



**Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Geographic Board

# Annual Report Pūrongo ā-tau

of the New Zealand Geographic Board  
Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

2022/23



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government



**Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Geographic Board

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Cover artwork by the late Cliff Whiting, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa copyright. This artwork relates to Ngātoro I Rangī and Tia and the mountains of fire. Ngātoro I Rangī and Tia are two tūpuna who reached Aotearoa New Zealand on the Arawa waka. Both travelled inland heading towards the upper Waikato valley and the central volcanic plateau. On these journeys they named geographic features as they went. The account of Ngātoro I Rangī's exploits on the mountains of the central Te Ika-a-Māui North Island establish the depth of early Māori knowledge of the geology of the volcanic and geothermal regions. This artwork depicts Ngātoro I Rangī and the sacrifice of his slave Ngāuruhoe into the yawning crater.

Photo 1 (karakia) Veronica tetragona in Ruahine Forest Park. This hebe is found in alpine areas of Te Ika-a-Māui North Island. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken 22 January 2022

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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.

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# Karakia

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E Papa, e Rangī!

Kia turuki 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!

Written by Shane Te Ruki (Board member  
from April 2020 to July 2023) specifically  
for the New Zealand Geographic Board  
Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa.

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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.

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Place names are integral to communicating location and address, giving context to space and helping us to navigate to where we want to go to. Beyond these practical needs, place names contribute to our sense of identity – both individual and national. These practical and cultural aspects can sometimes raise tensions when changes are being considered. We therefore make sure we follow good naming practice to help establish consistent decisions that will stand the test of time and become accepted by communities and the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

I am privileged to continue the 100-year tradition of Surveyors-General leading the Board as its Chairperson, bringing practical experience and knowledge from my own surveying background. We are looking forward to commemorating our centenary in 2024 and reflecting on the things that have changed for the better, but also the things that have remained consistent throughout.

We recognise that times have changed and people are becoming increasingly aware of indigenous rights and values in the cultural heritage space. This is inherently reflected in the visible reminder of place names. Restoration of original Māori place names through Treaty of Waitangi settlements is now a common part of cultural redress.

People are increasingly interested in te reo Māori, place names of Māori significance, and restoring original Māori place names (including with their correct spelling, macrons and pronunciation). The Board is aware of these changes and fully supports related government strategies as it undertakes its work.

In more recent times there has also been global attention, expectations and focus resulting from the United Nations decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032 and relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Many countries are seeking a balanced, equitable and inclusive society. Place names provide both tangible and intangible means of addressing such concerns by restoring mana and a sense of identity. At the same time we are aware of the need to preserve our important Pākehā names too – our heritage is shared and the colonial overlay also needs to be preserved and discoverable. Division within communities sometimes arises with controversial place name proposals and so our approach and decision-making acknowledges and takes account of all community views. We aim to ensure that the reasons for change are clearly communicated.



The Treaty of Waitangi guarantees both Māori as tangata whenua and Pākehā as tangata tiriti, the right to call this place our home, sharing all place names as our national taonga. We honour our unique culture and heritage through our place names. It is the story/kōrero of a place name, whether Māori or European, that makes it meaningful and etches it into our psyche.

The year has been busy and we are pleased to share more details of our mahi in this annual report. Of notable interest, we:

- rolled out new branding, new website content, and stepped up our social presence
- published new Tangata Whenua Place Names maps
- added more stories to place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*<sup>1</sup>
- added pronunciation audio to thousands of Māori place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*
- contributed to a virtual field trip for classrooms on Maniapoto place names.

I pass on my deep thanks to Board members and particularly the three whose terms are ending in July 2023: Bonita Bigham, Chanel Clarke and Shane Te Ruki.

Board members are immensely grateful to our Secretariat for their commitment to and passion for this mahi. We also thank our host agency, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, for supporting our work.

This Board's responsibility as our national naming authority is unique and we are privileged to have this role in shaping our nation.



**Mr Anselm Haanen**  
Chairperson

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

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# About the Board

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## New Zealand's Place Naming Authority

Legal provisions for place naming in Aotearoa New Zealand began under the Royal Geographic Society of London until the promulgation of the Designations of Districts Acts 1894 and 1908. These laws gave the Governor-General the authority to make place names official.

The establishment of a place naming authority was required to avoid public confusion and to support the provision of key services such as post offices and railway stations.

In 1924 the Minister of Lands established the Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand to consider and make recommendations on place and feature names.

Then in 1946 the New Zealand Geographic Board was established under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946, with powers to make place naming decisions itself. Along with various enhancements and amendments, the provisions in the 1946 Act, including collecting original Māori place names, have been carried into the current New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.

## Role

Our fundamental role is to:

- give places and features official names
- approve existing recorded place names that are unofficial
- change place names (for example, by correcting their spelling)
- alter district and region names of territorial authorities
- provide advice on place names that are part of cultural redress in Treaty of Waitangi claim settlements
- review Crown reserve names managed by the Department of Conservation.

We maintain the *New Zealand Gazetteer* which lists our place names.

Our naming jurisdiction covers New Zealand, its offshore islands, undersea regions on the continental shelf, and the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. We do not name roads or the country name of New Zealand.

We make decisions on place names using good naming practice. To achieve this we have standards, guidelines, policies and strategies. These also help guide those making proposals.

We have ten members in total. Two are ex-officio from Toitū Te Whenua and eight appointed by the Minister for Land Information. We are supported by a Secretariat within Toitū Te Whenua which gives effect to the statutory processes and provides us with administrative support, research, advice, outreach and project delivery.



## Purpose, functions, duties

The purpose, functions and duties of the Board are described in our legislation. This includes:

- achieving a coordinated and standardised approach to place naming
- establishing effective procedures including consultation
- recognising cultural and heritage values
- providing access to an authoritative record of official place names.

## Te Rautaki | Strategy 2020–2025

Our efforts, reflected elsewhere in this annual report, have been focused on these related objectives:

- officially name all relevant and appropriate places, including cities, towns, suburbs and localities in Aotearoa New Zealand
- 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 Treaty of 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 to achieve our goals.

Our Secretariat manages a work programme aligned to our strategic goals and objectives, showing priorities and visibility of progress. Actions, programmes, initiatives and projects are reported by the Secretariat at each Board hui. The Secretariat also gives effect to actions arising from our hui.

