

Secretariat research for Waimarino proposals

Full tables of maps and plans

Names shown on plans and maps

Early maps and survey plans name Waimarino for the plains, the stream, and the land block. Some plans name a Waimarino village and pā approximately 3.8km south of the current National Park at [Waikune](#). The pā name is correctly Ngātokoerua¹ and it's unclear if 'Waimarino' is colloquial, ie 'the village at Waimarino Plains'. The railway station opened in 1908 and the village was surveyed and sections opened for sale on 26 February 1910.²

Plans/Maps	Date	Name
PWD 12069 – General Plan - Central Route Railway Line Marton to Te Awamutu - Parliamentary Survey	1884	Waimarino [for the plains]
ML 772 Waimarino Block	1886	WAIMARINO [stream]
ML 776 Waimarino Block SO 10161 [later copy with topographic detail]	1887	WAIMARINO PLAINS
ML 1368	1895	Waimarino Village Waimarino Stream
SO 14152	1897	Waimarino village Waimarino Plains
PWD 18991	1900	WAIMARINO PAH NGATOKORUA [at Waimarino Stream]
ML 1591 Waimarino Block	1900	WAIMARINO BLOCK
SO 15551	1906	WAIMARINO [railway station] WAIMARINO NATIVE RES. No.4
SO 16092, SO 16093	1909	Waimarino Station Yard Waimarino Native Reserve Waimarino County
Map showing Waimarino District	1909	WAIMARINO DISTRICT WAIMARINO PLAINS WAIMARINO [stream]
SO 16164 Plan of Waimarino Township	1910	WAIMARINO TOWNSHIP WAIMARINO RAILWAY STATION AND YARDS [noting National Park has been penned on]

After 1926 official maps show National Park consistently for the railway station. However, depiction of the village name is variable. Topographic and other series' show an inconsistent transition from Waimarino to National Park. In 1985 the Secretary of the Board advised Lands and Survey topographic staff that Waimarino should not be shown based on the Board's 1956, '58, and '69,

¹ <https://www.govt.nz/assets/Documents/OTS/Central-Whanganui/Te-Korowai-o-Wainuiarua-Settlement-Summary-29-Jul-2023.pdf> - last accessed 5 September 2023

² NZ Gazette 1910 (4) p.242

decisions which declined proposals for Waimarino, and based on the Board's desire to discontinue use of alternative names in parentheses.³

Some maps are ambiguous as small localities, and their railway stations were treated as effectively the same feature on small scale maps. For clarity, the feature type as described on the map legend is included below.

Some apparent inconsistency is due to the different purposes of maps. Cadastral maps continue to use 'Waimarino' for the 'town' appellation correctly as these do not change (until they are surveyed again) even if the populated place name is altered (whether by the Board or unofficially). Most property parcels in National Park to the present day are still 'Town of Waimarino'.

Maps	Date	Name
NZMS 54 Tongariro NP	1917	WAIMARINO STATION
	1927	NATIONAL PARK STATION WAIMARINO [for the village] Waimarino Plains
NZMS 13 WN8 1 st ed 3 rd ed [cadastral]	1928	WAIMARINO
	1945	WAIMARINO, NATIONAL PARK STN.
NZMS 16 Waimarino [cadastral]	1935	TOWN OF WAIMARINO
		NATIONAL PARK RAILWAY STATION
NZMS 23A	1943	National Park ['small centre']
NZMS 28/2	1949	Waimarino ['town district']
NZMS 10/13	1950-1965	Waimarino (National Park)
		Waimarino Stream
NZMS 83	1953-1968	National Park ['locality']
NZMS 192 Tongariro NP	1961-1972	NATIONAL PARK ['locality']
NZMS 177 N111	1967-1971	TOWN OF WAIMARINO National Park Stn.
NZMS 18/7	1970-1974	National Park ['locality']
NZMS 1 N111 Waimarino	1971	Waimarino (National Park) [either for small locality, or the post office]
L&S 159 NI [railway map]	1971-1983	NATIONAL PARK [railway station]
NZMS 150 Tongariro NP	1958-1979	Waimarino Stream
	1973	NATIONAL PARK WAIMARINO [locality, with Waimarino in small type, and noting only National Park is named in the index and on the reverse] Waimarino Stream
NZMS 274 S19 [cadastral]	1974-1987	TOWN OF WAIMARINO
NZMS 260 S19 1 st -3 rd eds.	1985-2000	National Park [locality]
NZMS 273 Tongariro NP	2004	National Park [locality]

³ Board Archives File 22/2605/3 Vol. 13 f.326

Research

Board Archives

The Board has considered the names National Park and Waimarino five times: in 1926/27, 1957/58, 1958, 1968/69, and in 1969. The proposers' history document draws heavily on it for its narrative.

