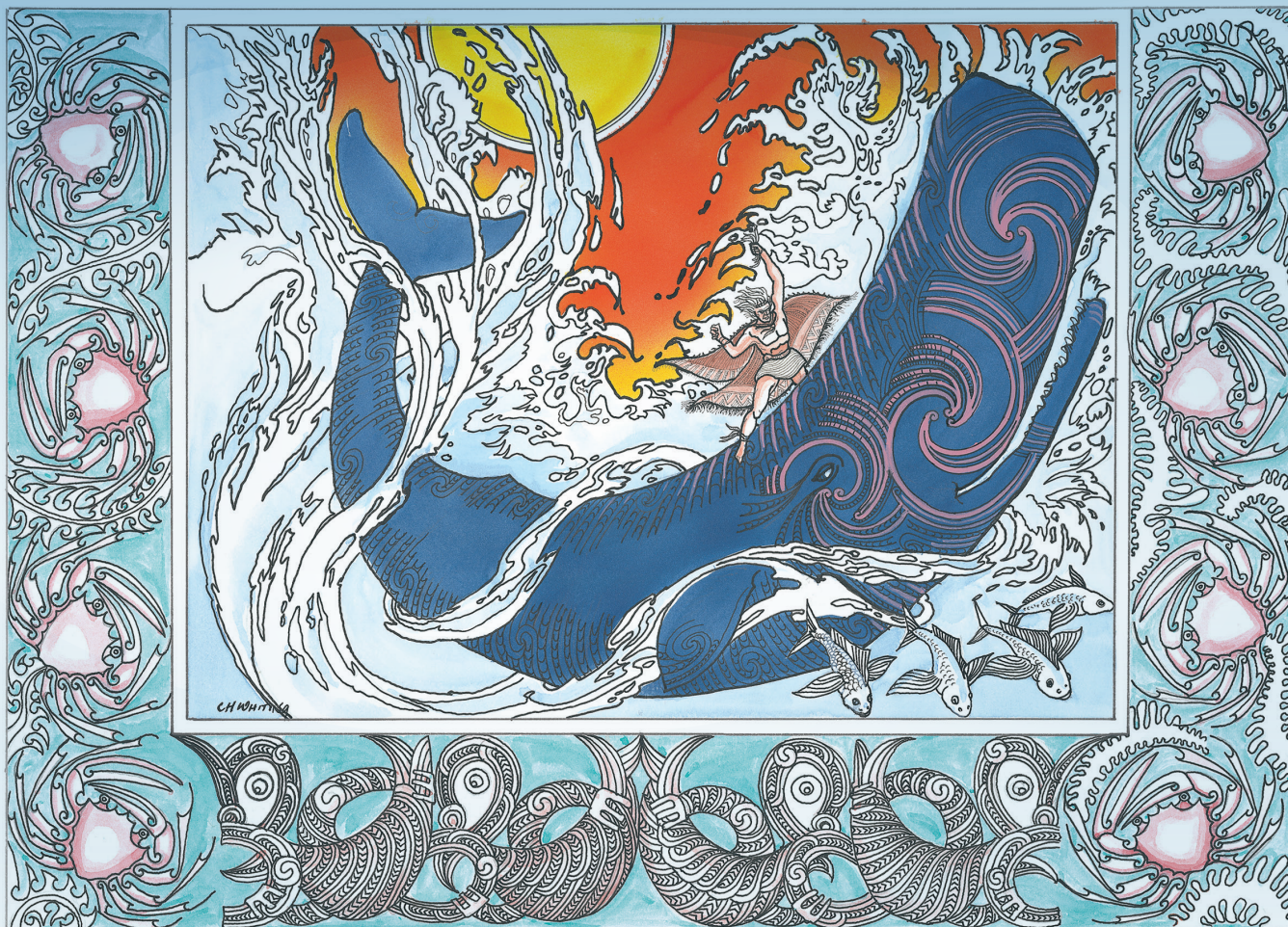


Annual Report Pūrongo ā-tau

of the New Zealand Geographic Board
Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

2020/21





Published in September 2021

by the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o
Aotearoa PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

ISSN 1179-4550 print

ISSN 1179-4569 web

This document can be found at: [http://www.linz.govt.nz/
regulatory/place-names/about-new-zealand-geographic-board](http://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/about-new-zealand-geographic-board)



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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
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Chairperson's message

I am pleased to present this Annual Report on behalf of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (the Board).

Place names are integral to knowing and communicating where we are on the landscape. They give context to space and help us to navigate from one place to another. Knowing the stories behind them strengthens our identity, connection and belonging – particularly for Māori place names. Place names identify our place in the world, our home. They can revive or add to our knowledge of the heritage and events that occurred at a place, giving meaning, whether metaphorical, descriptive, practical, or based on a theme.

Making a place name official enables clear and unambiguous communication and connection between people and place. With authenticated and authoritative place names comes both the practical ability to locate and navigate, and the cultural heritage association with that place.

