

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

11 MARCH 2015

AGENDA ITEM C1

PROPOSED RENAMING OF RIMUTUKA HILL

Purpose of Report

To inform Councillors of the process, for making a change to the current name of Rimutuka Hill.

Recommendation

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Consider whether to support a proposed name change of the Rimutaka Hill Summit to the Remutaka Pass.*

1. Summary

The "Remutuka Pass Coordinating Group" has written to Council seeking support for their proposal to rename Rimutuka Hill as Remutuka Pass. The renaming would apply to the point of the 555m summit and the group believes the road name would then be consequential to this (i.e. it would change to Remutuka Pass Road). It is understood however that the name of the road (State Highway No 2 Rimutuka Hill) remains as at present unless the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) subsequently decides to rename it (assuming the summit is renamed).

Such a name change (for the summit) must be submitted to the New Zealand Geographical Board (NZGB) for official adoption. The Board is charged to assess such applications taking into account the history of the place (both Maori and European). Issues such as the correctness of the name (spelling) are also considered.

2. Process

Applications to name, or change the name, of places in New Zealand can be made to the NZGB which is part of Land Information New Zealand. The Board describes its role as to:

- give places official names
- approve names that already exist unofficially
- change names (e.g. if spelling is different)

- remove names
- review names for Crown protected areas (e.g. national parks).

The Board sets out an extensive list of pre-consideration requirements which applicants to the Board must meet;

"NZGB Act 2008 S.15(2)

A proposal must— (a) be in the form provided for the purpose by the Board; and (b) meet the requirements specified by the Board; and (c) include the evidence necessary to support the proposal.

The Board has set out the matters to be covered to satisfy S15(2) (b) and (c) which would apply to the Rimutuka proposals, as follows ;

- *A map or chart (preferably from Land Information New Zealand) showing the location and if applicable, the marked up extent of the proposed name.*

- *For historical names, sufficient information/evidence must be provided about the events, stories and people associated with the place (i.e. history/origin/meaning).*

- *For descriptive names, sufficient information/evidence must be provided to support the way in which the name describes the feature, unless it is obvious from other information provided*

- *For dual or alternative names, sufficient information/evidence associated with both names must be provided.*

- *For all proposals, evidence of the orthography must be provided (e.g. macrons for Māori names, correct spelling for personal names).*

- *For all proposals, the type of feature being named must be specified. An appropriate generic geographic component for the name should be included, though for populated places and historic sites, the generic is not generally used. Generally the English generic element is preferred for natural features.*

- *Proposers must confirm that they have referred to the Board's Frameworks document and other relevant standards during the compilation of their proposal.*

3. Timeline

In terms of a timeline, the Board holds scheduled meetings through the year. For a proposal to be considered it must satisfy the above requirements, but also be notified to the Board by set due dates.

In that regard the next meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on the 29th of April 2015. For that meeting acceptance of proposals closes on March 6th 2015.

4. Decision process

The NZGB considers place name proposals following a set process to make sure that it takes into account the views of affected people and groups. The general process is:

- Once a proposal is received, and all of the supporting information required has been provided, the Secretariat of the Board validates and researches the proposal, and carries out any further consultation that might be needed.
- The Secretariat then provides a comprehensive report with recommendations on the proposal for the NZGB to consider at its next meeting.
- The NZGB considers the proposal and recommendations, weighing them against the [NZGB Act 2008](#) and its [naming rules and policies](#).
- **If** the NZGB supports the proposal, it advertises the proposed name asking for submissions.
- Anyone, including the person who proposed the name, can make a submission objecting to or supporting the name within the timeframe advertised by the NZGB (which is never less than one month and can be up to three months, but may be longer).
- The Secretariat then provides another comprehensive report on any submissions received to the NZGB's next meeting.
- If there are no submissions or if the NZGB agrees with all of the objecting submissions, then it makes the final decision.
- If the NZGB does not agree with the submissions objecting to the name, then the [Minister for Land Information](#) makes the final decision.