The Secretariat wrote this summary for the Gazetteer:⁴

In 1925-1926 the Railway Department decided to change the name of Waimarino Railway Station to 'National Park'. This change was partly a branding exercise due to the proximity to Tongariro National Park, though also for practical purposes due to misdirected mail and freight. There was ongoing confusion with Waimarino County (the administrative headquarters being in Raetihi to the south), and Waimarino Electorate (the administrative headquarters being in Taumarunui to the north-west). The newly formed Honorary Geographic Board were not consulted, and did not approve of changing the original Māori name given that the name was within its remit. The Board however accepted the change which took place in May 1926.⁵ The informal use of National Park for the village itself followed suit. National Park was named on the NZMS 150 map series for Tongariro National Park, although 'Waimarino (National Park)' was shown on the NZMS 1 series in 1971, and it was not until the NZMS 260 series in 1985 the main series showed just 'National Park'. In 1957 the National Parks Authority wrote to the NZGB that it was looking to change the name of the railway station back to 'Waimarino'.⁶ Ironically, the mail and freight for other national parks around New Zealand was now arriving at 'National Park'. The proposal was shelved due to a lack of local support.⁷ The following year the Federated Mountain Clubs submitted a proposal to alter the name of the village back to Waimarino.⁸ At its 13 February 1959 meeting it declined the proposal as 'National Park' was now well established.⁹ Once more in 1967-68 the National Parks Authority informed the NZGB it now intended to alter the names of the railway station and village back to Waimarino.¹⁰ Mail and freight were still being misdirected to 'National Park', and with further national parks established in New Zealand. The residents of National Park objected, and produced a petition signed by every household, and many others in the area.¹¹ The NZGB considered the name on 4 July 1968.¹² Based on the strong objections the NZGB once again declined the change. National Park remains a 'Recorded name', and is not itself official.

In 1969 the Board also declined a proposal from Taumarunui County to alter 'Waimarino Township' to 'National Park Township' on the basis that National Park was already the existing 'official name'.¹³ This may have been due to confusion around cadastral appellations (unchanged as 'Town of Waimarino').

Research, history and references to the features

Although there were earlier explorations of the interior volcanic plateau, no very early references to the name Waimarino have been identified. References to 'Waimarino Plains' appear with exploratory surveys for the route of the North Island Main Trunk in the 1880s, eg 'we afterwards found [the plain] was

⁴ Written 2016, with some recent updates.

⁵ Board Correspondence Vol. III f.68-69 (Memo to Minister of Lands), Vol. IV f.100 (Third Honorary Board Meeting 8 February 1927)

⁶ Board Correspondence Vol. XXXII f.13 (Letter from National Parks Board).

⁷ Board Correspondence Vol. XXXII f.50 (Waimarino County Council not in support); Board Minutes Vol. III, 20 June 1958, p.3

⁸ Board Correspondence Vol. XXXII f.284 (FMC Letter)

⁹ Board Mins Vol. III 13 February 1959 p.2

¹⁰ Board Correspondence Vol. XL f.1 (Letter from National Parks Authority)

¹¹ Board Correspondence Vol. XL f.5 (Urgent Telegram from The National Park Town Committee)

¹² Board Mins. Vol. III 4 July 1968 p.2

¹³ Board Correspondence Vol. XL f.280-281 (Letter from Taumarunui County Council & reply from Secretary of the Board)

known to the natives as the Waimarino, from the name of the river running through it, and which had its source in Haurungatahi...'.¹⁴

Wai 903 A60 is a Waitangi Tribunal Report on the Waimarino Block covering the history of its purchase in great detail¹⁵. The block was far more extensive than just the Waimarino Plains at the central eastern edge of the block. It's unclear why Waimarino became the name of the block, but the poorly defined boundaries, haste of the purchase, and connotations of the name Waimarino to Māori resulted in confusion as to what lands were included in the block.

The Rail Heritage Trust records an opening date of 1908 for Waimarino Railway Station¹⁶ (also refer maps and plans above).

In 1926 newspapers appear to immediately switch to use 'National Park Station' although some use of National Park Station (Waimarino),¹⁷ 'formerly Waimarino', etc continues afterwards. After 1926 when newspapers are referring specifically to the village, they begin using Waimarino (National Park), National Park (Waimarino) or just National Park, eg 'When at National Park, as Waimarino is now called...'.¹⁸ Some articles use multiple combinations of the names in the same article. As early as 1929, the Wanganui Automobile Association raised the prospect of altering National Park Station back to Waimarino.¹⁹

Later place name publications record the village under the name National Park:

- in Wise's New Zealand Index²⁰, also with a corresponding un-bolded entry for Waimarino where it notes 'Now known as National Park',
- in The New Zealand Guide²¹ where it notes 'Formerly Waimarino',
- The Reed Dictionary of New Zealand Place Names²² where it notes 'It was originally called Waimarino' (though in relation to the railway station, specifically).