There has been a recent groundswell of expectation by New Zealanders to use, spell and say Māori place names correctly. One way the Board is responding is by producing a new version of maps for tangata whenua place names of New Zealand. This year we started a seven year programme to approve as official around 30,000 existing recorded place names, both Māori and English, through a fast track process. Ultimately the Board wants everyone to use official place names, to know where they can be easily found, and to be assured that the information is accurate and authoritative.

We are also focused on implementing our Te Rautaki | Strategy 2020-2025 prioritising our outreach and engagement. To that end, we finalised our new Outreach and Engagement Strategy in November 2020. It is based on a significantly improved online interface that better supports the place naming process and makes enhanced information about place names more accessible through the *New Zealand Gazetteer*. We are also looking to engage directly with partners in central and local government as well as tangata whenua to help achieve our strategic goals.

While we continue to look at ways of doing more with the resources available, achieving our strategic goals and meeting New Zealanders' demands for place name information and services require a significant increase in funding.

The Board has also been considering the impact of climate change on our landscape and its naming. While the discussion is in its early stages, we look forward to fully exploring the relationship that place names have, or could have, in shaping human understanding of, and their impact on, the environment.

I am pleased to highlight the significant contribution that we have made this year to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and particularly their Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029, approved in May 2021. Our leadership in this international arena is hugely respected by other nations and the United Nations.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the way that the Board and Secretariat work, especially with our international counterparts, productivity remains high.

I thank the hard working Secretariat for their outstanding mahi and support. Without them the Board could not function as efficiently and effectively as it does.

To the Board members, I am grateful for your commitment, focus and proactivity. We hold rigorous debate on place names that matter to people. Our decision-making is robust and informed. There is still much work ahead for the Board, particularly as we strive to build a stronger public profile and engage more broadly and deeply with New Zealanders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Haanen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Anselm Haanen
Chairperson

About the Board

Role

The Board is Aotearoa New Zealand's national place naming authority responsible for official place names in New Zealand, its offshore islands, its continental shelf, and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica. We are not responsible for road names or the name of New Zealand.

We are a statutory body of ten members, eight appointed by the Minister for Land Information and two ex-officio from Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, including the Surveyor-General who is the Chairperson. The Board's work is primarily undertaken by a Secretariat within Toitū Te Whenua, who report to the Chairperson. Toitū Te Whenua provides administrative support to the Board to help it make informed, robust, accurate and enduring decisions while respecting the Board's independent statutory role in decision-making, policy development and process integrity.

Purpose, functions, duties

The Board's purpose, functions and duties are set out in the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 and include:

- deciding on proposals for new, altered or discontinued place names, including for Crown protected areas, Antarctic, and undersea features
- approving and adopting existing recorded place names as official
- meeting Tiriti o Waitangi commitments by providing advice on place names in the cultural redress part of settlements, and engaging with post-settlement governance entities about processing other Māori place names
- validating Antarctic and Crown protected area names
- maintaining a publicly available, accessible, searchable and re-usable *New Zealand Gazetteer*¹ of place names.

Te Rautaki | Strategy 2020-2025

Through a number of projects and initiatives, the Board has begun to give practical effect to the four goals in its Te Rautaki | Strategy 2020-2025:

- **Naming places:** We officially name features and places so that people can effectively communicate information about the location, and we preserve New Zealand's heritage and culture.
- **Outreach:** We make information including stories about place names readily available.
- **Using official names:** Organisations use official names so that people use them in everyday life.
- **Improving capability and processes:** We continuously improve our capability and processes to achieve our goals and objectives.

1. An online searchable list of place names: <https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>

The Board's strategic outreach goal seeks heightened public awareness of place naming and is based on our place naming legislation. The Board's success is not so much in the numbers of place names processed or made official, but in their acceptance, understanding and use by New Zealanders. Under its strategy, the Board is measuring its success through these outcomes:

- All significant places are officially named
- Original Māori place names are collected and made official where possible
- Suburbs and localities are officially named and defined
- Key agencies and the media use the official names for places
- Official place names are correctly pronounced
- People can easily find the stories behind place names
- New Zealanders have a better understanding of the Board and its role.

Outreach and Engagement Strategy | Rautaki Toronga Whakawhanaunga

In October 2020, we finalised our Outreach and Engagement Strategy. It complements our Te Rautaki | Strategy 2020-2025 by identifying initiatives to help raise public awareness of the Board's work and provide better information about place names and their stories. Proposed education initiatives will help government agencies and others to use official place names.

The Outreach and Engagement Strategy introduces a broader regime for the correct naming, recording, and use of official place names by everyone in New Zealand. The associated implementation programme takes a grassroots approach by informing people about the importance and relevance of place names and making richer information about the place names themselves.

Key outputs of the Outreach and Engagement Strategy include:

- engaging with central and local government to promote place naming
- developing a modern online presence to improve participation
- making improved place name information, including the stories behind them, available to the public
- a significant rebuild of the *New Zealand Gazetteer* and the Board's website to make information on place names more accessible and complete
- new brand implementation
- considering officially naming cities, towns and suburbs
- identifying opportunities for the Board's centenary in 2024.

