

Putakoro Head

coastal feature along Banks Peninsula

(spelling correction)

General Background

This place name was noted by Professor Wharehuia Milroy at the workshop on Generic Geographic Features held on 21 February 2006. Currently misspelt as Putakolo Head and published on mapping and survey plans as follows:

Putakoto Head	NZMS 1, S85&S95, edition 1, dated 1942
Putakolo Head	NZMS 1, S85&S95, edition 1, dated 1963
	NZMS 1, S85&S95, edition 1, dated 1975
	Infomap 260-N36, edition 2, dated 1983
	Infomap 260-N36, edition 2, dated 1998
Putakoto Head	SO 2839, dated 1880
Putakolo Head	SO 3080, dated 1885

Not considered by the Board through its statutory process and no archives records exist.

Meaning/Translation:

- Putakoto could have many meanings. Literally (from Williams) Puta means an opening, hole or perforation; move from one place to another; pass through; come; escape, survive; appear, come into sight; be born. Literally (from Williams) Koto means loathing, averse; small, of no account; pull up; sob or make low sound. ‘Place-names of Banks Peninsula: A Topographical History’ by Johannes Carl Andersen, published in 1927, records this name as Putakolo Head describing: “It is spelt Puta-Kolo on the F.C.B.P. [French chart of Banks Peninsula, prepared in 1844-45 by officers of *Le Rhin*], and Poutokoro on M.M. [Mantel, on map numbered 140 (red) in Christchurch Land Office]. It is an instance of the confusion of spelling caused by the ‘r’ sound in Māori, which at times approached the sound of ‘l’”.

Duplication:

- There are no duplications of Putakoto or Poutokoro.

To date, no consultation has been undertaken Ngāi Tahu iwi, but this should be pursued.

Place Name Proposal Report

20 April 2007

Putakoto Head or Poutokoro Head or Putakoro Head

coastal feature along Banks Peninsula

(spelling correction)

General Background

At the Board's previous meeting of 8 November 2006, the minutes recorded the following:

"The Board noted that this place name was raised by Dr Wharehuia Milroy at the workshop on Generic Geographic Features held on 21 February 2006. It is currently 'misspelt' as Putakolo Head. The Board noted that where its members or the Secretary made a submission, then the relevant form may not necessarily need to be filled out.

The Board noted that Putakolo was similar to Little Akaloa, i.e. Akaroa. The 'l' and the 'r' shift are accepted by linguists as transferable. Sir Tipene O'Regan's understanding is that the early Mantell (1850s) recording of Poutokoro is correct – Mantell being scholarly and well-educated. Could be Putakoto. The Board noted the several variations of the spellings. Kolo and Koro are the same (meaning throat), but Koto has another meaning. Linguistically the 'r' is in preference to the 'l'. The Board discussed whether Putakolo should remain as it is consistent with the 1844 chart. However, further support and evidence for changing this name, to Poutokoro or Putakoro, needs to be obtained. The Board agreed to defer for Ngāi Tahu to comment on and more research to occur through an Honours student from Canterbury University.

Action Required

Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan to refer to an Honours student (Geography Department) at Canterbury University for review and a short paper, and then ask Mr Takerei Norton to check what the feelings of the Rūnanga are in the area."

Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan to report to the Board on progress with the actions raised by the Board.

Place Name Proposal Report

9 November 2007

Putakoto Head or Poutokoro Head or Putakoro Head

coastal feature along Banks Peninsula

(spelling correction)

General Background

Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan to advise of any progress with assigning a review and a short paper to a Geography Honours student, to establish linguistic correctness, historical assignment, and local/common usage of these spellings for this coastal feature on Banks Peninsula.

Place Name Proposal Report

7 April 2008

Putakoto Head or Poutokoro Head or Putakoro Head

coastal feature along Banks Peninsula

(spelling correction)

General Background

At the previous meeting of 9 November 2007, the Board noted that Dr Garth Cant (Department of Geography, Canterbury University) had promised a post graduate research student this coming semester, to undertake the investigation into archival records. The Board noted that there could be some further delay because the student needed to complete her thesis last year. The Board noted that Dr Garth Cant had used this work required by the Board to get a FoRST or MoRST grant into his department to fund the research, and he was very grateful to the Board to be able to do this.

