

From: [NZGB](#)
To: [nzgbproposals](#)
Subject: NZGB Place Name Proposal Form: Takaanini - double "a" after the "k", (no macron)
Date: Monday, 26 February 2024 9:44:58 pm

There has been a place name proposal submitted through the NZGB Place Name Proposal Form.

Recipient Data:

Time Finished: 2024-02-26 21:43:50 NZDT

IP: s.9(2)(a)

ResponseID: s.9(2)(a)

Link to View Results: s.9(2)(a)

URL to View Results: s.9(2)(a)

Response Summary:

*Where is the proposed place name located?
New Zealand or its offshore islands

Our standards have essential information to help you decide whether to proceed with your proposal...
I have read and understood the Standard for New Zealand place names

Your contact details.

*First name: s.9(2)(a)
*Last name: s.9(2)(a)
*Email address: s.9(2)(a)@gmail.com
*Phone number: s.9(2)(a)

*What do you want to propose?
Change or correct a place name

*What name do you want to change? See the New Zealand Gazetteer
Takanini - (single 'a' after the 'k')

*What is your proposed change?
Takaanini - double 'a' after the 'k', (no macron)

*What type of place or feature is it? For example, bay, maunga, glacier, area. For feature types...
A suburb (tapa tāone) of the Papakura District

*What are the reasons for your proposal?
Summary Statement

1. In conjunction with Te Ākitai Waiohū I respectfully ask that the suburb officially named Takanini since 1950 be re-named to its correct form – Takaanini – under the powers of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa 2008, 10. 1. c. ii correcting the spelling of a name.
2. All authorities accept that the spelling of Takanini is wrong; the word is literally meaningless in te Reo Māori. There is some debate remaining about whether or not the correct spelling is Takaanini or Takaānini with a macron, which is the preference of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori The Māori Language Commission. I submit at length on this later in my submission to show that in this case Te Taura Whiri is wrong in terms of their own Orthographic Guidelines.
3. I am not seeking an official change to the name of the railway station as Board policy prevents anyone other than the relevant rail authority making such application. Nor do I seek the re-naming of the school or any other government asset that may exist in the suburb. The relevant rail authority, AT

(Auckland Transport), in conjunction with Auckland Council, NZTA Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail and mana whenua, has already informally changed the station name to the correct spelling. The school and education authorities will almost certainly follow suit as will the Papakura Local Board by changing relevant names within their jurisdiction. They do not oppose the process I am asking for. The change I seek will further influence a process of change that is already occurring in spite of the NZGB Act provisions. I will provide significant evidence of this change later in my submission.

4. By making this change from Takanini to Takaanini the NZGB will right a wrong made by its 1951 equivalent. Again, I will substantiate this point later in my submission.

5. The fact that the current spelling is wrong can be traced to an error made by NZ Government Railways in 1913. They wished to honour the name of Ihaka Takaanini, rangatira of Te Ākitai Waiohua, from whom land in this district was taken for railway purposes in 1878. This spelling mistake was then imitated by other government agencies, local authorities and land developers over the following 16 years. How this happened will be explained later in my submission.

6. In 1929, the incorrect spelling was successfully challenged by iwi representatives at the then Honorary Geographic Board. After deliberating, the HGB concluded that the name of the station should be changed to Takaanini. They made this recommendation to NZR. They did not have any powers to make or enforce a decision and railways ignored them. This was a hollow victory for iwi.

7. The issue was re-litigated in 1950 following the establishment in 1946 of the New Zealand Geographic Board under its own Act. This Act gave the new Board significant decision-making and enforcement powers. The re-litigation of Takaanini is dealt with at length later in my submission.

8. The most recent acts in this story are unusual. In 2018, the group of agencies outlined in 3. above concurred in an unofficial spelling change for the railway station which AT then effected. The change drew some media attention but little by way of public reaction. However, as Surveyor-General Anselm Haanen remarked in media coverage these agencies were in technical breach of the Act, which binds the Crown. More recently, alterations to road signage and park names have been made, reinforcing the correct spelling.

9. In conjunction with mana whenua and after discussion at the Papakura Local Board I am seeking the official re-naming of the suburb to Takaanini. This will have consequence for other government agencies but little for members of the public and local businesses. While the 2008 Act binds the Crown it doesn't apply directly to private citizens.

10. Nobody enjoys having their name misspelt. In making this submission I am doing nothing more than asking that the courtesy of correct spelling be extended to the family and descendants of Ihaka and Te Wirihihana Takaanini. The name is still alive and being used by family members to this day. The fact that the unofficial change in 2018 went almost unremarked shows how times have changed. The intransigence of NZR and NZPO and the acceptance of Takanini by the NZGB of the day, not just for the railway station but also for the post office and the district, has caused a lot of grief. When NZR claimed to be honouring the Takaanini name they were in fact doing the opposite. This has been allowed to continue for 110 years. It is time to put an end to it - officially.

Supporting information Please provide as much information as possible to explain and support your...

- *A map or chart with the exact location of the place or feature clearly marked.
- *The history, origin, and/or meaning of the proposed name.
- *Evidence of orthography, for example macrons for Māori names, and correct spelling for personal names.
- *Evidence of consultation with local iwi, marae, or other Māori groups with ancestral interests.
- *Evidence that the person the place or feature is being named for is no longer alive, and evidence of the significance of their association. Consultation with their family is preferred.
- *Evidence of consultation with the relevant council for a populated place such as a city, town, suburb or locality.

*Upload a map or chart (maximum size 100mb) Only one file at a time can be attached to each upload...
https://landinformationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsControlPanel/File.php?F=F_1ifEquP9jNYUuwG

Upload history, origin, and/or meaning of the proposed name. (maximum size 100mb). Only one file...
https://landinformationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsControlPanel/File.php?F=F_3094IdyRuy46ZU4

Upload evidence of orthography (maximum size 100mb). Only one file at a time can be attached to e...
https://landinformationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsControlPanel/File.php?F=F_DFW7T3wosJOHIYx

Upload evidence of consultation (maximum size 100mb). Only one file at a time can be attached to...
s.9(2)(a)

Upload evidence relating to a personal name (maximum size 100mb). Only one file at a time can be...

https://landinformationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsControlPanel/File.php?F=F_pgBTwnnxt15P1cZ

Upload evidence of consultation with the relevant council for a populated place (maximum size 100...

s.9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

The meaning and history of the name, Takaanini.