To begin this work, a new Outreach Lead role was seconded from Toitū Te Whenua from March 2021.

Implementation of the programme requires a significant increase in the Board's funding.

Achievements and performance

Decisions

Why are place names important to New Zealanders?

As well as meeting practical and administrative needs, place names provide social, cultural, heritage and language benefits, which contribute to our national identity and sense of place. Official names for features or places are critical to enable clear communication and connection between people and information. Unambiguous and usable place names mean people and property can be located, contributing to efficient government administration and linking of data for a wide range of public and private purposes.

Recent concerns from New Zealanders

Increasingly New Zealanders are becoming socially aware of indigenous rights and values in areas of cultural significance, diversity and inclusiveness. This is inherently reflected in place names which are a visible reminder, especially when Māori place names have been replaced by introduced names. In more recent times a global response to the Black Lives Matter movement has resulted in some calls for decolonisation by removing offensive icons including place names. There is also increasing interest in te reo Māori, place names of Māori significance, and the use of original Māori place names (including their correct spelling with macrons and pronunciation).

Place names provide both tangible and intangible means of addressing such concerns in a meaningful way and the Board is responding to this increasing community interest. This fulfils its statutory function to encourage the use of original Māori place names especially in terms of Treaty commitments and its global responsibilities.

“Wherever we go in the world and whatever we do – walking around town, using Uber, surfing the internet, or shopping for groceries – we encounter names of places. They surround us, providing us not only with a sense of place but also with a means of finding our way about, searching for information and organizing the world we live in. Datasets of geographic names have a direct relationship with all other data themes. Authoritative naming of locations and geographic names are vital to supporting humanitarian aid, protection of life and property, responses to climate change, food provision, urban planning, infrastructure development, tourism, promoting indigenous rights and reconciliation and many more.”²

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Mr Elliot Harris, on 3 May 2021, statement in his opening remarks to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/UNGEGN_Strategic_Plan_final_5May2021.pdf

Why have official place names?

- To provide practical, unambiguous, fundamental and unique location identification and navigation for the physical landscape we live in
- To recognise heritage and culture – to give a sense of place
- To provide a reliable and authoritative source for standardised, consistent and accurate place names
- To demonstrate New Zealand's jurisdictional interests
- To provide a fundamental data theme for geospatial data layers
- To ensure consistency in the use of place names
- To identify where we are as we go about our everyday business – they are a component of our infrastructure, and most importantly they matter in emergency responses
- To ensure that important place names are preserved and restored
- To demonstrate Tiriti o Waitangi principles of protection, partnership and preservation.

International expectation

The vision statement in UNGEGN's Strategic Plan approved in May 2021 states 'Every country [is] to have a fully functioning and globally-aligned structure and policy framework, based on common principles for national standardization of authorized geographical names that identify location and respect the associated culture and heritage, and [is] to have these names easily accessible for national and international use – facilitating consistent worldwide use of geographical names to foster communication and cooperation.'³



Woodville road sign. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken March 2019

3. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/UNGEGN_Strategic_Plan_final_5May2021.pdf

Road sign.
Acknowledgement:
Christopher Stephens,
taken February 2019



Compliance

The Board's legislation includes a requirement to use official place names in all official documents including on road signs, official maps and charts, and in scientific publications and information for tourists.

The Board is mindful of the cost of updating road signs, promotional material, maps, databases, and websites, which can be done over time and in the course of usual maintenance. While statutory provisions for compliance and enforcement exist, the Board's policy is to first educate and share information to encourage the use of official place names in official documents.

The Board's compliance priorities are:

- Education through outreach
- Engaging with media
- Responding to complaints from the public and iwi
- Responding to incorrect use of place names found in publications
- Checking for compliance in agency databases.

Standards

In October 2020 we published three new standards:

- the Standard for New Zealand place names⁴
- the Standard for Antarctic place names⁵
- the Standard for altering Region and District names⁶.

These concentrate on the fundamental criteria for good place naming using clear and simple language. The naming criteria are closely aligned to international good practice for standardized, consistent, and accurate place naming. They have been published in English and Māori.

The new standards are in addition to, and aligned with, the two existing standards for undersea feature names⁷ and Crown protected area names⁸. All five standards will ensure quality and consistency in our decision making, and provide proposers with concise criteria for making place name proposals.

4. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/60002>

5. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/60003>

6. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/60004>

7. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/60000>

8. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/60001>

Proposal process



Place name proposals

Our work currently focuses on assigning new or changing existing place names in response to proposals from the public, iwi, organisations or government agencies. We are developing an online proposal form to make it easier for people to submit proposals.