This annual report serves to highlight our progress towards meeting our strategic intentions.

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# About place names

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## Recent trends for Māori place names

The nation has shown a significant increase in the recognition of te ao Māori and te reo Māori. This has also been reflected in the public and media interest in recognising and restoring original Māori place names. Proposals for place names (including for railway stations) are predominantly for Māori names and submissions are generally increasingly in support of such proposals.

It is important as a nation to preserve our cultural heritage through these indigenous place names.

A Māori place name can revive or add to our knowledge of the story behind it, reflecting:

- its heritage
- the events associated with it
- its cultural significance
- its meaning or derivation – whether metaphorical, descriptive, themed, personal or commemorative.

This is also true for non-Māori names. Towns and cities were typically named after historical events, ships, royalty, the military and notable people, or to describe physical characteristics. It is important to recognise, celebrate and preserve this overlay too. So we sometimes face considerable challenges to determine the most appropriate outcomes given competing views from New Zealanders.

The Board has a statutory function to encourage the use of original Māori place names, however it is not our intention to replace non-Māori place names with Māori ones, but to acknowledge and recognise what was there first. Options instead of replacement include dual naming, alternative naming or collecting in the *New Zealand Gazetteer* for discovery. It is important to record and make available all layers of our shared history.



## Dual place names

Dual place names are where two different names are used for one place or feature. They typically come from different languages and have equal significance. Dual place names are usually in te reo Māori first to reflect first naming, followed usually by English. They are used together as one string, such as Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill.

There are over 630 current dual place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*.

## Alternative place names

Alternative place names are where two or more place names with equal significance can be used for the same place or feature, usually in te reo Māori and English. They can be used separately or together, such as Maunga Kākaramea or Rainbow Mountain near Rotorua. Another example is Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont (set to become Taranaki Maunga through Treaty settlement). We currently have 81 features or places with alternative place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*.

## Collected Māori place names

Collected Māori place names are unofficial original Māori names for places and features that usually have another name already in use (whether official or recorded). Historical layers of occupation may mean there are several collected original Māori place names. For example, Puketāpapa and Pukewīwī are collected for Mount Roskill. We currently publish 1,162 collected names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*.

## Official place names

Official place names are those which have been formally agreed to by the Board or which are in other legislation to make them official, such as in Treaty of Waitangi settlements. Official names must be used in all official documents. As shown in Table 3 on page 22, we currently have 22,240 official place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*.

# 1,162

**collected Māori place names are currently published in the *New Zealand Gazetteer***



Photo 1. Shane Te Ruki looking from Kakepuku to Te Kawa. Acknowledgement: Andrew Penny, Tātai Aho Rau – LEARNZ, taken 8 February 2023.

### Maniapoto place names

In February 2023 Board member, Shane Te Ruki, and Secretary, Wendy Shaw, fronted a geospatial virtual field trip called ‘Our place names: The Maniapoto story’. We did this in collaboration with Toitū Te Whenua and CORE Education. The online interactive and educational experience for school students includes a range of multimedia resources such as videos, images and interactive activities that engage students and deepen their understanding and appreciation of place names, not only in Maniapoto but across the motu. See <https://www.learnz.org.nz/placenames231>.

The number of students signed up for this virtual trip (around 13,000) is the most for any annual geospatial virtual field trip for schools since they began in 2012. Shane spoke of his deep connection with his ancestral whenua recalling the stories about Pirongia-te-araro-o-Kahurere, Waipā River, Kakepuku-te-rerenga-o Kahu, Te Kōpua Marae, Kahurere, Kahupeka, and Te Kawa.

The oral traditions inform students about the volcanic origins from the central plateau and the creation of features in Maniapoto, and the knowledge held by Māori about the physical connection with underground geothermal activity. Wendy spoke about how to use the *New Zealand Gazetteer* and also referred to our various publications as references for learning.

Feedback from teachers was excellent:

- ‘This is our topic for this term! It was super useful.’
- ‘It was a great way into thinking and learning about the places that are special in our area.’
- ‘Great field trip – we really appreciate the time and effort put into creating it.’
- ‘Loved the “realness” of this experience. Wish you could create similar for all regions of Aotearoa!’



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## Media use of place names

We rely on numerous media platforms to help spread news about place name proposals and decisions – and with them the reasons behind the decisions and their stories. This includes regular Facebook posts. Our media partners have become much more aware of our mahi, especially through the 19 media releases we sent out in 2022/23 in te reo Māori and English. These are widely syndicated. Often journalists will keep articles flowing through the course of a place name proposal's lifespan.

For example, the proposal to change Clive River to Te Awa-o-Mokotūāraro was well covered by the local newspaper, *Hawke's Bay Today*. We acknowledge the sad passing of the proposer Arconnehi (Aki) Paipper in early July 2023. She was a tenacious campaigner for connecting to the river's original Māori name and for restoring its health and wellbeing.

We've responded to many more enquiries from journalists as well as giving radio and TV interviews, plus contributions to the Radio New Zealand podcast series 'Nau Mai Town'. These have all contributed to raising the profile of our mahi and keeping New Zealanders informed of proposals and decisions.

Media themselves have socialised the use of Māori place names in news items and weather reporting, to the point where people have become more accepting of those Māori place names and their pronunciation.

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**media releases were sent out in 2022/23 in te reo Māori and English**

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# Achievements and performance

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## Decisions

### Place name proposals

The main focus of our mahi is on assigning new or changing existing place names in response to proposals from the public, Māori, organisations, councils and government agencies.

Last year we updated our online form<sup>2</sup> for proposing place names. There has been an encouraging uptake by proposers using the online tool, although about half still prefer the hardcopy option of filling out a form and submitting it via email or post.