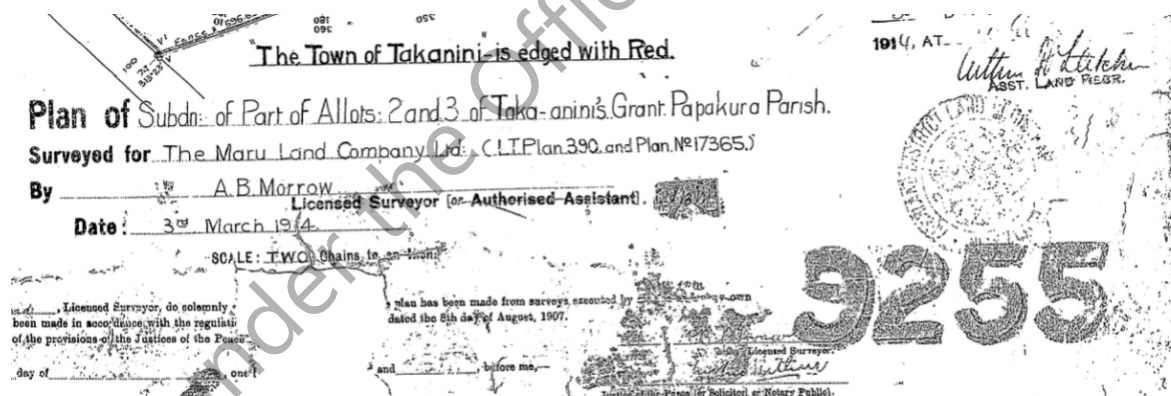
Summary

1. The suburb of Papakura is named Takanini in the NZ Gazetteer, therefore **Takanini** is the present, official form of the word and has been since 1950. All authorities agree it is incorrect. In te Reo Māori it doesn't exist; it is literally meaningless.
2. The word **Takanini** first appeared as the name of a new railway station opened in 1913 between Manurewa and Papakura. The North Island Main Trunk Line ran through land commonly known and referred to as 'Takaanini's Grant', and the new station was developed on this land. NZ Government Railways (NZR) chose to name the station in honour of Ihaka **Takaanini**, rangatira of Te Ākitai Waiohū and the man from whose estate the Crown acquired this land for future railway purposes in 1878. The land was taken by proclamation from '**Taka-anini's** Grant'. 'Taka-anini's Grant' (with the hyphen) was the term used by Governor George Grey in 1863 when he awarded 1120 acres of former Native Reserve between Manurewa and Papakura to Ihaka Takaanini.
3. NZR cannot have consulted Ihaka's family before naming the station Takanini. The certificates of title they undoubtedly had access to would have referred to 'Taka-anini'. Unfortunately, NZR didn't check the spelling. The new station prompted significant development of the area and the name **Takanini** quickly became a marketing tool for land developers and a label for other government assets such as the post office and school. Takanini effectively began forming as a residential suburb rather than a farming district from about 1914. Almost all the residential development was occurring on land that had been 'Takaanini's Grant'.
4. In 1926, NZR repeated their blunder of 1913. They opened another station between Manurewa and Takanini naming it **Mahia**, ostensibly after Takaanini's granddaughter whose name was actually **Te Mahia**. With the proliferation of the word Takanini in the fast-urbanising district and this latest faux pas the patience of local Māori ran out. The station names that could have been a source of pride had become a source of hurt and embarrassment.
5. On behalf of iwi, in 1929 the Akarana Maori Association appealed to the recently established Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand (HGB) to have the spellings corrected to Takaanini and Te Mahia. After hearing argument from NZR and NZ Post and Telegraph, the HGB agreed with the petitioners and accepted the corrections. However, because the HGB had no powers of enforcement their recommendation for change in the Takanini instance was ignored. The other station was re-named Te Mahia and remains so. For NZR and NZPO, the difference was explained by the length of time the incorrect name had been used and the difficulty the public would have in adjusting to such a change!

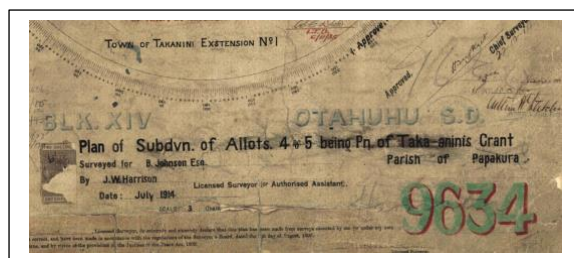
6. When a new authority, the New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB), was established in 1946 it promptly rendered official the decisions of the HGB and set about reviewing them all. In 1949/50 it reviewed the decisions relating to Takanini and overturned the HGB decision, accepting the argument put by NZR that the public had got used to **Takanini** and returning to that incorrect spelling. Worse, they extended the official but incorrect name to the district as well. The area was defined as a district because it was still largely involved with agriculture.
7. It is a great shame that NZR's work in 1913 was so sloppy. They weren't even guided by the spelling on their own title documents and the Crown Grant to Taka-anini they would certainly have referred to. So, what should have been a source of some pride and consolation for Takaanini's family became a source of hurt and gives continuing offence. No-one enjoys having their name misspelt. To have it knowingly misspelt for more than 70 years – more than 100 years if the railway station is the measure point - makes it seem more than a 'mistake'. At best, it is very bad manners.

Detailed History

8. In 1914, the Maru Land Company owned land near the new station. Anticipating growth, they subdivided their land into housing sections and for marketing purposes named the subdivision 'The Town of Takanini', after the station.



9. Other local landowners quickly recognised the opportunity, subdividing their holdings. These were then named 'Town of Takanini – Extensions.' There were four of these bringing hundreds of housing sections to market by the early 1920s. Extensions 1 & 3 shown below.



10. In 1915, NZ Post and Telegraph (NZPO) opened a new post office and, following NZR's lead, called it **Takanini**. In 1923, the Auckland Education Board followed suit with **Takanini** School which appeared on School Rd, soon to be **Takanini** School Rd. The impact of NZR's mistake grew, and they repeated the same bad mistake when they another new station opened between Manurewa and Takanini in 1926. They named the station Mahia, after Te Wirihana Takaanini's daughter (Ihaka's granddaughter). Her actual name was Te Mahia.
11. Perhaps this was the straw that broke the camel's back. On behalf of local Māori, the Akarana Maori Association appealed to the relatively new Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand (HGB)¹ to have the names changed to Takaanini and Te Mahia respectively. Against the objections of NZR and NZPO, the HGB agreed with the petitioners and the name changes were accepted.
12. Unfortunately, it was a hollow victory for iwi. The HGB had no powers of enforcement and NZR and NZPO could and did ignore them.



DP9255 (pictured at 8 above) incorporated Taka St and, in the future, Takanini Reserve, recently re-named Takaanini Reserve by Auckland Council (above).

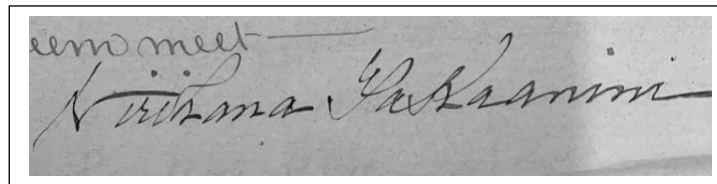
¹ Established in 1924 but without any powers to enforce its decisions.

13. The issue re-surfaced in the late 1940s. In 1946 government established the re-named New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) with its own Act of Parliament and accompanying powers. The new Board immediately gazetted all decisions made by the HGB and then set about reviewing them against the NZGB mandate. In 1949, the railway stations came up for review.
14. NZR and NZPO again objected - this time on the grounds that the names had been in place a long time and the public had got used to them. This time they had to take more notice since the new NZGB had some muscle.
15. Rail and Post had one of the members of the NZGB apparently on their side for linguistic reasons. Sir Āpirana Ngata, an able scholar of te Reo Māori, apparently argued that when two words coalesce, and the first ends with a vowel and the second starts with the same vowel, the second of the vowels is dropped – thus, Taka + ānini = Takanini.
16. This is simply not correct. It is so wrong that it is much more likely the person who took down the ailing Ngata's words either mistook or misunderstood what he said. Following this line of reasoning would see **Takanini**, a return to its 1913 form. Ngata was absent from the critical June 1950 meeting and sadly, within weeks, Ngata was dead. He never had the opportunity to clear up the confusion created partly in his name. At the meeting most of the discussion had centred on the matter of pronunciation and the need for the spelling to guide pronunciation. The meeting opted for the macron - **Takānini**. The Gazette notice was printed without the macron, effectively returning to the pre-1913 status quo – **Takanini** – which everyone knew was incorrect.
17. At the 1951 meeting of the NZGB, the mistake survived one final effort by those wanting the proper spelling. Taking the lead in this was NZGB member, Johannes Andersen. He had been a member of the HGB in 1930 and was disturbed that the 1950 decision had not been properly implemented. In to and fro correspondence it was settled that the matter would be put on the agenda for the 1951 meeting. His preferred spelling was **Taka-ānini**. The relevant minute from that meeting was:

