



GISC 421

# Mapping Songs and Stories of Place in Aotearoa New Zealand

Ocean Mercier

*Te Kawa a Māui*

Capital thinking. Globally minded.

# Space and Place – Themes

- A place is a space with history, a name/s – but whose histories get remembered?
- A map represents space, a cultural map represents place
- Māori mapping was ‘an oral cartography’
- Digital cultural mapping of whenua at VUW
  - Te Kawa a Maui Atlas
  - Māori Odonyms in Australia
  - Imagining Decolonised Cities

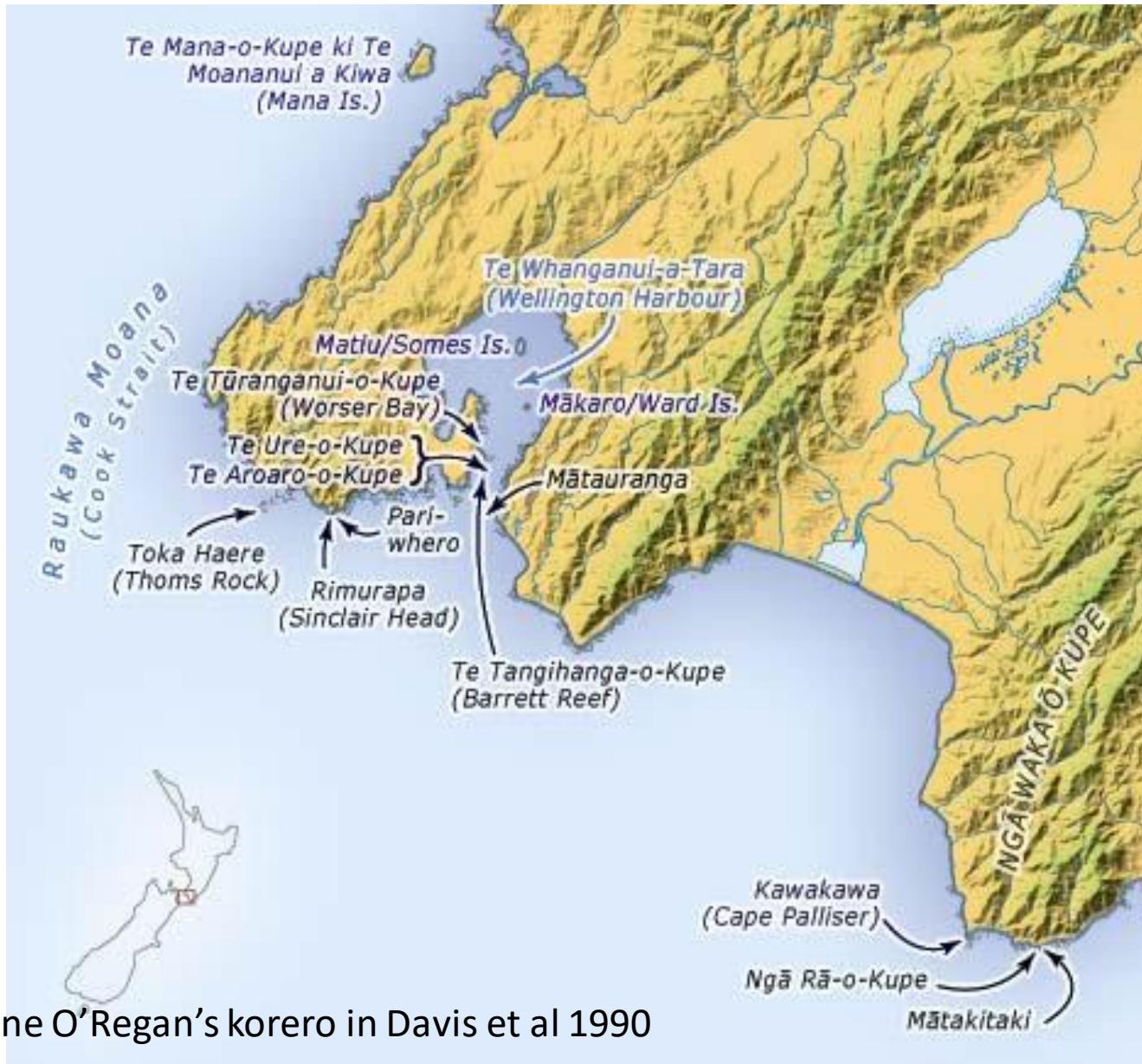
# Colonising Space and Place

- *Of all the efforts of colonists who transformed the New Zealand landscape, those of the land surveyors have been among the most enduring. Charged with measuring and marking the soil in anticipation of European settlement, they were at the forefront of making new landscapes, of transforming ‘space’ into ‘place’.*  
(Byrnes 2001:5)



Excerpt of 1915 map, 'Wellington and Environs', which has been annotated with Māori placenames by anthropologist Elsdon Best. 'Victoria College' is in an area Best has identified in capital letters as 'Pukehinau'.