In 2020/21 we publicly notified 12 place name proposals:

- Waihemo / Shag River, a dual place name north of Dunedin (proposed by mana whenua)
- Hillpark for an Auckland suburb (proposed by residents)
- Mount Axford for an unnamed mountain in Fiordland (proposed by a member of the public)
- Lake Te Horonui for an unnamed lake near Wairoa (proposed by mana whenua)
- Paekākā for an unnamed central Wellington area (proposed by Wellington City Council)
- Waipaekākā for an unnamed stream in central Wellington (proposed by the Board)
- Pākaraka for a locality currently named Maxwell near Whanganui (proposed by mana whenua)
- Pākuku Stream to correct the currently spelling of Papuka Stream (proposed by a member of the public)
- Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound in Fiordland to correct the spelling (proposed by a member of the public)
- Onetāhua Rise, altering an undersea feature name from Farewell Rise (proposed by the Board)
- Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley, altering an undersea feature name from D'Urville Seavalley (proposed by the Board)
- Taumoana Canyon, altering an undersea feature name from Five Fingers Canyon (proposed by the Board).

Place name consultation

We follow the public notification provisions in the legislation and use additional methods to broaden our reach, including Toitū Te Whenua's social media channels.

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

- advice to mana whenua
- advice to relevant MPs
- advice to relevant local authorities
- advice to a circulation list of stakeholders, agencies, map makers, etc
- publication in the *New Zealand Gazette*
- public notices in a national newspaper and local newspapers
- publishing on Toitū Te Whenua's Consultation and News webpages
- publishing on the government's Consultation webpage
- publishing on Te Puni Kōkiri's events calendar webpage, Rauika
- issuing media releases
- sharing on Toitū Te Whenua's social media channels.

Approving recorded⁹ place names as official

"There are approximately 29,000 recorded place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*. In October 2020 the Board implemented a new fast track programme to approve recorded place names as official, processed region by region in seven phases over the following seven years¹⁰."

A recorded place name can be made official through the fast track process without public consultation if there is no other recorded name for the feature or place and public objection is unlikely. The Board must also be satisfied that the document that records the place name is authoritative. Despite not publicly consulting, we continue to engage directly with local authorities and mana whenua.

Where possible we take the opportunity to confirm the existing place names are correct and gather any stories behind them. Importantly, the orthography (in particular macrons) of Māori place names is standardised through this process. Positions are also investigated, and extents added to some features and places such as a rivers and suburbs.

This year we processed recorded place names in the Wellington Region, Tasman Region and Marlborough Region. Of these, 1,454 were approved as official, with 1,727 gazetted this year (including decisions on Wellington Region names made in 2019/20).

284 place names that did not meet the test for the fast track process remain as unofficial recorded names.

1,727

Names gazetted this year

9. 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.

10. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/approving-recorded-unofficial-place-names-official>



Looking over Northland, Wellington, towards Tararua Range. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken June 2020. The name Wellington, for the city, was one of the recorded place names approved as official this year. While referred to sometimes as Te Whanganui-a-Tara (the great harbour of the ancestor Tara), the Board recognised this original Māori name applies to the harbour and not to the city.

Why have a fast track programme?

Around 40 percent of New Zealand's place names are official and we note that:

- people want an authoritative and comprehensive source for place names
- an official name must be used for a place or feature in official documents
- place names are a fundamental layer of information in the landscape, so they need to be standardised, consistent and unambiguous
- the public increasingly expects the Board to have correct information on the orthography of all Māori place names.

The Board considers that the benefits of having a large number of existing recorded place names made official through the fast track process significantly outweighs the small risk of error using the fast track programme.

Crown protected areas

Crown protected areas (CPA) contribute to the protection of conservation values, natural features, and cultural and heritage values. Officially naming CPAs recognises their significance and provides an effective, easy to use, and appropriate reference to a protected area. This year we worked with Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation on one CPA name proposal, Pātītī Scenic Reserve, which we concurred with. We also processed five discontinued official CPA names because their reservations had been revoked through Treaty settlements: Maunganui Bluff Scenic Reserve, Te Wai-O-Te Marama Scenic Reserve, Tai Rawhiti Scenic Reserve, Pitt Street Recreation Reserve, and Ngarua Recreation Reserve.

Naming undersea features

Naming and clearly identifying undersea features on the continental shelves of New Zealand and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica contributes to managing those areas for scientific and economic research, exploration, and environmental protection and management.

During 2020/21 the Board assigned official names to 23 recently discovered undersea features in the Southern Ocean. Eight are contemporary Māori names relating to the marine environment and 15 names honour significant New Zealanders and events associated with the Southern Ocean and Antarctica. With assistance from Ngāi Tahu suitable Māori names were identified for use on the sea floor. After consulting with rūnaka, Māori names relating to marine activities or describing physical characteristics were assigned, for example, Aho Ridge representing a fishing line and Mahetau Seamount referring to a sinker.

The Board made decisions on 39 undersea features names gazetted this year.

The Board's Undersea Feature Names Committee has now reviewed 80 percent of the original 857 existing undersea feature names advised by NIWA in 2010.

We continue to work with the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), the international body on undersea feature naming, to ensure New Zealand's undersea names are accepted for use internationally. New Zealand's proposals are well-received and recognised as models for other nations. In October SCUFN referred 15 undersea names to the Board, which had been proposed by a German research centre. The features are near the Chatham Islands and were discovered during a German research expedition. We are consulting Chatham Islands' tangata whenua/tchakat henu on suitable names for these features.