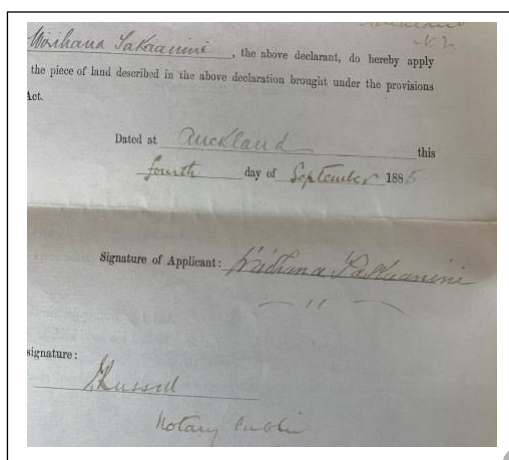
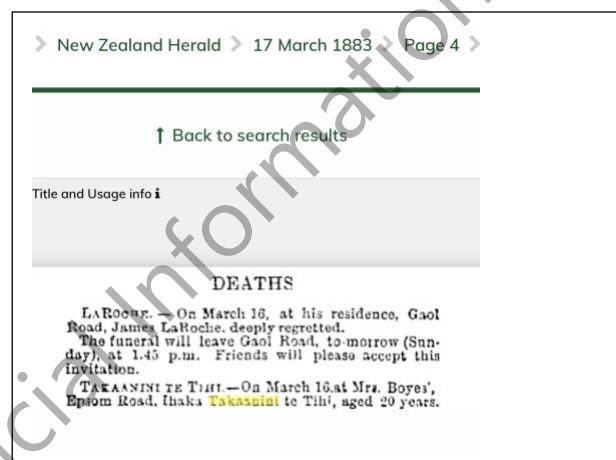
(2) The use of the double vowel in Maori names was discussed at some length. It was resolved that where an incorrect Maori name is adopted by virtue of its usage over a long period, the correct version be noted in the remarks column of the Gazette Notice, and that the component parts of compound Maori names, if known, be noted

18. None of the placatory words were given effect to. The mistake, **Takanini**, lived on for another 68 years.
19. The word **Takaanini** is the spelling used by Te Wirihana Takaanini, the only surviving child of Ihaka Takaanini and his wife, Riria, in 1883. When formally establishing his identity and entitlement to inherit Ihaka's estate, Te Wirihana signed sworn evidence

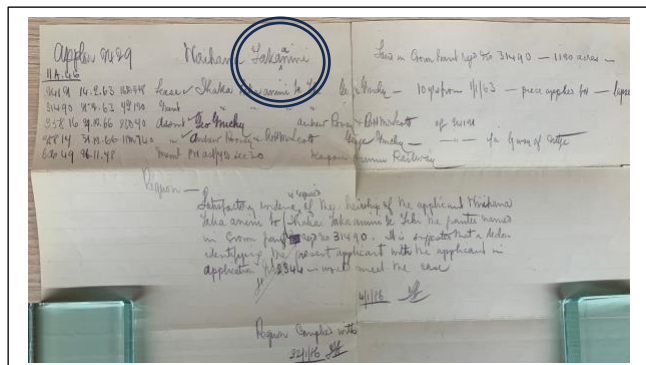
at the Supreme Court in Auckland. His signature from this application is shown below; clearly the family spelling must have been well-established before 1883.



20. Te Wirihana's last surviving sibling was Ihaka the Younger who died in 1883. His death notice in the NZ Herald is also shown below as is his signature on the application to have 'Taka-anini's Grant' removed from native title under the Land Transfer Act of 1863.

Many examples establish the spelling as **Takaanini**. One of the more telling (*circled right*) is the correction made to an 1885 title search at Jackson Russell Solicitors' office. This search occurred before Te Wirihana sold 'Taka-anini's Grant' to Samuel Jackson in February 1886. Takaanini's name was spelt incorrectly. By the searcher. Whoever checked the searcher's handwritten note² made the correction inserting the extra 'a' above a caret.



In the HGB's 1930 hearing re the correct naming of Takanini Station, NZR wrote seeking a decision. They expected to be supported in the status quo. Unexpected independent corroboration of the iwi appeal came from HGB member Maurice Crompton-Smith who said the name was spelt 'Takaanini' when he was at school with one of the family.

² Probably Samuel Jackson himself who had a long association with the family until his death in 1913

[illegible]

There many such examples to illustrate the point that **Takaanini** was well-established and accepted as the family's name at least 30 years before 1913.



Evidence of the orthography of the personal name, Takaanini

Takanini **X** or Taka-anini **X** or Takānini **X** or Takaānini **X(?)** or Takaanini **✓**
or Taka-ānini **X** or(Tackaninny **X X**)

Introduction

All parties including the government established language authority, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori|The Māori Language Commission (TTW), agree the current spelling, **Takanini**, is both wrong and, literally, meaningless.

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa Act 2008, outlines the principal responsibilities of the agency. Clause 10.1.c.ii states the requirement to 'correct the spelling of a name'.

The options are Takaanini or Takaānini. Given that the NZGB seems obliged to act and correct the spelling mistake they have sought advice from TTW as their Act encourages. TTW has responded with advice that leads to **Takaānini** – with a macron. The local preference is clearly for **Takaanini** without. Crucially, the whānau preference is for Takaanini, the name still carried by family members and well-established by 1883.

It is puzzling that TTR's advice to the NZGB in 2023 doesn't even mention let alone address Section Three of its own published guidelines concerning 'proper names' and macron use. Its advice is focussed solely on the word as a common noun transferring its conclusion, which is debatable, straight across to the proper name.

It is unfortunate that this decision has been wrongly seen as just part of a struggle for standardisation, in this case for the use of macrons to indicate long vowels instead of doubling the vowel which some iwi prefer. The tension between these choices has increased since 1987 when TTW was established and adopted the macron approach as part of its response to its mandate to standardise the orthography of te Reo Māori. The name Takaanini was well-established before the macron appeared in this context.

I have shown that the initial error seems to date back to 1913¹ and the decision by NZR to honour Ihaka Takaanini from whom land was taken in 1878 for railway purposes. In spelling his name incorrectly NZR triggered a flock of other agencies and land developers to follow suit. Efforts by iwi and others to correct this mistake failed until 2018 when a group of major Crown agencies decided to take matter into their own hands and make the change – unilaterally, unofficially, and in technical breach of the New Zealand Geographic Board's Act of 2008 that binds every agency carrying a [govt.nz email](#) address unless specifically exempted.

¹ Or NZ Post and Telegraph may have used the name in 1911 except that other the post office itself was first established in 1915 in the railway station building itself. [Ref Papers Past](#)

Discussion

1. The government body responsible for determining issues in the orthography of te Reo Māori is Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori | The Māori Language Commission (TTW). Their advice to users is presented in the publication *Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori Guidelines for Māori Language Orthography (2012)*.
2. The relevant Guideline is Section Three, page 13, paragraph 2 *Macron use in proper names*.

'Macron use in proper names

*As with all other Māori words, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori recommends that macrons be used to indicate long vowels in names, where they are known. It is important for the historical record that the meaning and correct pronunciation of names from the past are preserved. **However, this convention must be tempered by a respect for people spelling their names as they like.** As a general rule, it is recommended that the names of people from pre-1950 be written with macrons. Otherwise **personal names should be written with macrons only where the writer is confident this won't cause offence to the person whose name it is.** For the names of those people still living, use the form that they use or give their consent for you to use.'* [the emphases are mine]

3. The capital **T** of **Takaanini** informs us that this word is a proper noun. It is a man's name attached to a railway station to honour the person who provided the land on which the station stands. The man's family still lives in the area and there are family members who still carry the **Takaanini** name – no macron, no hyphen just **Takaanini** spelt as it has been since at least 1883 but probably even earlier. It had already weathered Takanini in 1842 and Taka-anini in 1863. It has never had a macron.
4. The Guideline quoted above is focussed on the names of people. Perhaps TTW was not aware that the suburb of Takanini (sic) was so-named in honour of a particular man. Perhaps they thought they were dealing with just a place name whose name arose from some local geography or story. Whatever, in providing advice on the orthography of Takaanini they don't seem to have considered that in **Takaanini** we are discussing a place name, a suburb of Papakura, that memorialises a person, Ihaka Takaanini, so two classes of proper noun - people's names and specific place names - are in action simultaneously.
5. Given TTW's requirement to standardise the orthography of te Reo Māori it makes sense that they recommend a general rule. However, they show they understand that the requirement to standardise cannot be imposed as an ironclad rule. In the case of Takaanini, application of the rule has to be 'tempered' by two things - respect for people spelling their names as they like, and confidence that use of the macron won't cause offence to the person whose name it is. For the first, respect for personal choice, Te Wirihihana Takaanini was spelling the family name 'Takaanini' from 1883 at

the very latest. With regard to offence, the current spelling is wrong and has given hurt and offence since 1913. Changing the name to **Takaanini** in 2024 but then adding a macron may make matters worse. Did TTW consult Te Ākitai Waiohū before offering naming advice to the NZGB? If not, they should have.