In February 2008, Garth Cant advised that the thesis student he had in mind did complete her thesis and then went on an almost immediate OE. Garth advised that there was a ten per cent chance that she will be in NZ in time to be useful and was in the process of checking that out. He suggested that a plan B might be in order.

Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan may advise of any further progress at the April 2008 meeting.

With respect to the local rūnanga views, the Board previously heard from Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan at the last meeting that no-one locally (of the Rūnanga) actually knows which is the correct spelling – only that the 'l' should become an 'r'. But there is no knowledge of what of the vowels should be.

Place Name Proposal Report

27 March 2009

Putakoto Head or Poutokoro Head or Putakoro Head

coastal feature along Banks Peninsula

(spelling correction)

General Background

Extract from minutes of 7 April 2009:

“The Board noted the three variations of spelling for this prominent coastal geographic feature. The Board noted that the head was a significant coastal geographical feature at the eastern-most extremity of Banks Peninsula, making it a navigational point of some significance to maritime safety. The Board noted it is a linguistic matter and assimilated it to the varying opinions on the spelling of Akaroa/Akaloa. The Board noted that further consultation and discussion with Rapaki Runaka (Ngāi Wheke) is scheduled to take place, but acknowledged that a resolution out of this meeting may be unlikely.

Resolution: To DEFER on the basis that more consultation is to take place.

Action Required

- Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan to consult with Ngāi Tahu on their knowledge of the name of the feature and seek Ngāi Tahu's opinion on this linguistic issue.
- Canterbury University research paper to be considered.
- The issue to be discussed at the subsequent Board meeting.”

Immediately after the April 2008 meeting of the Board, correspondence occurred with Canterbury University on the research that was originally sought through Garth Cant, Geography Department. There was some initial confusion about funding for the research. The Secretariat offered assistance with searching historical records. No further word re the progress or completion of the research (being undertaken by Beth Watson) has been advised since July 2008. Any further information received in the meantime from Canterbury University, will be tabled at the meeting.

Dr Sir Tipene O'Regan to advise the Board at its upcoming meeting of the discussions with Ngāti Wheke and any recommendations.

Place Name Proposal Report

16 September 2009

Poutākoro Head *coastal feature along Banks Peninsula* *(spelling correction)*

General Background

At the Board's last meeting of 27 March 2009, the Board agreed to defer its decision on this proposal, so as to allow the relevant rūnanga to consider all of the research. Also, the Board wished to express its thanks to Beth Watson for her research paper, which was done in a letter of 16 April 2009.

A subsequent letter from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu dated 7 July 2009 advises that Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have reviewed the report and both support the recommendation in the research report, i.e. that Putakolo Head be changed to Poutakoro Head.

Macron to be added as per advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission).

Poutākoro Head

(alteration)

Banks Peninsula

General Background

This proposal was previously considered by the Board at its 16 September 2009 meeting, at which the Board accepted the spelling alteration from 'Putakolo Head' (a recorded name) to 'Poutākoro Head' (with a macron over the 'a'). The Board agreed to proceed to publicly notify the proposed change for a one month period, which began on 5 November 2009 and concluded on 11 December 2009.

The English meaning for Poutākoro: pou means upright/standing; koro means throat (which could be used to refer to the hole in the stack formation of the feature); alternatively tākoro means play (which has less applicable context to this feature).

Two objecting submissions were received from residents of Banks Peninsula during this public consultation period; with summaries as follows (refer to copies of the full submissions attached), to be considered by the Board under Section 18(1)(a) of the NZGB Act 2008.