# Kupe's Legacy of Placenames



See also Tipene O'Regan's korero in Davis et al 1990

# Pepehā – an Oral Map of Identity

Ko Hikurangi te maunga

Ko Waiapu te awa

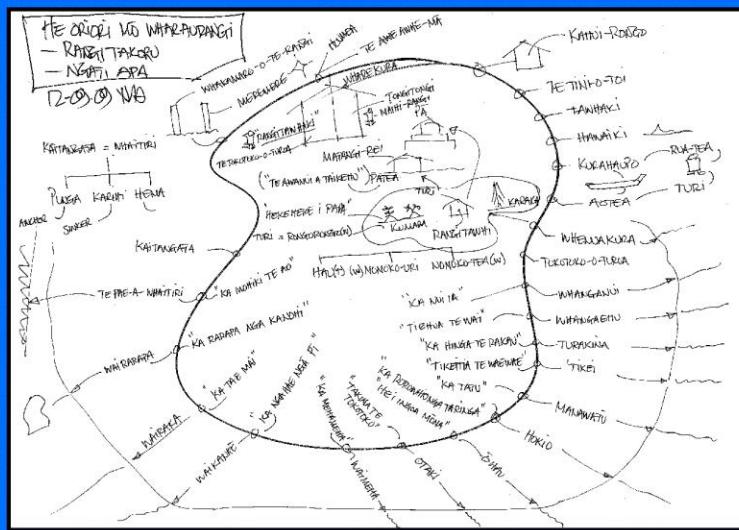
Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi



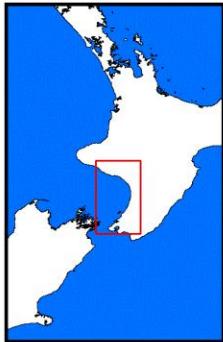
Waiata, oriori, pātere etc (different song types) are oral maps

# An Oral Cartography

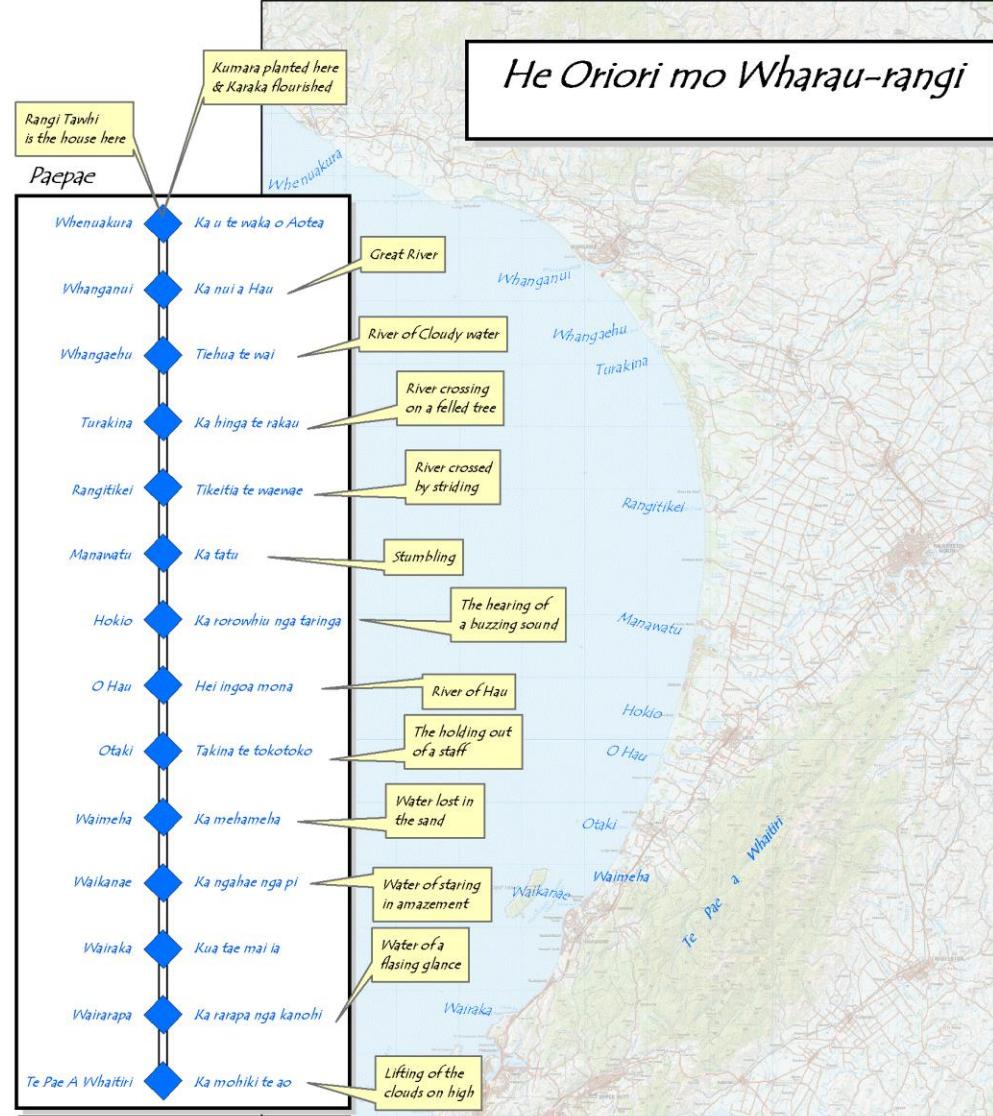
- “To an oral culture, the world is articulated as story” (Abram 2011:270)
- “names in the landscape were like survey pegs of memory, marking the events that happened in a particular place, recording some aspect or feature of the traditions and history of a tribe” (O'Regan 1990:xiii)
- “Singing the trail” (Barton 1998)