Naming in Antarctica

Each place name in Antarctica tells a story of human connection to the continent. Ensuring an authoritative and accurate record makes those stories known, and is important for science, environmental protection, navigation, and emergency response.

The Board's Antarctic Names Committee works with international Antarctic Treaty signatories to ensure a common understanding of place and provides names to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's (SCAR) Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA). In 2020/21, the SCAR-CGA was updated with 852 of our place names. The updates included unique New Zealand place names that had not been named by other nations.

39

Undersea features names gazetted this year



Cape Roberts, Antarctica, looking east across McMurdo Sound with Mount Erebus in the distant right. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken November 2019

At its March 2021 hui the Antarctic Names Committee reviewed 553 of our Antarctic place names, and in April we notified 292 decisions in the *New Zealand Gazette*. Most were amendments to coordinates, to more accurately record the location of the features. The project reached a milestone, completing the review of all place names used in Toitū Te Whenua's AntTopo50 mapping data. Toitū Te Whenua has advised that it will produce new digital editions of its Antarctic maps in 2021/22 covering corrections and new place names added since their original release in 2012.

A notable Antarctic place name decision made jointly with the United States of America in June 2021 was for Córdova Nunatak, named for Dr France Anne-Dominic Córdova. She worked as an astrophysicist and was the 14th Director of the United States National Science Foundation, 2014-2020. This brings the total to 293 Antarctic place name decisions gazetted this year.

The Board's Secretariat presented at the biannual Antarctic Science Conference in February 2021. The presentation was on the use of Māori place names and te reo Māori for geophysical terms in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Naming as Treaty settlement redress

We review place name proposals as part of the Tiriti o Waitangi claims' settlements negotiations process. The Board's Secretariat works closely with Te Arawhiti Office for Māori Crown Relations and Treaty claimants to ensure that place names restored, corrected and protected through a Treaty settlement meet good naming practice and the government's guide to Treaty settlement redress¹¹. When New Zealand was colonised many European place names replaced tangata whenua place names. Many ancestral place names have endured through oral traditions, maintaining their mana and importance to Māori communities, and often recalling important ancestors and historical events. Officially restoring them is culturally significant as it publicly recognises the claimant group's long-held association and connection to a specific area.

This year we received through Te Arawhiti, four Treaty place name proposals from one claimant group, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua. A considerable number of proposals from three other claimant groups are expected before the end of the 2021 calendar year. A large number of place names already reviewed by the Board are awaiting Treaty settlement legislation to be enacted before they can be made official.

293

Antarctic place name decisions gazetted this year

11. <https://www.govt.nz/assets/Documents/OTS/The-Red-Book/The-Red-Book.pdf>

How many decisions did we make?

All final decisions on place names are published in the *New Zealand Gazette* and added to the online *New Zealand Gazetteer*.

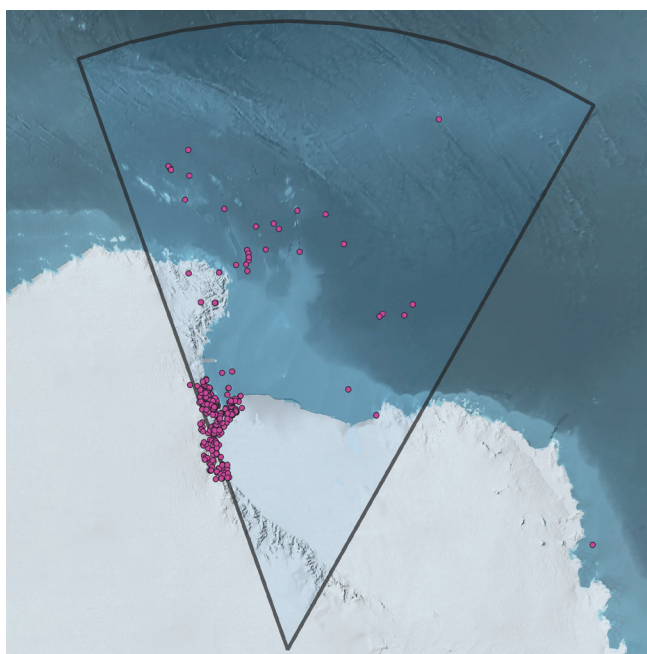
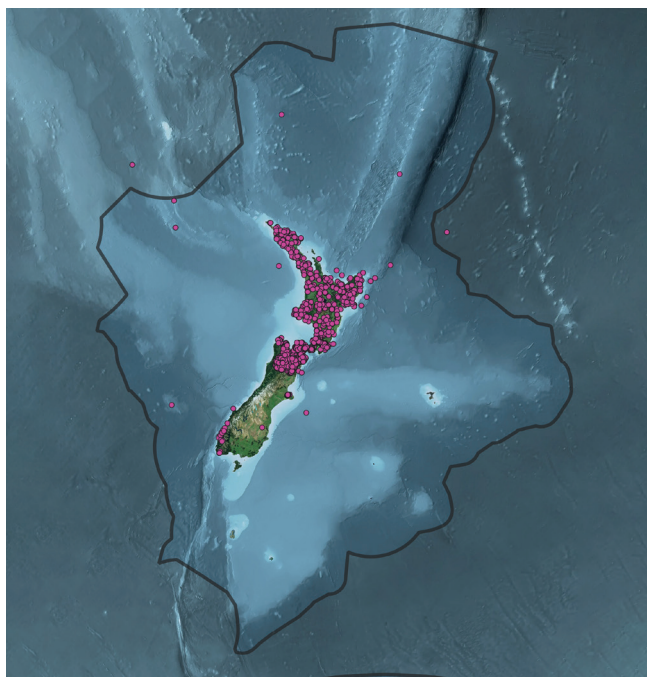
In 2020/21, 2499 final place name decisions were notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* (see tables 1-3, and images opposite).