6. NZGB recently sought advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori|The Māori Language Commission (TTW) about the correct spelling of **Takaanini**. In response TTW said:

*“**Takaānini** is a compound of **taka** (a prefix in words involving a sense of revolution or circuit) and **ānini** meaning giddy (having a sensation of whirling etc). It is a word in its own right and is glossed as giddy, dizzy. The prefix **taka** also appears in the word **takaāmio** which means to go round about, whirling round and **takaāwhio** which also means to go around about.*

*The correct orthography is **Takaānini**.”*

7. TTW’s conclusion that the correct orthography is **Takaānini** is interesting but not persuasive. The advice stems from general guidelines about common nouns – nouns that are not capitalised. With **Takaanini** we are not dealing with a common noun; we are dealing with a proper noun, a man’s name. TTW’s advice doesn’t consider the capital ‘T’.
8. Section One of *Guidelines for Māori Language Orthography* deals with long and short vowels. Part One of Section One, paragraphs 1-6, deals with simple words – simple even though some may be multi-syllabled. Paragraph 7 deals with Exceptions.

“7. EXCEPTIONS: In words made up of distinct word-parts or ‘morphemes’ ... if the last vowel of the first word-part is short, and that vowel is also the first letter of the second word-part, **the two vowels are written separately in place of a macronised single vowel.**” (The emphasis is TTW’s).

The word ‘morpheme’ needs some definition.

- It is a word or part of a word that has meaning.
 - It cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts without violation of its meaning or without meaningless remainders.
 - It recurs in differing word environments with a relatively stable meaning.
9. On this definition, **taka** and **ānini** are morphemes: meaningful, not further divisible, and capable of carrying meaning into other contexts. Te Aka Māori Dictionary cites **taka** as:

(particle) A prefix in words involving a sense of revolution, rotation, or circuit, e.g. takaāmio, takahuri.

Is the **taka** of Takaanini the 'prefix' **taka** cited in Guidelines 7.4 below or the 'word-part' **taka** as cited in 7. *Exceptions* above? In either event, we are discussing its role in a common noun.

10. Considering '7. *Exceptions*', **Taka + ānini = Takaanini** seems to fit. The proper name has two distinct word-parts and the same vowel at the end of the first part and the beginning of the second. The only question might be whether the short 'a' at the end of **taka** should be matched by a short 'a' at the beginning of **ānini**, when clearly that is a long 'a' now that it has acquired a macron.

There are five circumstances where exceptions are required to the general application of macrons in place of double-vowels. They are listed as 7.1 - 7.5 on *Guidelines pp5-6*:

- a. 7.1 is useful because it confirms the incorrectness of the 1950 NZGB compromise decision (not implemented) of **Takānini**.
- b. 7.2 discusses reduplication of word parts and doesn't apply.
- c. 7.3 deals with instances where words were once distinct and separate. The question here is whether **taka** and **anini** once existed as distinct words (historically, it would not have had a macron). By that I assume the guideline writers differentiated between 'words' that can stand alone in a sentence and prefixes such as 'un' or suffixes such as '-ly' that cannot. Arguably 7.3 might apply. If so, it supports **taka + ānini = takaanini** rather than **takaānini**, although this doesn't take into account the macron now present in **ānini**.
- d. 7.5 doesn't apply.
- e. 7.4 clearly applies. It is quoted in full below. 7.4 clearly supports **takaanini** even as a common noun let alone a proper name. It suggests that **Takaānini** with the macron is 'another acceptable practice although not as common'.

7.4 Words containing a prefix ✓ that ends in the letter 'a' ✓ and a base that begins with a long 'ā' ✓ (- taka ✓ and ānini ✓)

āta + āhua > ātaahua 'beautiful, sightly'

whaka + āhua > whakaahua 'image'

whaka + āe > whakaae 'agree'

taka + āhuareka > takaahuareka 'happy'

whaka + āwhiwhi > whakaawhiwhi 'to round (numbers)'

Note: Another acceptable practice, although not as common, is to retain both the 'a' of the prefix and the 'ā' of the base, in keeping with rules 7.1 – 7.3 that preserve the form of both word-parts. For example, ātaāhua, whakaāhua, whakaāwhiwhi.

11. Again, **Takaanini** would seem to be an accurate fit and a good candidate for being recognised as an exception. The prefix **taka** is even used in one of the examples:

taka + āhuareka > takaahuareka ('happy')

taka + ānini > takaanini ('whirling') could well be another example.

12. If TTW indeed prefers **Takaānini** then it opts for what it describes in 7.4 as ‘another acceptable practice, though not as common’, and all its argument is based on takaānini as a common noun. On my reading, 7.4 would require the correct orthography to be **Takaanini** unless one wanted to use something not as common but acceptable. It absolutely rules out the current spelling, **Takanini**.
13. To some extent the discussion above is of little relevance. The capital **T** in **Takaanini** takes it beyond semantic and linguistic debate. It is a man’s name attached to a railway station to honour the person who provided the land on which the station stands. The man’s family still lives in the area and there are family members who still carry the **Takaanini** name – no macron, no hyphen just **Takaanini** spelt as it has been since at least 1883 but probably even earlier. It had already weathered Takanini in 1842 and Taka-anini in 1863. It has never had a macron.
14. Fortunately, TTW is well aware of the significance of proper names and devotes Section Three of its Guidelines to the subject. Section Three – Proper Names, Paragraph 2 – Macron use in proper names is very clear. At the same time, it preserves a necessary and valuable ambiguity. After it has consulted and taken advice, NZGB then has to exercise its judgement.
15. It is puzzling that TTW’s advice to the NZGB in 2023 doesn’t even mention let alone address its own published guidelines concerning ‘proper names’. Guidelines, Section Three, page 13, paragraph 2 covers ‘*Macron use in proper names*’ and states:

‘Macron use in proper names

*As with all other Māori words, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori recommends that macrons be used to indicate long vowels in names, where they are known. It is important for the historical record that the meaning and correct pronunciation of names from the past are preserved. **However, this convention must be tempered by a respect for people spelling their names as they like.** As a general rule, it is recommended that the names of people from pre-1950 be written with macrons. Otherwise **personal names should be written with macrons only where the writer is confident this won’t cause offence to the person whose name it is.** For the names of those people still living, use the form that they use or give their consent for you to use.’ [the emphases are mine]*

16. TTW’s discussion here seems to focus on the names of people. Perhaps TTW was not aware that the suburb of Takanini (sic) was so-named in honour of a particular man and thought they were dealing with just a place name. There are several classes of proper names of which people’s names are one and specific place names are another.

In **Takaanini** we are discussing a place name, a suburb of Papakura, that memorialises a person, Ihaka Takaanini, so the two classes are in action simultaneously.