5. Conclusion

Council has been asked to consider the proposals for changing the name of Rimutuka Hill. The decision making body is the NZGB. To name or change a name the Board follows the provisions of the NZGB act 2008, which includes public consultation. The Minister is the final decision maker should a name or change of name be opposed.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Remutaka Pass Coordinating Group Proposal

Appendix 2 – Process for NZ Official Geographic Names

Appendix 3 – Correspondence

Contact Officer: Murray Buchanan, Group Manager Planning and Environment

Reviewed By: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive

Appendix 1 – Remutaka Pass Coordinating Group Proposal

On a number of occasions over the past 10 years it has been publicly advocated that a name for the route that is the southern entrance to Wairarapa, more fitting to its status than the existing "hill road" be adopted. Most recently this issue was revisited to support the stated objective of local body leaders to give the route a higher profile and to promote this iconic route as a scenic drive.

Voluntary agencies and private donors raised the funds necessary to complete the purchase of land so that the whole route is now in public ownership. This has contributed to the remarkable regeneration of native vegetation, particularly at the higher levels.

The summit is frequently included on weather forecasting sites together with other passes such as Lindis, Porters, Lewis and Arthurs so that severe weather conditions bring it regular publicity from both the Met Service and the Transport Authority, but singularly as "Hill". To promote it as an iconic feature would take advantage of the same format used by these passes, all gratis. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines Pass as a 'narrow passage through mountains', even more apt to the Remutaka route than applies to one or two of the South Island passes.

In a letter to the Geographic Board in June 2007 the adoption of the name Rimutaka Pass was advocated. In reply it was advised along the lines of what appears on the Board's website:

"Anyone can make a proposal for a new name or to change an existing name. Guided by good naming practice, the Board considers name proposals on a case by case basis. To make informed decisions we encourage consultation with interested parties such as iwi, and local councils and communities. We also investigate and research name proposals to check for correct spelling and historical accuracy".

A significant statement in the Board's reply was that the correct spelling of Rimutaka is actually REMUTAKA, and went on to say the Board is aware of this misspelling and if a new submission proposal came before it for 'Rimutaka Pass', the Board may wish to consider correcting the spelling of it and all other associated features currently named 'Rimutaka' (e.g. the range, stream, hill)

Rangitane O Wairarapa and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa have both indicated their support of the proposal.

This message is to seek your support for this initiative and your willingness to be associated with the group's representations. The Geographic Board has only two meetings each year and the agenda items for the next meeting close on 6 March 2015. Accordingly it is requested that your response be received by 27 February 2015.

Masterton, 5810

A reply in the first instance to frankcody@xtra.co.nz would be appreciated.