The Minister for Land Information's final decisions on 13 place names around Lyttelton Harbour/Whakaraupō and one in Tararua Range, which were notified in 2020/21, were decided in 2019/20 and reported in last year's Annual Report.

In 2020/21 the Minister also made final decisions on two place names, to be gazetted in 2021/22:

- Hillpark (suburb), near Manukau, Auckland
- Waihemo / Shag River, north of Dunedin.

The Chairperson made 306¹² of the 2,499 decisions under delegation, as there were no objections.



Distribution of 2,499 gazetted place names in 2020/21 (excluding proposals) in New Zealand, Antarctica and undersea. The black border shows the extent of the Board's naming jurisdiction. Sources: Toitū Te Whenua Aerial Imagery Basemap, Antarctic Basemap [includes Toitū Te Whenua's data which are licensed for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence], *New Zealand Gazetteer*

53,550

Total place names in the Gazetteer in 2020/21

2,092

Recorded place names approved as official

12. 293 Antarctic, 13 Undersea

Table 1. Place names (excluding proposals) notified in 2020/21 in the *New Zealand Gazette*

Minister's decisions on place names	14
Review and concur a Crown protected area name (Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation notified)	1
Discontinued Crown protected area names	5
Recorded place names approved as official	2,092
Antarctic place names (assign new 14, alter 1, validated existing 1, amendments to coordinates/feature types 275, discontinue 2)	293
Undersea feature names (alter 5, assign 24, adopt 1, approve 24, amendments 13, discontinue 4)	71
Other amendments/corrigenda	23
TOTAL	2,499

Table 2. Place name proposals notified by the Board in May 2021 with final decisions yet to be made

Minister's decisions	2
Board decisions – assign, alter	7
Board decisions – undersea	3
TOTAL	12

Table 3. Statistics on official and unofficial place names in 2019/20 and 2020/21

(numbers are approximate)

	2019/20	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21
Total place names in the <i>Gazetteer</i>	52,850		53,550	
Official place names	18,800	35.5%	21,000	39%
Unofficial recorded place names	30,850	58.4%	29,300	55%
Unofficial (replaced, discontinued, collected, original Māori names)	3,200	6.1%	3,250	6%

Engagement

Ministers

Minister for Land Information

- Makes final decisions on place name proposals when the Board reports on them
- 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 official place names
- For local authority District and Region name alterations, recommends that the Governor-General amends the name of the relevant territorial authority to give effect to the alteration.
- Appoints eight of the ten Board members:
 - four nominated by 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 component of Treaty settlement negotiations between the Crown and claimants. Final decisions are given effect under individual Treaty settlement legislation.

Minister of Conservation

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

Mana whenua

Collecting and encouraging the use of original Māori place names and applying their correct orthography are functions of the Board's guiding legislation. 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's engagement framework and guidelines. We recognise the Tiriti o Waitangi principles of partnership, participation and protection, and give them practical effect through processes such as:

- Kaupapa¹³ for Māori Place Names
- guidelines for consulting with Māori
- relationship protocol with Te Arawhiti
- guidelines for collecting original Māori place names
- Mahi Tahi agreement with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission)
- relationship protocol with Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry for Māori Development)
- guidelines for Treaty name proposals
- Minister'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.

In 2020/21 all Board media releases were bilingual.

13. 'Kaupapa' means policy in this instance

Central government

We have working relationships with the following agencies:

- Toitū Te Whenua for maps, charts, website, data service and its other products
- Te Arawhiti – Office for Māori Crown Relations for Tiriti o Waitangi place names
- Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori – Māori Language Commission for orthographic advice
- 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 for undersea feature names
- Te Pū Ao – GNS Science 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 Mātaurangi – Ministry of Education for the new New Zealand history curriculum
- Waka Kotahi – New Zealand Transport Agency for road signs.

Local government

Our Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) member provides a link to the work of local authorities in respect to place names. We met with LGNZ's National Council in December 2020 to explain the process for adding macrons to Māori local authority names when required, and about the programme to make recorded place names official. Future engagement with local authorities will be critical when the Board considers the issue of alternative Māori place names for major cities and towns.