17. Given TTR's requirement to standardise the orthography of te Reo Māori it makes sense that they recommend a general rule. However, they show they understand that the requirement to standardise cannot be imposed as an ironclad rule. Application of the rule has to be 'tempered' by two things - respect for people spelling their names as they like; and confidence that use of the macron won't cause offence to the person whose name it is. For the first, respect for personal choice, Te Wirihana Takaanini was spelling the family name 'Takaanini' from 1883 at the very latest. With regard to offence, the current spelling is wrong and has given hurt and offence since 1913. Changing the name to **Takaanini** in 2024 but then throwing in a macron may make matters worse.
18. Would there be any tolerance for a misspelling of the name of the Sir Edmund Hilary (sic) Library in Papakura?
19. TTR's guidance isn't absolute. On many points, the binding rope, te taura whiri, is more of a bungy cord and this is for very good reason. In a different context, Otago University Professor Andrew Geddis reflects on what is sometimes a deliberate ambiguity: '... we recognise that there are lots of areas where you simply can't, in advance, specify exactly what must happen in every situation. Rather we have guiding principles or general factors to shape the decisions in this area in light of the specific circumstances of the case.'² The rules and Guidelines don't, and couldn't reasonably be expected to anticipate the 'specific circumstance' - that the Takaanini name has been conferred on subsequent generations down to the present day.
20. Those who currently carry the name would not consent to the arbitrary application of a macron in the interests of national solidarity or orthographic standardisation; nor would any reasonable person or agency like TTW expect them to. The final statement in paragraph 2, page 13, says it all – "use the form that they use or give their consent for you to use." Did TTW consult Te Ākitai Waiohū before offering naming advice to the NZGB? The naming of the suburb, **Takaanini**, is a clear case where judgement needs to be applied as well as orthographic guidelines.
23. Most people would want to preserve the meaning and correct pronunciation from the past. This is what sharpened the discussion at the Honorary Geographic Board in 1930. There was much concern in 1950 that the public needed guidance about the pronunciation of Takaanini. As things stand, the common pronunciation today is Tackaninny, a situation not helped by the failure of the New Zealand Geographic Board to get its 1950 decision implemented. The flawed suggestion – **Takānini** - was offered as a change to **Takanini** in order to provide a pronunciation guide to the public. Over the course of 6 months discussion the 1930-agreed Takaanini was lost, and the NZR

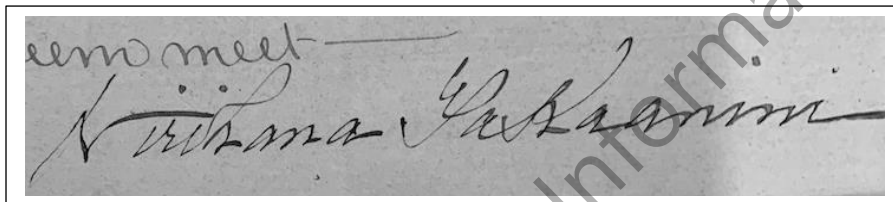
² Quoted from NZ Listener, Feb 10-16, 2024, p18

and NZPO preference for the erroneous **Takanini** was made officially correct. The NZGB's attempt at compromise, **Takānini** was ignored.

24. TTW's preference in 2023, **Takaānini**, would satisfy this need to guide pronunciation but so would the family's preference, **Takaanini**. These are the only two choices today.
23. Efforts to correct the original mistake failed until 2018 when a group of major Crown agencies decided to take matter into their own hands and make the change – unilaterally, unofficially, and in technical breach of the New Zealand Geographic Board's Act of 2008 that binds everyone with a govt.nz address.

Three examples of the correct name in use pre-1930.

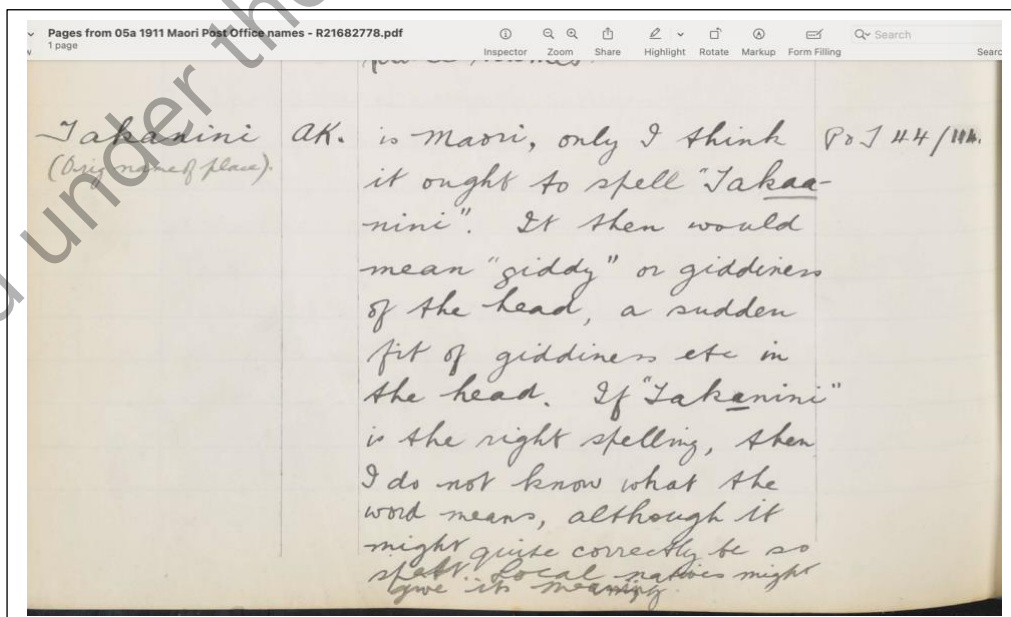
- a) Te Wirihana signs the Supreme Court application in 1883 to have his identity confirmed.



- b) From the 1911 register of Māori Post Office names ...

"If Takanini is the right spelling then I do not know what the word means, although it might quite correctly be so spelt. Local natives might give its meaning."

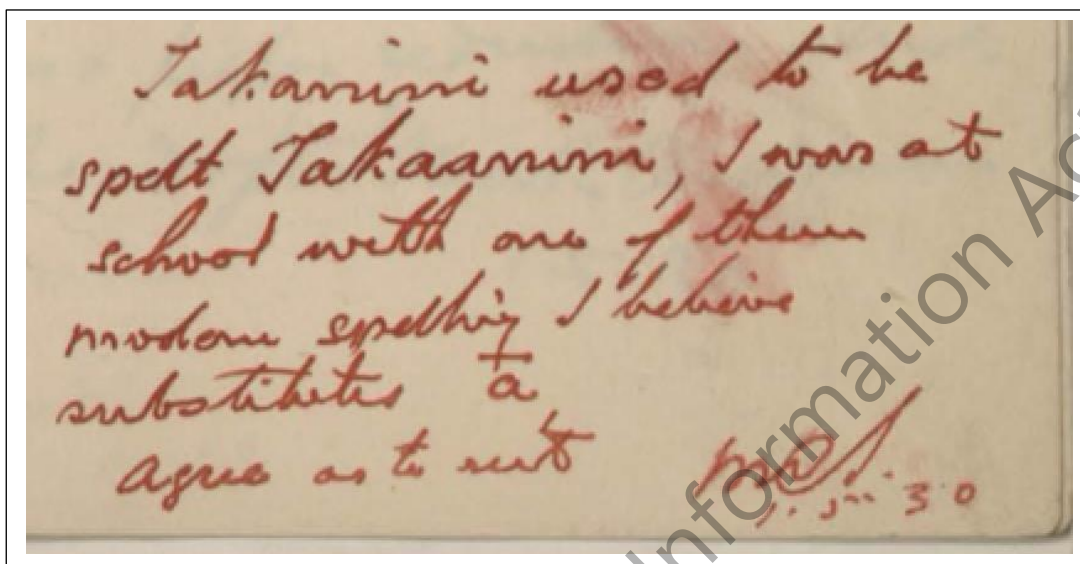
The compiler of the register is blunt about Takanini.



Cont ...

- c) Maurice Crompton-Smith, HGB member in 1930, remarked as a note on correspondence from NZR:

'Takanini used to be spelt Takaanini. I was at school with one of them.'