Kind regards *Frank Cody*
 as Coordinator
 Remutaka Pass Coordinating Group

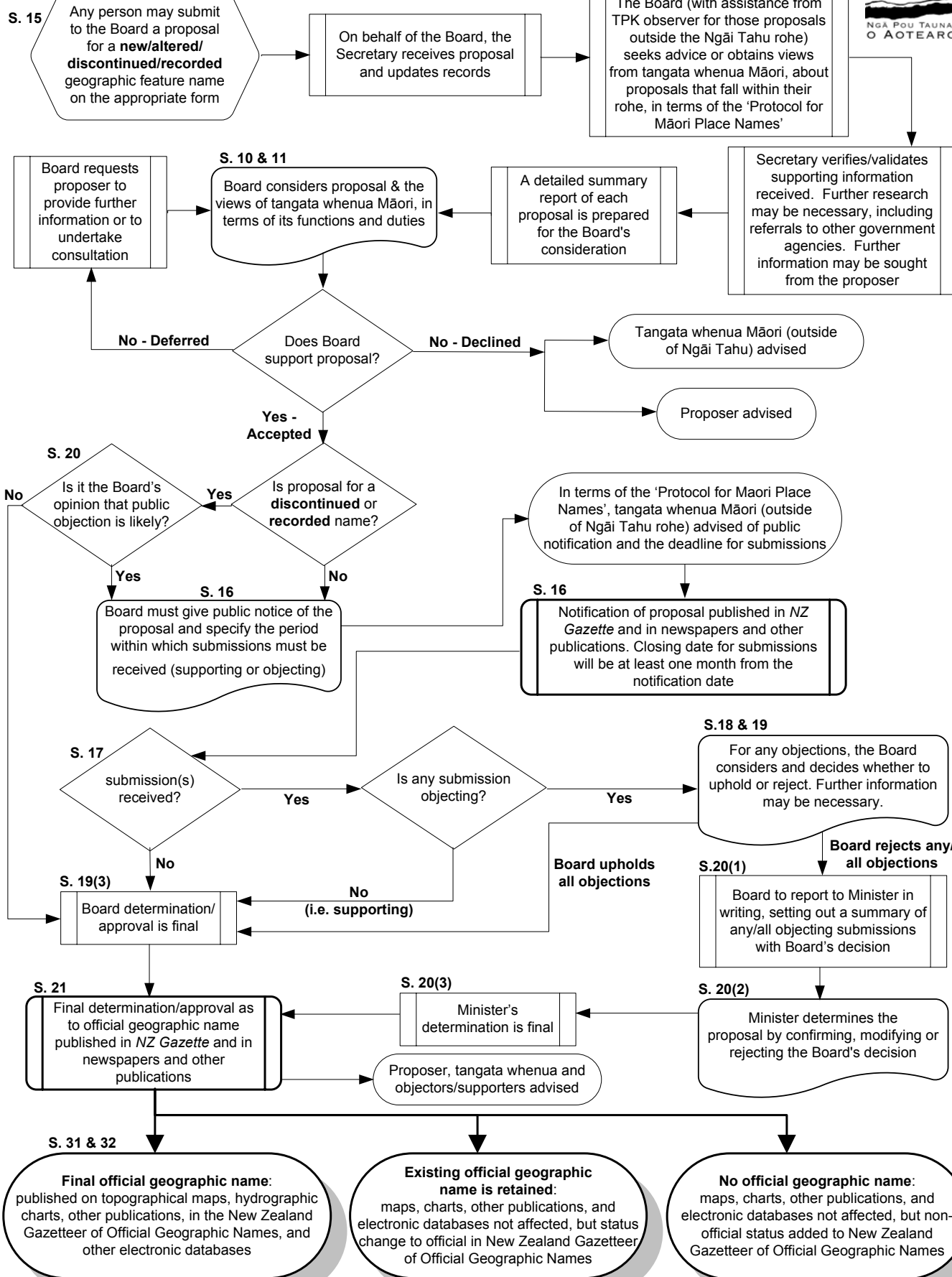
19 First Street, Masterton, 5810

Appendix 2 - Process for NZ Official Geographic Names

NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD (NGĀ POU TAUNAHA O AOTEAROA) ACT 2008

PROCESS FOR NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

(excluding local authority districts/regions, Crown protected areas, undersea features outside the NZ 12NM territorial limit and Antarctica)



Information available to any person making a proposal includes:

- 1. a proposal form with accompanying guidance notes;*
- 2. a fact sheet;*
- 3. New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008;*
- 4. naming guidelines;*
- 5. this flow chart; and*
- 6. Protocol for Māori Place Names.*

Consultation:

Any persons making proposals are encouraged to undertake their own consultation (e.g. with the local community or interest groups, Department of Conservation, local iwi, Territorial Authorities, etc).

Documentary evidence of any such consultation should accompany proposals for new/altered/discontinued/approved geographic feature names.

By undertaking consultation, more weight may be added to support the proposal, giving recognition to the appropriate administrative, cultural and heritage aspects, as well as any historical, geographical and/or scientific research undertaken.

