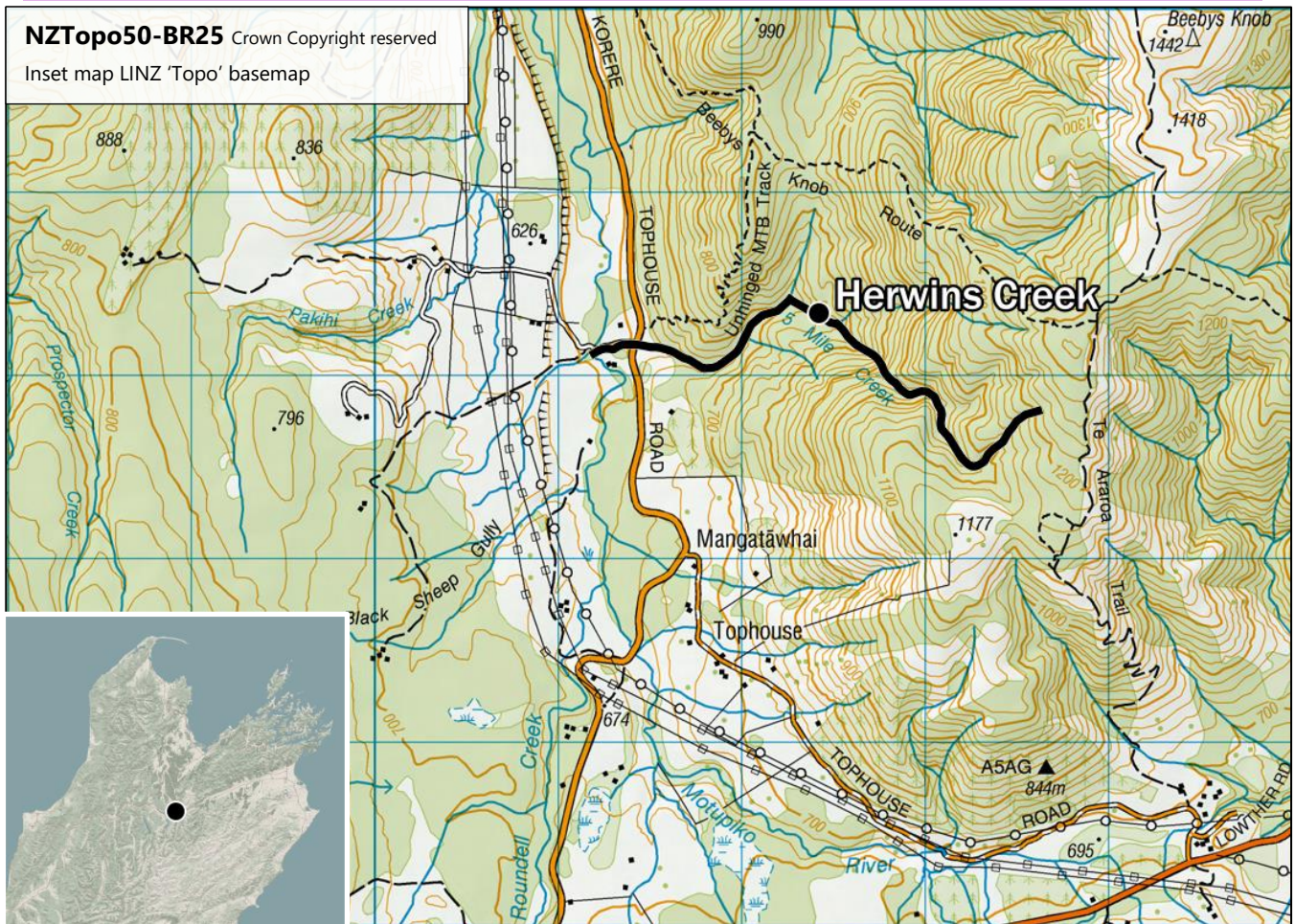


Proposal considered by Pou Taunaha on 26 April 2023 for Herwins Creek

[altered from 5 Mile Creek]



Summary

The proposal from the Chairperson of the Rotoiti District Community Committee, is to alter the official place name 5 Mile Creek to Herwins Creek, for a small stream approximately 7km northeast of St. Arnaud.

The existing place name is descriptive of the creek being approximately five miles south of Kikiwa (locality). There is also a Two Mile Creek closer to Kikiwa. The proposer advises that the proposed name is in long term local use, having been associated with the Herwin family since the 1870s. The descendants still live at St. Arnaud and would be 'keen' to see the name recognised, and the proposal includes testimony as to its local use. No published references to Herwins Creek have been found.

The proposer has consulted with mana whenua including Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō who are strongly associated with the area. They are concerned about 'researching settler history to replace Māori history' and whether there was an original Māori name. They advised that if no original Māori name was found they could supply a contemporary name 'to dual name the feature'. They also sought advice from the Secretariat on the possibility of making an alternative proposal.