24. As stated previously, all parties agree that the current spelling, **Takanini**, is incorrect, as **Takānini** would be, and no-one has ever argued for a return to the hyphen used in Governor Grey's Crown Grant to Ihaka **Taka-anini** (the hyphen appeared in land titles and related documents until the 1960s). The choices are **Takaanini** or **Takaānini**.
25. Almost all the argument leans towards **Takaanini**. On current evidence, Auckland Council, Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, Auckland Transport (AT), and mana whenua all agree it should be **Takaanini**. They have already changed the name of the railway station – unofficially. The only authority that offers a credible alternative is TTW and for the reasons given above perhaps they too could agree with **Takaanini** in this circumstance.
26. When the railway station name was unofficially changed to **Takaanini** in 2018 the only significant, voiced opposition came from the Public Transport Users Association. Their spokesperson, Jon Reeves, raised two objections. The first was that it would cause confusion in the travelling public. The second was that there had been no public consultation on the change. The objection about lack of consultation may have merit, but time has shown the first concern to be quite wrong. Curiously, the argument about confusing the public was the same one raised by NZR and NZPO in 1930 and 1950 when the issue of the name was on the table.
27. As a regular user of the station I have never seen or heard of any confusion. Adverse public reaction at the time of change in 2018 was negligible. Some local body politicians reported some adverse comment from some residents. None of this

appears tabulated. The letters to the editor and other media responses were very muted.

28. Today, major road signs are being altered to reflect the correct spelling in line with the precedent set by the consortium with the Takaanini Station in 2018. There is a risk of reputational damage and of others taking a similar “I’ll seek forgiveness rather than ask permission” approach. It’s not a good look for anybody. The process needs to be made official.



29. **Takaanini** is clearly the family preference. The advice calls for ‘respect for people spelling their names as they like.’ To prevent a tsunami of macron-avoidance TTR suggests a general rule that would have the names of people from pre-1950 being given macrons.³ However, the name ‘**Takaanini**’ lives on and it seems highly unlikely that TTW would put standardising orthography before family.

³ As this guidance dates from 2012, is the effective date of this cut-off now 1962?

While initially I was hopeful that the Papakura Local Board would lead a submission on the re-naming of their suburb, Takaanini, I understand the reasons why they are not able to do so at this time. The Papakura Local Board is not opposed to the process being taken. The attachment below also indicates the engagement in the process to date of Te Ākitai Waiohū, through Karen Wilson. This submission is being presented in conjunction with Te Ākitai Waiohū.

Ms Wilson is of Te Ākitai Waiohū, Ngāti Te Ata, Ngāti Pīkiao and Ngāti Hau descent. Karen has spent over 30 years with the s.9(2)(a) in a myriad of roles, with the last 10 years s.9(2)(a). She left a career in s.9(2)(a) to concentrate fully on the Te Ākitai Waiohū Treaty Negotiations in Tāmaki Makaurau. Karen is the mandated Lead Negotiator for Te Ākitai Waiohū, Chair of the Te Ākitai Waiohū Iwi Authority, and the Pukaki Māori Marae Committee. She also holds Chair/Co-Chair roles on other community entities within Tāmaki.



Papakura Local Board

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Papakura Local Board held in the Local Board Chambers, 35 Coles Crescent, Papakura and online on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 4.00pm.

TE HUNGA KUA TAE MAI | PRESENT

Chairperson
Deputy Chairperson
Members

Brent Catchpole (via video conference)
Jan Robinson
Felicity Auva'a
George Hawkins
Kelvin Hieatt
Andrew Webster

TE HUNGA ĀPITI KUA TAE MAI | ALSO PRESENT

Councillor
Councillor
Councillor

Daniel Newman
Angela Dalton (online from 4.18pm)
Julie Fairey

HE HUNGA ATU ANŌ I TAE MAI | IN ATTENDANCE

Mana Whenua

Karen Wilson (Te Ākitai Waiohū)

- [1 Nau mai | Welcome](#)
- [2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies](#)
- [3 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest](#)
- [4 Te Whakaū i ngā Āmiki | Confirmation of Minutes](#)
- [5 He Tamōtanga Motuhake | Leave of Absence](#)
- [6 Te Mihi | Acknowledgements](#)
 - [6.1 Acknowledgement of New Central Government Ministers](#)
- [7 Ngā Petihana | Petitions](#)
- [8 Ngā Tono Whakaaturanga | Deputations](#)
- [8.1. Deputation - s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) [Agenda Item](#)

8 Ngā Tono Whakaaturanga | Deputations

8.1 Deputation - s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a) was in attendance to speak to the board about an application to the New Zealand Geographic Board about changing the spelling of Takanini to Takaanini. A PowerPoint presentation was used in support of the item, and a document was tabled. A copy of both has been placed on the official minutes and is available on the Auckland Council website as a minutes attachment. Resolution number PPK/2023/206

MOVED by Deputy Chairperson J Robinson, seconded by Member F Auva'a:

That the Papakura Local Board:

- a) **whakamihi / thank s.9(2)(a) for his presentation and attendance, and wish him all the best with his application to the New Zealand Geographic Board requesting the correct spelling of Takaanini to be officially recognised. .**

CARRIED

Attachments

- A PowerPoint presentation delivered to the Papakura Local Board by s.9(2)(a) during his deputation
- B Tabled Document - A copy of Ihaka Takanini's grant

Secretariat note: The Chair granted Karen Wilson (Te Ākitai Waiohū) speaking rights after s.9(2)(a) had finished his deputation.

Evidence relating to a personal name – Ihaka Takaanini

1. Evidence of consultation with iwi

To date I have engaged with Te Ākitai Waiohū through Ms Karen Wilson. This submission is being presented in conjunction with Te Ākitai Waiohū.

Ms Wilson is of Te Ākitai Waiohū descent. Karen is the mandated Te Tiriti o Waitangi Lead Negotiator for Te Ākitai Waiohū and the Chair of the Te Ākitai Waiohū Settlement Trust. She also holds Chair/Co-Chair roles on other iwi / hapu entities within Tāmaki.

Ihaka Takaanini is Ms Wilson's great great grandfather through the patriarchal line and the name of the suburb (Wiri-hana) continues through this line to this date. Both Ms Wilson's father and brother also carry the surname Wiri-hana Takaanini, as do other members of the wider whanau.

Ms Wilson's surname (Wilson) serves to acknowledge the name suggested to the whanau in lieu of the name Wiri-hana which was considered too burdensome to pronounce for non-speaking Maori. It is for this reason the male lines incorporate now the name Takaanini and Wiri-hana to reestablish their whakapapa to their history and the areas occupied then and now by the iwi.

Te Ākitai Waiohū suggests regardless of the circumstances by which the names were changed, it is time to finally acknowledge and recognise the whakapapa and identity of Te Ākitai Waiohū. That which was taken from them should now be returned.

It would be incomprehensible to believe that an area ruled by the Chief Ihaka Takaanini would now be considered a mere coincidence in the spelling of the suburb Takanini/Takaanini, especially given the circumstances in which he was lost to the people of Te Ākitai Waiohū, which is the source of their grievance with the Crown.

2. Evidence that the person, Ihaka Takaanini, is deceased

Ihaka Takaanini is deceased. His death was a matter of extensive and significant public record.

3. Evidence of the significant association of the person with the place

The suburb of Takanini, as it is currently named and spelt, derives its name from Ihaka Takaanini te Tihi, commonly known as Ihaka Takaanini or Ihaka Wiri-hana Takaanini.

He was born around 1800, the son of Pepene te Tihi and a direct descendant on the male line from Huakaiwaka and Kiwi Tāmaki, described on the Te Ākitai Waiohū website as 'eponymous ancestors'.