Although consultation is not mandatory, it is considered by the Board to be an important step towards determining a new, or altering an existing, or discontinuing an existing, or approving a recorded, geographic feature name.

When a proposal is received, the Board observes a 'Protocol for Māori Place Names', whereby the Board directly seeks the views of tangata whenua Māori in respect to proposals within their rohe.

Appendix 3 - Correspondence

From: Ian Farley [mailto:farley4greytown@hotmail.co.nz]

Sent: Saturday, 31 January 2015 1:51 p.m.

To: Councillor Colin Olds; Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor; Councillors; Featherston Community Board; Greytown Community Board; Martinborough Community Board

Subject: RE: Rimutaka Pass Project

Hi Colin,

I think it would be a good idea for a name change from Hill to Pass.

If we support this we should look at the correct spelling of Remutaka as in the two attached newspaper articles , the first dated July 1856 and the second dated 1865.

Cheers,

Ian J Farley

> From: Colin.Olds@swdc.govt.nz

> To: Adrienne.Staples@swdc.govt.nz; Councillors@swdc.govt.nz;

FeatherstonCommunityBoard@swdc.govt.nz; GreytownCommunityBoard@swdc.govt.nz;

MartinboroughCommunityBoard@swdc.govt.nz

> Subject: FW: Rimutaka Pass Project

> Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2015 22:30:19 +0000

>

> Good morning all - recieved this from Tenick Denninson yesterday. I have replied and would support, I was wondering what the views are of fellow Councillors and Community board members.

> If you have a view, and are keen to share that view, can you flick me an email.

> Cheers

> Colin.

>

>

> From: Tenick Dennison [tenick@vodafone.co.nz]

> Sent: Monday, 26 January 2015 9:18 p.m.

> To: Councillor Colin Olds

> Subject: Rimutaka Pass Project

>

> Colin,

>

> You don't know me but I know you through your activities in the

> Featherston community and as a member of the South Wairarapa District

> Council. I am seeking your support in a project which could have a

> significant influence on Featherston and the Wairarapa region generally.

>

> Ten years ago Frank Cody, past Mayor of Masterton, raised the question

> of changing the name of 'Rimutaka Hill Road' to that of the 'Rimutaka

> Pass' as he felt that this road which provides the only significant

> access for over 120 kms. of mountainous and hilly country from western

> to eastern lower North island warranted something more appropriate. He

> felt the title 'Hill Road' did not adequately describe the status of

> such a vital pathway through the mountains. There are many definitions

> of 'pass' and I think all of these would with honesty describe our
> current 'hill road'.
>
> The road is well known to the public at large as climatic conditions
> ,snow and high winds often close it and this is generally broad cast by
> radio or TV.
>
> We believe the title pass would enhance the tourist publicity and could
> be exploited by Tourism Wairarapa'Come across the Rimutaka Pass and
> enter another world'.
>
> We believe that a simple change of name could do nothing but good for
> the Wairarapa in general.
>
> We would welcome your views on the subject and would be delighted if you
> would support us.
>
> Yours sincerely,
>
>
> Tenick Dennison.
> 129 Renall St.
> Masterton.
> Tel: 06 377 5200.

SUPREME COURT.—Before his Honor Mr. Justice Wakefield and a Special Jury. *Campbell v. Fitzgerald*. This was an action brought by Lieut. Colonel James Campbell, of Christchurch, Canterbury, against James Edward Fitzgerald Esq. Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury, for a libel. Damages laid at £5000. Mr. King appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. Hart for the defendant. It appears that the plaintiff, after holding the office of Crown Land Commissioner, at Canterbury, for some time, was appointed Registrar of Deeds, &c., at Lyttelton, in room of Mr. Brittan, that gentleman succeeding the plaintiff in the office of Crown Land Commissioner. This appointment of the plaintiff, it appears, gave great dissatisfaction in the Province, so much so, that a resolution of the Provincial Council was passed, expressive of their disapproval of the appointment. In forwarding this, the Superintendent accompanied it by a letter to his Excellency, dated 1st December, 1853, containing the libel complained of, which was as follows:—"That the plaintiff Lieut.-Colonel Campbell is wholly unfit to be entrusted with any public office whatever." The case occupied the whole of Thursday and till 12 o'clock on Friday, and after much able argument by Counsel on both sides, and on his Honor shortly summing up, reducing the case to very narrow limits, the Jury retired for about twenty minutes, returning with a verdict for the plaintiff. Damages. £600 —*Independent*.