Ngāti Kuia also sought to determine if there was an original name and suggested a researcher who could assist. The proposer engaged the researcher, who could

find no evidence of an original Māori name and considered it unlikely that if there was one it had survived in records.

Should Pou Taunaha decide to proceed, it is recommended that the proposal be declined in favour of dropping the possessive [s] and instead propose Herwin Creek. Herwin has been confirmed to be the correct spelling.

Noting that Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō may object and make an alternative proposal, the recent Pou Taunaha discussion paper on assigning contemporary Māori names is included in the supporting information for reference.

Secretariat recommendation

[At its 26 April 2023 hui Pou Taunaha resolved this recommendation, opting to publicly consult for one month.]

Decline the proposal to **alter** the official place name 5 Mile Creek to Herwins Creek, based on the Pou Taunaha policy that the English possessive form should not be used for new proposals,

and

Accept a new proposal to **alter** the existing official name 5 Mile Creek to **Herwin Creek**, based on:

- evidence of the Herwin family's long term association with the feature and area, and local use of Herwin's Creek (c.120-140 years), as advised by long term residents of the area,
- providing the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features (s.3(e) of the Act),
- no original Māori name having been identified for the feature,
- the proposed name being unique,
- no concerns about long term use of 5 Mile Creek on official documents (c.120-140 years) and the existing naming theme with Two Mile Creek (which spells out the number rather than using a numeral),
- the proposed alteration being unlikely to impact emergency services.

and

Notify as a proposal to alter for one month ~~or three~~ months.

Noting that Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō [and/or Ngāti Kuia](#) may object to the proposal and make an alternative proposal for a contemporary Māori name.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal

The Chairperson of Rotoiti District Community Council seeks to have the official place name 5 Mile Creek altered to Herwins Creek. The proposer advises that the proposed name has been in long term local use and is associated with the Herwin family who have been associated with the area since the 1870s.

The proposer advises that George Herwin senior (died 1884) spent time at 'Waireka' opposite the mouth of the creek [cf Waireka Road]. Later through the 'Big Bush' land ballot George Herwin junior took up land south of the creek. The family has been prominent in the community, at times having run the telegraph office and the Tophouse Hotel. Herwin descendants still live at St. Arnaud.

The proposer has included a letter and local history from members of other long term local families who support the proposal and recall the use of the name 'Herwin's Creek', and notes that the descendants are also 'very keen' for the name to be recognised.

The proposer has consulted with mana whenua and Ngāti Kuia and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō each expressed reservations about the proposal. They wanted to know what effort had been made to determine if there was an original Māori name. 'As part of maintaining our Tangata Whenua' Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō also offered to put forward a contemporary Māori name to dual name the feature if no original Māori name can be found. Ngāti Kuia also stated that naming a water feature after people was not a Māori practice.

The proposer engaged a researcher that Ngāti Kuia suggested, who reviewed publications, manuscripts, maps, archaeological data and Waitangi Tribunal inquiry documents but found no evidence of an original Māori name. They considered it unlikely that if there was a name it had survived in records. They also noted in relation to Ngāti Kuia's comment that the original names of several rivers in the area were named for tūpuna.

In a concluding letter, the proposer noted further research with Nelson Provincial Museum, and advised that they are open to dual naming the feature.

The Secretariat has requested the proposer to provide some additional information about George Herwin (senior)'s advised association with the area in the 1870s and 1880s.

Names shown on maps and plans

The survey plan SO 1919 (1866) notes 'No. 2 WARRE HALF WAY' and [SO 147](#) 'Half-way whare' at the feature, which is unnamed. This appears to be colloquial use for shelters that were built while exploring, and not that there was a Māori settlement here.

Rocky Creek to the north of 5 Mile Creek is named 1½ Mile Creek on some old survey plans. Old plans naming this feature and Two Mile Creek date back to 1884, so 5 Mile Creek as a place name may date to the same time.

'Five Mile Creek' is named on old survey plans such as SO 6717 (1909) which also records G Herwin and L Herwin's applications for the Big Bush Block land ballot (SO 6374).

The feature has been consistently named '5 Mile Creek' (using a digit) on official cadastral and topographic maps since the early 20th century.

Location of the feature, generic term and geographic feature type

The feature is a small stream north of Tophouse Settlement (locality) and approximately 7km northeast of St. Arnaud. It flows westwards from the south end of Richmond Range for approximately 3km into Motupiko River.

The generic term [creek](#) appropriately describes the feature, being synonymous with the use of 'stream' in New Zealand.