*Kimikimi noa ana ahau, e hine,  
I to kunguna mai l I Waiaiki.  
Te whakaringaringa, Te te whakawaenga,  
Te whakakanohitanga.  
Ka manu, e hine, te waka l i Rua-tea,  
Ko Kurahaupo.  
Ka iri mai taua l runga l Aotea.  
Te waka l i Turi.  
Ka u mai taua te ngutu Whenuakura;  
Huaina te whare, Rangitawhi;  
Tiriā mai te kumara;  
Ka ruia mai te karaka ki te tāiao nei.  
Kerila iho e Hauk o te punga tama nahine,  
Ka riro l nga tuahine, ia Nonoko-uria Nonoko-tea.*



Ko te here i runga ko te korohunga.  
Kapua mai e Haui ko te one ki tona ringa.  
Ko te Tokotoko-o-Turoa;  
Ka whiti i te ana,  
Ka nui ia, ko Whanganui;  
Te hīhua te wai, ko Whangahu;  
Ka hinga te rakau, ko Turakina;  
Tikeitia te waenae, ko Tikel;  
Ka tatu, e hine, ko Manawatu;  
Ka rotorohia nga tāringa, ko Hoki.  
Waiho te ana iti hei ingoa mona, ko Ohau;  
Takina te tokotoko, ko Otaki;  
Ka mehameha, e hine, ko Waimēha;  
Ka ngahae nga pi, ko Waikanae;  
Ka tangi ko te mapu, e.  
E tae hoki ki a Wairaka;  
Matapoutia, poua ki runga, poua ki raro,  
Ka rārata e hine!  
Ka rarapa nga kanohi, ko Wairarapa.  
Te rarapatanga o to tipuna, e.  
Ka mohiki te ao, ko Te Pae-a-Whaitiri;  
Kumea, ki waera Kai-tangata  
Ki waho ki te moana.  
Hangā te paepae, poua iho;  
Te pou Whakamāro-o-te-rangi,  
Ko Meremere.  
Waiho te whānau, ko te pungā o tona wai;  
Ko Te Hou-māra, ko Te Ahwe-mā;  
Kati, ka whakamutu, e hine!



## *He Oriori mo Wharau-rangi*

*Sources of information:*  
Topographic Data - Land Information NZ  
Waiaha Koroero:  
A T Ngata & P Te Hurinui Jones (2006)  
Nga Motetea III, pp508-515  
He Koroero Pukarau mo nga taunahanahatang  
a nga tupuna (1990)  
NZ Geographic Board, pp62-67

# Māori Mapping

“Maori had an acute geographical and navigational facility and were able to relate their own sense of being, expressed in **cosmology, genealogy, history and lived experience**, in the **oral map** that is laid on the landscape... while there are no ‘Maori maps’ in the material historical record that predate European arrival, it is felt that the maps made at the point of contact reflect a long tradition of mapmaking.” (Kelly 1999:1)

# Digital Whenua (Land)

- Many Māori now use GIS to represent aspects of whenua
- *the need to record vast amounts of spatial information related to historic land grievances, has led to a growing interest in the development of GIS tools geared specifically to the Māori* (Harmsworth 1998)
- *Put our faces in our places* (Hoskins 2008)
- *Google Earth and other digital mapping technologies allow us to stage an emotional and intellectual occupation* (Mercier 2013)
- *Need to preserve and protect that information for the generations to come* (Hakopa 2016)

Mail - Ocean Mercier - O... | Welcome to Victoria Univ... | Cultural Mapping unlocks... | The Tindall Foundation M... | Assessment - 16.1.MAOR... | TKMH oadopted logo.jpg... | Welcome to Māori Maps

www.maorimaps.com/te/main-map#vid=1&criteria=8&url=/te/marae/13935

maori mapping

Most Visited HR WCL CMS Air NZ ANZ Yahoo! Kiwibank Atlas Ngata VUW STUFF GeoNet Ocean RM Oracle Map Data Macrons Fraedom Topo50 Topic: VUW-UAF ...

