

# Proposal considered by the Board on 22 June 2023 for Meyers Pass [new name]



## Summary

The proposal is to assign Meyers Pass as the official place name of an unnamed pass on a back road (Meyers Pass Road) over Campbell Hills, between Waimate and Kurow, in south Canterbury Region.

The proposer wants the name to be officially assigned based on existing local use and considers its omission from official maps and the Gazetteer to be an oversight. There are signposts naming Meyers Pass at either end of Meyers Pass Road and further references to the name are easily found.

The name is for Herbert Meyer (1830-1903), who established Station Peak station in 1855, running it with his brother Charles Meyer (1833-1878) until 1869. The proposed Meyers Pass and associated Meyers Creek are at the northeast corner of the three sections comprising the station's early extent.

The family name is correctly Meyer rather than Meyers. The *Standard for New Zealand place names* records that the English possessive form should not be used unless it is an existing place name that has been in long term use.

To date Te Rūnanga Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) has not advised if the pass has an original Māori name. In [Kā Huru Manu](#) an ara tawhito<sup>1</sup> is shown over the pass, so an original Māori name may have been given. If TRONT confirms that the associated names Meyers Creek and Meyer (hill) don't have original Māori

<sup>1</sup> Traditional travel route

names, Meyers Creek may be altered to Meyer Creek for consistency and Meyer (hill) approved as an official place name.

## Secretariat recommendation

[At its 22 June 2023 hui the Board resolved these recommendations.]

**Decline** the proposal to **assign** Meyers Pass as an official place name, based on the Board's policy that the English possessive form should not be used for new proposals,

**and**

**Accept** a new proposal to **assign Meyer Pass** as the official place name of an unnamed pass in south Canterbury Region, approximately 23km west of Waimate, based on:

- evidence of local use, particularly Meyers Pass Road and Meyers Pass being already signposted at either end of the road, and being named in newspapers, local history books, online, etc, notwithstanding the use of the possessive [s] (whether Meyers or Meyer's),
- recognising the association of Herbert Meyer and his family with the area,
- dropping the possessive [s] making it clear that the feature is named for a Meyer, not a Meyers, noting different families with both spellings lived in the area, and
- officially naming the pass being useful for identification to emergency services,

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to **assign** for one month.

**Subject** to advice from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu that there is no original Māori name known for the pass.

**and**

**Accept** a proposal from the Board to **alter** the unofficial recorded place name Meyers Creek to **Meyer Creek** as an official place name based on the same reasons above and consistency with the proposed Meyer Pass and the existing recorded place name Meyer (hill),

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to alter for one month.

**Subject** to advice from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu that there is no original Māori name known for the creek.

**and**

**Accept** a proposal from the Board to **approve** the unofficial recorded place name **Meyer** (hill) as an official place name,

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to alter for one month,

**Subject** to advice from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu that there is no original Māori name known for the hill.

## Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal	<p>The proposal is to assign Meyers Pass as the official place name of an unnamed pass on a back road through Campbell Hills between Waimate and Kurow.</p> <p>The proposer considers that the existing name of the road is good evidence for the existing use of the name of the pass. The proposer is travelling to and photographing all named passes and saddles that are publicly accessible by motorcycle and has noted inconsistencies between what is named on the ground compared to what is named on official maps and in the Gazetteer.</p> <p>The proposer has provided some historic newspaper references to Meyers Pass and the Meyer family having lived in the area.</p> <p>The proposer wrote to the manager of Waihao Marae (Te Rūnanga o Waihao Inc, at Morven) requesting any views on the proposal, but did not receive a response.</p> <p>While the proposal meets minimum requirements it is light on the history of the name and the connection to the 'Meyers'. The proposer referred to finding 'many references' to the 'Meyers family', for example, newspapers referring to 'C Meyers'. However, the family name is 'Meyer' (see research below; some of the newspapers therefore got it wrong). Of the specific newspaper references provided, some relate to Charles Meyer's (d.1878) later ownership of Blue Cliffs Station on the other side of The Hunters Hills, so while they show a continued association with the wider area, they are not specific to the proposal. One is not relevant as it relates to Charles Meyers (d.1920), a butcher who won awards for smoked and unsmoked bacon in Waimate in the 1890s.<sup>2</sup></p>
Names shown on plans and maps	<p>No survey plans or official maps naming the pass have been identified.</p> <p>The associated name, Meyers Creek, is named on official maps, although with a possessive apostrophe on early 20<sup>th</sup> century cadastral maps (Meyer's Creek) and older survey plans, for example, SO 2658 (1883). The associated name Meyer (hill) is consistently named on official maps but shown as 'Mount Meyer' on some old maps and survey plans.</p>
Location and extent, generic term and <a href="#">geographic feature type</a>	<p>The feature is a pass at c.700m over Campbell Hills between the valleys of Waihao River South Branch to the east and Hakataramea River to the west. The pass is approximately 23km west of Waimate, 20.5km northeast of Kurow.</p> <p><a href="#">Pass</a> appropriately describes the feature.</p>
<a href="#">New Zealand Gazetteer</a> , associated names and duplication	<p>The pass is not named in the Gazetteer. <a href="#">Meyers Creek</a> is an associated name for the stream that flows east from the pass into <a href="#">Waihao River South Branch</a>. <a href="#">Meyer</a> a hill at 795m, approximately 13.2km southwest of the pass is associated.</p> <p>There are seven partial duplications of Meyer or Meyers, the nearest being <a href="#">Meyer Swamp</a> at the mouth of <a href="#">Cook River/Weheka</a> in West Coast Region. There</p>

<sup>2</sup> [THE WAIMATE SHOW](#). *Timaru Herald*, Volume LXII, Issue 3110, 16 November 1899, Page 3

are no concerns for confusion with this or any other Meyer/s place names based on their geographic distance and different generic terms.

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Research, history and references to the feature

In 1855 Herbert Meyer (1830-1903) drove 3300 sheep from Nelson to run on what became of Station Peak station (cf [Station Peak](#)). In 1860/61 his brother Charles Meyer (1833-1878) joined him from Australia first as manager then as co-owner.<sup>3</sup> The early extent of the station (sections 55-57) and the location of a large limestone homestead built from 1860 are depicted on a map of runs allotted by the Canterbury Waste Lands Board.<sup>4</sup> The proposed Meyers Pass is near the northeast corner of section 56. Waimate Museum & Archives has a portrait of Herbert Meyer.<sup>5</sup>

In 1869 the Meyer brothers sold Station Peak in an economic downturn. Herbert moved to England and Charles purchased Blue Cliffs Station (cf [Blue Cliffs](#)) on the other side of The Hunters Hills at Otaio Gorge.<sup>6</sup> A noted historic stone church in Waimate was financed by Charles Meyer in memory of Ellen Meyer, his wife, who died during an operation in 1878. However, he also died in the same year and before the church was completed.<sup>7</sup>

The family name is correctly Meyer, not Meyers. A will included in the probate for Charles Meyer has his signature 'Charles Meyer'<sup>8</sup>. Herbert Meyer's signature has not been sighted noting that he died in England. Older official maps and survey plans spell the road and creek names Meyer's Pass Road and Meyer's Creek with the possessive apostrophe.

The Ngāi Tahu cultural atlas *Kā Huru Manu* does not currently publish an original Māori name for the pass, but it depicts an ara tawhito over it. This might suggest that an original Māori name may exist. Rāwiri Te Maire's map of original names in Canterbury and Otago<sup>9</sup> does not appear to name the pass, with 'Teraraatoukarere' being the name of something at the locality of Portland Hills east of the pass.

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Consultation with iwi

To date TRONT has advised that it records some place names in the vicinity but cannot advise yet if any relate to the pass, and that it will need to discuss with Te Rūnanga o Waihao. If the Board proceeds with this proposal, notification should still be subject to receiving TRONT's advice. TRONT would also have further opportunities to provide their views prior to and during the notification period.