In 2022/23 we publicly notified 19 place name proposals, inviting submissions for or against:

- Drury Railway Station, south of Auckland
- Ngākōroa Railway Station, south of Auckland
- Paerātā Railway Station, south of Auckland
- Karanga-a-Hape Railway Station, central Auckland
- Maungawhau / Mount Eden Railway Station, central Auckland (final name Maungawhau Railway Station)
- Te Waihorotiu Railway Station, central Auckland
- Waitematā Railway Station, central Auckland
- Ryan Creek, Remutaka Range
- Stewart Crag, Haast River (final name Kea Crag)
- Stewart Creek, Haast Pass/Tioripatea
- Kororāreka, from Russell (no final determination in 2022/23)
- Ngāmoko Stream, Coromandel Peninsula
- Te Awa o Mokotūāraro, from Clive River
- Te Kamo, a suburb in Whangārei (no final determination in 2022/23)
- Herwin Creek, Richmond Range
- Pūāwhē, Pirongia Mountain (no final determination in 2022/23)
- Rangiriri, a locality north of Huntly (no final determination in 2022/23)
- Whangamarino, a locality north of Huntly (no final determination in 2022/23)
- Te Kakau Bank, an undersea feature offshore from the southeast coast of the North Island (no final determination in 2022/23).

2. [https://landinformationnz.aul.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cNKctPDqiCNUtpY](https://landinformationnz.aul.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNKctPDqiCNUtpY)

### Place name consultation

We used the following channels to inform people of place name proposals and invite them to make submissions:

- publication in the *New Zealand Gazette*
- media releases in English and te reo Māori
- public notices in national and local newspapers
- publication on Toitū Te Whenua's 'Consultation' and 'News' webpages
- publication on Toitū Te Whenua's Facebook page
- publication on the government's 'Consultation' webpage
- advice to mana whenua
- advice to relevant MPs
- advice to relevant councils
- advice to a circulation list including stakeholders, agencies and map makers.

### Controversial proposals and decisions

In 2022/23 we processed seven new railway station names in Auckland, four for the City Rail Link developed in the central business district and three along the redevelopment of the rail corridor between Papakura and Pukekohe to assist with the transport challenges into the city. The proposals were made by KiwiRail, Auckland Transport and City Rail Link. The reo Māori names were gifted by two separate mana whenua forum groups. We acknowledge the excellent relationships built between the proposers and iwi. However, we did not accept one of the three south Auckland railway station names nor the use of non-standard orthography, which was criticised by some iwi:

- We applied the name for the train stations according to the destination, such as Drury – not 'Maketū' which relates to the stream and historic pā about 5km southeast of the proposed new station.
- We decided to apply the standardised orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission) in respect to macrons rather than double vowels. This followed a hui with the proposers at which strong views on this topic were expressed by both sides.



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## Vitriolic submissions

Two objecting submissions for the Russell to Kororāreka proposal were threatening and contained abusive content. Such submissions were rejected and not considered by the Board. As a result, we have implemented filtering measures to identify and reject offensive language and we will inform submitters in the online submission forms that if they submit objections of this nature they will not be read or considered.

## Approving recorded place names as official

A total of 28,120 or 51% (see Table 3 on page 22) of the place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer* are unofficial recorded names. These can be made official through a streamlined process set out in our legislation 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.

A programme to approve them as official began in October 2020 and is planned for completion in 2026. This is being rolled out region by region. Despite not publicly consulting, we still engage directly with councils and mana whenua.

In 2022/23 we approved 156 recorded names as official – 148 were the remaining names from Gisborne Region and another eight were processed from other regions.

Our processing of Auckland Council and Hawke's Bay Region place names attracted limited responses from some iwi, mainly due to the volume of work required and despite extensions to the timeframes.

We decided that making non-Māori recorded place names official was not a priority, but that the Māori recorded place names were important because the process confirmed their orthography and added macrons where applicable.

In June 2023 we agreed to alter the programme to reduce the number of names for iwi to process. We will now focus on processing just recorded Māori place names, adding macrons where appropriate and giving mana whenua more time to respond if needed. As before, only recorded Māori names that meet the criteria will be made official.

As part of the programme, we review any official Māori place names that are related to the newly approved names to ensure they have consistent orthography.



Photo 2. Kaweka Range, Mount Ruapehu, Mount Ngauruhoe. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken 16 April 2022

### Crown protected area names

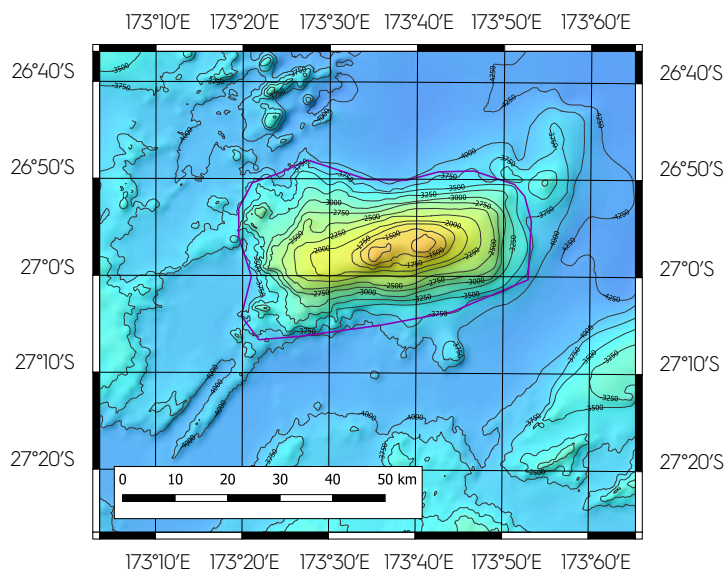
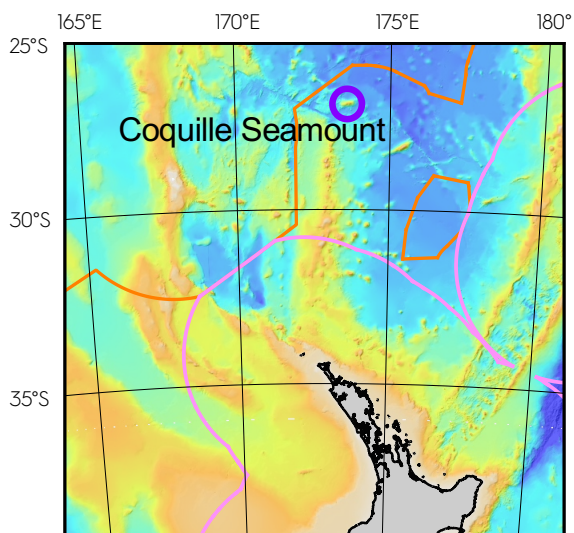
Our role in naming Crown reserves is to review proposals received from the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) against our Standard for Crown protected area names. If the Standard is met, then we concur with the proposal. DOC can then classify and name the reserve under its own relevant 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:

- Te Kuihi Scenic Reserve, near Dargaville
- Pati Tapu Bush Scenic Reserve, Alfredton, Wairarapa.

