

Proposal considered by the Board on 20 April 2021 for: Pākuku Stream [alteration from the official name Papuka Stream]



Summary The proposal is to alter the existing official name Papuka Stream to **Pākuku Stream**, for a small stream approximately 9.6km west-southwest of Cape Turnagain.

The Honorary Geographic Board altered the existing official name from Pakuka Stream to Papuka Stream in 1941, based on orthographic advice from the late Sir Apirana Ngata.

The proposer has provided evidence of the historic use of 'Pakuku' for the stream and an associated unnamed settlement or pā. Mana whenua, who support the proposal, have advised that Pākuku is correct, and supplied information on the origin of the name and its importance to them.

As a relatively small and remote stream on the Wairarapa coast, there are no concerns for safety or confusion if the specific part of the name is altered.

Secretariat recommendation

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

Accept the proposal to **alter** the official name Papuka Stream to **Pākuku Stream**, based on:

- evidence that Pākuku is the original and correct original Māori name, noting Pakuka is likely a transcription error, and no evidence supporting Papuka,
- the Board's functions to correct the spelling of names and encourage the use of original Māori names,

- the importance of the name to mana whenua and its associations with an historic settlement/pā,

and

Notify as a proposal to alter for one month.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal

The proposal is to alter the existing official name Papuka Stream to **Pākuku Stream**, for a stream approximately 9.6km west-southwest of Cape Turnagain on the Wairarapa coast.

The proposer informs that the current official name is incorrect, which was altered by the Honorary Geographic Board in 1941 from another incorrect spelling, likely due to transcription error in the late 19th century.

The proposer has provided documentary evidence of the historic use of Pākuku, including early maps, Māori Land Court minute books, newspapers, and transcribed extracts from William Colenso¹'s diary in the 1840's. A named sketch of the associated Pakuku settlement/pā, by Edward de C Pharazyn is also included with the proposal.

The name Pākuku relates to a reef in the area where green-lipped mussels (kuku) were collected. The proposed Pākuku Stream and an historic Māori settlement and/or pā called Pākuku, on the hills above the stream and reef, were named in association.

The proposer has consulted with mana whenua and provided a letter of support from the Ngāti Kahungunu aligned Rongomaraeroa Marae. The letter describes the ancestral importance and associations of the name, and their desire to correct the misspelling and mispronunciation. The proposer also consulted with a Ngāti Rangitāne kaumātua.

The proposer also notes concern about local use of 'Pakuk', leading people to assume 'Pā Cook' in reference to Lt. James Cook's association with the area through the name Cape Turnagain.

Names shown on plans and maps

While maps and plans generally change from Pakuku to Pakuka in the late 19th century, then to Papuka after the Honorary Board's 1941 decision, some records continued to use 'Pakuku' in the 20th century.

Plans/maps	Date	Name
HB Misc 4 – Map of Part of the District of Ahuriri in the Province of Wellington	1858	Pakuku [stream]
HB Misc 8 – Sketch Map of Lands Purchased...	c.1859	Pakuku [stream]
HB Misc 13 - Map of the Province of Hawke's Bay	1889	Pakuka Creek
HB Sale Plan 221	1906	Pakuka Creek
SO 485	193?	Pakuku Creek

¹ David Mackay. 'Colenso, William', Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1990. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1c23/colenso-william> (accessed 11 March 2021)

NZMS 13 WN66	1917	Pakuka Stream
NZMS 13 HB44	1952	Papuka Stream
NZMS 1 N154-N155 eds.1-2	1957, 1974	Papuka Stream
Title plan HBD1/1327	1970	Pakuku Stm
NZMS 260 U24 eds.1-2	1978, 1998	Papuka Stream
NZTopo50-BN38pt v.1.01	2014	Papuka Stream

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

The feature is a small stream approximately 9.6km west-southwest of [Cape Turnagain](#) and 4.7km east-southeast of [Herbertville](#), on the east coast of Te Ika-a-Māui or the North Island. The main body of the stream flows from the confluence of two tributaries for approximately 2.5km into the Pacific Ocean.

The generic term 'Stream', used in the existing name and retained in the proposed name change, correctly describes the feature type.