Should the Board agree to alter and approve the associated names they also should be subject to advice from TRONT regarding original Māori names.

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<sup>3</sup> Woodhouse, Airini (1982), *Blue Cliffs: the biography of a South Canterbury sheep station, 1856-1970*, Wellington: Reed, pp.17-18; Eade, Lynley (2021), *Land gatherers of the Hakataramea*, pp.162-171

<sup>4</sup> Runs 55-57: <https://maps.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/330> – last accessed 25 May 2023

<sup>5</sup> <https://waimate.pastperfectonline.com/Photo/DF2AC973-CC37-4F83-B7A5-337072879757#gallery> – last accessed 25 March 2023

<sup>6</sup> [Commercial Intelligence](#), *Timaru Herald*, Volume XIII, Issue 540, 30 July 1870, Page 2 – last accessed 25 March 2023

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.timarucivictrust.co.nz/blog/st-marys-church-esk-valley> - last accessed 6 June 2023

<sup>8</sup> [MEYER Charles - Blue Cliffs Station Waimate - Esquire](#) – last accessed 25 May 2023

<sup>9</sup> [#G298 from Statutory Branch Registered Maps collection](#)

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

Section 3(e) of the NZGB Act 2008 provides the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features.

Relevant sections from the [Standard for NZ place names](#)

**1.1 Acceptable names** (a) Names that reflect New Zealand culture, society, exploration, events, tradition, and history. The NZGB encourages the restoration of original Māori place names.

(c) Names that recognise the priority of discovery of significant places, including those of Māori pre-European contact.

*Should TRONT advise of an original Māori name for the pass, it could be restored and assigned as the official place name, noting that two existing (but currently unofficial) names already mark the association of Herbert Meyer with the area.*

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

*Many place names in the area are associated with high country leaseholds and their owners, managers and staff. For example, [Mount Orr](#), [Mount Orr Stream](#) and [Campbell Hills](#) are named for the subsequent manager and owner of Station Peak.*

**1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations** (c) A name that already exists in a neighbouring area or is already in use throughout New Zealand should be avoided...However, associated names with different generic terms are allowed. *The proposed name is associated with Meyers Creek and Meyer (hill). The generic term 'Pass' distinguishes it from the existing associated names.*

(d) Long-term existing names or names that are in common local use may take precedence over new names if they conform to this standard.

*Meyers Pass has been in long term local use (at least since the 1880's).*

**1.5 Orthographic standards** (d) 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.

*Meyers Pass is not an 'existing name' for the purposes of the Board, so the proposed name should be declined in favour of removing the possessive [s]. This would be consistent with the associated hill name, but not the associated stream name. Noting that the proposed name with the possessive [s] has been in long term local use including for the road name and on signage.*

Should the Board instead accept the proposal with the [s] in line with local use, consistency with the existing names of the stream and road, and noting there is existing signage for Meyers Pass, Meyer (hill) to the south would (continue to) be inconsistent. It would not be preferable to alter the name to add an [s].

Concerns or issues for emergency services

The feature is currently signposted as Meyers Pass with a yellow sign at both turnoffs to Meyers Pass Road.<sup>10</sup> The feature appears to be known as a scenic back route for 4WD, motorcycles, mountain bikes, and historically has been a stage for rally racing. In 2019 there was a 350ha fire.<sup>11</sup> Officially confirming the name could aid identification to emergency services.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.google.co.nz/maps/@-44.6565149,170.5946302,3a,40.8y,37.67h,82.36t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sVp7Qa-79ZpL-4nnRJ1gKA!2e0!5s20121001T000000!7i13312!8i6656?entry=ttu> – last accessed 25 May 2023

<sup>11</sup> [Meyers Pass land owner thanks those that helped extinguish 350 hectare fire](#), *Timaru Herald*, 9 August 2019

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Media

Media attention is unlikely.

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### **Supporting information**

1. Proposal for Meyers Pass – 2023-01-18
2. Pages from *The Land Gatherers of Hakataramea* (2021)
3. Correspondence with TRONT – 2023-05-31