Māori Geographic Naming in New Zealand with emphasis on the Treaty of Waitangi

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**Historic Context**

Māori migration

Artwork by the late Cliff Whiting ‘The coming of the canoes – Ngā tāunga mai o Ngā waka’, copyright New Zealand Geographic Board
Historic Context
Treaty of Waitangi partnership
Historic Context
European settlement

Miscellaneous plan AT(4) surveyed by Felton Mathew, Surveyor-General
Cultural Aspects
Language revival

Toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te whenua
The permanence of the language, prestige and land

Cultural Aspects
Mana

Takura Tamarau sharing a hongi with his grandson Leo Tamarau, as he sits with his other grandchildren Alfred Tamarau and Lorna Tamarau, Ruatoki. Ref: MNZ-2659-1/2-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22497475
Cultural Aspects
Governance, Participation, Rangitiratanga, Kaitiakitanga

Charles Croft (front row, second from left), Sir Tipene O’Regan (next right), and Mark Solomon (next right), along with other members of Ngāi Tahu witness the passage of the Ngāi Tahu settlement legislation in 1998.

Standard Process

1. Proposals received
2. Research and report by Secretariat
3. NZGB considers proposal
4. Proposal publicly notified seeking submissions
5. NZGB considers submissions
6. NZGB or Minister make final decision
7. Official place name gazetted
8. Gazetteer updated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Proposal</td>
<td>The Office of Treaty Settlements gathers the required information from the claimant group and submits the Treaty name proposal to the New Zealand Geographic Board. The story associated with the name is essential to determine correct orthography.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Review</td>
<td>The Office of Treaty Settlements is advised of any immediate concerns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Research</td>
<td>Secretariat researches the history of existing geographic name (if any) and feature.</td>
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<td>4. NZGB Consideration</td>
<td>Recommendations made to the Office of Treaty Settlements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Final Decision</td>
<td>Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations. Name changes and restored named included in a list in the Deed of Settlement. Settlement legislation enacted making them official.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Post Settlement</td>
<td>Published in <em>New Zealand Gazette</em> and newspapers. Captured/alter ed in the New Zealand Geographic Board Gazetteer. Future changes can only be made with the consent of the Treaty Settlement authority. Future proposals made under the standard process.</td>
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Naming Practice

Maunga, mauka  mountain

Any part of the earth’s crust higher than a hill (usually greater than 300m), sufficiently elevated above the surrounding land surface to be considered worthy of naming, and characterised by a discrete summit area.
Gazetteer and Re-Use

List of official and unofficial names

All settled Treaty names added

History of the name provided by the claimants is included

Discoverable to everyone

www.linz.govt.nz/new-zealand-gazetteer
Future
Conclusions

‘Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa’ ……… ‘The Memorial Markers of the Landscape’

When considering cultural aspects of Māori geographic naming, we

• Support partnership between Crown and Māori, to connect people, places and language,

• Continue to develop good naming practice, and

• Recognise the intrinsic differences of the home people and the administrative driver of standardisation
Questions?
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