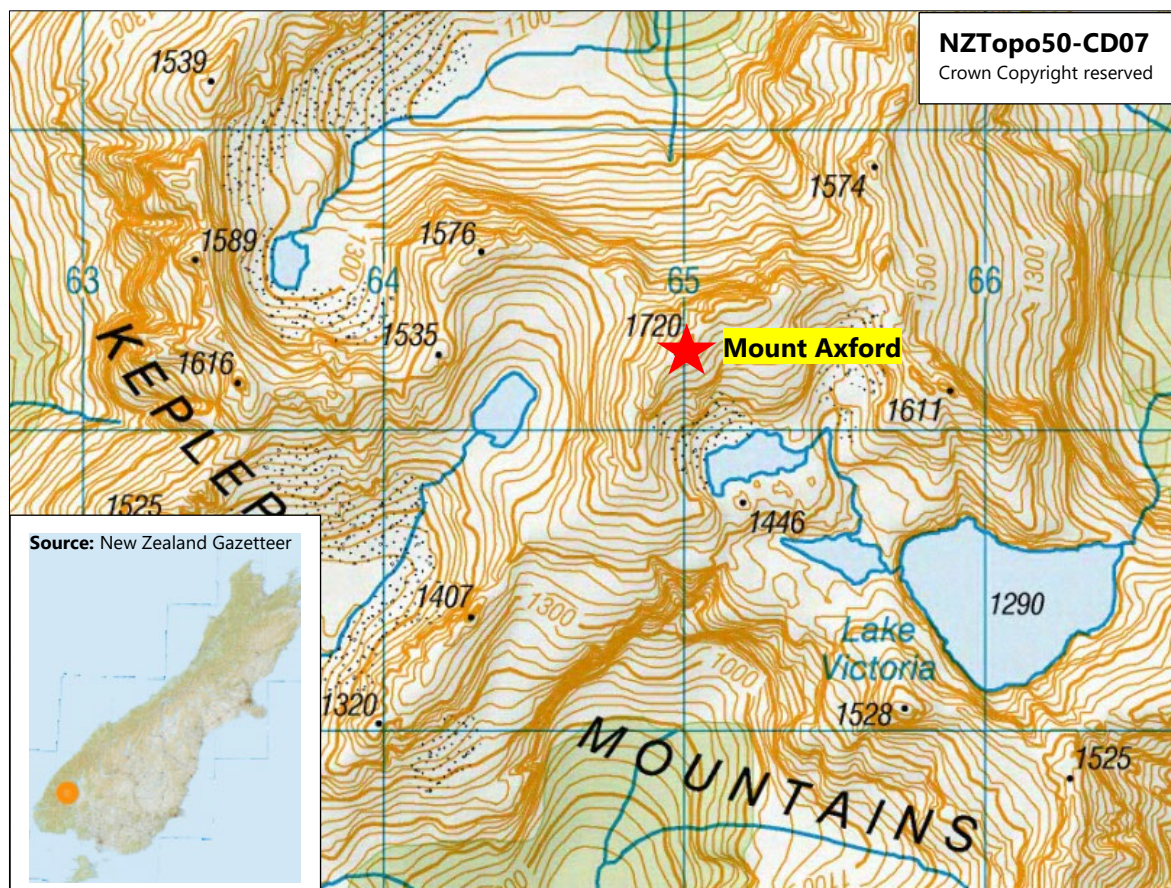


Proposal considered by the Board on 20 April 2021 for:
Mount Axford [new name]



Summary The proposal is to assign Mount Axford to an unnamed mountain at 1720m, which is the highest point in the Kepler Mountains, between Lake Te Anau and Lake Manapouri, in Fiordland National Park.

Sir Ian Axford (1933-2010) was an eminent and highly respected New Zealand astrophysicist and cosmologist. The proposer has advised that Sir Ian's wife, Lady Joy Axford, and their children support the proposal.

Naming the mountain for Sir Ian Axford would continue the theme of commemorating prominent New Zealand space scientists in the [Kepler Mountains](#)¹.

The generic term 'Mount' is consistent with [Mount Pickering](#)² and [Mount Tinsley](#)³, which were assigned in 2010 as official place names in the Kepler Mountains.

Naming the highest point in the Kepler Mountains would provide a reference for recreational users and emergency responders as it is an area with very few names.

To date Te Rūnunga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) has not advised of a traditional/original Māori name for the mountain, and it is not named in [Kā Huru Manu](#). If the Board accepts the proposal the Department of Conservation (DOC), who administer Fiordland National Park, will be advised of it prior to public notification.

¹ Named for Johannes Kepler, a 17th century German astronomer and mathematician.

