

# Centenary notes for UNGEGN PowerPoint slide

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## **The NZ Geographic Board's legislative authority**

Official geographical naming in New Zealand began in the late 1800s under the Royal Geographic Society of London.

The Designations of Districts Acts 1894 and 1908 gave the Governor-General the power to make geographical names official.

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

The New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 established the New Zealand Geographic Board, with powers to make geographic names official and enforce their use.

The New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 continued the provisions in the 1946 Act, including collecting original Māori geographical names.

## **Why commemorate?**

The 2024 Centenary offered a chance to reflect, commemorate and celebrate New Zealand's unique cultural and national identity – from the first wave of Māori explorers, followed by European settlers in the early 1800s, to the modern-day influences of a multicultural and diverse society.

During 2024 the Board set out to:

- celebrate New Zealand's unique identity and historical impact through geographical naming
- raise awareness of the Board's work and its people
- recognise the Board's partners, stakeholders and former members.

## **What did the NZ Geographic Board do in 2024?**

- Centenary logo in email signatures.
- Website landing page introducing the Centenary.
- Timeline of all Board members, with their membership details and links to biographical information.
- Several articles on notable 'moments and milestones' over the past 100 years.
- Former and current Board members and the Secretary gave keynote presentations at the New Zealand Geographical Society conference in November in 2024, speaking about the Centenary from different perspectives.
- Refreshed *New Zealand Gazetteer* with improved accessibility and updated user interface.
- Nearly 300 geographical name stories added to the *Gazetteer*. They are mostly for localities but also include historic sites and suburbs. There are still ~34,000 geographical names (out of ~54,000) in the *Gazetteer* without this background.