In July 2022 we recommended that DOC add macrons to official Crown protected area names via corrigenda, to be consistent with other associated place names that had been updated with correct orthography. This year, with approval from DOC, we have added macrons to three Crown reserve names.

In March 2023, we provided input to DOC's guidelines for its staff who process Crown protected area names.



Images 1 and 2. of maps prepared by our Secretariat for the proposal for Coquille Seamount, adopted as official by us in May 2022 for submitting to SCUFN.

### Naming undersea features

Our Undersea Feature Names Committee allows us to make enduring and robust decisions on naming undersea features. By clearly describing and naming undersea features on the continental shelves of New Zealand and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica, we are providing the global community with context for exploration, scientific and economic research, and locating natural resources. Undersea feature names are also important reminders of our history, culture and identity.

Each year we submit newly official undersea feature names beyond the 12 nautical mile limit to the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), an international body of oceanographic and hydrographic experts who select names for use on international hydrographic and bathymetric products such as charts and maps.

This ensures that New Zealand’s names on the ocean floor are protected, known and used. To date, SCUFN has accepted 395 of New Zealand’s 434 official undersea feature names (91%).

### Naming in Antarctica

We did not receive any new place name proposals in Antarctica this year.

There are 4,346 current Antarctic place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*.

We liaised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade particularly through our Secretary’s membership on the Antarctic Officials Coordination Group which met twice this year.





Photo 3. Tauwharenikau River, official by the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022. Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken 21 August 2022.

### Reinstating original Māori place names through Treaty of Waitangi settlements

Original Māori place names are often reinstated as part of Treaty 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.

We advise Te Arawhiti (Office for Māori Crown Relations) on place name proposals in Treaty settlements.

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and Cabinet make the final decisions on all Treaty settlement redress.

We gazette the place names that they accept as official, enter them in the *New Zealand 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 2022/23, 42 places names were reinstated as official through three Treaty settlements. Another Māori place name was published in the *New Zealand Gazetteer* as a collected original Māori name through Treaty settlement.

This year we received 30 Treaty place name proposals, all from one claimant group. Further proposals from various claimant groups are anticipated and will be considered in 2023/2024.



### Reporting on Treaty of Waitangi commitments

We entered status updates against all 216 of our Treaty commitments in Te Arawhiti's settlement online portal Te Haeata by the deadline of 30 June 2023. This work was undertaken in accordance with the He

Korowai Whakamana framework outlined in the Cabinet Paper *Enhancing oversight of Treaty settlement commitments* that Cabinet approved on 16 December 2022. This was a significant project involving a detailed review of all of our Treaty commitments to ensure accurate and comprehensive reporting.

**Table 1. Board Treaty commitments in Te Haeata as at 30 June 2023:**

Te Haeata progress status	Number of commitments	Percentage
Yet to be triggered	41	19%
Complete	154	71%
On track or minor issues	21	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100%</b>



Photo 4. Mount Taranaki. Acknowledgement: Joanna Barnes-Wylie, taken 31 March 2023.

### Initialling the Taranaki Maunga collective deed

On 31 March 2023, we attended an event at Aotearoa Marae in Okaiawa to initial the agreed Taranaki Maunga collective redress package.

Our Secretariat Senior Advisor (Treaty Names) Joanna Barnes-Wylie attended on our behalf and presented two framed maps depicting the place names in the Taranaki Maunga collective redress deed, Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo. Joanna and former Secretariat team member Ginny Maddock (née Leggett) carried the maps into the whareniui during the pōwhiri ceremony.

The maps were placed alongside photos in front of the stage. The restoration of original Māori place names is a key aspect of the

Collective Redress Deed, and it was extremely significant for Ngā Iwi o Taranaki to see their place names added to a topographic map.

The event marked a milestone in our place naming history, with the collective redress affording the national park – including Taranaki Maunga and surrounding tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains) – the legal rights of a person, with a new co-governance entity, Te Tōpuni Kōkōurangi, representing its interests.

It marks the first time that a national park in Aotearoa New Zealand will have a solely te reo Māori name – Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. The restored names won't become official until the settlement legislation passes.



Photo 5. Te Awa o Mokotūāraro, Acknowledgement: Christopher Stephens, taken 1 January 2019.

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### How many place name decisions were gazetted?

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

In 2022/23 we notified 265 final place name decisions in the *New Zealand Gazette* (see Tables 2 and 3, and Graph 1 on page 22).

### Minister for Land Information's decisions

In 2022/23 the Minister made final decisions on 10 place names.

- Maungatūtū, a maunga of volcanic origins between Ohauiti and Oropi (localities), south of Tauranga.
- Lake Te Horonui, a lake formed by a landslide in February 2018, inland between Gisborne District and Wairoa District. We could not decide between Lake Te Horonui and Lake Mangapōike due to the opposing responses from mana whenua. The Minister decided on Lake Te Horonui.
- Four central Auckland railway stations along the new City Rail Link, with names reflecting local geographic features:
  - Waitematā Railway Station
  - Te Waihorotiu Railway Station
  - Karanga-a-Hape Railway Station
  - Maungawhau Railway Station.
- Three railway stations on the North Island Main Trunk between Pukekohe and Papakura, with names reflecting their destinations or a local geographic feature:
  - Paerātā Railway Station
  - Ngākōroa Railway Station
  - Drury Railway Station.
- Te Awa o Mokotūāraro, changed from Clive River.

### Chairperson's decisions made under delegation

The Chairperson under delegation made five final decisions on place names which we publicly consulted on and which had no objecting submissions.

- Skerretts Creek, a stream near Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt – see Image 3 opposite.
- Ryan Creek, a stream in the Ōrongorongo River catchment.
- Stewart Creek, a stream near Haast Pass/Tioripatea.
- Kea Crag, steep cliffs above Haast River north of Haast Pass/Tioripatea.
- Ngāmoko Stream, a small stream at Little Bay, north of Coromandel.