Objecting Submissions

Submitter	Summary of Reasons for Objection and other Comments	Support for Existing Name or Suggest Alternative Name
Harry Stronach (rec'd 9/12/2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical of the Board's research, based on what he had seen published on the website, so provided him with a copy of the research report completed by Beth Watson. • There is no evidence that the current name is misspelt. • There is no evidence that the proposed name has any historical context or relevance. • Appropriate consultation has not been undertaken. • Accepted usage supports the current name being retained. • The precedent set by this change would be unacceptable. • The safety of seafarers has not been considered. 	<i>Existing:</i> Putakolo Head
Christopher E Grigg (rec'd 9/12/2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name is currently and historically Putakoto Head (and as noted sometimes spelt on survey plans as Putakolo). • It is a distinctive northern headland of Hickory Bay (Waikerikikeri) on the east coast of Banks Peninsula. • This headland was in the ownership of our (Grigg) family for over fifty years and holds special significance both as a landscape feature as well as culturally – parents ashes are buried, upon their express wishes, on the Putakoto headland. I have left instructions for my ashes to rest there also. • The meaning/translation of Putakoto is easily derived from the Puta meaning hole and koto meaning sob or low sound. There is a blowhole situated below the headland which emits a low moaning sound in certain southerly swells. In heavier swells, a plume of spray is also forced out and up sometimes well over one hundred feet. • I note that the workshop on Generic Geographic Features held on 21 February 2006, it is noted by Professor Milroy that the place name in question is, quote, 'currently misspelt as Putakolo Head'. • As I understand it, the Māori language is devoid of 	<i>Alternative:</i> Putakoto Head

	<p>the letter 'l' and thus I agree Putakoto would be a more correct spelling. However I can see no reason to assume that the 'l' should follow the Akaloa to Akaroa argument and be replaced with an 'r'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr (Sir) Tipene O'Regan, at the 20th April 2007 meeting, noted Mantell's spelling, but then stated, quote, 'could be Putakoto'. • The research undertaken by the student, Beth Watson, does not appear to have been used or even made available to the Board in its deliberations. Certainly we as previous owners were not asked to contribute to the research paper. • In the early 1980's Te Awaroa (Bill) Nepia, Head of School of Māori and Indigenous Studies at Canterbury University, regularly stayed in our cottage with students and established a keen interest in the Māori history of the bay which he shared with us. I cannot recall him ever questioning the name or spelling of Putakoto Head. 	
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Comments on Objections

Contrary to the submitters' views that the Board had limited information on which to base its decision, the comprehensive research undertaken by Beth Watson was considered at the Board's meeting of 16 September 2009.

The spelling of the name has been consistently misspelt on records throughout history, and in the final analysis the Board was guided by the recommendation of the research which looked to Mantell as the most reliable source.

Initial consultation had occurred with tangata whenua Māori, as this is a Māori place name. Both Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu contributed, reviewed and concurred with the research report. Other early consultation was undertaken, as indicated in the research report, including the Historic Places Trust and other iwi. The requirements for the Board's statutory notification to the general public were met with the newspapers (Sunday Star Times and the Christchurch Press); the Gazette Notice; LINZ webpages; and email advice to several local newspapers. This general public notification is an aspect that is often criticized by the public as not being sufficient, but the Board has budget constraints that prevent unlimited advertising/notification/consultation.

Long-term usage was considered by the Board as were navigational aid and maritime safety considerations. The shift from Putakolo to Poutākoro was not considered by the Board to adversely compromise location identification of this coastal feature, particularly in terms of pronunciation.

Precedent is not necessarily a significant concern for the Board in its decision making. Rather, the weighing up of naming rules, guidelines, standards and legislative functions take precedence. In this case, the desire was to correct the spelling and to restore an original Māori name, in an orthographically correct form.

Therefore the application of a macron was applied in accordance with the orthographic conventions advised by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission).

Support for Existing Name or Suggested Alternative Name in Objecting Submissions

Putakolo Head: the Board shall note the reasons for the objection from Harry Stronach, and his support for the existing name of Putakolo Head to remain.

Putakoto Head: this spelling was addressed in the research report, and was not supported. The Board shall note the reasons for the objection from Christopher E Grigg, and his suggestion for an alternative spelling of Putakoto Head.

Iwi Consultation

As stated above, Te Rūnanga o Kōkourārata and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu had earlier advised of their support for 'Poutākoro Head'.

Conclusion

Despite the well-reasoned arguments provided with the two objecting submissions, and their suggestions for 'Putakolo Head' and 'Putakoto Head', the evidence presented, consultation undertaken, and conclusion drawn, in the research report, as endorsed by local iwi, would be difficult to dismiss. It would appear that the Board can make a decision in favour of 'Poutākoro Head', but that would mean rejecting the two objections, and therefore the Board cannot make the final determination. Rather, the Minister for Land Information would be required to make the final determination.

Map

