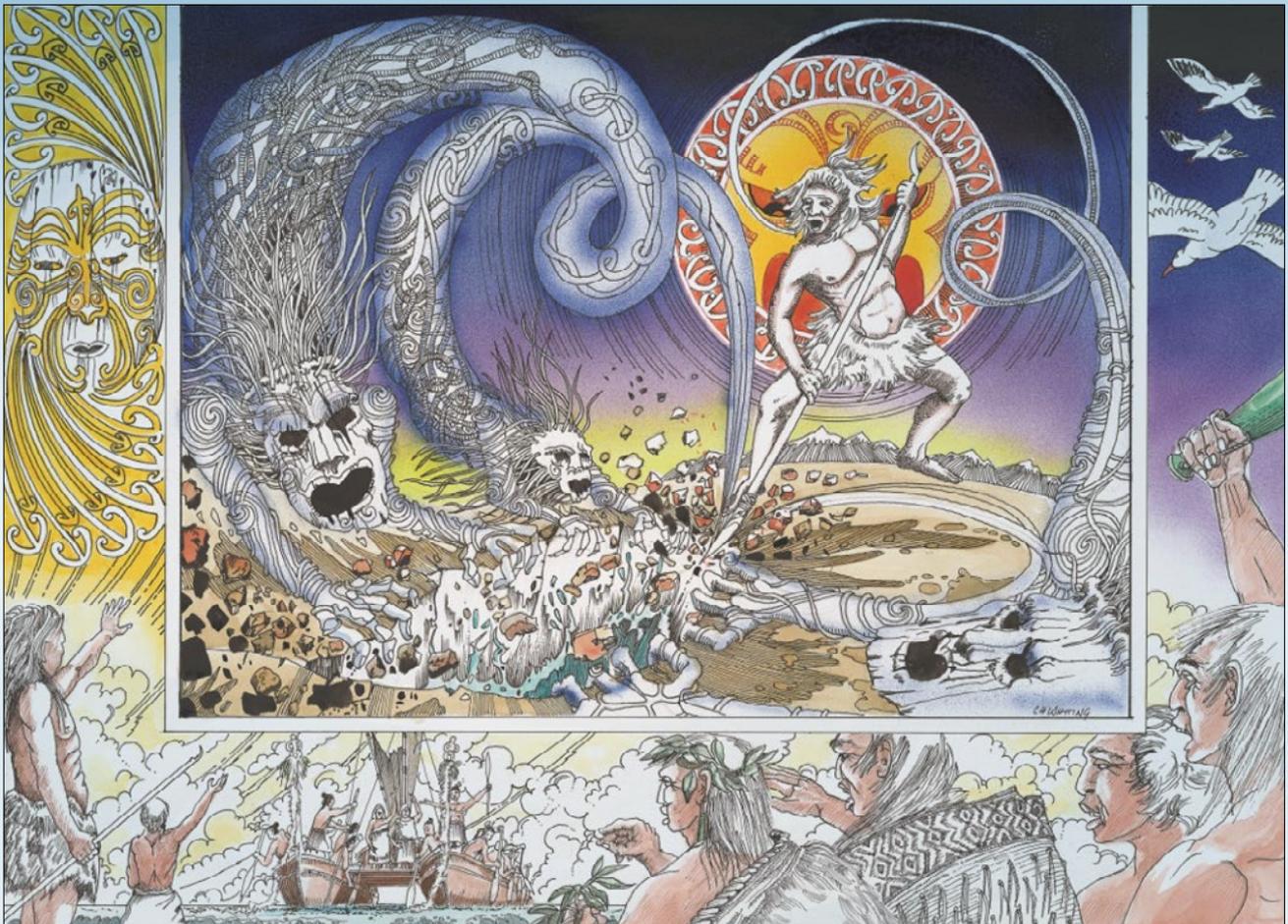


# Annual Report Pūrongo ā-tau

of the New Zealand Geographic Board  
Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

2021/22





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**Cover artwork** by Cliff Whiting for the New Zealand Geographic Board (1990). He Korero Pūrākau Mo Ngā Taunahanahatanga a Ngā Tūpuna, Place Names of the Ancestors, A Māori Oral History Atlas. Government Printing Office, Wellington. This artwork relates to a Ngāi Tahu creation story. The names of many of the great lakes of Te Waipounamu were given by a famous ancestor, Rākaihautū from the Aoraki waka, who traversed the island with his famous kō (digging stick) named Tūwhakarōria, creating and naming the southern lakes of the interior and the coastal lakes and lagoons of the east coast.

Photo 1 (karakia). Pōhutukawa on Rangitoto Island.

Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken January 2017

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# Contents

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## Annual Report 2021/22

Annual Report of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa.

Presented to the Minister for Land Information as required by section 14 of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.

<b>Karakia</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chairperson’s message</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About the Board</b>	<b>6</b>
Role	6
Purpose, functions, duties	6
Te Rautaki   Strategy 2020–2025	7
<b>About place names</b>	<b>8</b>
Making place names accessible	8
What do place names support?	8
What are the challenges?	10
<b>Achievements and performance</b>	<b>12</b>
Decisions	12
Standards, policies, guidelines	20
Outreach	21
Relationships	22
Compliance	25
Projects	25
<b>New Zealand Gazetteer</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Board, komiti/committees, observers, Secretariat, hui</b>	<b>29</b>
Board and komiti/committees	29
Members and observers	29
Secretariat	30
Hui	30
<b>Financial performance</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>32</b>



# Karakia

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E Papa, e Rangī!

Kia turukī mai te maru atua nui

he āio-nuku, he āio-rangī, he āio matua

Kia mahea te ara

Kia pūrangiaho te titiro

Kia kotahi te ngākau

Kia toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te aroha!

Hou!

Papatūānuku, Ranginui!

Extend unto us the divine sheltering mantle

Earthly harmony, heavenly serenity,  
and the most great peace

Make clear the path ahead

And sight be true

And oneness of heart

That our words, spiritual power,  
and harmony reign!

It is bound fast!

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# Chairperson's message

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report on behalf of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa.

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As Surveyor-General my primary role at Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand relates to the cadastral survey system, supporting the integrity of property rights in Aotearoa New Zealand. Surveyors-General have held the ex-officio role as Chairperson of the Board since 1924, when an Honorary Board was first established. Legislation in 1946 formally established the New Zealand Geographic Board with the authority to make place names official. I am mindful of those past leaders and the legacy and informed decision-making of their Boards. It brings a responsibility to continue this leadership role and preserve those decisions, while also evolving alongside changing societal expectations. As a nation we are becoming more willing to recognise te reo Māori, our indigenous and colonial history, cultural diversity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments.

Place names are an important historical record, a unique identifier of cultural heritage coupled with the practical need to identify location. The word that makes up the place name is often enough for people to identify 'where'. But the cultural connection attached to that word has a much deeper significance.

For the people who live in that place, or for those who discovered and named it, the name represents a personal connection to the land and provides a true sense of place. The story or meaning that goes with a place name matters as much as, if not more than, the name itself.

There is a growing awareness, both nationally and internationally, of historical injustices and the way these are present in our daily lives. Place names, for example, are a visible reminder of when introduced names have been laid over Māori place names. This has been addressed in part through original Māori place names being restored in Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement redress. The increase in daily use of te reo Māori is being reflected in the Board continuing to restore or record original Māori place names, including with their correct spelling and the use of macrons.

Place names provide both tangible and intangible means of addressing inequities. The Board is responding to the community's increasing interest and expectation that place names reflect the equity that exists in our communities. This fulfils not only our statutory function to encourage the use of original Māori place names, but also meets our global responsibilities.