The *New Zealand Gazetteer* records this in the History/Origin/Meaning field for Skerretts Creek: 'Named for Sir Charles Perrin Skerrett (1863–1929). Skerrett was a high profile lawyer, who in later life served as King's Counsel and briefly Chief Justice of New Zealand (1927–1929). In the 1880s–1890s Skerrett regularly fished for trout from a hut (known as Smith's Whare, for Dyer Smith) near the creek's confluence with Wainuiomata River.'



Image 3. of Mr Skerrett, *New Zealand Graphic* page 528, entitled 'Trout-fishing at Wainui-O-Mata, Wellington', published 1891, Acknowledgement: Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections NZG-18911031-0528-04.



**Table 2. Place names (excluding proposals) notified in 2022/23 in the *New Zealand Gazette*.**

Minister’s decisions on place names	13
Board’s final decisions on place names	5
Review and concur on Crown protected area name (notified by DOC)	1
Existing Crown protected area names validated or standardised (notified by Board)	12
Recorded place names approved as official	156
Treaty settlement place names (including discontinuing Crown protected area names)	63
Altered undersea feature names	3
Other amendments/corrigenda (including to standardise existing official names with macrons)	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>

**Table 3. Official and unofficial place names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*.**

	2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
Official names	18,800	36%	21,000	39%	22,050	41%	22,240	41%
Unofficial recorded names	30,850	58%	28,300	55%	28,300	53%	28,120	51%
Unofficial (replaced, discontinued, collected, original Māori and Moriori names)	3,200	6%	3,250	6%	3,350	6%	4,210	8%
<b>Total place names in the <i>New Zealand Gazetteer</i></b>	<b>52,850</b>		<b>53,550</b>		<b>53,700</b>		<b>54,570</b>	

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

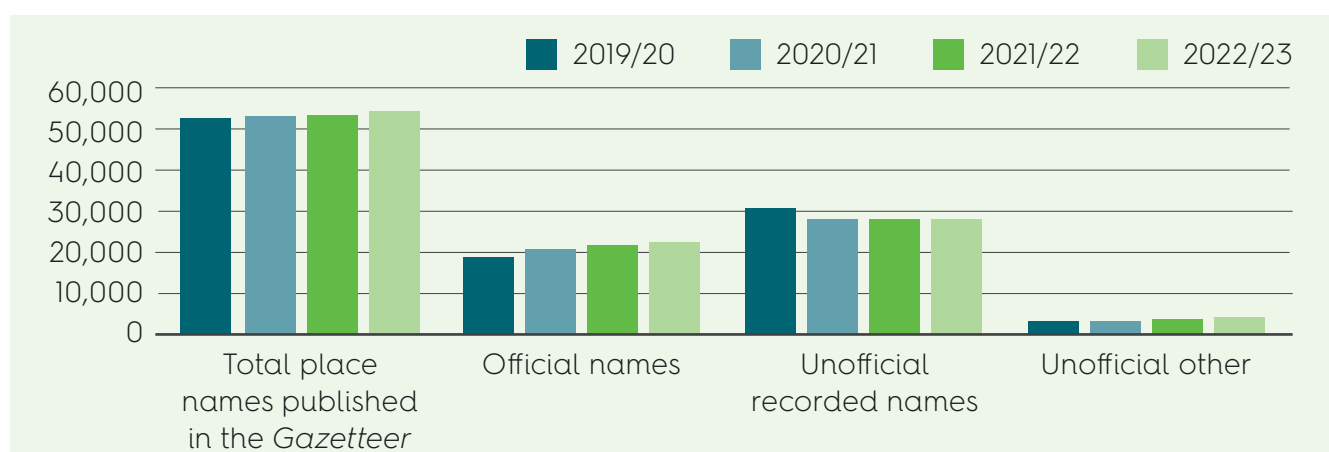




Image 4. Distribution of 265 gazetted place names in 2022/23 (excluding proposals) in New Zealand<sup>3</sup>. No names were gazetted in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica.

3. Source: Toitū Te Whenua Aerial Imagery Basemap, includes Toitū Te Whenua data which are licensed for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence], *New Zealand Gazetteer*

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### How many decisions were made on place names?

In 2022/23 we made 3,118 place name decisions, noting that not all were gazetted (see Table 4 below).

**Table 4. Place names considered at Board hui held in 2022/23.**

Crown protected area	1
Corrigenda, amendments	156
Declined	42
Deferred (mostly recorded names for Auckland Council and Hawke's Bay Region)	2,677
Noted	15
Board final decisions	4
Proposed (taken to public consultation)	20
Approved	156
Undersea	3
Reported to the Minister for Land Information	12
Treaty	30
Updated <i>New Zealand Gazetteer</i>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,118</b>

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## Policy, standards, guidelines and legislation

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

### Diversity and inclusion in place names

In July 2022 we considered a discussion paper on the relevant aspects of diversity and inclusion to give identity, recognition and a voice to historically marginalised groups, people and cultures (including minority languages) in place naming. We agreed to add a generally worded criterion to our published naming standards that contributes to an equitable, diverse and inclusive society.

### Minimum Requirements for proposals

We updated our *Minimum Requirements for proposals* in July 2022 to improve understanding. We also translated the two documents into te reo Māori. See <https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/minimum-requirements-geographic-name-proposals>.

## Statutes Amendments Bill

We worked with the Policy team at Toitū Te Whenua seeking some minor changes to our legislation.

### Select Committee advice

In early 2023 we gave a written submission and then an in-person presentation to the Māori Affairs Select Committee on the petition from Te Pāti Māori to change the name of the country and introduce by 2026 a process to restore or change every place name to te reo Māori. We provided advice on the Board's processes and decisions, with an emphasis on public, iwi and council consultation.

### Judicial review

A statement of claim to the High Court seeking a judicial review involving place names proposed on Waiheke Island was struck out by judgment of the High Court in February 2023. An appeal was then lodged and we sought security of costs which was granted by the High Court. The outcome of this litigation will be reported in next year's annual report.





Board branding icon

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## Outreach

We've made good progress with our strategic goals for outreach and engagement through:

- refreshing our webpages on the Toitū Te Whenua website, which went live in September 2022
- updating our existing collateral with our new logo and branding (such as email signatures and PowerPoint templates)
- engaging with media spotlights, such as Radio New Zealand's geographic names podcasts
- developing an engagement plan and a stakeholder plan.

## New brand

We launched our new logo and branding in September 2022.