With other iwi leaders, Ihaka Takaanini welcomed the British arrival in Tāmaki Makaurau. His name heads the list of chiefs who signed what is claimed to be the first post-Treaty sale of Tāmaki Makaurau land to the Crown under the Crown's right to pre-emptive purchase. The land was the 16,000-acre Papakura Block. A Native Reserve of 1120 acres between what are now Manurewa and Papakura was kept from the sale. In February 1863, just prior to the outbreak of war in the Waikato, Governor General Sir George Grey conferred upon Ihaka

Takaanini and his heirs this Native Reserve land as a Crown Grant. The Great South Rd ran through the estate and there was provision also made for the projected Kaipara to Piniu (Otorohanga) railway line – which in time became the North Island Main Trunk. The land was very well-positioned and now comprises virtually all of 'old Takanini'.

Ihaka Takaanini was respected by the new settlers. He was an effective bridge between the British and Māori. Yet just before the July 1863 invasion of the Waikato, Ihaka was stripped of his Crown-appointed role as land assessor due to unsubstantiated reports that he was inciting Māori to rebel against the people of Auckland. Although he protested and challenged the rumours, he was dismissed without further investigation by the Crown.

Much of the land reserves in KiriKiri, Pukekohe and Pokeno was seized under raupatu and he and his people impoverished. On July 22 1863, he and his family and others were arrested and summarily imprisoned at the Ōtāhuhu military barracks where the aged Pepene and two of Ihaka's children died. He was then exiled over the protestations of many – including the Attorney-General! He died on Motuhurakia (Rakino Island) in early 1864. Authorities lost track of his body, whose resting place is yet to be located.

In 1867, the Crown attempted to wrest what little land remained in his family's hands by pursuing the 'rebel' claim against him. Chief Judge J D Fenton threw out the Crown claim as there was absolutely no credible evidence of the wrongdoing with which he had been charged. Significant awards were made to family members under by the Native Compensation Court which was an attempt to redress the colossal damage of the 1863-67 confiscations.

Three of his children survived the period: Erina, Te Wirihana, and Ihaka the Younger. Erina died in July 1867 aged about 13, and Ihaka the Younger in 1883 at age 20. Seven of the eight children in Ihaka and Riria's family died before reaching adulthood.

DEATHS.

New Zealand
Herald

17 March 1883

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Cont ...

[Te Arawhiti - Te Akitai Waiohua](#)

... from the Te Ākitai Waiohua and Te Ākitai Waiohua Settlement Trust and the Crown Deed of Settlement Schedule Documents, page 15.

DOCUMENTS

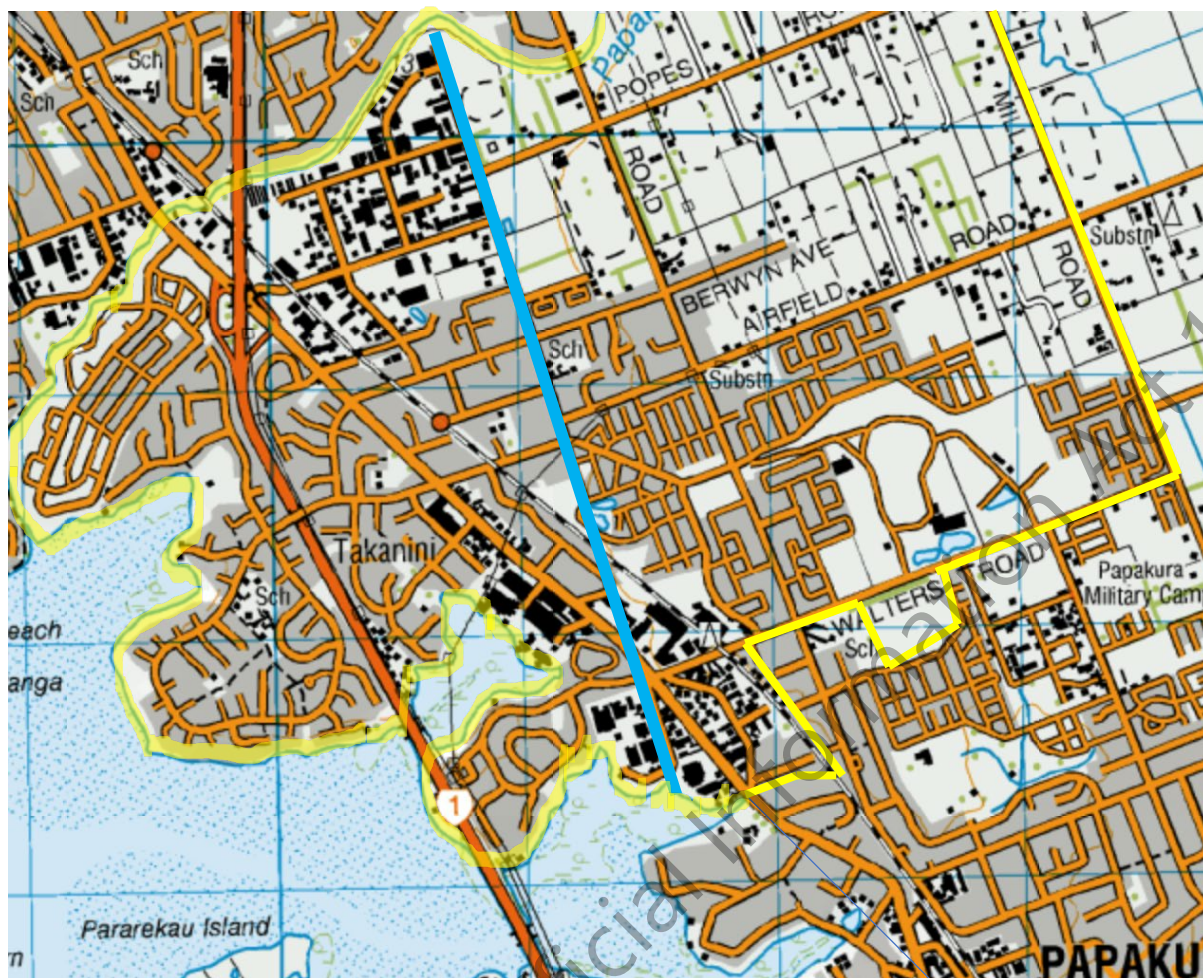
1.1: STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION

Wiri, the contemporary name of Ngā Matukurua and surrounding suburb, is derived from Te Wirihana Takaanini, a chief of Te Ākitai Waiohua and direct descendant (great great grandson) of Kiwi Tāmaki. The suburb was formerly known as Woodside before the name was changed to Wiri in the early 20th Century. South of Wiri is the suburb Takanini, which is a misspelling of Takaanini, named after Ihaka Takaanini a paramount chief of Te Ākitai Waiohua and father of Te Wirihana.

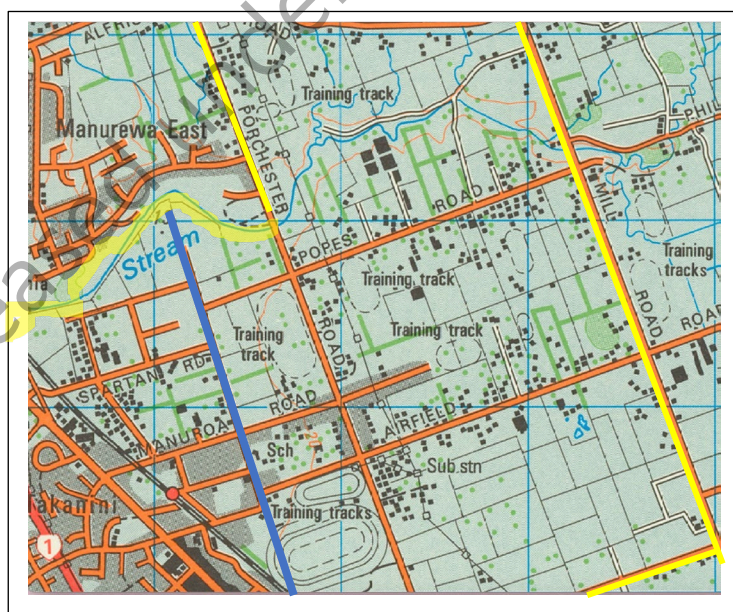
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https://www.teakitai.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=113

