

Submissions for:  
Lake McKinnon [altered from Lake Mackinnon]  
Omanui / McKinnon Pass [altered from Mackinnon Pass]  
Considered by the Board on 8 April 2022



## Summary

At its hui on 22 July 2021 the Board accepted proposals to alter Lake Mackinnon to Lake McKinnon and Mackinnon Pass to Omanui / McKinnon Pass.

During the public notification period between 26 August 2021 and 30 November 2021 the Board received:

- two submissions objecting to the proposal for Lake McKinnon and no supporting submissions, and
- six submissions supporting and two submissions objecting to the proposal for Omanui / McKinnon Pass (one online objection for Lake McKinnon is clearly meant for Omanui / McKinnon Pass).

The reasons in the objecting submissions are responded to below. They are not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposals.

## Secretariat recommendations

Recommendation 1 **Consider** all submissions on the proposal to alter the recorded place name Lake Mackinnon to the official place name **Lake McKinnon** and their reasons, **and** **Reject** the two objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons that the Board previously accepted for the proposal, being:

- that a function of the Board is to correct the spelling of geographic names,
- evidence that the feature was named for Quintin McPherson McKinnon (1851-1892), McKinnon is the correct spelling (despite his son allegedly saying otherwise) and he had a significant association with the area as a surveyor, explorer and guide, and
- an alteration to the spelling not impacting on emergency services as the current and proposed names are pronounced the same.

**and** **Confirm** the Board's earlier decision to alter the recorded place name Lake Mackinnon to an official place name **Lake McKinnon**, **and** **Report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

**and**

Recommendation 2 **Consider** all submissions on the proposal to alter the recorded place name Mackinnon Pass to the official dual place name **Omanui / McKinnon Pass** and their reasons, **and** **Reject** the two objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons that the Board previously accepted for the proposal, being:

- the Board's functions to investigate and determine the priority of the discovery of a geographic feature, and to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps,
- evidence in Kā Huru Manu that Ōmanui is the original Māori name for the pass and TRONT<sup>1</sup>'s papatipu rūnanga's preference to have Ōmanui (with the macron) as the first part of the dual name, noting orthographic advice from a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator that the correct orthography is Omanui without the macron,
- applying a dual place name recognising the equal historical significance of both parts of the name,
- applying the Māori name first recognising first discovery by Māori,
- evidence that the feature was named for Quintin McPherson McKinnon (1851-1892), McKinnon is the correct spelling (despite his son allegedly saying otherwise) and he had a significant association with the area as a surveyor, explorer and guide,

<sup>1</sup> Te Rūnunga o Ngāi Tahu

- 
- an alteration to the spelling from Mackinnon to McKinnon not impacting on emergency services as they are pronounced the same, and
  - retaining the English part of the name making it easier to identify the pass in an emergency.

**and**

**Confirm** the Board's earlier decision to alter the recorded place name Mackinnon Pass to the official dual place name **Omanui / McKinnon Pass**, using the standardised orthography for Omanui without the macron,

**and**

**Report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

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## Background

Board minutes 22 July 2021  
[abridged]

The Board accepted the proposals to alter:

- Lake Mackinnon to Lake McKinnon noting that TRONT's papatipu rūnanga agrees with the spelling alteration and had not advised of an original Māori name for the lake, and
  - Mackinnon Pass to the official dual place name Omanui / McKinnon Pass based on the pass having the original Māori name, Ōmanui with a macron, but the correct orthography being Omanui without the macron.
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## Notification

Advice to mana whenua and DOC<sup>2</sup> of public notification

On 29 July 2021 the Secretariat advised TRONT that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposals for submissions between 26 August 2021 and 30 November 2021. Because the features are in Fiordland National Park DOC was also advised prior to public notification.

Advice to MPs

On 27 August 2021 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Te Tai Tonga and Southland and all adjacent electorates that the proposals were open for submissions until 30 November 2021.

Public notification including social media

The Board advertised the proposals:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#),
- in the *Sunday Star Times* and *Southland Express*,
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ<sup>3</sup> [Consultation](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)<sup>TM</sup> pages, and
- on the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

On 30 August 2021 the Federated Mountain Clubs notified the proposals on its social media site and again in its newsletter<sup>4</sup> in mid-September 2021.