This year has included many highlights for the Board. We have:

- begun to implement outreach and engagement initiatives to raise the Board's profile and help with compliance
- upgraded our *Gazetteer*<sup>1</sup> system to reduce security risks
- added more stories to place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*
- created online forms to make it easier for people to submit proposals
- completely re-written our website content and updated the navigation architecture
- consulted iwi on place names to be included on the new 1840s Tangata Whenua Place Names maps
- made many decisions on place names, some of which drew significant public response.

The Board is concerned that alternative names for many of our cities and major towns are coming into common use without having gone through a formal naming process, which would include confirming the suitability and the spelling of the name. The Board has adopted a soft strategy that involves engaging with iwi and councils to see if they are willing to initiate any proposals.

We have also been liaising with Waka Kotahi to support their *He Tohu Huarahi Māori* bilingual traffic signs programme, as many of these signs include the names of our cities and towns.

We have again made a significant contribution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Our Secretary's involvement has earned us respect internationally and we welcome the influence that the global conversation has on place names in Aotearoa New Zealand.

I am grateful to the Board and to our Secretariat for their huge commitment to this important mahi, which has resulted in the Board making informed, robust and enduring decisions. The Board actively upholds the significant responsibilities of its role and recognises that it has been endowed with the trust of the nation.



Mr Anselm Haanen  
Chairperson

1. Online searchable list of place names

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# About the Board

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## Role

Our role is to give places and features official names, approve place names that are unofficial, change place names (for example, by correcting their spelling), review Crown reserve names, and alter councils' district and region names. We also maintain the online *New Zealand Gazetteer* and provide advice on place names that are part of cultural redress in Te Tiriti o Waitangi claim settlements.

Our naming jurisdiction covers Aotearoa New Zealand, its offshore islands, the Ross Sea region of Antarctica, and the ocean floor on Aotearoa New Zealand's continental shelf. We are not responsible for road names or the name for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our Māori name, Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, was given to us by the late Sir James Hēnare. Its metaphorical meaning is 'memorial markers of the landscape'.

Our ten members are drawn from different walks of life to broadly represent Aotearoa New Zealand. We are an independent statutory body of government, making decisions aligned with good place naming practice. We develop policies, standards and guidelines to ensure informed, accurate, consistent and standardised place naming, and we follow a statutory process, which helps to preserve the integrity of our decision-making. We are supported by a small Secretariat team within Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, who report to the Secretary and Chairperson. The Secretariat provides administrative support, manages the various naming processes, undertakes research, gives advice on behalf of the Board to Māori, the public and councils, and delivers on projects and initiatives.

## Purpose, functions, duties

We are Aotearoa New Zealand's national place naming authority, as set out in the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 (the Act). We make place names official so that there is an agreed and correct name for a place or feature, which helps to avoid ambiguity and confusion, especially in an emergency. We run a public process to decide what places and features should be called – giving appropriate recognition to the relationship with the land and its connection to New Zealanders' identity.

Our purpose, functions and duties are set out in the Act, and are generally summarised as:

- being responsible for safeguarding the place naming traditions, culture and heritage brought to Aotearoa New Zealand by its various communities
- ensuring place naming contributes to the geospatial systems that provide economic, cultural and social value to all New Zealanders
- being a steward (kaitiaki) and custodian of Aotearoa New Zealand's official place names
- acting as the principal adviser to the government on place names (official and unofficial), especially to Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations, Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation, and councils
- consulting and engaging with all New Zealanders, including Māori, to take account of their views in decision-making
- ensuring our decision-making and advice offer the most benefit to the longer-term interests of Aotearoa New Zealand
- ensuring our decision-making is independent and based on robust practices and processes
- ensuring places and physical features are called by their official names.

## Te Rautaki | Strategy 2020–2025

### Our outcomes

To secure and celebrate New Zealand's unique identity through place names.

We enable meaningful connections between people, places and language through these goals:



**Naming places:** We officially name features and places so that people can effectively communicate information about the location, and preserve New Zealand's heritage and culture.



**Using official names:** Organisations use official names so that people use them in everyday life.



**Outreach:** We make information including stories about place names readily available.



**Improving capability and processes:** We continuously improve our capability and processes to achieve our goals and objectives.

Delivery of our four strategic goals is managed within existing funding and resources.

Our priorities are to:

- officially name all relevant and appropriate places, including cities, towns, suburbs and localities in Aotearoa New Zealand
- officially name places in Antarctica and our undersea regions
- contribute to, influence and apply international good practice for standardised and consistent place naming
- engage with Māori communities and restore original Māori place names
- provide advice to support the cultural redress of Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement place names
- increasingly engage with the public through our online presence
- partner with organisations and media (including Māori media) to promote the use and understanding of place names
- publish documents in Māori and English to reach a broader audience
- work closely with Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand to achieve our goals.

Our Secretariat manages a work programme aligned to our strategic goals and objectives, with priorities and visibility of progress. Actions, programmes, initiatives and projects are reported at each Board hui.

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# About place names

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## Making place names accessible

Making our online *Gazetteer* easy to access and search, freely downloadable for reuse, and interoperable in a range of formats complements the intangible cultural benefits that place names serve, such as in education and on mapping products, and builds an awareness of Aotearoa New Zealand's territory. This allows users to have authoritative information that provides certainty and a reliable single point of truth.

Place names are a core theme in any geospatial dataset and are a fundamental part of Aotearoa New Zealand's spatial data infrastructure. They provide context and a framework to support the administration, management, governance and critical analysis of the environment and its resources.

By providing high quality, accessible, timely, consistent and reliable data, we contribute to managing places for scientific research, exploration and environmental management. Our naming role in Antarctica also provides a consistent reference for Antarctic science.

## What do place names support?

### Environmental indicators

By looking to the past, we can better prepare for the future. Names in the landscape are captured moments of memory so that the lessons of history are always present and available. Ancestral Māori lived in very close harmony with the natural world, especially the land and its resources. Many of Aotearoa New Zealand's Māori place names describe not only the physical aspects of a feature but provide information about the natural and cultural conditions at the time they were coined.

For example, Tāhuahua-Paopao-Karoro Island is an ancient Māori name that has been restored through the NgaiTakoto Te Tiriti settlement. The name derives from the use of the island as a habitat and food gathering area: tāhuahua is a land mass, paopao is the sound a baby chick makes as it emerges from an egg, and karoro is a seagull. After suffering a calamitous storm that stripped the island of vegetation and fertile soils, an accompanying sea surge removed possibly more than nine-tenths of its land mass.

Meanings and messages behind such place names will become increasingly significant as climate and other environmental changes make many of them obsolete. Place names not only describe the land physically, but they can also unlock its resources, provide practical information, and help future communities to adapt to their changing environments.



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## What are the challenges?

### Māori place names

Much of our work involves Māori place names – a consequence of specific statutory requirements but also shifting societal expectations, as well as government initiatives to revitalise the Māori language. The growth in daily use of te reo Māori is being reflected in our restoration of significant Māori place names, including correcting them with macrons to help with pronunciation and meaning. This fulfils not only our statutory responsibilities around using original Māori place names but also our Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments.

However, we recognise that the path to such change can be difficult for many New Zealanders who have attachments to the introduced, overlaid place names brought by colonial explorers, sealers, whalers, and settlers. We adopt a measured and conservative approach that includes consultation with relevant Māori, communities, and councils to ensure informed, robust and enduring decisions. This aligns with two of our strategies to restore original Māori place names and to engage with Māori communities to gain support for their names.

### Māori names for cities and towns

Māori names for many towns and cities that have English names are becoming commonly used, recognised, understood and expected by New Zealanders. However, most of these Māori place names are not official and we have not considered them.

Most visible examples are those that the media use in weather forecasts, such as:

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Auckland	Tāmaki Makaurau
Wellington	Te Whanganui-a-Tara
Christchurch	Ōtautahi
Dunedin	Ōtepoti
Napier	Ahuriri

---

In addition, many councils have adopted Māori place names to reflect their civic jurisdictions and are using Māori place names in their branding and marketing.