Tō kai arataki ki ū mātou kāinga

maori maps

Te Rapunga Kupu matua marau tomo Kokiri English Te Reo

WHAKAATURIA KATOA RŌHE TAKIWĀ HOKOWHITU NGĀ KAI TIAKI Ā-HĀPORI

TERE KITEA

Ranu Pūnoa Tinana Amiorangi

Te Ariuru  
Locality:  
5 Waima Road, Tokomaru Bay,  
Region: Gisborne  
Rohe: Te Tairawhiti  
Iwi / Rūnanga: Ngāti Porou

HUAKI

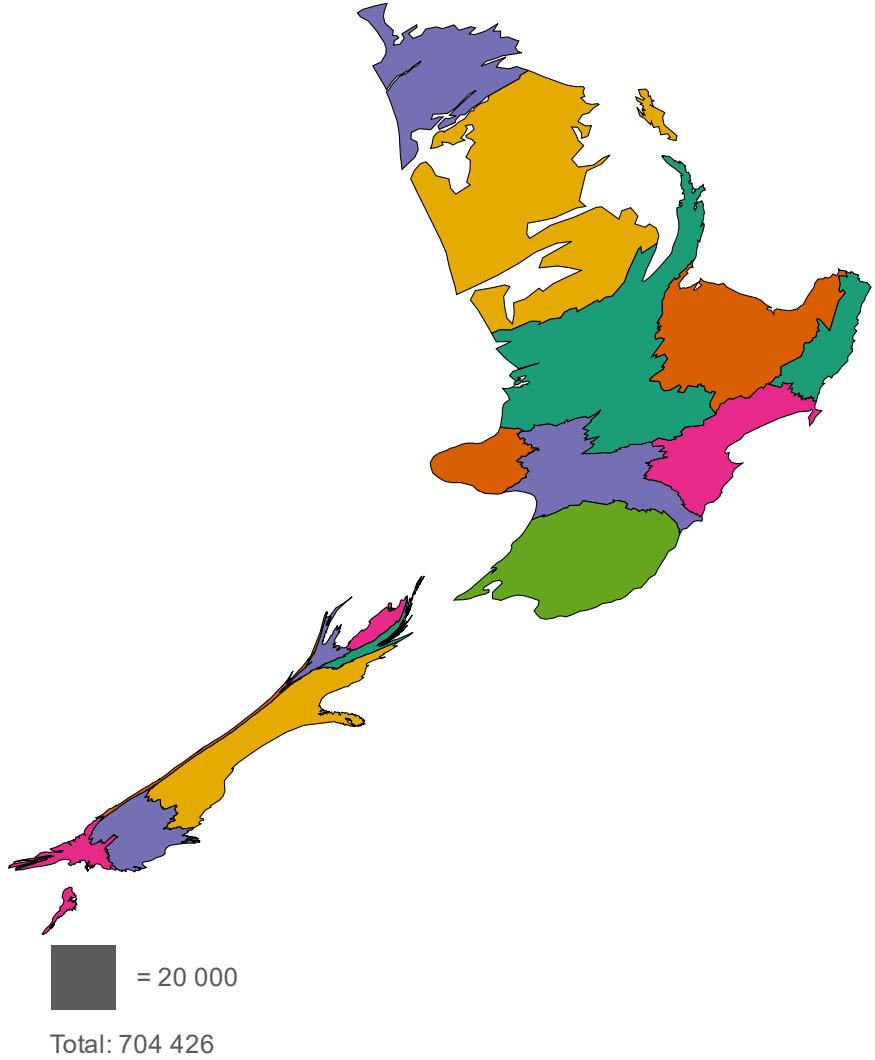
100 km

Imagery ©2016 TerraMetrics

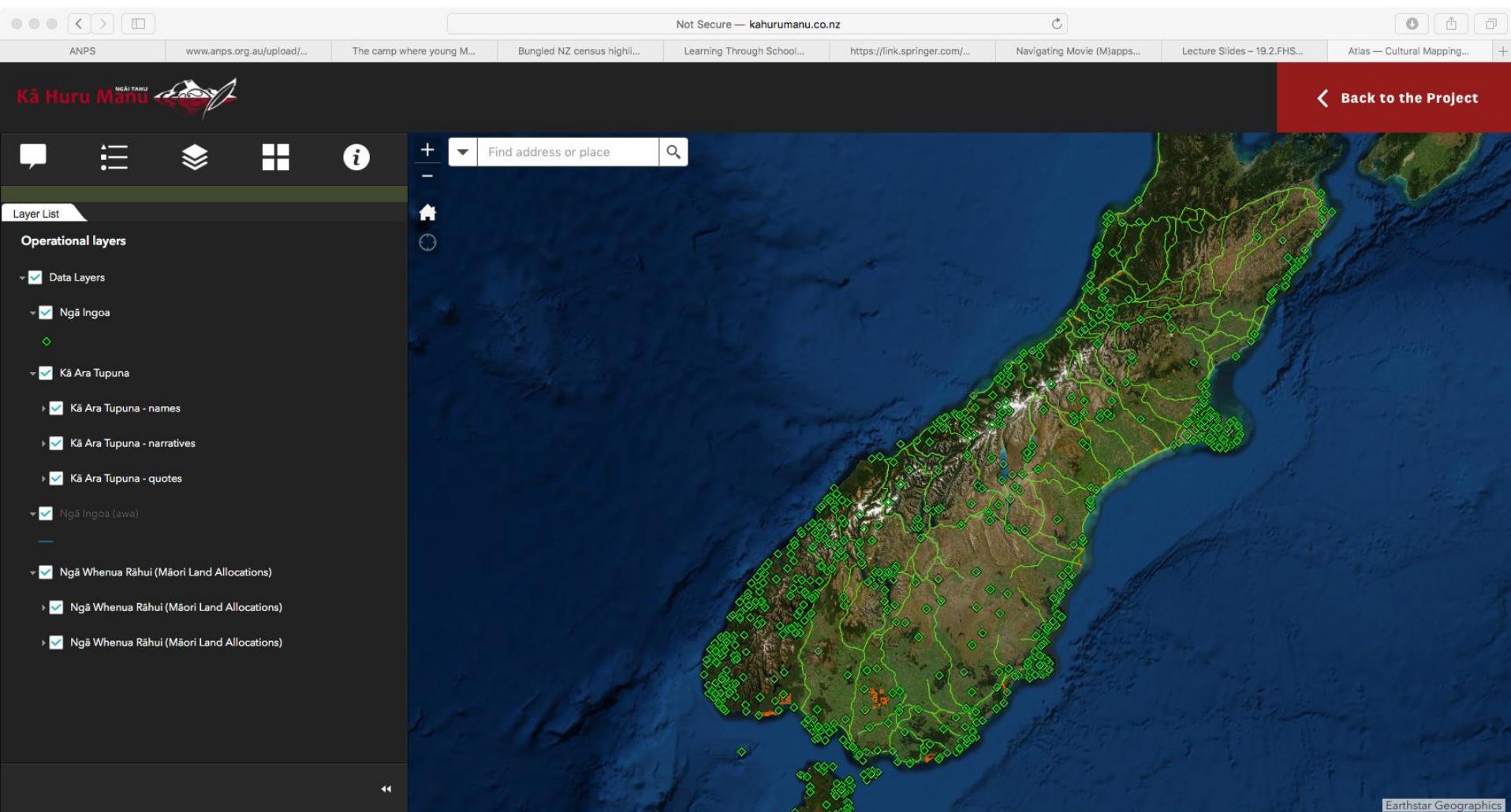
NAU MAI | KO MĀTOU | PĀ MAI KI A MĀTOU | KARAHIP | NGĀ RONGO

Maorimaps.com

Cartogram of  
Aotearoa, with each  
region normalized by  
Māori population  
percentage



Make your own at  
<https://go-cart.io/cartogram>



tokomaru go

Filter map by

Year ▾

Class ▾

Category ▾

Clear

Reset



### Ruatepupuke II in Tokomaru Bay

...Ruatepupuke II was built in 1880 in Tokomaru Bay as a replacement for the original...

Robyn Crisford , MAOR210 , 2012

### Tokumaru Bay - 10 Signatures

...Tokomaru Bay is about 92km north of Gisborne. It is known well for its beaches...  
Vanessa Conn , MAOR210 , 2012

### Ruatepupuke Carved Meeting House

...Ruatepupuke II was built in 1880 in Tokomaru Bay as a replacement for the original...