Enquiries

During 2020/21 the Secretariat responded to nearly 150 enquiries on place names. A small number of responses were also provided for Official Information Act requests and Ministerial correspondence.

International

We work with place naming authorities from other countries to ensure consistency with international good practice. This year we engaged with:

- Australian place naming counterparts through the Australia New Zealand Working Group on Place Names, which is under the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names
- United States Board on Geographic Names for name proposals and matters in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica
- Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information.

The Secretary's contribution to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names' Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029¹⁴ is acknowledged. The Secretary actively participated in virtual Group of Experts Bureau meetings this year and the 2nd Session of the Group of Experts. As one of its two Rapporteurs, the Secretary co-wrote the report of the Session¹⁵.

During the Session a panel discussion explored the theme 'Creating an equal society through geographical names'. Discussion on inclusion, diversity and social equality emerged as values to be explored in the context of place naming.

This year the Secretary and two Board members contributed these articles to the Group of Experts' Bulletins 59¹⁶ and 61¹⁷: *'Geographical names and sustainable tourism in New Zealand'* and *'Minority names and geographical names in a multilingual setting'*.

Alternative Māori place names for major cities and towns

Māori place names for many towns and cities with English names are becoming commonly used, recognised, understood, and expected by New Zealanders. However, most of these Māori place names are not official and have not been considered and processed by the Board.

This groundswell of acceptance and expectation has been driven in recent times by a range of factors, including:

- revitalisation of the Māori language
- restoration of original Māori place names
- public education and exposure to correct spelling and pronunciation, for example by news and weather broadcasters
- increased Māori media platforms.

In early 2021 the Board discussed its position on accepting community adoption of major Māori city and town names. By being proactive in applying alternative Māori names to major cities and towns, the Board can ensure that the correct name is used and spelled correctly. Current popularised Māori place names may not necessarily be correct, and the costs of correcting existing misuse may be significant. The Board is intending to consider officially naming these places as alternative names through the Board's processes, including consultation with councils, Māori and the public.

14. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/UNGEGN_Strategic_Plan_final_5May2021.pdf

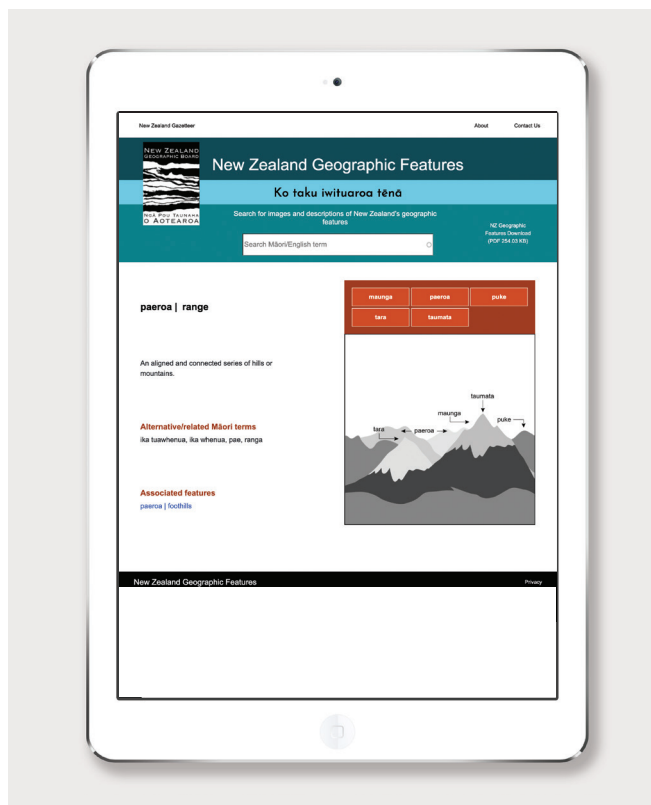
15. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/E_2021_69_report_e.pdf

16. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no.59.pdf

17. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no.61.pdf

[New Zealand Geographic Features website](#) [Maps](#)

With the long-term commitment and drive of the Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, we published the Board's *New Zealand Geographic Features* website¹⁸ on 11 September 2020, with Māori and English generic terms along with their descriptions and drawings. These will help the Board and proposers to use the correct geographic feature type for a place name, especially for Māori place names.



New Zealand Geographic Features website
(<https://geographicfeatures.linz.govt.nz/>), August 2021

Maps

Te Waipounamu Tangata Whenua Place Names
Te Ika-a-Māui Tangata Whenua Place Names

These two maps were initially published in 1995 and show Māori place names that were known and in use around 1840. Again through an initiative of the Komiti Taunahatanga Māori we are producing second editions of these maps which are particularly popular with schools. The intention is for the maps to include the place names depicted on the first editions, subsequent official Treaty place names, as well as other Māori place names as space allows. Consultation with tangata whenua on the place names to be included on the maps is essential. Hui have been held and arranged through Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu for Te Waipounamu. Consultation with Te Ika-a-Māui iwi began in April 2021.