Photo 2. Road sign near Cromwell. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken October 2018

Our concerns are that many popularised Māori place names may not necessarily be correct or have the right spelling.

We've adopted the following approach:

- Collect original Māori names that are being commonly used for cities and towns and ensure they are orthographically correct and supported by iwi and councils.
- Add these names to the *Gazetteer* to make them discoverable as alternative place names, even though not official.
- Encourage the use of these names on official maps and charts and in the media.
- Work with councils, hapū, iwi and Te Tiriti claimants to progress any formal proposals from them for alternative Māori names for cities and towns.

Approving official alternative place names means that either name can be used, and not necessarily together. It also means that both place names would be correct, official and could be used interchangeably.

### What about other place names?

Decisions to replace long-standing non-Māori place names are not taken lightly, and there has to be good reason. Our heritage is shared, and it is important to reflect on and commemorate the place names given to our landscape from an equitable standpoint. Sometimes we may opt for dual names to recognise equal significance. Sometimes alternative names may be appropriate. Each case is considered with different criteria applied, depending on the information, connection and whether modern considerations apply. Whenever a place name is changed or replaced, it remains discoverable in the *Gazetteer* as a layer of history.

# Achievements and performance

## Decisions

### Place name proposals

Our work focuses on assigning new or changing existing place names in response to proposals from the public, Māori, organisations and government agencies.

In 2021/22 we publicly notified 15 place name proposals, inviting submissions for or against:

- Lake McKinnon, in Fiordland National Park
- Omanui / McKinnon Pass, on the Milford Track
- Mount Makere, in the Darran Mountains
- Mount Milne, in the Darran Mountains
- Mount Tarewai, in the Darran Mountains
- Pikipari Pass, in the Darran Mountains
- Whaitiri, in the Darran Mountains
- Kapakapanui Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Koangaumu Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Ohangao Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Tītahi Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Maungatūtū, south of Tauranga
- Te Horohoroinga-o-ngā-ringa-o-Kahumatamomoe, south of Rotorua
- Lake Mangapōike, between Wairoa and Gisborne
- Skerretts Creek, near Wainuiomata.

### Place name consultation

We follow the public notification requirements in the Act and use additional methods to broaden our reach, including Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's social media channels. We are careful to monitor comments to moderate inappropriate posts. Offensive comments are removed, and we may disable a user's ability to comment.



Image 2. Standard proposal process

Typically, we use the following channels to inform people of place name proposals and invite them to make submissions:

- publication in the *New Zealand Gazette*
- public notices in a national and local newspapers
- advice to mana whenua
- advice to relevant MPs
- advice to relevant councils
- advice to a circulation list of stakeholders, agencies, map makers, etc
- publication on Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's 'Consultation' and 'News' web pages
- publication on the Government's 'Consultation' webpage
- media releases in English and Māori, which meets our strategic goal to make information about place names readily available
- responding to media enquiries.

### Approving recorded<sup>2</sup> place names as official

Approximately 28,300 (53%, see Table 2) of the place names in the *Gazetteer* are not official. The programme to approve them as official began in October 2020. This is being done region by region, and we are aiming to complete the work by the end of 2026.<sup>3</sup>

A recorded place name can be made official through a streamlined process set out in the Act which dispenses with public consultation only if:

- there is no other recorded name for the feature or place
- public objection is unlikely
- we are satisfied that at least two publicly available documents that record the place name are authoritative.

Despite not publicly consulting, we engage directly with councils and mana whenua. Where possible we take the opportunity to confirm the recorded place names are correct and gather any stories behind them. Importantly, Māori place names are standardised with macrons if needed through this process. Positions are also investigated, and sometimes extents are added to the *Gazetteer* for features and places, such as rivers and suburbs.

In 2021/22 we processed recorded place names in the Subantarctic Islands and the Kermadec Islands (226), Auckland (1,434) and Gisborne (1,059). Of these, a total of 1,007 recorded place names in the Subantarctic Islands (198), Gisborne (802), and 7 follow ups from past processing have been approved and gazetted as official. The recorded place names in Auckland have been deferred for further consultation with Māori.

We are also taking the opportunity to amend associated official Māori place names that require macrons. This includes Crown reserves after confirmation from Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation. If we find that there are any recorded place names that do not meet the test for the streamlined process then they remain as unofficial recorded place names.

We consider that the benefits of having a large number of recorded place names made official through the streamlined process significantly outweighs the small risk of error using this approval programme. For the most part the decisions have been well received by communities and the addition of macrons is welcomed.

2. Recorded place names have appeared in at least two publicly available authoritative publications or databases. They are unofficial because they have not been gazetted under the Board's guiding legislation.

3. <https://www.lin.govt.nz/our-work/statutory-and-support-roles/new-zealand-geographic-board/approving-unofficial-place-names?>

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## Crown protected areas

Our role in naming Crown reserves is to review proposals received from Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation against our *Standard for Crown protected area names*. If the *Standard* is met, then we concur with the proposal. Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation can then classify and name the reserve under its own relevant legislation. If we don't concur we report to the Minister of Conservation for a final decision.

This year we concurred with two Crown protected area name proposals:

- Waipata Scientific Reserve, southwest of Dunroon, north Otago
- Maunga Kākaramea Scenic Reserve, south of Rotorua.

Current discussions with Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation include:

- ensuring that their signs use official reserve names
- rationalising their digital maps and databases with the *Gazetteer*
- updating the *Standard* to potentially include Māori generic terms for reserve classifications, a delegation by the Minister of Conservation to manage proposals that are not concurred with, and amendments to our Act to update definitions and processes.

## Naming undersea features

Our work on clearly identifying and officially naming undersea features on the continental shelves of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica provides an authoritative and consistent frame of reference for scientific and economic research, exploration, and environmental protection and management. Naming features on the ocean floor is also a way of telling the story of Aotearoa New Zealand's history and culture.

Our Undersea Feature Names Committee has now reviewed 82% of the 857 existing undersea feature names within the Board's jurisdiction. On its recommendation, this year we have altered, assigned, adopted or approved 24 undersea feature names as official.

At our April 2022 Board hui we provided clarity on the appropriateness of altering non-Māori undersea feature names to Māori names. The principles for recommending an alteration are that:

- the tradition, story or meaning of the name should relate to the undersea feature (association)
- the undersea feature should either have a strong physical or geographical connection to a land-based feature (connection) or be near a land-based feature (proximity).

We also continue to work with the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), an international group of experts on undersea feature naming, to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand's names are accepted for use internationally. This year SCUFN accepted another 20 of Aotearoa New Zealand's names, including 16 newly named undersea features in the Southern Ocean.

We continue to collaborate with Chatham Islands' tangata whenua/t'chakat henu on suitable names for 15 undersea features near the Chatham Islands, which were proposed by a German research centre.



Photo 3. Mount Erebus, Antarctica, looking east from Scott's Terra Nova Hut, lower left. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken October 2019

### Naming in Antarctica

This year we accepted a proposal from the United States Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN) for Troy Peak and assigned it as an official place name. Our Antarctic Names Committee (ANC) also considered a second proposal from US-ACAN for Murray Stream to honour an Antarctic freshwater scientist.

Our contribution to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's *Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica* enables the recognition of Aotearoa New Zealand's Antarctic place names and their stories and ensures high quality place naming data is available internationally.

We added 116 new entries from Aotearoa New Zealand to the *Composite Gazetteer* and improved 435 existing entries. These updates are the outcome of our project to review all Antarctic place names, which will continue in 2022/23.

We work with Manatū Aorere Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade who observe at our ANC hui. Through our Secretary's membership on the Antarctic Officials Coordination Group, we contributed to the development of New Zealand's Southern Ocean Research Directions and Priorities 2021–2030 strategy.