Robyn Crisford , MAOR210 , 2012



Study at Te Kawa a Māui

Māori at Victoria

The new Māori at Victoria website was

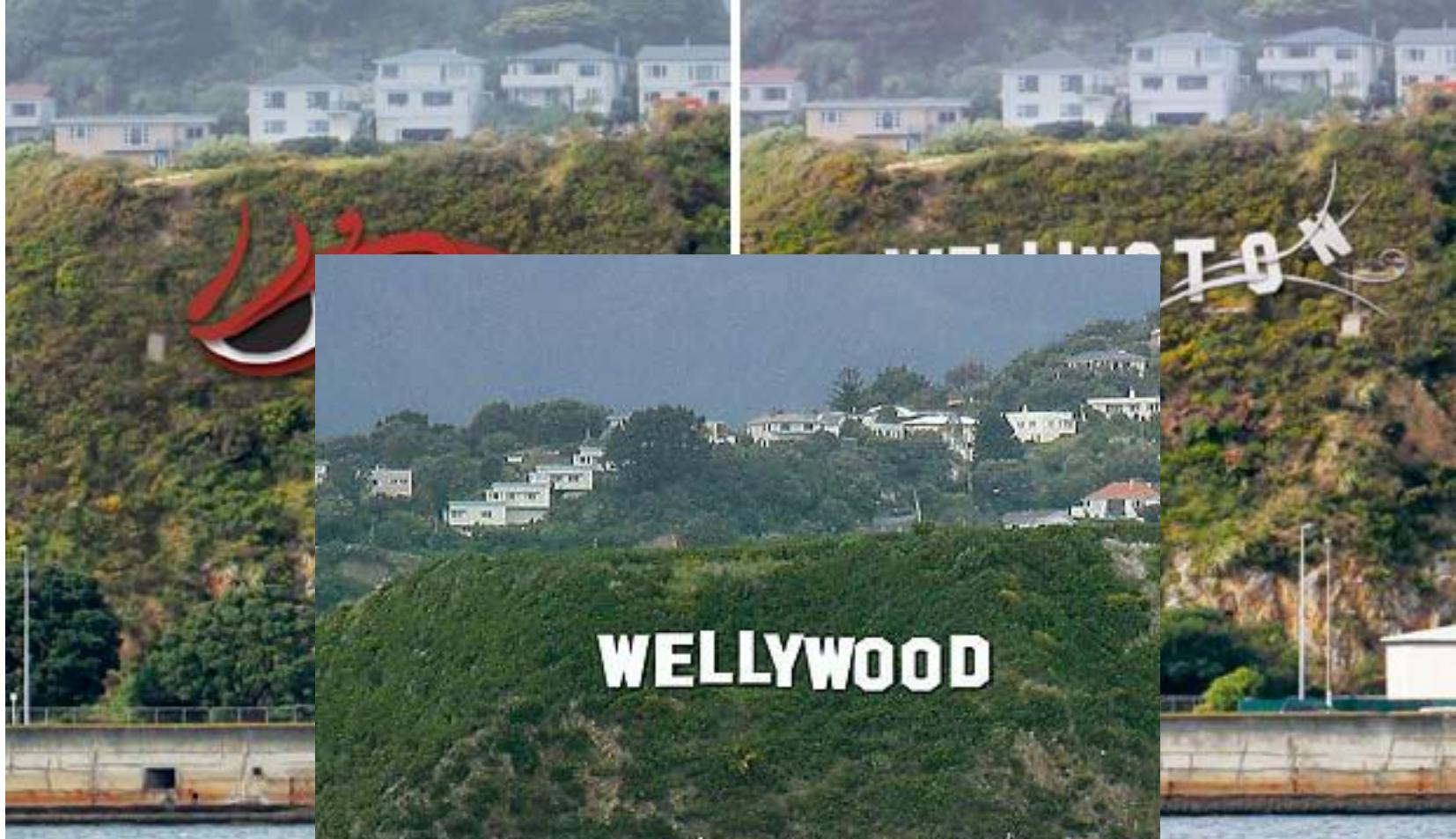
Featured project

Sarsha Leigh Douglas contrasts student and teacher

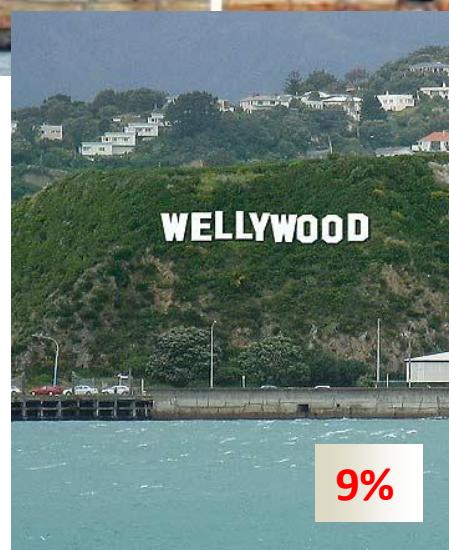


# Branding Place?

- How are landscapes physically labelled?
- For what purpose does this happen?
- How are labels/names chosen?
- How do they displace / overwrite other names?
- If particular names are visible in the landscape, what ‘message’ does that send?
- How enduring is this message?



**WELLYWOOD**



The Middle of Middle-Earth

20

# NEW ZEALAND IS MIDDLE EARTH

THE  
**LORD OF THE RINGS**

6% of visitors said  
that The Lord of the  
Rings was one main  
reason they visited  
New Zealand.



New Zealand  
has ONE OFFICIAL  
Wizard

FREE



IT IS FREE TO VISIT  
THE WETA CAVE  
FULL OF MIDDLE  
EARTH PROPS.

New Zealand actually  
appointed a MINISTER OF  
The Lord of the Rings.