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#)

[5 Mile Creek](#) is an official place name in the Gazetteer, having been approved when the remaining unofficial recorded names in Tasman Region were reviewed in 2021.

associated names, duplication. [Two Mile Creek](#) to the north, likewise an official name approved in 2021, is associated with 5 Mile Creek. It also appears to have been named for its relative distance to Kikiwa (locality). [Six Mile Creek](#) and Six Mile Scenic Reserve to the east appear to be 'six miles' as measured from St. Arnaud rather than Kikiwa. The name using a digit is not duplicated but there are six Five Mile Creek names in Te Waipounamu. They are all too far distant for there to be concerns about confusion.

No features in the jurisdiction of Pou Taunaha are named 'Herwin/s'.

Research, history and references to the feature

Thomas Brunner's published journal of his and Kehu's expedition from Nelson to the West Coast in 1846 does not have any details, such as place names, for the day they travelled up Motupiko River.¹

'Herwin' is the correct spelling of the family name, as sighted on the will signed by George Herwin (senior) and included in probate.²

George Herwin (junior) took up the land at the south of the feature under perpetual lease from 1906 to 1948. The land block became Permanent State Forest in 1949 (*NZ Gazette* 1949 No.15 p.693), although the southern part of the block was taken out again under renewable lease in 1956.

No published references to 'Herwin's Creek' or further information about George Herwin (senior) having been in the area have been identified.

Consultation with mana whenua

The Secretariat wrote to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Kuia, and the other six Te Tau Ihu iwi to inform them Pou Taunaha had received the proposal and requesting any further views.

The TPK observer was requested to advised of any further relevant groups.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō requested advice on the requirements for making an alternative proposal. They have advised that they will try to let Pou Taunaha know 'as soon as practicable' what their position is.

Ngāti Kuia acknowledged that the proposer had taken its advice to research original Māori names for the feature and are 'saddened' that any original Māori name might be lost to time.

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)

3(e) The purposes of this Act are to... provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features

[Standard for New Zealand place names](#) criteria

1.1 Acceptable names (b) The surname or traditional ancestral Māori name of a person who has been deceased for at least two years, was a notable leader, of good character, and/or contributed to, or had a strong association with the feature, place or area.

¹ Brunner, Thomas, (1952 ed.), [The Great Journey An Expedition to Explore the Interior of The Middle Island](#), New Zealand, 1846-8, The Pegasus Press: Christchurch, p.19

² <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/en-GB/web/arena/search#/entity/aims-archive/R20138580/> - last accessed 4 April 2023

The proposer has provided some evidence of the long term association of the Herwin family with the area (c. 120-140 years), noting the proposal is for the family rather than George Herwin (senior) specifically or any living descendants specifically.

(f) Names that contribute to a theme in an area.

Altering the existing official name would remove the existing theme of features named for their distance from Kikiwa, leaving just Two Mile Creek.

1.5(d) Orthographic standards

The English possessive form should not be used. However, existing names with the possessive [s] that do not have the possessive apostrophe, have been in long-term use and have low public value will not be altered.

Noting advice that the proposed name is in local use, use of the English possessive form should be discouraged for this new proposal, noting the correct spelling of the family name is just Herwin.

1.6 Altered names A name may be altered when it does not follow established long-term local or common use.

The proposer has provided some evidence that the creek is (or was) locally referred to as Herwin's Creek. The Board may want further evidence to substantiate this local use, particularly given long-term and consistent use of 5 Mile Creek on official documents (c.120-140 years).

1.7 Dual names (a) Dual names, where both names are used together as one name, recognise the equal and specific significance of both names. Generally, an original Māori name should be the first part of a dual name in recognition of the right of first discovery.

Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō has suggested that they could provide a contemporary Māori name to dual name the creek, which the proposer appears to have no issue with. However, this would not meet the Standard. A contemporary name is unlikely to be of equal and specific significance and not being an 'original' name would not relate to criteria around the right of first discovery.

Should Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō make an alternative proposal (for a single name) it will need reasons that outweigh those in this proposal.

Concerns or
issues for
emergency
services

The feature has recreational tracks around its catchment to the north and east. To the north Beebys Knob Route goes up to Beebys Knob and 'Unhinged' is a steep mountain bike track dropping to Korere Tophouse Road³. East of the upper catchment, Te Araroa Trail follows Richmond Range (and is also a shared Mountain Bike Track).⁴

However, there are no crossings of the creek and there appear to be no references to the existing name on the administrative websites, other than appearing on general area maps. It is unlikely that altering the name would be of concern for emergency service.

³ <https://www.mtbproject.com/Trail/7051857/Unhinged> - Last Accessed 3 April 2023

⁴ <https://www.teararoa.org.nz/The-Trail/Tasman/Tasman-Trail-Notes/> - Last Accessed 3 April 2023

Media

Media attention is unlikely.

Supporting information

1. Proposals to alter 5 Mile Creek to Herwins Creek – 2023-01-28
2. Discussion Paper on contemporary Māori place names - 2021-10-20
3. Correspondence with Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō – 2023-04-03
4. Correspondence with Ngāti Kuia – 2023-04-03
5. Correspondence with the proposer – 2023-04-05