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Photo 4. Motuhara (Bertier or the Forty Fours) or Motchu Hara, which is a collected original Moriori name for the island in the *Gazetteer*. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken March 2021



### Reinstating original Māori place names through Te Tiriti settlements

Original Māori place names are often reinstated as part of Te Tiriti settlement redress. Many tangata whenua place names were replaced or lost through colonisation. Those place names are taonga to Māori, often recalling important ancestors or historical events.

Our Secretariat works closely with Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations and other agencies to ensure that the place names reinstated through Te Tiriti settlements meet good naming practice.

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and Cabinet make the final decisions on all Te Tiriti settlement redress. We gazette those names that they accept as official, enter them in the *Gazetteer* so they are publicly discoverable along with their stories and meanings, and encourage their use on official maps, websites and in other publications.

In 2021/22, 26 place names were reinstated as official through four Te Tiriti settlements. Notably, 14 Moriori place names were made official, and another 20 original Moriori place names that remain unofficial have been published in the *Gazetteer*. Through the settlement, Moriori have been acknowledged as having a unique culture and language. These are the first Moriori place names that have been officially recognised.

This year we received only six Te Tiriti place name proposals, all from one claimant group. A large number of proposals are anticipated in 2022/2023.

### How many place name decisions were gazetted?

All final decisions on place names are published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

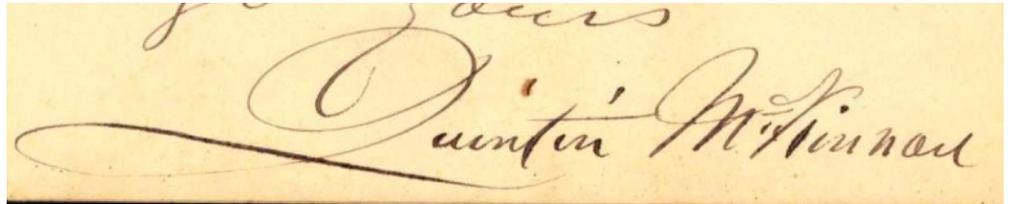
In 2021/22 we notified 1,192 final place name decisions in the *New Zealand Gazette* (see tables 1 and 2, and graph 1).

### Minister for Land Information's decisions

In 2021/22 the Minister made final decisions on 13 place names:

- Hillpark, a suburb in Auckland
- Te Horohoroinga-o-ngā-ringā-o-Kahumatamomoe, a flat-topped range south of Rotorua (to be gazetted in 2022/23)
- Pākaraka, a rural locality altered from Maxwell, near Whanganui
- Paekākā, an area in central Wellington
- Onetāhua Rise, an undersea feature west of Cook Strait
- Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley, an undersea feature extending from Cook Strait to Cape Egmont
- Waihemo / Shag River, on the coast north of Dunedin
- Pikipari Pass, in the Darran Mountains, Fiordland
- Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound, Fiordland
- Mount Axford, in the Kepler Mountains, Fiordland

Image 3. Quintin McKinnon's signature showed the correct spelling of his name. The name of the pass on the Milford Track was corrected to match<sup>4</sup>



- Omanui / McKinnon Pass, on the Milford Track (to be gazetted in 2022/23)
- Lake McKinnon, in Fiordland National Park (to be gazetted in 2022/23)
- Taumoana Canyon, an undersea feature west of Fiordland.

Of the Minister's decisions, two are highlighted:

**Mount Axford:** this new name recognises Sir Ian Axford, an eminent New Zealand astrophysicist and cosmologist who died in 2010. Other features in the Kepler Mountains are also named for prominent New Zealand space scientists.

**Maxwell changed to Pākaraka:** this change addressed a long-standing Te Tiriti grievance for Ngāti Maika. In 1868, a government militia led by George Maxwell fired on a group of unarmed Māori children, attacked them with sabres, and killed two boys. It was an unprovoked attack. The area was named 'Maxwelltown' in 1870 shortly after his death, and officially changed to Maxwell in 1927. The original Māori name, Pākaraka, relates to the abundance of karaka trees in the area.

### Chairperson's decisions made under delegation

The Chairperson made four decisions under delegation (no objections to proposed names):

- Kapakapanui Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Koangaumu Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Ohangao Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua
- Tītahi Creek, in Tītahi Bay, Porirua.

14

Mori place names were made official

20

Original Mori place names that remain unofficial have been published in the *Gazetteer*

4. Inspector Hickson, Dunedin Received: 14 March 1892 Subject: Quintin McKinnon's claim against the Government, for articles stolen and destroyed by escaped convicts, on the Sutherland Falls track, (R24465908), 1891–1892, Creative Commons (CC BY 3.0), Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o Te Kāwanatanga. Showing he spelled his name as McKinnon not Mackinnon.

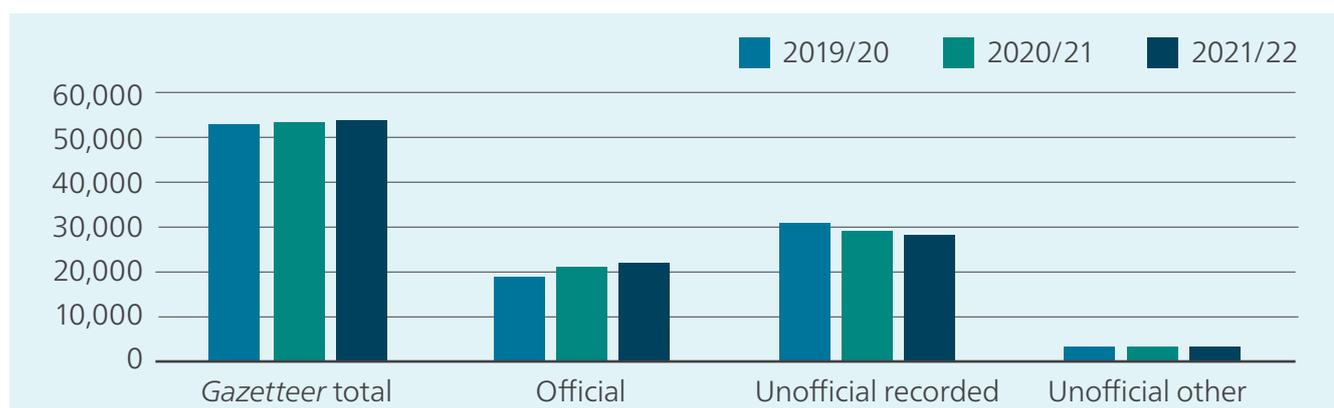
**Table 1. Place names (excluding proposals) notified in 2021/22 in the *New Zealand Gazette*.**

Minister’s decisions on place names	10
Board’s final decisions on place names, including delegated decisions of the Chairperson	10
Crown protected area names reviewed and concurred with (notified by Te Papa Atawhai)	3
Recorded place names approved as official	1,001
Dual names changed from bracketed format to forward slash (approve/amend)	66
Discontinued place names	6
Te Tiriti settlement place names (including discontinuing Crown protected area names)	32
Antarctic place names (assigned)	1
Undersea feature names (altered 9, assigned 3, adopted 6, approved 3, amended 2)	23
Other amendments/corrigenda	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,192</b>

**Table 2. Statistics on official and unofficial place names (numbers are approximate).**

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
<b>Total place names in the <i>Gazetteer</i></b>	<b>52,850</b>		<b>53,550</b>		<b>53,700</b>	
Official place names	18,800	36%	21,000	39%	22,050	41%
Unofficial recorded place names	30,850	58%	29,300	55%	28,300	53%
Unofficial (replaced, discontinued, collected, original Māori and Moriori names)	3,200	6%	3,250	6%	3,350	6%