² Named for William Hayward Pickering (1910-2004) a distinguished New Zealand scientist who pioneered the exploration of space.

³ Named for Beatrice Muriel Hill Tinsley (1941-1981) who made a fundamental contribution to understanding the evolution of galaxies.

Secretariat recommendation

At its 20 April 2021 hui the Board resolved this recommendation:

Accept the proposal to **assign Mount Axford** to the unnamed mountain at 1720m in the Kepler Mountains, based on:

- acknowledging the achievements of the pre-eminent scientist, the late Sir Ian Axford,
- continuing the theme of commemorating prominent New Zealand space scientists in the Kepler Mountains,
- the generic term 'Mount' being consistent with the two other scientist themed names on the Kepler Mountains, and
- naming the highest point on the Kepler Mountains providing a reference for recreational users and emergency responders as it is an area with very few names.

and

Notify as a proposal to assign for one month.

Noting that to date TRONT has not advised of a traditional/original Māori name for the mountain. TRONT and DOC will have an opportunity to make a submission on the proposal during the public notification period.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal The proposer is seeking to assign Mount Axford to an unnamed mountain at 1702m in the Kepler Mountains, between Lake Manapouri and Lake Te Anau. The proposer wishes to name the mountain after Sir Ian Axford (1933-2010), an eminent and highly respected New Zealand astrophysicist and cosmologist. The proposer has provided biographical evidence of Sir Ian's distinguished international career as a researcher and leader of science organisations. Sir Ian, who was a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, was named New Zealander of the year in 1995, and knighted in 1996. Asteroid '5097 Axford' is named in his honour.

The proposer considers it is appropriate to honour Sir Ian in the Kepler Mountains as it will continue a theme of commemorating prominent New Zealand space scientists with nearby Mount Pickering and Mount Tinsley having been assigned as official place names in 2010.

Names shown on plans and maps

The mountain is not named on plans or maps.

Plan/map	Date	Name
NZMS 13, SND 18/19	1902	Not named
SO 7983	1925	Not named
NZMS 13, SND 18/19	1952	Not named
NZMS 1, S149, 1 st and 2 nd editions	1974, 1983	Not named
NZMS 260-C43	1999	Not named

Location of the feature, generic term, and geographic feature type

The mountain is between Lake Te Anau and Lake Manapouri, approximately 1km northwest of Lake Victoria. At 1720m it is the highest point in the Kepler Mountains.

The generic term 'Mount' accurately describes the feature and is consistent with the two other scientist themed names on the Kepler Mountains – Mount Pickering 7.3km to the north and Mount Tinsley 6.4km to the northeast.

The Board's generic terms policy provides for Māori generic terms to be used with Māori place names. The Māori generic term 'Maunga' was considered, however, 'Mount' is the most appropriate in this case.

New Zealand Gazetteer, associated names, and duplication

The mountain is not named in the Gazetteer, and no other places in the Board's jurisdiction are named 'Axford'.

Consultation with iwi and others

The proposer has provided evidence of emails sent to DOC, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Royal Astronomical Society, Fiordland Tramping & Outdoor Recreation Club, and TRONT seeking support for the proposal.

The proposer advises that Lady Joy Axford and her children support the proposal and has provided evidence of support from the Fiordland Tramping & Outdoor Recreation Club. The Royal Society of New Zealand has informally advised the proposer that it would only support the proposal if mana whenua support it.

The feature is within Fiordland National Park, so DOC has an interest in features being identified within the park (maps, information boards, etc). If the Board accepts the proposal DOC will be advised of it prior to public notification.

The Secretariat has liaised directly with TRONT, who hasn't responded to date.

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

A principal function of the Board under s.10(1)(a) is to assign official geographic names. Section 15(2)(b) states that a proposal must meet the requirements specified by the Board.

The proposal has met the Board's Minimum Requirements.

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

1.1 Acceptable names: (b) personal names and (f) themes

Sir Ian Axford, who has been deceased for more than two years, was held in high esteem by his peers as a scientific researcher and leader. The Secretariat has not found any information about the late Sir Ian Axford that puts him into disrepute.

1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations: (h) compelling or overriding need such as identification for emergency services

The feature is within Fiordland National Park, which is remote and has wilderness characteristics, but is not within a designated wilderness area.

However, naming the highest point on the Kepler Mountains would provide a reference for recreational users and emergency responders as it is an area with very few names.

Media

The Secretariat supports a media release for this proposal and will work with the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ⁴ Communications team following this hui.

Supporting information

1. Proposal for Mount Axford – 2021-03-07
2. Email from the proposer – confirm Mount generic – 2021-03-09
3. Email to TRONT – consultation – 2021-03-10

⁴ Land Information New Zealand