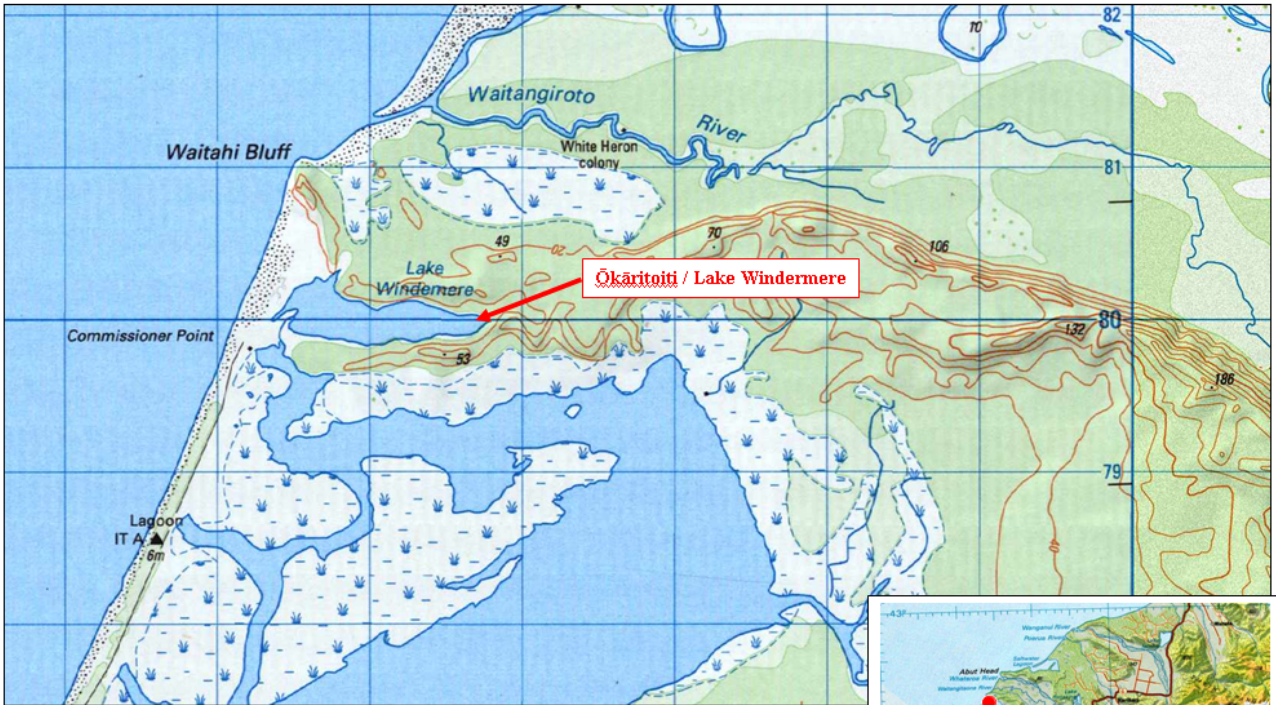
These are classified as Recorded Names, i.e. they have not been gazetted as official by the Board.

It may be advisable to consult with the Territorial Authority on the possible renaming of the locality of Okarito to Ōkārīto, to seek their views before deciding to proceed to public notification.

The Board may also wish to consider altering the spelling of the following Crown Protected Area names, by adding the macrons, subject to TTWh confirmation, and subject to agreement by the Department of Conservation:

- Okarito Forks Ecological Area;
- Okarito Lagoon Wildlife Management Reserve;
- Okarito Recreation Reserve;
- Okarito School House Historic Reserve.

Maps



Topo50 BW15 and BW16