The icon was created to capture the essence of what the Board does as the authority on New Zealand place names. It combines a location marker and the notion of speech marks with the koru, a symbol of new beginnings, growth and harmony, a double koru or spiral, a symbol of growing together, and the Hei Matau – the fishhook of Māui, a symbol of abundance, strength and determination. Together they merge to form a stylised map of New Zealand.

## Centenary 2024

In March 2023 we developed an implementation plan for our centenary initiatives in 2024, which will cover a range of connected celebratory and commemorative activities. The activities are designed to:

- celebrate New Zealand's unique cultural and national identity through geographic names
- celebrate the importance of geographic names, including their history, origin and meaning with everyday New Zealanders
- raise awareness of and profile the Board's work and resources
- commemorate 100 years of official geographic naming
- recognise the Board's partners, stakeholders and former Board members.

## Relationships

### Ministers

#### Minister for Land Information:

- makes final decisions on place name proposals when the Board cannot uphold objections
- is the 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
- recommends that the Governor-General amends the name of a council to give effect to the alteration when a council's district or region name is changing
- appoints eight of the 10 Board members.

#### 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 Treaty settlement negotiations between the Crown and claimants. Final decisions are given effect by individual Treaty 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 in our 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 Treaty of Waitangi principles of partnership, participation and protection, and give them practical effect through processes such as our:

- *Kaupapa*<sup>4</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 (Māori Language Commission)
- relationship protocol with Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development)
- guidelines for Treaty name proposals
- Minister for Land Information River Accords for meeting post settlement commitments for Waikato-Tainui, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, Raukawa Settlement Trust and Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
- generic terms policy
- contemporary Māori names policy.

4. 'Kaupapa' means policy in this instance.

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We have engaged with Māori on many occasions throughout 2022/23, typically through the approval programme and our processing of standard proposals. We also met with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in March 2023 for our annual relationship hui.

In 2022/23 all 19 of our media releases were bilingual.

### Central government

We continued to work actively with these agencies:

- Toitū Te Whenua for maps, charts, website, data service and its other products – we have a strategic goal to work closely with Toitū Te Whenua to achieve our goals
- Te Arawhiti – Office for Māori Crown Relations for Treaty of Waitangi place names
- Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission) for orthographic advice on Māori place names. In June we signed a new Mahi Tahi agreement for how we work together and where we might pursue mutual benefit. It was gratifying for us to confirm this ongoing commitment
- Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry of Māori Development to engage with mana whenua
- Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai for Crown protected area names
- NIWA Taihoro Nukurangi (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) for undersea feature names
- GNS Science Te Pū Ao for undersea feature names
- Antarctica New Zealand for Antarctic place names
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Manatū Aorere) for international liaison, including Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

- Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga for the new New Zealand history curriculum
- Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency. In June 2023, Waka Kotahi publicly consulted on its package of 94 bilingual traffic signs, which included signs with place names. We advised them that official place names must be used, and where a name is not official the correct Māori place names must be used, with standardised orthography.

### Local government

Our Local Government New Zealand member Bonita Bigham has provided a valuable link to the work of councils in respect to place names. Ongoing engagement with councils remains a critical part of the place naming process.

In June 2022, we presented to Hastings District Council which is exploring how it might formally restore its Māori place names. The council has erected bilingual road signs, for example Hastings Heretaunga.

### Enquiries

During 2022/23 we responded to more than 159 enquiries on place names. We also responded to a few Official Information Act requests, Ministerial correspondence, and parliamentary questions (both written and oral).

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# 159

**enquiries on place names responded to during 2022/23**

## Conferences

In August 2022, we attended the Geospatial Research Conference held in Wellington.

Also in August 2022, we attended the New Zealand Cartographic Society's GeoCart2022 held in Wellington.

## International

In May 2023, our Secretary, Wendy Shaw, represented New Zealand at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) biennial session in New York. The Group of Experts' goals are to set standardised and consistent geographical naming for all member states. Wendy also had a formal role as part of the UNGEGN Bureau. Her contributions included:

- facilitating an agenda item on 'Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and Identity'
- being a panel member on the topic of connections between geographical names and the environment
- presenting three reports from New Zealand:
  - the new 2023 edition Tangata Whenua maps (see more details below)
  - New Zealand's implementation of UNGEGN strategic actions relating to gender balance, diversity and inclusion, and a process for contemporary Māori place names, and
  - our regular national report
- co-writing the report of the session as one of two rapporteurs.



Photo 6. UNGEGN Session 3, May 2023, New York. Acknowledgement: United Nations, taken 1 May 2023.

The international place naming community is interested in our stories and journey, and we constantly learn from other nations about their challenges and successes.

Coverage of the session is available at: [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd\\_session\\_2023/#documents](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/#documents)

We actively work with place naming authorities from other countries to ensure consistency with international standards and good place naming practice. In 2022/23 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 IHO<sup>5</sup> GEBCO<sup>6</sup> Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names
- the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information.

Our Secretariat contributed two articles to the *Group of Experts' Bulletins* 64<sup>7</sup> and 65<sup>8</sup>: 'Making geographical names data accessible', and 'Strengthening relationships, links and connection'.

5. IHO - International Hydrographic Organisation

6. GEBCO - General Bathymetric Charts of the Ocean

7. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN\\_bulletin\\_no\\_64\\_rev.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no_64_rev.pdf)

8. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN\\_bulletin\\_no\\_65.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/Bulletin/UNGEGN_bulletin_no_65.pdf)



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## 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 New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.

Our approach to non-compliance is typically to communicate directly to draw attention to the official name or names that should be used and ask that they comply as soon as practicable.

While we aim to make people aware of their obligations to use official place names, we are aware of cost and work that may be needed to comply. With that in mind, we are happy for road signs, promotional material, maps, webpages and databases to be updated in the course of routine maintenance.

Of particular note in 2022/23 is that we engaged with the MetService to encourage the use of official place names.

### New Zealand suburbs and localities dataset

Toitū Te Whenua formally took over this dataset from Fire and Emergency New Zealand in June 2023. We gave advice on using official place names, including the correct orthography, and established maintenance mechanisms to ensure that names are consistent with those in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*. We continue to work with Toitū Te Whenua to preserve the authority and integrity of official suburb and locality names.