One New Zealand  
weather forecast

You could even  
GET A MIDDLE  
EARTH STAMP ON  
your passport





# 'Taunaha Whenua'

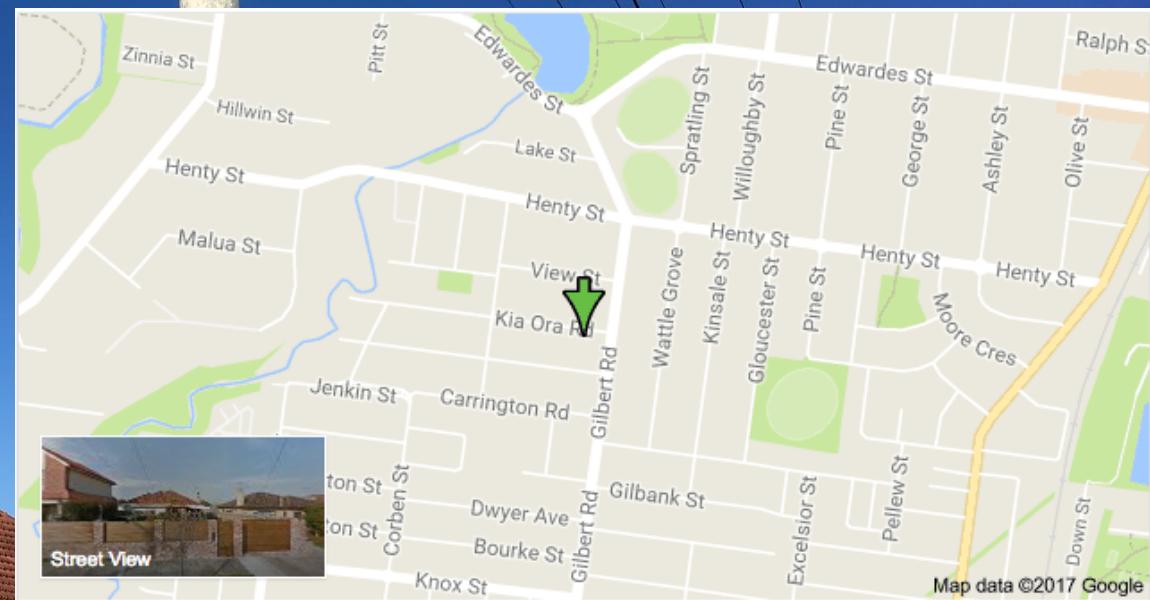


Figure 1:

Image of the U.S.A with some of the state names amended to names referring to their geographical nature, history or similarity to cities in Aotearoa.