**Graph 1. Trends of official and unofficial place names.**



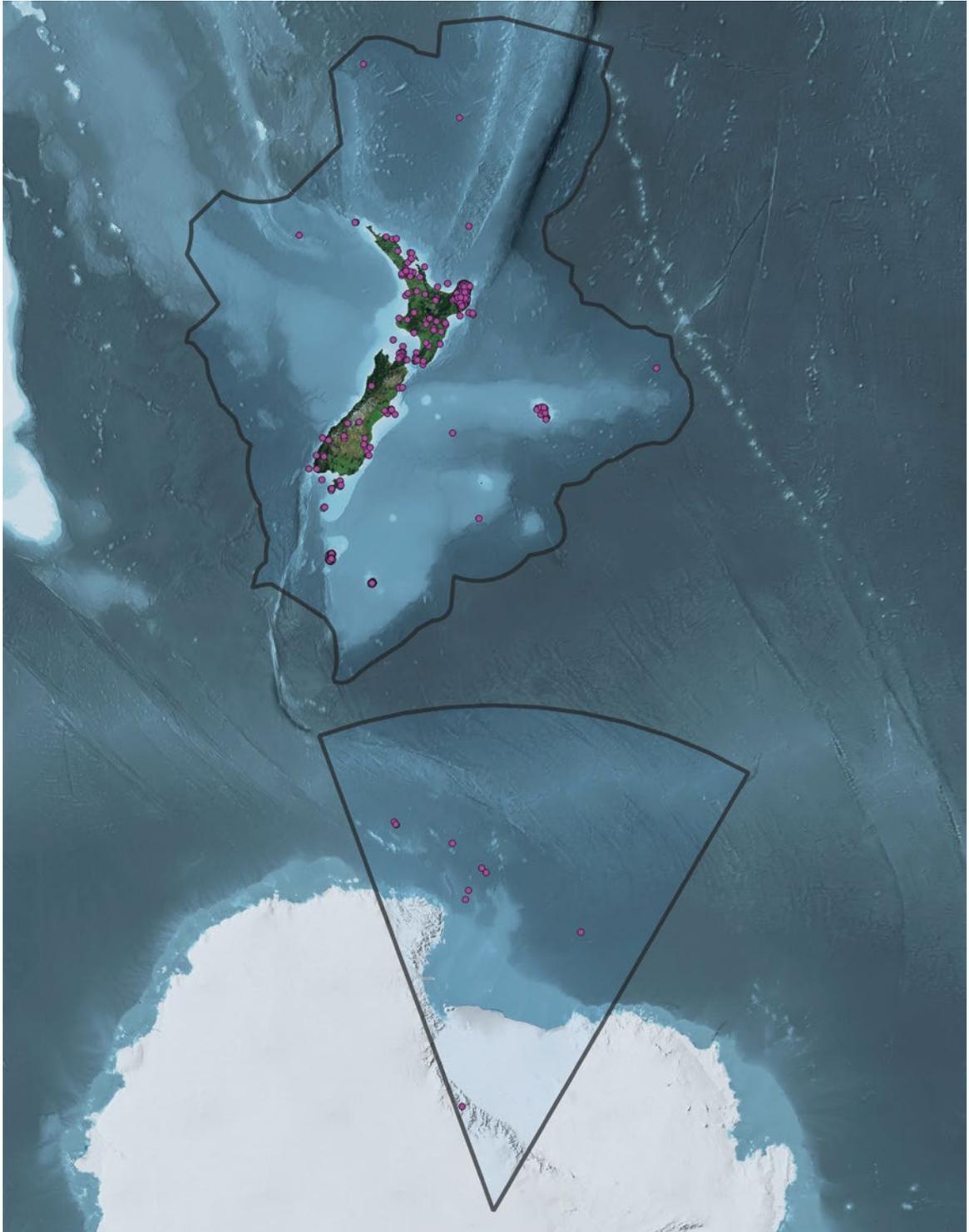


Image 4. Distribution of 1,192 gazetted final place names in 2021/22<sup>5</sup>

5. Aotearoa New Zealand, Antarctica, and undersea. The black outline shows the extent of the Board's naming jurisdiction. Sources: Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Aerial Imagery Basemap, Antarctic Basemap [includes Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's data which are licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence], *New Zealand Gazetteer*

## How many decisions were made on place names?

In 2021/22 we made 3,153 place name decisions, noting that not all were gazetted (see table 3).

**Table 3. Place names considered in 2021/22.**

Update <i>Gazetteer</i>	186
Declined	7
Note	54
Defer	1,634
Proposed	15
Approve as official	1,012
Decline to approve as official	85
Board final decisions	6
Report to Minister for Land Information	14
Undersea	18
Advise undersea	4
Antarctica	1
Crown protected area	2
Corrigenda, amendments	102
Te Tiriti	7
Discontinue	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,153</b>

## Standards, policies, guidelines

One of our strategic goals is to have robust policies and guidelines that are fit for purpose.

### Contemporary Māori place names

At our October 2021 hui we considered a discussion paper on assigning contemporary Māori place names and agreed to a guideline or reference document that would help us consider new contemporary Māori place names. We also agreed to encourage contemporary Māori place name proposals. We intend to review our five published naming standards, and how they might incorporate guidance on contemporary Māori place names.

## Gender balance in place names

At our April 2022 hui we discussed the level of activity in and support for pursuing gender balance in place naming.

We intend to review our five published naming standards with a focus on how they might incorporate generally worded criteria for place names that recognise the contribution women/wāhine have made to society and history.

### Diversity and inclusion in place names

In discussing gender balance in place names, we also wanted to consider relevant aspects of diversity and inclusion to give identity, recognition, and a voice to historically marginalised groups, peoples, and cultures (including minority languages) in place naming.

We will consider a discussion paper on this topic at our July 2022 hui after which we may also agree to add generally worded criteria to our naming standards that contributes to an equitable, diverse and inclusive society.

### Māori Language Plan | Mahere Reo Māori

We have started the annual review of our first Māori Language Plan, which we published in April 2021. We have implemented it in the past year through:

- opening and closing our hui with our own karakia gifted by Board member Shane Te Ruki, which the Board is actively learning
- publishing the New Zealand Geographic Features website with Māori terms
- publishing material in te reo Māori
- initiating the Māori pronunciation audio files project for the *Gazetteer* (more details of this are under the 'Pronunciation' heading, page 28).

# 3,153

Place names considered in 2021/22

### Outreach

In 2021/22 we made significant progress with our strategic goals for outreach and engagement. Secondments from within Toitū Te Whenua LINZ helped to determine priorities, and in late January 2022 a Customer Relationship Manager was appointed. The main focus since then has been to:

- develop an engagement plan with a dashboard to highlight key deliverables and progress
- develop a stakeholder plan to acknowledge and recognise who we engage with
- refresh the Board's areas on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website, scheduled to go live in late September 2022. This will include navigation and content which we redesigned in 2021/22 to make it easier for users to find what they want
- update our existing collateral with the new logo and branding (such as email signatures and PowerPoint templates), which will be launched when the new Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website goes live
- engage in media spotlights, such as Radio New Zealand place names podcasts – place name discussions continue to be reported widely in the media, primarily relating to Māori place names
- plan for the Board's centenary in 2024 – activities are being costed to identify what could be delivered within budget, and a communications plan is being developed.

We acknowledge budget constraints within government and are innovative about how to meet our strategic goals and provide New Zealanders with the authoritative information they need about place names and place naming.

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## Relationships

### Ministers

#### Minister for Land Information

- Makes final decisions on place name proposals when the Board cannot uphold objections.
- Media spokesperson on controversial place name decisions.
- Receives the Board's Annual Report for tabling in Parliament.
- Receives advice from the Board on matters to do with place names.
- For alterations to councils' district and region names, recommends that the Governor-General amends the name of the relevant council to give effect to the alteration.
- Appoints eight of the ten Board members:
  - the four nominations from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, New Zealand Geographical Society Inc, Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc and Local Government New Zealand
  - two recommended by the Minister for Māori Development
  - two others of the Minister for Land Information's choice.
- In making appointments, will take account of any nominations from the four river accord areas: Waikato-Tainui, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, Raukawa Settlement Trust and Maniapoto Māori Trust Board.

#### Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

- Decides on official place names and Crown protected area names negotiated as part of the cultural redress of Te Tiriti settlement negotiations between the Crown and claimants. Final decisions are given effect by individual Te Tiriti settlement legislation.

#### Minister of Conservation

- Decides on official Crown protected area names that we have reviewed under our Act, but which we do not concur with, as they do not conform with the criteria in our Standard for Crown protected area names.

#### Mana whenua

Collecting and encouraging the use of original Māori place names and applying their correct orthography (such as spelling, macrons, hyphens or composite words) are functions of the Board in its guiding Act. We are strengthening our engagement with mana whenua to achieve these functions and obligations. We are mindful of the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2018–2023 through its *Maihi Karauna*. We embrace Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations' engagement framework and guidelines. We recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles of partnership, participation and protection, and give them practical effect through processes such as:

- *Kaupapa*<sup>6</sup> for Māori Place Names
- guidelines for consulting with Māori
- relationship protocol with Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations
- guidelines for collecting original Māori place names
- Mahi Tahi agreement with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori The Māori Language Commission
- relationship protocol with Te Puni Kōkiri Ministry of Māori Development
- guidelines for Te Tiriti name proposals
- Minister for Land Information's river accords meeting post settlement commitments for Waikato-Tainui, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, Raukawa Settlement Trust and Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
- generic terms policy.

6. 'Kaupapa' means policy in this instance.

In 2021/22 all of our media releases were bilingual.

We have engaged with Māori on many occasions throughout 2021/22, typically through the streamlined approval programme and processing standard proposals.

In July 2021 we met *kanohi ki te kanohi* with the board of Te Arawa River Iwi Trust in Rotorua to discuss their aspirations for place naming. Much of the *kōrero* focussed on their digital presence and resources and their Three Waters commitments. We support their *kaupapa* for naming catchment areas, which will provide meaningful reference to their *mahi*.

In July 2021 we held the first of our regional hui in Rotorua, taking the opportunity to present to Māori and councils on the Board's work and in particular the region-by-region approval programme.

In May 2022 we met virtually with a Mana Whenua Forum group and KiwiRail to discuss their proposals to name three railway stations south of Auckland.

### Central government

We have active working relationships with these agencies:

- Te Puni Kōkiri Ministry of Māori Development to engage with *mana whenua*.
- Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation for Crown protected area names.
- Taihoro Nukurangi NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) for undersea feature names.
- Te Pū Ao GNS Science (Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences) for undersea feature names.
- Antarctica New Zealand for Antarctic place names.
- Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage for national commemorations.
- Manatū Aorere Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for international liaison, including Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga Ministry of Education for the new Aotearoa New Zealand history curriculum.
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for road signs. We have been working closely with them throughout 2021/22 and applaud Waka Kotahi for actively consulting with us. Policy questions remain for Māori place names on destination traffic signs, which they will consult on with the public from August 2022. Our key messages have been that:
  - the correct Māori place names must be used, with standardised orthography including the correct spelling
  - *mana whenua* should be consulted
  - they must use the official place names in the *Gazetteer*, including dual names.

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## Local government

Our Local Government New Zealand member, Bonita Bigham, provides a valuable link to the work of councils in respect to place names. She and the Secretary presented at the ALGIM<sup>7</sup> conference in June 2022 on the streamlined approval programme as well as the agreed approach for alternative Māori names for cities and towns. Ongoing engagement with councils remains a critical part of the place naming process and we will proactively seek opportunities to communicate.

## Enquiries

During 2021/22 the Secretariat responded to 185 enquiries on place names. A small number of responses were also provided for Official Information Act requests and Ministerial correspondence.

A statement of claim to the High Court seeking a judicial review involving place names proposed on Waiheke Island was lodged in May 2022.

## International

We actively work with place naming authorities from other countries to ensure consistency with international standards and good place naming practice. In 2021/22 we engaged with:

- our Australian place naming counterparts through the Australia New Zealand Working Group on Place Names, which is under the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping

- the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names
- the United States Board on Geographic Names for name proposals and matters in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica
- the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information.

The Secretary continues to contribute Aotearoa New Zealand's place naming views to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, as a rapporteur on its Bureau, as a member of several working groups, and as a co-chair of the Pacific South-West Division. Delivery on actions for the Group of Experts' Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021–2029<sup>8</sup> has been a focus this year.

The Secretary and two Board members, Merata Kawharu and Robin Kearns, contributed two articles to the Group of Experts' *Bulletins* 62<sup>9</sup> and 63<sup>10</sup>: 'Geographical Names in an urban environment', published in November 2021, and 'Geographical Names as Indicators of the Environment', published in June 2022.

In May 2022 the Secretariat co-presented with German and Brazilian representatives at a webinar<sup>11</sup> on 'Developing Digital Gazetteers Using Free and Open-Source Software', attended by over 120 global participants.

The Group of Experts has begun planning for its third session, to be held in person from 1–5 May 2023. The session held in May 2021 was virtual.

7. Association of Local Government Information Managers

8. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/documents/UNGEGN\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_final\\_5May2021.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/UNGEGN_Strategic_Plan_final_5May2021.pdf)

9. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN\\_bulletin\\_no.62\\_updated.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no.62_updated.pdf)

10. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN\\_bulletin\\_no.\\_63\\_22Jun.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no._63_22Jun.pdf)

11. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/working\\_groups/webinars/10May2022.cshtml](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/working_groups/webinars/10May2022.cshtml)

## Compliance

The requirement to use official place names in all official documents including road signs, official maps and charts, in scientific publications and information for tourists is set out in section 32 of the Act.

While aiming to be proactive so that people are aware of their obligations to use official place names, we are mindful of cost. Therefore, updating road signs, promotional material, maps, databases and so on can be done over time and in the course of usual maintenance.

We've found these strategies to be effective for communicating the need to use Aotearoa New Zealand's official place names:

- build relationships so that the information gets to the right people
- communicate the relevance of using official place names
- speak to groups and participate in media interviews, podcasts and webinars
- ensure people are aware that place name data is easily accessible and freely available for reuse
- offer assistance
- seek feedback on ways to improve communication.

In 2021/22 we engaged with several organisations who were not using official place names properly, and often not including macrons.



Photo 5. Road sign. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken October 2018

## Projects

### Tangata Whenua Place Names Maps

In 1995 we published the very popular poster style maps *Te Ika a Māui, The Land and its People circa 1840* and *Te Wai Pounamu, The Land and its People circa 1840*. With a considerable volume of additional restored and corrected Māori place names resulting from Tiriti o Waitangi claim settlements over the past three decades, we, through our Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, decided it was time for new versions. The two new maps are expected to be printed in late 2022. They will be renamed *Tangata Whenua Place Names – Te Ika-a-Māui* and *Tangata Whenua Place Names – Te Waipounamu*.

The process to successfully deliver these maps has been lengthy. An important kaupapa has been to engage directly with appropriate Māori groups on the correct place names and their meanings.

We plan to distribute the maps to all schools and marae. We anticipate that they will offer a significant resource for the new Aotearoa New Zealand history curriculum due to be launched at the beginning of 2023.

### Online proposal forms

In early 2022 we made an online form<sup>12</sup> available for proposing place names in Aotearoa New Zealand, undersea and Antarctica. This makes it easier for people to submit their proposals. Hardcopy proposals can still be submitted. Proposers started using the online proposal forms in early 2022.