## 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 Treaty of Waitangi claim settlements over the past three decades, our Komiti Taunahatanga Māori (Māori Names Committee) decided it was time for new versions. The two new maps, which were printed in June 2023, are named *Tangata Whenua Place Names – Te Ika-a-Māui* and *Tangata Whenua Place Names – Te Waipounamu*.

Successfully delivering these maps took nearly three years. It involved engaging directly with appropriate Māori groups on the correct place names and their meanings.

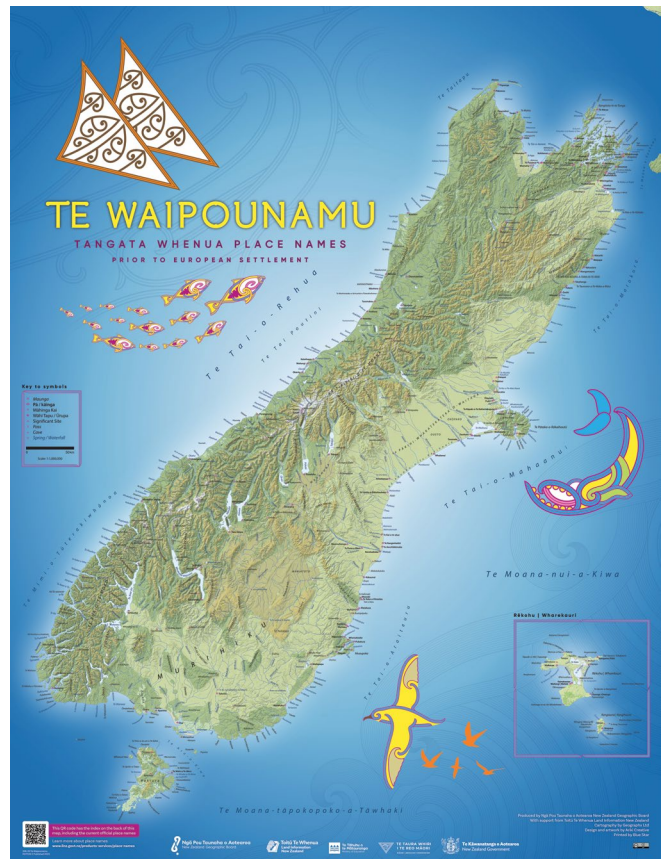
We distributed the maps to over 2,500 schools and to over 950 iwi authorities and marae.

The maps will offer a significant resource for New Zealand's new history curriculum launched in 2023 and the Ministry of Education will print a further 3,000 copies of each map so that these will be available to schools. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu initially printed 1,000 of *Te Waipounamu* and will print another 2,000 to meet the immediate demand from their people.

Digital copies of maps are also available on our website.

Additionally, 816 original Māori names were published in the *New Zealand Gazetteer* as new collected names from the Tangata Whenua Place Names maps.

There has been a positive response to these maps from many quarters, telling us that they are needed and welcome by New Zealanders.



Images 5 and 6. New Tangata Whenua Maps. June 2023.

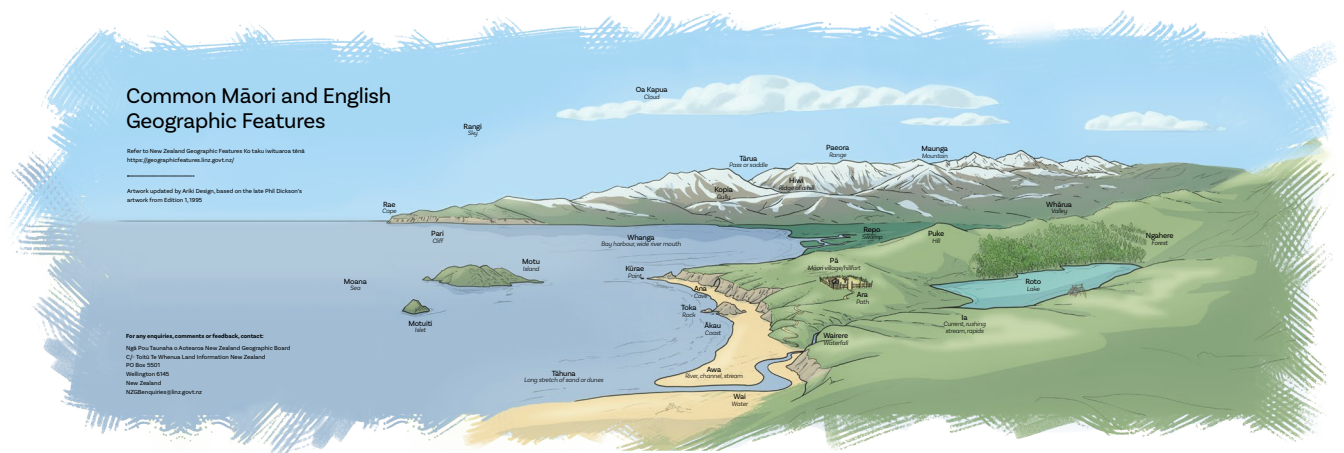


Image 7. Artwork on the backs of the new Tangata Whenua maps showing feature types in Māori and English.

# New Zealand Gazetteer

Our legislation requires us to maintain a publicly available record called 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 re-usable to everyone.

Our main *New Zealand Gazetteer* activities have been data cleansing, improving user functionality, applying security measures, creating audio pronunciation guides and adding more History/Origin/Meaning entries.

## Data cleansing

Data cleansing has included changing dual name formats from brackets to the forward slash format. We also added macrons to official Māori geographic names.

## Improving user functionality

In 2022/23 we completed five enhancements:

- replacing our old logo with the new version
- updating existing hyperlinks to the new Toitū Te Whenua webpages
- replacing the old 'How to use' content with an updated version
- correcting the functionality so that a topographic map appears rather than the colour basemap when zooming on a specific name search
- replacing the colour basemap for the new Toitū Te Whenua vector tile service.

## Security measures

In response to penetration, testing security patching was applied in October 2022.

## Pronunciation audio

One of our strategic objectives is to provide pronunciation of Māori geographic names in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*. We engaged an expert translator and linguist to make audio files for official Māori geographic names that have had their orthography confirmed.

So far we have over 4,230 official Māori names with audio in the *New Zealand Gazetteer*. Refer to a dual name example Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē / Ninety Mile Beach <https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/place/55202>.