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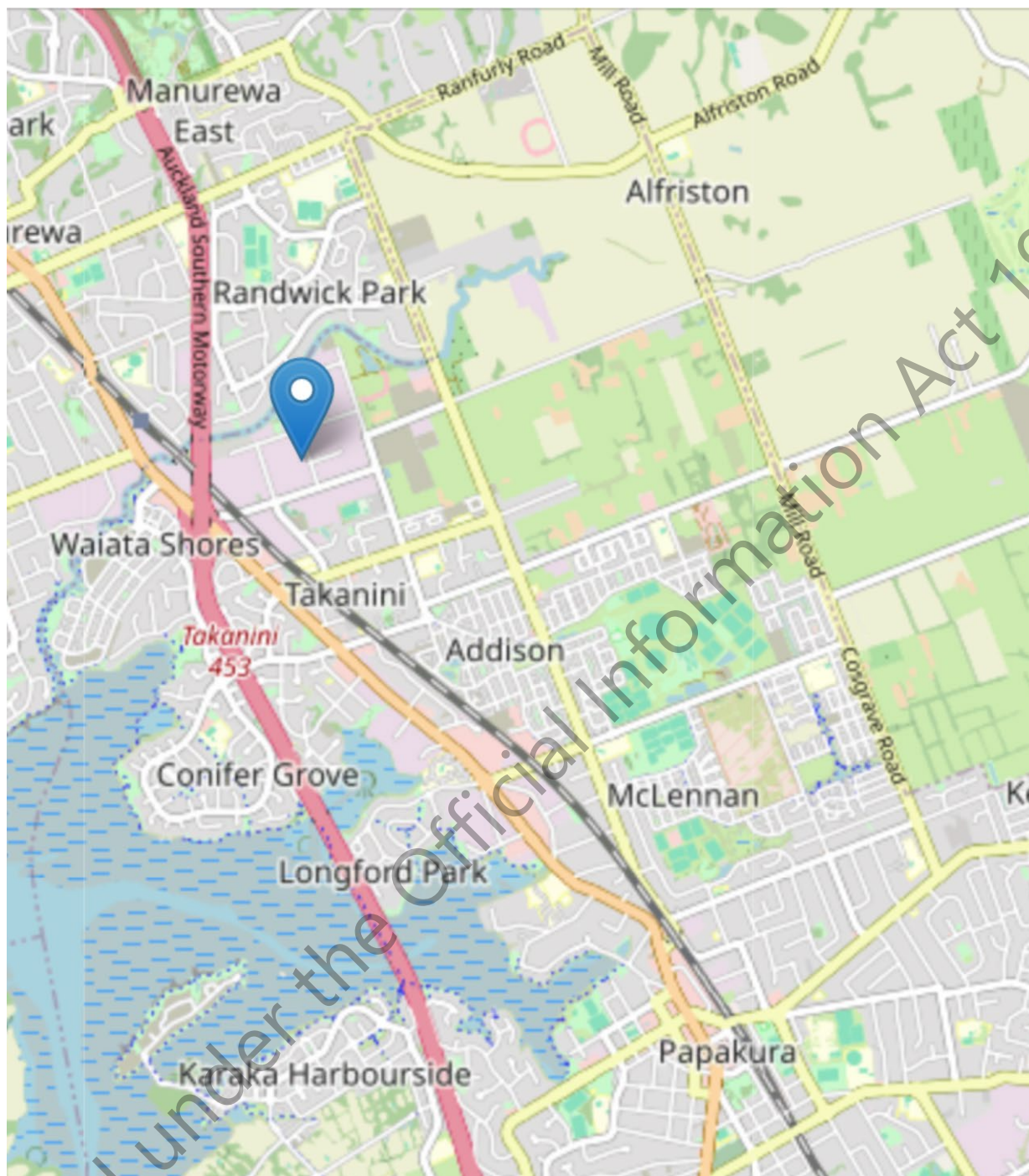


The yellow line marks the boundary of the Takaanini suburb as defined by postal boundaries etc. The solid blue line running through the centre marks the eastern boundary of Takaanini's Grant. Almost all the housing east of the line is late-20th century or 21st century development. Prior to these recent housing developments the area was dominated by farming and other rural activity, especially horse breeding and training.



Comparison between the latest map (above) and NZMS260 (from 1994) shows the growth and change of land use in the last 25 years. The blue line is in the same position in both maps.

The eastern boundary line of Takaanini extends northwards as far as Alfriston Rd, returning south on the line of Porchester Rd thus including a small section of land above the Papakura Stream. This is outlined on the map overleaf.



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

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[Te Arawhiti - Te Akitai Waiohua](#)

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From: s.9(2)(a)
To: [Chris Stephens](#)
Subject: Fwd: Auckland Transport - Support for the name correction of Takaanini - CAS-888169-Y4X3R8 CRM:014280002512
Date: Tuesday, 9 April 2024 10:27:13 am
Attachments: [Untitled.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.jpg](#)
[image.jpg](#)
[image.jpg](#)
[image.jpg](#)
[image.jpg](#)
s.9(2)(a)

Kia ora Chris

Please find below the letter of support for our submission signed by Dean Kimpton, CE of Auckland Transport. I hope that now completes the documentation that we needed, giving our proposal the best chance of success when it comes before the Board.

s.9(2)(a) and I were interested to see news coverage of the Ōrākau commemorations. I trust that the return of the Rewi Maniapoto's taiaha went well. An emotional occasion no doubt. Hopefully, it can be held in such a manner that members of the public can view it and learn more of the story that lies behind the weapon. It puts me in mind of the taiaha of Rangihīwinui (Major Kemp) which is on display at the Muaupoko iwi office in Levin.

Ngā mihi

s.9(2)(a)



Begin forwarded message:

From: "CustomerLiaison (AT)" <CustomerLiaison@at.govt.nz>
Subject: Auckland Transport - Support for the name correction of Takaanini - CAS-888169-Y4X3R8 CRM:014280002512
Date: 9 April 2024 at 9:54:53 AM NZST
To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(a)aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>, s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(a)>
s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(a)>)" <Dean.Kimpton@at.govt.nz>

Kia ora s.9(2)(a)

Thank you for contacting our Chief Executive, Dean Kimpton, regarding Auckland Transport supporting the correction of the name Takaanini.

Please find Dean's letter attached to this email.

Thank you again for reaching out, s.9(2)(a) All the best for the week ahead.

Ngā mihi,

s.9(2)(a) | Customer Care Business Partner

Customer & Network Performance

20 Viaduct Harbour, Auckland CBD, 1010

www.at.govt.nz



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

We all have an important part to play in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. [Find the latest information and advice from Auckland Transport](#). For the latest news from the Ministry of Health go to the [Unite Against Covid-19 website](#).

Important notice: The contents of this email and any attachments may be confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you have received this email message in error please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments; any use, disclosure or copying of this message or attachments is prohibited. Any views expressed in this email may be those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of Auckland Transport.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

9 April 2024

s.9(2)(a)

By email to [s.9\(2\)\(a\)@gmail.com](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@gmail.com)

Auckland Transport (AT) Letter of Support for the Change in Official Name From Takanini to Takaanini

Kia ora s.9(2)(a)

Thank you for reaching out to Auckland Transport regarding this matter. Brent Catchpole, Chair of the Papakura Local Board, has passed on your request.

Auckland Transport is supportive of the proposal to change the official suburb name from Takanini to Takaanini and the official name of Takanini Railway Station to Takaanini Railway Station.

Auckland Transport therefore supports the submitter, s.9(2)(a), in conjunction with mana whenua, Te Ākitai Waiohū, in backing this. We note that the Papakura Local Board is also supportive.

As an aside, you will be aware that Auckland Transport, supported by Auckland Council, KiwiRail, NZTA|Waka Kotahi, and mana whenua, unofficially changed the railway station name to the historically accurate spelling in 2018. It would be good to see this correction made official.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Kind regards

s.9(2)(a)

Dean Kimpton
Chief Executive