12. [https://landinformationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cNKctPDqjCNuTpY](https://landinformationnz.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNKctPDqjCNuTpY)

# New Zealand Gazetteer

Our Act requires us to maintain a publicly available record known as the *New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names*. We recognise the importance of managing an authoritative list of place names and making them freely available, accessible and reusable to everyone.

## Data cleansing

### Dual name formats changed from brackets to the forward slash format

We changed 183 dual recorded and 61 official place names from the bracketed format to the modern dual naming format that uses a solidus (forward slash). The practical approach to standardisation was to simply update the recorded dual place names in the *Gazetteer* and publish an amending *Gazette* notice for the official dual place names.

### Macrons added to official Māori place names

We amended 43 older official Māori place names, by a notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*, to include macrons. The addition of macrons had been advised for the associated recorded place names being processed under the streamlined approval programme.

### Entries from Reed's *Place Names of New Zealand* added to the History/Origin/Meaning field

This project has been our first step towards getting place name stories into the *Gazetteer*, which is an initiative in our outreach and engagement strategy. The History/Origin/Meaning field is being populated with meaningful stories from *Place Names of New Zealand*, which were collated by AW Reed and revised by Peter Dowling. The book has stories for 7,685 places names throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. Since November 2021 we have been adding those stories to the *Gazetteer*. The remaining 108 will be added by the end of 2022.



Photo 6. Wellington Harbour / Port Nicholson.  
Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken June 2020

## Research contract for the History/Origin/Meaning field

In May 2022 we engaged a researcher to identify the history, origin or meaning of Aotearoa New Zealand place names from information held in our archives and other sources, for entering into the *Gazetteer*. We expect around 1,000 place names' histories, stories or meanings to be captured by the end of 2022/23, and we anticipate the research methodology will be applied for the balance of place names with no entries.

## Use

Use of the online *Gazetteer* was 8% lower than the previous year, falling from 9,338 to 8,583 users. The reduction may relate to a spike in late August 2020 in the previous year.

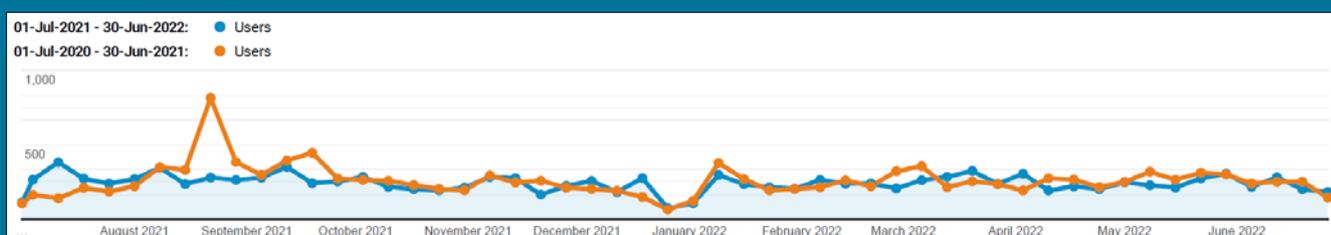


Image 5. Screenshot from Google™ Analytics

Place name data from the *Gazetteer* can also be accessed from Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Data Service. Access to the web feature service increased by 231% compared with the previous year (see table 4). This suggests more users are realising the benefits of real time *Gazetteer* data within their systems.

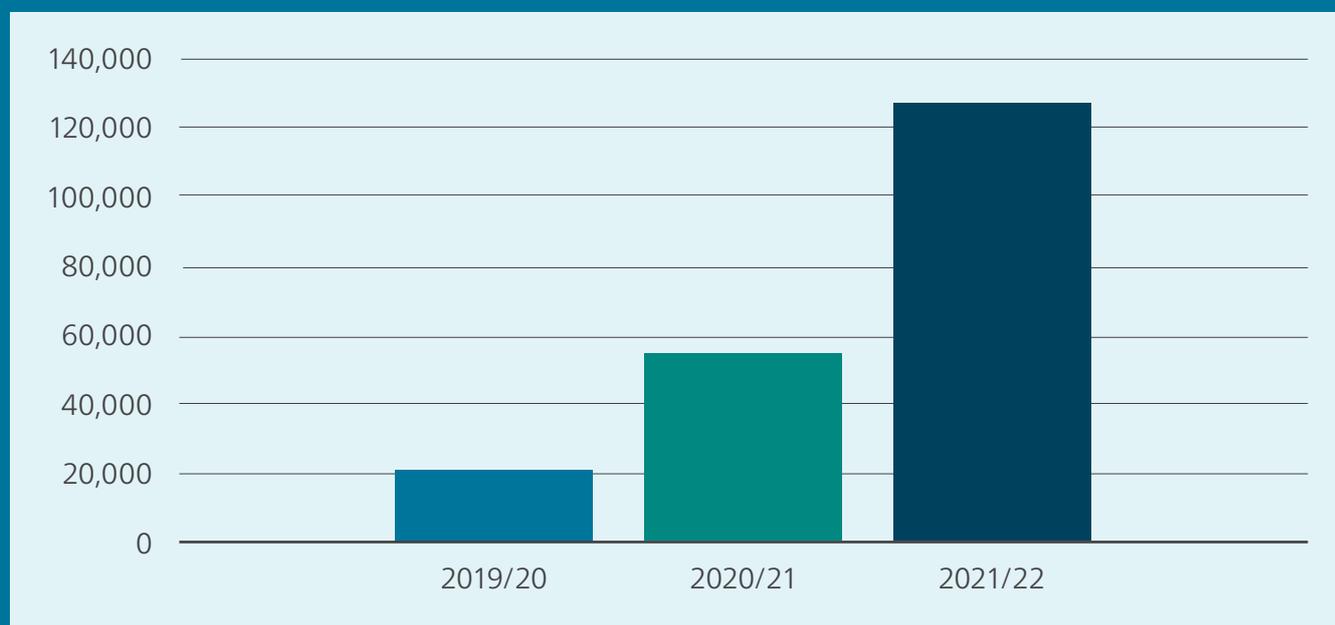
1,000

Place names' histories, stories or meanings expected to be captured by the end of 2022/23 in the *Gazetteer*.

**Table 4. Downloads and queries in 2019/2020, 2020/21 and 2021/22**

	Downloads			Web feature service queries		
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
New Zealand place names	761	837	618	21,021	55,148	127,460

**Graph 2. Showing web feature service query trends across 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022**



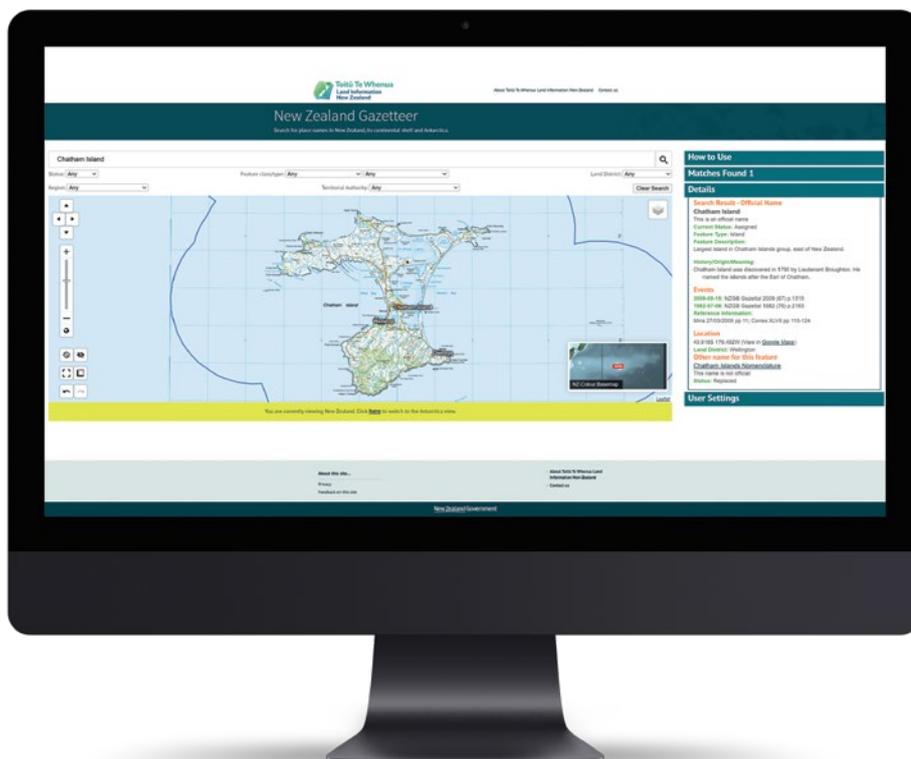


Image 6. Screenshot from the *New Zealand Gazetteer* (<https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>), August 2022