New Zealand Gazetteer, associated names, and duplication

[Papuka Stream](#) is the existing official name, altered from Pakuka Stream by the Honorary Geographic Board in 1941, and gazetted as official in 1948.

There are no associated names in the Gazetteer, or duplications of Papuka, Pakuka, or Pakuku.

However, Pakuku Stream is associated with the original name of a rock/reef and an historic Māori settlement/pā in the vicinity. These names are not in the Gazetteer as they are not recorded on authoritative documents nor have they been assigned as official by the Board.

Research, history and references to the feature

The missionary William Williams stopped at the settlement of Pakuku in 1848.² Porter's 1974 index gives 'Pakuka' as the modern spelling in brackets despite the official name, suggesting local or common use at this time.

Pakuku Creek is named in the description for an area reserved from sale from Tautane Block in 1873³. In the 20th century further gazetted boundary descriptions name the stream using the three spellings:

- 'Pakuka Stream' between 1890 and 1927 for Weber County boundaries until transferred into Patangata County.
- 'Pakuku' is used in descriptions in the 1940s and 1950s for Hawke's Bay Electoral District, Tamatea Tribal District, Porangahau Tribal Committee Area, and Patangata County.
- Papuka Stream, the current official name, is used between 1956 and 1987 for County and Riding boundaries.

² Frances Porter (ed.) (1974), [Letters and Journals of William and Jane Williams](#), p.477 - ENZB – accessed 10 March 2021

³ Hawke's Bay Gazette 1873 (29) p.119

NZGB archives	<p>In 1941 Pakuka Stream was one of 411 Māori place names submitted to the Honorary Geographic Board for review of the spelling for new maps. The Hon. Sir Apirana Ngata wrote 'Papuka' in the review column, and the Honorary Geographic Board approved this at its meeting on 12 June 1941.</p> <p>Papuka Stream was later gazetted as an official name under the NZGB Act 1946⁴ in 1948.</p>
Consultation with iwi and others	<p>The proposer has provided a letter of support from Ngāti Kere, Rongomaraeroa Marae Trustees. Rongomaraeroa Marae is to the north at Pōrangahau and is affiliated to Ngāti Kahungunu⁵. The proposer has also consulted with a kaumātua of Ngāti Rangitane, Manahi Paewai.</p> <p>In terms of the Board's <i>Kaupapa for Māori Place Names</i>, the Secretariat wrote to the iwi and hapū organisations Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui a Rua Inc, Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea (Ngāti Kahunhunu) and Te Taiwhenua o Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (Ngāti Kahunhunu) for any further comment on the proposal.</p> <p>Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui a Rua advised it would look to provide a formal letter of support from Manahi Paewai.</p> <p>Comment from TPK at this hui on consulting with appropriate mana whenua is welcome</p>
Advice on orthography ⁶	<p>A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator has advised Pākuku is correct based on information in the proposal, ie: Pā – touch/connect, kuku – green-lipped mussels, a name for a rock/reef where mussels were gathered.</p>
Relevant section from the NZGB Act 2008	<p>Section 3(e) provides the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features.</p> <p>Under sections 11(1)(b), (e) and (f) functions of the NZGB are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official charts or maps - encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps - seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography of any Māori name <p><i>The proposer wishes to correct an original Māori name and has support from mana whenua.</i></p>

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

1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered when it standardises the orthography.

⁴ New Zealand Gazette 1948 (42) p.939

⁵ <https://maorimaps.com/marae/rongomaraeroa> - last accessed 10 March 2021

⁶ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long-term use and the practical need for location identification.

The proposal would correct the spelling of the name and the proposer has provided evidence of the cultural and historical significance of the name. While Papuka Stream has been in long term use on topographic maps (69 years), there is evidence of other sources continuing to use 'Pakuku'.

Concerns or issues
for emergency
services

As a relatively small and remote feature, there are no concerns for safety and identification if the specific part of the name is altered.

Media

Media attention for this relatively small stream is unlikely.

Supporting information

1. Proposal to alter Papuka Stream to Pākuku Stream – 22 February 2021