An interactive digital version of the maps is also being developed, allowing a greater number of place names to be included.

Māori Language Plan | Mahere Reo Māori

This year we created, published and registered our Māori Language Plan | Mahere Reo Māori¹⁹ with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission). The Board has developed its own pepeha and karakia and is working towards a waiata. Members are extending their te reo skills, which will support opportunities to connect and engage better with communities.

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

19. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/file/23434/download?token=bf5rTzml>

New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names

We recognise the importance of managing an authoritative list of place names and making them freely available and accessible to everyone. The legislation requires the Board to maintain a publicly available record known as the *New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names*:

- since the 1940s the *New Zealand Gazette* has provided conclusive evidence of official place names, which are held in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*
- it includes around 53,000 place names, official and recorded (unofficial)
- those place names include the story (if we have it) and the authority if it is an official place name.

This year we have undertaken data cleansing and enhancement including updating positions especially in Antarctica, adding an aerial imagery base layer, linking Cook names to an online platform published by the Board, and linking personal names to the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* hosted by Te Ara (New Zealand’s online Encyclopedia).

Use of the online *New Zealand Gazetteer* was 56% higher than the previous year, from 5,980 to 9,338 searches.

Place name data in the *New Zealand Gazetteer* is also available from Toitū Te Whenua’s Data Service. Access to the web feature service increased by 162% compared with the previous year (see table 4).

Pronunciation

The Board is investigating adding audio capability to the *New Zealand Gazetteer* to assist with pronunciation of place names.

56%

Use of the online *New Zealand Gazetteer* was 56% higher than the previous year

Table 4. Downloads and queries in 2019/20 and 2020/21

	Downloads		Web Feature Service Queries	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
NZ Place Names	761	837	21,021	55,148



Screenshot from the New Zealand Gazetteer (<https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>), August 2021

Board members, committees, observers, Secretariat, hui, decisions and recommendations

Board and committees

The Board met three times in 2020/21. The hui are not open to the public but the minutes with decisions are publicly available on Toitū Te Whenua's website. Observers from partner agencies (listed opposite) are invited to attend.

The Board has three committees: the Antarctic Names Committee, the Komiti Taunahatanga Māori and the Undersea Feature Names Committee. The Komiti Taunahatanga Māori is now holding its discussions partly in te reo Māori, with the minutes being translated to English. None of the committees make decisions on place names, rather they make recommendations to the Board.

Board members (10)

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

Regular observers from government agencies

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

Board membership and regular observers

Excluding the two ex-officio members from Toitū Te Whenua, Board member's terms are for up to three years. However, as half the Board members appointed in 2019/20 were new, appointments and reappointments were made for 16-18 months to stagger the terms. These shorter terms will conclude in later in 2021, and will change to full three year terms. Continuity and consistency in decision-making remains a priority for the Board, so the staggered appointment process will help to ensure this.

Board Secretariat**Permanent**

Secretary	Wendy Shaw
Senior Advisor, Treaty Names	Ginny Leggett
Advisor	Jill Remnant
Advisor	Christopher Stephens

Secondment, consultant or contractor

Advisor, Treaty Names (secondment part time)	Daniel Wainwright, to January 2021
Communications Consultant	Gaylene Hosking, to November 2020
Outreach Lead (secondment)	Jane Keig, from March 2021
Student intern GIS Analyst (fixed term contract)	Ryan Fister, to October 2020
Student intern GIS Analyst (fixed term contract)	Jackson Booth-Cole, from November 2020

Board and committee hui**Board hui**

27 July 2020	Regular Board hui
14 October 2020	Regular Board hui
20 April 2021	Regular Board hui

Committee hui

24 July 2020	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori
16 October 2020	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori
4 February 2021	Undersea Feature Names Committee
9 March 2021	Antarctic Names Committee
19 April 2021	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori

Board decisions and recommendations

2,091

In 2020/21 we made 2,091
place name decisions

Table 5. Place names considered at Board hui held in 2020/21

Proposed	9
Decided by the Chairperson under delegation	3
Approved	1,456
Report to Minister for Land Information	2
Treaty	4
Undersea	36
Antarctica	295
Crown protected area	3
Declined	278
Corrigenda, amendments	5
TOTAL	2,091

Financial performance

The Board's functions are separately accounted for as a category within Location Based Information MCA (Multi Category Appropriation) within Vote Lands. The following financial performance information is extracted from the audited financial information included in the Toitū Te Whenua 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 2020 \$000	Unaudited Supplementary Estimates 2021	Actual 2021
\$783 Revenue crown	783	783
- Revenue other	-	-
783 Total revenue	783	783
952 Total expense	783	926
(169) Net surplus/(deficit)	-	(143)

Contact

Secretary, 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 call free only)
NZGBenquiries@linz.govt.nz
www.linz.govt.nz/placenames/index.aspx



Credit: New A.A. sign of longest Māori place name, Hawkes Bay. Archives New Zealand: J. Waddington. (R24808388), 1973, Creative Commons 3.0 attribution to Archives New Zealand, Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government