### Lift and shift

In February 2022 we completed a significant project that migrated the *Gazetteer’s* database from very old and unsupported software to modern versions. We now have new servers for backup, production, disaster recovery and testing, and a new service and hosting support agreement with an external provider to ensure security, stability and future proofing.

### Security testing

In June 2022 we undertook security penetration testing for our two online applications, the *Gazetteer* and *Geographic Features*<sup>13</sup>. The results of the testing revealed four low and non-urgent risks in infrastructure and applications, which we will address in 2022/23 subject to funding availability.

### Pronunciation

One of our strategic objectives is to provide the pronunciation of Māori place names in the *Gazetteer*. This year we engaged our expert translator and linguist to make audio files for the first batch of official Māori place names that have had their orthography confirmed. Recording will begin in August 2022. The *Gazetteer* has been updated to provide an audio function for pronunciation. This capability will mark the delivery of another important aspect of Māori place names – that they contribute to the Government’s goals for Māori language revitalisation.

13. <https://geographicfeatures.linz.govt.nz/>

# Board, komiti/committees, observers, Secretariat, hui

## Board and komiti/committees

We met three times in 2021/22. The hui are not open to the public but the minutes with our decisions are publicly available on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website. Observers from partner agencies (listed below) are invited to attend.

We have three committees: the Antarctic Names Committee, the Komiti Taunahatanga Māori and the Undersea Feature Names Committee. The Komiti Taunahatanga Māori holds its discussions partly in te reo Māori, with the minutes being translated into English. None of the komiti/committees make decisions on place names, rather they make recommendations to the Board.

## Members and observers

### Board members (10)

Chairperson, Surveyor-General (ex-officio from Toitū Te Whenua LINZ)	Anselm Haanen
Hydrographic standards expert (ex-officio from Toitū Te Whenua LINZ)	Adam Greenland
Two Minister for Land Information recommendations	Jenni Vernon <sup>•</sup> Merata Kawharu <sup>•</sup>
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu nomination	Paulette Tamati-Elliffe <sup>•</sup>
Federated Mountain Clubs nomination	Shaun Barnett <sup>•</sup>
New Zealand Geographical Society nomination	Robin Kearns <sup>▲</sup>
Local Government New Zealand nomination	Bonita Bigham <sup>▲</sup>
Two Minister for Māori Development recommendations	Shane Te Ruki <sup>▲</sup> Chanel Clarke <sup>▲</sup>

Excluding the two ex-officio members from Toitū Te Whenua LINZ, the other eight Board members' terms are for three years. Four members (•) were reappointed in February 2022. The other four members' appointments (▲) conclude in April 2023. The Minister will be asked in early 2023 to reappoint them or appoint new members.

### Observers from government agencies (4)

Te Puni Kōkiri Ministry of Māori Development	Waihoroi Shortland
Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori The Māori Language Commission	Wareko Te Angina
Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations	Philip Green
Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation	Sheryll Johnson

## Secretariat

### Team

Secretary	Wendy Shaw
Senior Advisor, Treaty Names	Ginny Leggett
Advisor	Jill Remnant
Advisor	Christopher Stephens
Customer Relationship Manager (Outreach Lead)	Natasha Barneveld, from 31 January 2022

### Secondment, contractor

Outreach Lead (secondment)	Jane Keig, to July 2021
Outreach Lead (secondment)	Sarah Turnbull, from August to October 2021
Student GIS Analyst (fixed term contract)	Jackson Booth-Cole, to October 2021
Student GIS Analyst (fixed term contract)	Jack Gould, from November 2021

## Hui

### Board hui

22 July 2021	Regular Board hui, Rotorua
20 October 2021	Regular Board hui, virtual
8 April 2022	Regular Board hui, virtual

### Komiti/committee hui

22 July 2021	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, Rotorua
19 October 2021	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, virtual
2 February 2022	Undersea Feature Names Committee, virtual
7 April 2022	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, virtual

# Financial performance

The Board's functions are separately accounted for as a category within Location Based Information Multi Category Appropriation (MCA) within Vote Lands. The following financial performance information is extracted from the audited financial information included in the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Annual Report.

## Administration of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008

### Administration of the New Zealand Geographic Board

#### Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Actual 2021 \$000		Supplementary Estimates 2022 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000
783	Revenue Crown	783	783
-	Revenue other	-	-
<b>783</b>	<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>783</b>
<b>926</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>1,099</b>
<b>(143)</b>	<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(316)</b>

# Contact

Secretary/Hēkeretari, New Zealand Geographic Board  
Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

c/- Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand  
155 The Terrace  
PO Box 5501  
Wellington 6145  
New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 460 0110  
0800 665 463 (New Zealand only)  
NZGBenquiries@linz.govt.nz  
www.linz.govt.nz/placenames/index.aspx

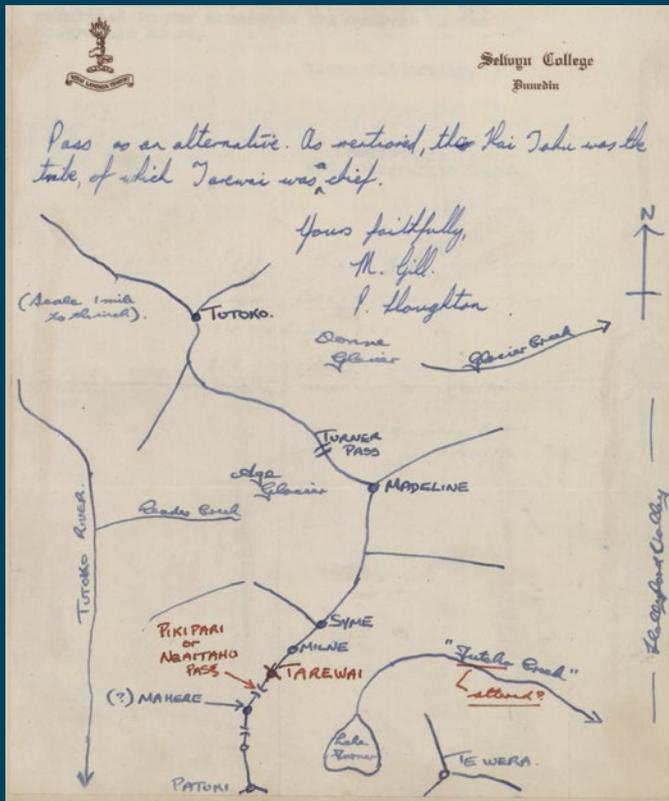


Image 7. Hand drawn map from 1957, showing the names and locations of mountains and passes near Milford Sound/Piopiota. Used to support proposal for Pikipari Pass recently made official.<sup>14</sup>

14. Board archive correspondence 31 page 226 from 1957. Original proposal for Pikipari Pass. Sketch map drawn by M. Gill and P. Houghton