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Conservation

<sup>3</sup> Land Information New Zealand

<sup>4</sup> <https://my.fmc.org.nz/civCRM/mailling/view?reset=1&id=241> Accessed 27 January 2022

## Media

The Board released a [media advisory](#) in te reo Māori and English, which was also posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website. [scoop.co.nz](#) syndicated the English version on 26 August 2021. The [Otago Daily Times](#) and [Southland Times](#) published articles on the proposals on 4 September 2021. The Wilderness magazine's October 2021 issue carried the article [Name change for Mackinnon Pass proposed](#).

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## Summary of the two objecting submissions for Lake McKinnon and the Secretariat's comments

### **In 'Fiordland Explored' Hall-Jones describes MacKinnon as being the correct spelling, and this has weight.**

In *Fiordland Place-Names*<sup>5</sup> Hall-Jones records that he relied on information from McKinnon's son that the spelling is Mackinnon despite Quintin McKinnon showing Lake McKinnon on his own sketch map.

### **Mc, Mac or M' are often interchanged in Papers Past depending on the editor or compositor. When literacy was not widespread, it was a word's sound and not its spelling that mattered. Leave as it is - it sounds the same, uses spelling that was often applied and is legitimate in the context of the times.**

While the objector offers a good reason, pronunciation doesn't determine spelling and past misspellings should not generally prevail. Evidence provided by the proposer to substantiate the spelling 'McKinnon' included a hand-written note signed 'Quintin McKinnon', and a marriage certificate and the birth certificates of two sons, which record 'Quintin McPherson McKinnon'.

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## Summary of the six supporting submissions for Omanui / McKinnon Pass

Aligns with DOC's naming, provides equality for Māori and European exploration and history, and corrects spelling of McKinnon's name.

Good start to recognising the original name.

Using original Māori place names is an important part of restoring te reo and respecting original explorers. Correcting McKinnon also makes sense.

Is a mountaineer and trumper with a strong connection to the area.

Supports increased use of appropriate dual names in the area.

The correct spelling of McKinnon makes sense.

Supports shift to dual names and greater recognition of Māori heritage.

## Summary of the two submissions for Omanui / McKinnon Pass and the Secretariat's comments

[This submitter filled in the online submission form for Lake McKinnon when it is clearly meant as an objection to Omanui / McKinnon Pass.]

**Taxpayers' funds being used on trivia. No point in changing a name that has been used since the pass was first identified. Adding Omanui is woke gone wong (sic). If changing names is all that the NZ Geographic Board is good for then it should be wound up.**

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<sup>5</sup> Hall-Jones, J. (2003). *Fiordland Place-Names*. Real Journeys: Te Anau

Concerns about cost are not relevant to the Board's decision. One of the legislated requirements of the Board is to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official maps and charts. The pass was first identified and named Omanui by Ngāi Tahu who used the Milford Track route to transport food from the fiords<sup>6</sup>.

**In 'Fiordland Explored' Hall-Jones describes MacKinnon as being the correct spelling, and this has weight. Omanui shouldn't be adopted if it was barely used, and it isn't known what it means. Acknowledges Board policy to have Māori name first based on first use, but MacKinnon Pass has been in use 100+ years so it should be first.**

In *Fiordland Place-Names*<sup>7</sup> Hall-Jones records that he relied on information from McKinnon's son that the spelling is Mackinnon despite Quintin McKinnon showing Lake McKinnon on his own sketch map. The proposer also provided examples of McKinnon's own signature with the spelling 'McKinnon'.

The names of places, whether Māori or non-Māori, do not always convey meaning or it is not always known. It may have been lost or the reason for the name is no longer evident. The Board is required to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names, and unless there are concerns for safety, the Board's convention is that the Māori name should be first in a dual name in recognition of first discovery.

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## Supporting information

1. Board report for Lake McKinnon and Omanui / McKinnon Pass – 2021-07-22
2. Online submissions spreadsheet for Lake McKinnon (2 objecting)
3. Online submissions spreadsheet for Omanui / McKinnon Pass (6 supporting, 2 objecting)
4. 'Nod to history in proposed names' – Otago Daily Times – 4 September 2021
5. 'Spelling corrections and map manoeuvres lined up for Fiordland' – Southland Times – 4 September 2021

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<sup>6</sup> [Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Schedule 102](#)

<sup>7</sup> Hall-Jones, J. (2003). *Fiordland Place-Names*. Real Journeys: Te Anau