[This decision is the subject of much comment in the Canterbury papers.]

The Athenæum continues to be conducted with that spirit which we should like emulated in our own locality. On the 12th inst., the Rev. J. Buller delivered a lecture upon "Woman and her influence;" and on the 19th, Mr. Knowles was to give a reading from Macaulay's History of England.

The "Independent" of the 14th contains an announcement from Mr. Foley that he will arrive in July, with Pablo Fanque and the Monkey Jack.

The same journal contains a long letter from Mr. Fox to his constituents, in explanation of his policy.

PASSAGE OF THE REMUTAKA.—Most of our readers are aware, that for the last ten years a mountain range has been the barrier standing between Wellington and the plains of the interior of this Province; and the little inland traffic that has been maintained with Wellington has been conducted by means of pack bullocks and a bridle path; a mode of locomotion not at all conducive to the rapid advancement of the colony. This great inland road and main artery of the Province has been in progress for years and cost many thousands of pounds—it passes through alluvial valleys and rocky defiles; it crosses rapid rivers, and ascends, with a most easy grade, and serpentine course, the Remutaka range of mountains, and terminates in the great valley of the Wairatapa—is now open for traffic by drays. Mr. Kempton was the first to pass over on last Tuesday, with his dray of six bullocks, and dray laden with a ton of goods, *en route* to the Small Farm Settlements. This road is forty miles long, thirty-five miles of which is as good as a turnpike road in England. We trust the Provincial Government will now, without any delay, push the road through the Forty-mile Bush, and if there is yet a small patch of land in that bush unpurchased (which we believe to be the case), we earnestly hope our Superintendent, while at Auckland, will secure the services of Mr. McLean to effect its purchase, or otherwise great mischief will be the result; for we hear of settlers who are "determined," now the road is open through the difficult country, to push into the interior in search of new lands, which they will occupy "purchased or not purchased." Should this be done, and Mr. Roy displays the same energy and talent on the road through the Forty-mile Bush that he has displayed on the Remutaka line the future of Wellington is safe —*Independent*, June 14.

REMUTAKA WIDENING.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, April 3, 1865.

TENDERS will be received at this office until noon of Friday, April 14th, for widening three points of the Remutaka Hill (Featherston side) Nos. 2, 6, 7. Specifications may be seen at the Engineer's Office, and on application to the foreman, John Hartley, on the Hill.

JOHN KNOWLES,
For the Provincial Secretary.



4th February 2015

Tena koe e te rangatira,

Oti ra tena koutou katoa e aku pou aroaro o te Wairarapa.

Thank you sir for your e-mail dated the 28th January 2015 regarding the changing of the name Rimutaka Hill Road, and correcting the spelling.

The Waitangi Tribunal have supported our desire to see many of our place names changed back to their correct spelling, so that their meaning and the story behind their naming lives on, as it is a part of our history, and our heritage it can only serve to make us all wiser, and I certainly believe closer as a community.

Names that have changed because of bad pronunciation and to put it bluntly laziness on the part of those attempting to say the names but not bothering to find out how to say them correctly, are scattered throughout Aotearoa, certainly Remutaka is one. Rangitane O Wairarapa totally support any initiative to correct it.

Both Rangitane O Wairarapa and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa have always referred to Remutaka as a maunga(Mountain) and never in our 600 year occupation of this area have we referred to it in any other way (Hill). And so from that perspective and what little knowledge I have on roadways, paths, tracks, that go through Mountains they are more often and more appropriately called a Pass.