## Capturing History/Origin/Meaning

In the last 12 months the history, origin, and meaning stories have been researched and written for 181 place names and added to the *New Zealand Gazetteer*. These are mostly for localities but also include historic sites and suburbs and are spread throughout the country. Some 46% are located in Te Waipounamu or the South Island and 54% are in Te Ika-a-Māui or the North Island.

Te reo Māori place names make up 42%, 36% are European, and 22% are hybrid names with a Māori name qualified by a European term, such as the suburb of Māngere Bridge.

These names, with few exceptions, are not among the 7,685 included in Reed and Dowling's *Place Names of New Zealand*. This does not mean that these names are insignificant. Many have rich and complex stories and while the origins and meanings of some can be found in local histories and early ethnological publications, in other cases it has been necessary to undertake archival research, re-examine early survey plans, check manuscript material, draw on contemporary newspapers, and refer to Waitangi Tribunal reports.



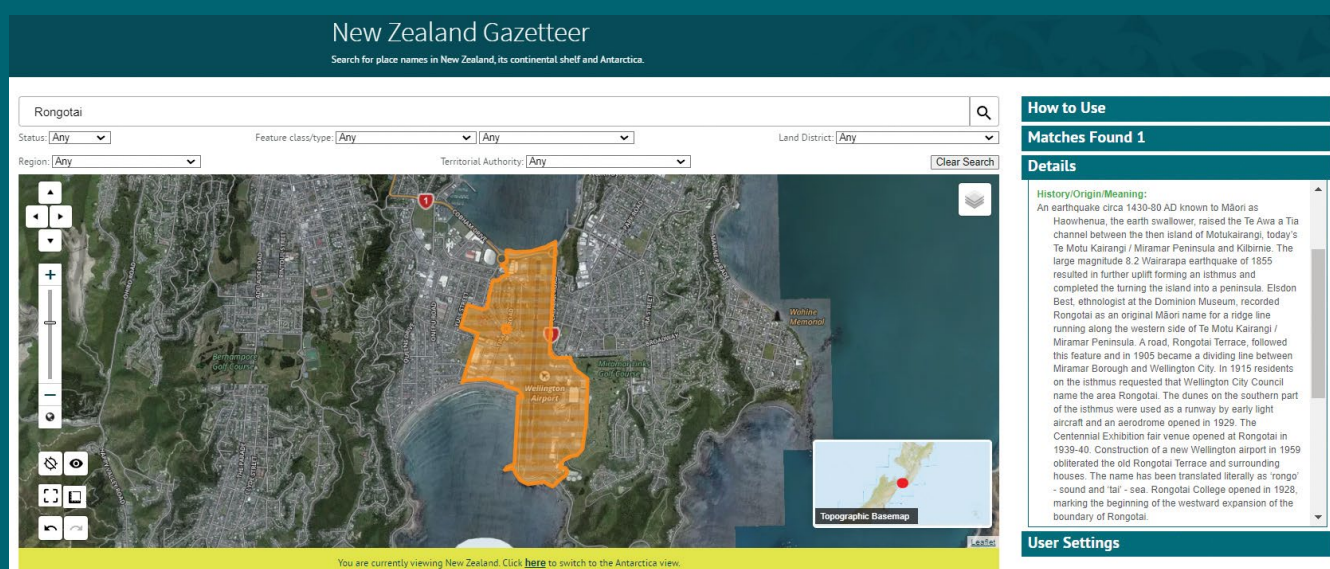


Image 8. Screenshot from the *New Zealand Gazetteer* (<https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>), July 2023, showing the History/Origin/Meaning entry for Rongotai in Wellington.

### Macrons added to official Māori place names

We amended nine older official Māori place names, by a notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*, to include macrons. This resulted from associated recorded place names being processed under the approval programme.

### Gazetteer Use

The number of users of the online *New Zealand Gazetteer* was 8,009, 6.7% lower than the previous year.

Place name data from the *New Zealand Gazetteer* can also be accessed from Toitū Te Whenua Data Service.

**Table 5. Downloads and queries from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 – four financial years.**

	Downloads				Web feature service queries			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Place names layer	761	837	618	564	21,021	55,148	127,460	75,380



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

## Board and komiti/committees

The Board met four times in 2022/23. The hui were not open to the public but the minutes with decisions are made publicly available on the website. Observers from partner agencies (listed opposite) 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.

## Board membership and regular observers

### Board members (10)

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

Excluding the two ex-officio members, Board members are typically appointed for three-year terms. Terms for the last four Board members listed above expired in April 2023 but they completed the 2022/23 year in office as successors were not appointed.

### Regular observers from government agencies

Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry for Māori Development	Waihoroi Shortland
Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission)	Te Tumatakuru O’Connell (to December 2022)  Robert Pouwhare (from April 2023)
Te Arawhiti – Office for Māori Crown Relations	Philip Green
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai	Sheryll Johnson

## Board Secretariat

Secretary	Wendy Shaw
Senior Advisor, Treaty Names	Ginny Maddock (née Leggett) (to 5 August 2022)  Joanna Barnes-Wylie (from 7 November 2022)
Advisor	Jillianne Remnant
Advisor	Christopher Stephens
Customer Relationship Manager - Engagement	Tash Barneveld (to 12 September 2022)

The 2022/23 annual satisfaction survey completed by six Board members resulted in an average of 4.94 out of 5. The minimum level of satisfaction average is 3.5.

## Contractors

Orthography, translation, pronunciation audio	Te Haumihiata Mason
Research for History/Origin/Meaning	Professor Mike Roche
Centenary 2024 Implementation Plan	Sarah Turnbull, March 2023

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## Board and komiti/committee hui

### Board hui

26 July 2022	Regular Board hui
2 December 2022	Regular Board hui
26 April 2023	Regular Board hui
22 June 2023	Short Board hui, virtual

### Komiti/committee hui

21 July 2022	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, virtual
16 February 2023	Undersea Feature Names Committee
11 April 2023	Komiti Taunahatanga Māori, virtual

# Financial performance

The Board's functions are separately accounted for as a category within the 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 Annual Report for 2022/23.

## Administration of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Actual 2022 \$000		Unaudited Supplementary Estimates 2023 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
783	Revenue Crown	783	783
-	Revenue other	-	-
783	Total revenue	783	783
1,099	Total expenses	783	1,176
(316)	Net surplus/(deficit)	-	(393)



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# Contact

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