

Proposal considered by the Board on 20 April 2021 for:
Te Korowhakaunu / Canaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanaris
Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound
[altered from Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound]



Summary The proposal is to alter the spelling in the second part of the official dual name Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound to either Te Korowhakaunu / Canaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound.

The Board altered Cunaris Sound to Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound in October 2019 as one of 16 'sounds' names in Fiordland altered to official dual names. That proposal did not receive any objecting submissions during the three month public notification period (20 May-20 August 2019).

The proposer has provided extensive evidence that Jules de Blosseville named the bay in 1826 after Konstantinos Kanaris (c.1793-1877) a hero of the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829).

The proposer advises that the spelling 'Cunaris' was the result of a transcription error made by a 19th century cartographer, who translated 'Bras Canaris' (*lit.* Canaris Arm) to 'Cunaris Bay'.

The proposer has suggested three spelling options:

- Canaris: the 19th century Romanised form of the Greek name recorded on de Blosseville's 1826 chart,
- Kanaris: the modern Romanised form of the Greek name and the commonly used spelling during the 20th century,

- Kanáris: the modern Romanised form of the Greek name and the commonly used spelling since 2000 [Secretariat note: the acute is a pronunciation guide to emphasize the 2nd syllable].

The spelling 'Cunaris' has been used consistently on maps and charts since 1833 (188 years) and is historically embedded.

TRONT¹ doesn't have an opinion on the proposed change of 'Cunaris' and supports Te Korowhakaunu remaining unchanged and first in the dual name. Southland's Harbourmaster has no concerns for navigational safety if the name was altered.

A summary of the proposer's 140 page handwritten proposal is below.

Secretariat recommendations – the Board did not agree to these recommendations

Recommendation 1 **Decline** the proposal to alter the official dual name Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound to either **Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound**, or **Te Korowhakaunu / Kanaris Sound**, or **Te Korowhakaunu / Canaris Sound** based on long term use (188 years) of the spelling 'Cunaris' and it being historically embedded.

and

Recommendation 2 **Agree** to acknowledge the history and origin of the 'Cunaris' part of the official dual name, Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound, in the New Zealand Gazetteer, which would address section 11(1)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008 to examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted.

Option

At its 20 April 2021 hui the Board resolved option 3

Option 3
[replaces
Recommendations 1
and 2]

Accept the proposal to **alter** Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound to **Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound**, based on:

- evidence that the feature was named for Konstantinos Kanaris (c.1793-1877) a hero of the 1821-1829 Greek War of Independence,
- a principal function of the Board being to correct the spelling of names,
- Kanáris being the modern Romanised form of the Greek name and the commonly used spelling since 2000, and
- Southland's Harbourmaster having no concerns for navigational safety if the name was altered.

and

Notify as a proposal to alter for one month.

¹ Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal The proposer is seeking to alter the spelling in the second part of the official dual name Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound to either Te Korowhakaunu / Canaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound.

The three spelling options the proposer has suggested for 'Cunaris' are:

- Canaris: the 19th century Romanised form of the Greek name recorded on de Blosseville's 1826 chart, or
- Kanaris: the modern Romanised form of the Greek name and the commonly used spelling during the 20th century, or
- Kanáris: the modern Romanised form of the Greek name and the commonly used spelling since 2000. [Secretariat note: the acute is a pronunciation guide emphasizing the 2nd syllable]

The proposer advises that:

- French naval officer, Jules de Blosseville (1802-1833), drew a chart 'Baie Chalky' and published an article in 1826 based on information from Captain WL Edwardson, who had explored the Fiordland coast in 1822-23.
- de Blosseville named two of the features' Bras Edwardson (*lit.* Edwardson Arm) and Bras Canaris (*lit.* Canaris Arm) in reference to Edwardson and Canaris' remarkable and impressive feats of skill and seamanship in the vessels they commanded in the early 1820s.
- Bras Canaris was named after Konstantinos Kanaris (c.1793-1877) a hero of the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829). Kanaris was famous enough in Europe in 1826 for de Blosseville to name a feature after him.
- In France at the time there was considerable interest in, and support for, the Greek War of Independence. de Blosseville and his family greatly admired Kanaris for his contribution to the Greek War of Independence.
- 'Cunaris' is a corrupted form of 'Canaris'. It came about because of an error made by a 19th century cartographer, who transcribed and translated the French 'Bras Canaris' (*lit.* Canaris Arm) on de Blosseville's chart, to 'Cunaris Bay' on an 1840 revised chart.
- The proposer refutes some sources that record that de Blosseville named the bay after the bellbirds (canaries) his informants heard in the bush. There is no reference to birds in de Blosseville's narrative of Edwardson's voyage. If de Blosseville intended to name the bay after canaries heard or seen there, he would have followed the general French structure for geographic naming ie, Bras des Canaris.
- Baie Profonde (*lit.* Deep Bay), which is recorded on the 1824 French chart is not a name, but a description.

Names shown on maps and charts

De Blosseville's 1826 sketch is the only map or chart to show the spelling 'Cunaris'.

Map/chart	Date	Name
Carte de la Côte Méridionale de L'île Nouvelle Zélande	1824	Baie Profonde
De Blosseville's Sketch of Chalky Bay ²	1826	Bras Canaris
South west extreme of New Zealand	1833	Cunaris Bay
Chart BA 2589	1858	Cunaris Sound

² McNab, R. *Murihiku: a History of the South Island of New Zealand and the Islands Adjacent and Lying to the South, from 1642 to 1835*. Wellington: Whitcombe & Tombs, 1909.

NZMS 13, SD46	1903	Cunaris Sound
NZMS 26	1920	Cunaris B.
NZMS 1, S165	1974	Cunaris Sound
Chart NZ 76	1964, 1982, 2016	Cunaris Sound

**Location,
geographic
feature type and
generic term**

The feature is an extension of Taiari / Chalky Inlet, on the southwest coast of Te Waipounamu. At its hui on 19 April 2019 the Board agreed that although the feature is more correctly a fiord³, the generic term 'Sound' had been in long term use and should be retained.

**New Zealand
Gazetteer,
associated names,
duplication, and
issues for
emergency
services**

Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound is an official dual name in the Gazetteer. It was one of 16 'sounds' names the Board altered to official dual names in October 2019. No other features or places in the Board's jurisdiction are named 'Cunaris', 'Canaris', 'Kanaris' or 'Kanáris'.

There are no concerns about identification to emergency services if the spelling of the 'Cunaris' part of the dual name was altered.

Board archives

The Board's index cards record that:

- Cunaris Sound is an old established name, and
- the Board declined altering Cunaris Sound to Cunaris Fiord in 2003.

Consultation

TRONT has advised that it doesn't have an opinion about the proposed change to the Pākehā name and supports the existing Māori name remaining unchanged and first in the dual name.

Southland's Harbourmaster has advised that he has no concerns for navigational safety if the name was altered.

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

A function of the Board under section 11(1)(b) is to examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official charts or maps.

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

1.5 Orthographic standards (e) Foreign names must be Romanised and should be in the form of the country of origin.

Kanáris is the modern Romanised form of the Greek name and the commonly used spelling since 2000.

1.6 Altered names

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 'Cunaris' and the proposer has provided evidence of the historical significance of the name. However, the

³ A fiord is formed from river valleys deepened by ice from melted glaciers.

spelling 'Cunaris', which has been in use on maps and charts since 1833 (188 years), is historically embedded.

Media

There was not a lot of media interest when the Board accepted the proposals to alter the 16 'sounds' names in Fiordland to official dual names in 2019. Therefore, if the Board accepts this proposal a media release may not be warranted.

Supporting information

1. Proposal for Te Korowhakaunu / Canaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanaris Sound, or Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound
2. Email from Southland Harbourmaster – no concerns – 2020-10-29
3. Email from J Fettes – TRONT response – 2021-01-26