Waimarino electorate, Waimarino County and its legacies

Waimarino electorate

Waimarino was the name of various electorates with significantly variable extents throughout the 20th century. In 1937 it stretched from well north of Taumarunui to Taihape in the south. In 1946 it included the entire central volcanic plateau, Taupō, and to the north of the upper Waikato River. In 1962 and 1967 it instead stretched to the South Taranaki Bight from near Pātea to the mouth of Rangitikei River. This electorate was abolished in 1972 and mostly replaced by a new Rangitikei electorate.

¹⁴ J H K Nicholls (1884), *The King country; or, Explorations in New Zealand. A narrative of 600 miles of travel through Maoriland*, London, S. Low, Marston: Searle & Rivington, p.287

¹⁵ Cathy Marr (2004), [Wai 903 A60. The Waimarino Purchase Report](#), Waitangi Tribunal Report

¹⁶ Juliet Scoble, [Names & Opening & Closing Dates of Railway Stations in New Zealand 1863 to 2010](#), Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand

¹⁷ [Page 6 Advertisements Column 3](#), *Wanganui Chronicle*, Volume LXXXIII, Issue 19715, 4 December 1926, Page 6

¹⁸ [Ways Of The Wild](#), *Auckland Star*, Volume LX, Issue 87, 13 April 1929, Page 1 (Supplement)

¹⁹ [Motoring Interests](#), *New Zealand Herald*, Volume LXVI, Issue 20227, 11 April 1929, Page 12

²⁰ *Every place in New Zealand: Wise's New Zealand Index*, 10th ed. 1948, Dunedin: H. Wise, p.255

²¹ E S Dollimore (1962), *The New Zealand Guide*, Dunedin: Crown Print Ltd, p.489

²² A W Reed; Foreword by Max Cryer (2002), *The Reed Dictionary of New Zealand Place Names*, Auckland: Reed, p.333

**Waimarino
County, District,
Ward, Community
Board**

It's unlikely that there would be strong associations of the name Waimarino specifically with the varying areas of the former electorate based on their short lifespans and having been abolished entirely 50+ years ago.

Waimarino County was a local government area established in 1902²³ with similar boundaries to the Waimarino Block. At this point the Township of Waimarino, the future National Park *did not exist*. The Waimarino County Council was based in Raetihi.

In 1910 a new Kaitieke County was established in the northern part (and part of West Taupo County) that contained the site of the future Township of Waimarino.²⁴ The boundaries of Waimarino County remained more or less similar thereafter.

In 1988 Waimarino County was amalgamated with Ohakune Borough and Raetihi Borough in 1988 to briefly form Waimarino District²⁵ before being abolished under the Local Government Reorganisation in 1989²⁶.

Prior to the latest representation review in 2022 Ruapehu District had a Waimarino-Waiouru Ward with boundaries identical to the former county (except on the east side). All Wards were replaced with a General and a Māori Ward each covering the whole district, but a new Waimarino-Waiouru Community was established with the exact same boundaries as the former Ward^{27,28}.

As of 2022 Ruapehu District Council has three Community Boards, two being Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board and Ōwhango-National Park Community Board²⁹. National Park (village) is represented by the later.

Therefore, an area identified as Waimarino has been in more or less continuous existence, for generally the same area, and entirely south of National Park for 120+ years. Residents of the area are likely to associate the name Waimarino with this area, rather than to the north.

Should National Park be altered to Waimarino (or any other name) it would impact both Community Board names. For similar reasons as described for the addressing locality it would potentially be an enduring source of confusion. Ie, if Waimarino was not in the 'Waimarino' Community Board area, or vice versa if it continued to be in 'National Park'.

The naming of Community Boards is outside the Board's jurisdiction, being the purview of Ruapehu District Council and the Local Government Commission. The Board may still however recommend that the names should be altered.

²³ [Waimarino County Act 1902, No. 19 – Local](#)

²⁴ [Kaitieke County Act 1910, No. 33 - Local](#)

²⁵ NZ Gazette 1988 (02), p.14

²⁶ NZ Gazette 1989 (99), p.2296

²⁷ <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Ruapehu-District-Council-determination-2022.pdf> - last accessed 5 September 2023

²⁸ <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/111188-community-board-2023-generalised/> - last accessed 5 September 2023

²⁹ Refer <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Ruapehu-District-Council-determination-2022.pdf> for the determination of the Local Government Commission and <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/local-government-boundaries/boundary-descriptions/view/ruapehu-district> for the current boundaries - last accessed 5 September 2023

Neither Ōwhango-National Park Community Board's nor Ruapehu District Council's minutes resolving support for the proposals appear to discuss the relationship of the village name to the Community Board names.

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