Please accept our humble appologies for not being able to attend the meetings that have been organised to discuss this issue, and offer our support face to face as well.

Rangitane O Wairarapa give our support to yourself Mr Cody and your team in your endeavours to effect the name change, we hope that those who are in positions to influence the name change also support the proposal.

Na reira tena koutou katoa.

Heoi

Mike Kawana
Pou-Arahi Tikanga
Rangitane O Wairarapa

'Ko Maunga Rangitūmau e taea te piki'

From: Peter Jackson [mailto:h50906@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, 29 January 2015 8:26 p.m.

To: Councillor Colin Olds

Cc: Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor; Councillors; Featherston Community Board; Greytown Community Board; Martinborough Community Board

Subject: Re: FW: Rimutaka Pass Project

Hi Colin et al,

I would not support a name change. The names 'Rimutaka Road' and, later, 'Rimutaka Hill Road' have a historical significance which some people may be unaware of (or not appreciate). To change it would be thumbing our noses at its history, including its creators and the fact that the WW1 soldiers who trained at Featherston Military Camp route marched over the Rimutaka Hill Road prior to embarkation for Western Europe and the Middle-east. While online information about the road's history is sparse, here's some which might allow for more informed discussion... [Rimutaka Hill Road History](#)

Kind regards

Peter Jackson

From: Johni Rutene [mailto:johnithebarber@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 February 2015 12:51 p.m.
To: Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor
Subject: Re: FW: REMUTAKA PASS COORDINATING GROUP

Yes I support it. Grate guns

On Wednesday, February 11, 2015, Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor
<Adrienne.Staples@swdc.govt.nz> wrote:

From: Michael Roera [mailto:mroera@hotmail.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 16 February 2015 7:41 p.m.
To: frankcody@xtra.co.nz
Cc: Suzanne Clark - Committee Secretary
Subject: Remutaka

Tena Koe,

my name is Michael Roera I am the chairman of the Maori Standing committee in South Wairarapa , on the 9th of February at our MSC meeting we discussed the name change. We fully support the spelling change because REMUTAKA is the correct spelling, as for the hill bit Remutaka is according to the maps is a range not just a hill all on its own, so on behalf of the Maori Standing Committee we support Remutaka Pass.

naku noa

michael

From: lacornelissen@gmail.com [mailto:lacornelissen@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Lisa Cornelissen
Sent: Monday, 2 February 2015 4:08 p.m.
To: Leigh Hay
Cc: GCB- Ian Farley; Councillor Colin Olds; Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor; Councillors; Featherston Community Board; Greytown Community Board; Martinborough Community Board
Subject: Re: Rimutaka Pass Project

Given the number of tourists that turn up at my place, white knuckled, I would support it being referred to as a scenic drive or similar, turn the negatives into a positive and give them warning it might be a bit bendy.

It is something that is occasional discussed at Destination Wairarapa Board Meetings but not a current major priority.

L

From: Leigh Hay [mailto:hay4greytown@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, 2 February 2015 3:48 p.m.

To: GCB- Ian Farley

Cc: Councillor Colin Olds; Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor; Councillors; Featherston Community Board; Greytown Community Board; Martinborough Community Board

Subject: Re: Rimutaka Pass Project

Hi Colin,

I agree that the name Rimutaka Hill Road should remain unchanged. Thanks for giving us the link to the historical information, Peter. Here is another link which has photos of WW1 soldiers on Rimutaka Hill Rd.

Also on a more practical note what would be the projected cost for such a name change? I suspect substantial not to mention all the associated websites (eg across all tourism sectors, metSERVICE, TV software, radio software, printed material etc. the list is endless and ripe for mistakes. I see no Tourism benefits for a name change.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rimutaka_Range

My 2 cents worth.

Leigh

Leigh Hay

Greytown Community Board Member

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