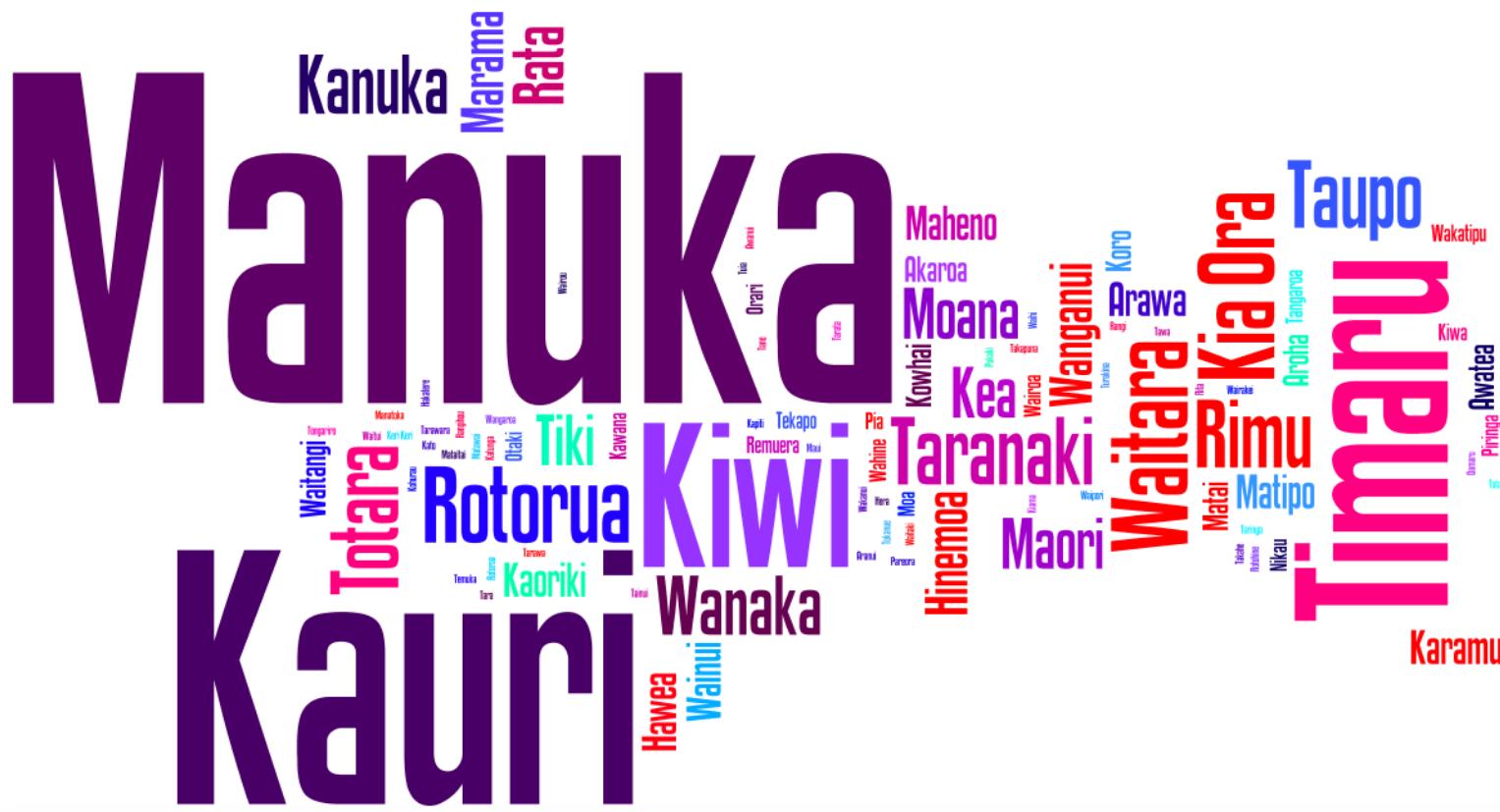


Te Kawa a Māui Atlas: Māori Placenames Across the Globe



1 Kia Ora Rd, Reservoir VIC 3073, Australia

Tikina ngā aronga



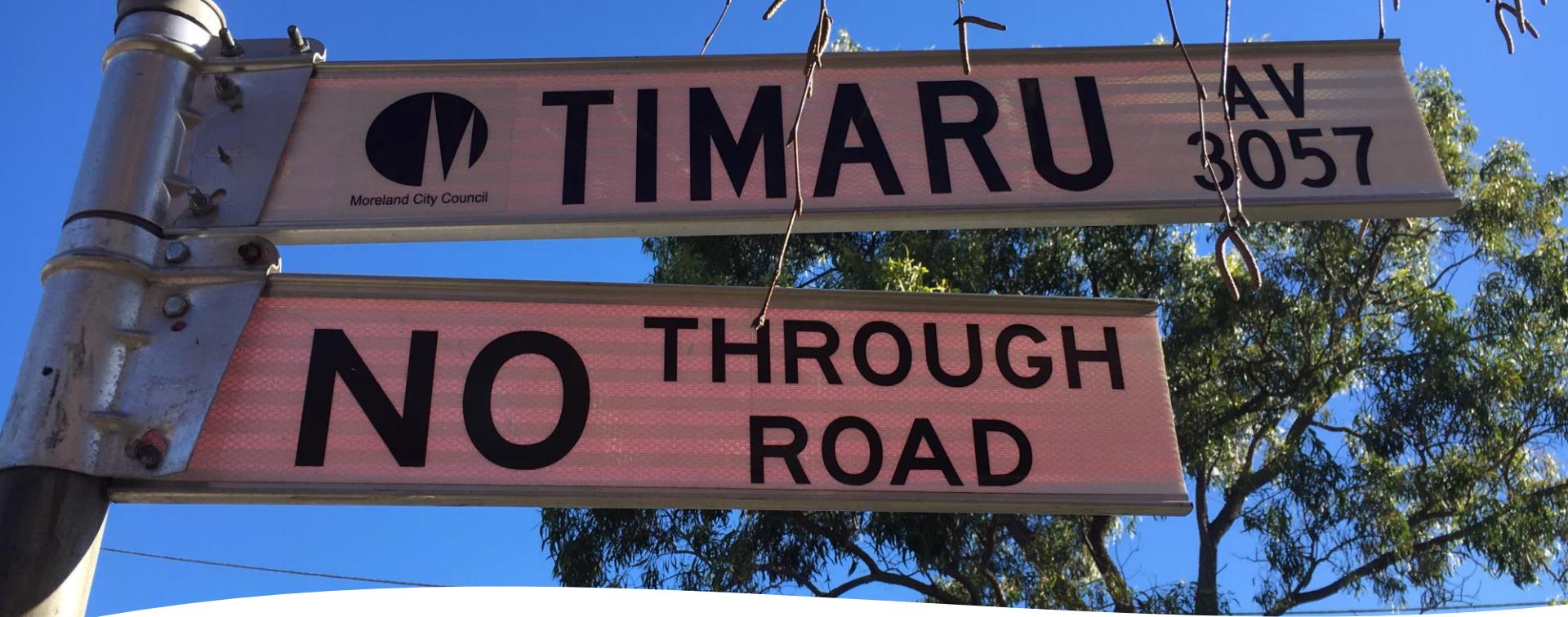
Mercier, 2018. Timaru St, Turramurra: Maori Odonyms [Streetnames] in Ahitereiria, IIRC Conference, Auckland, NZ

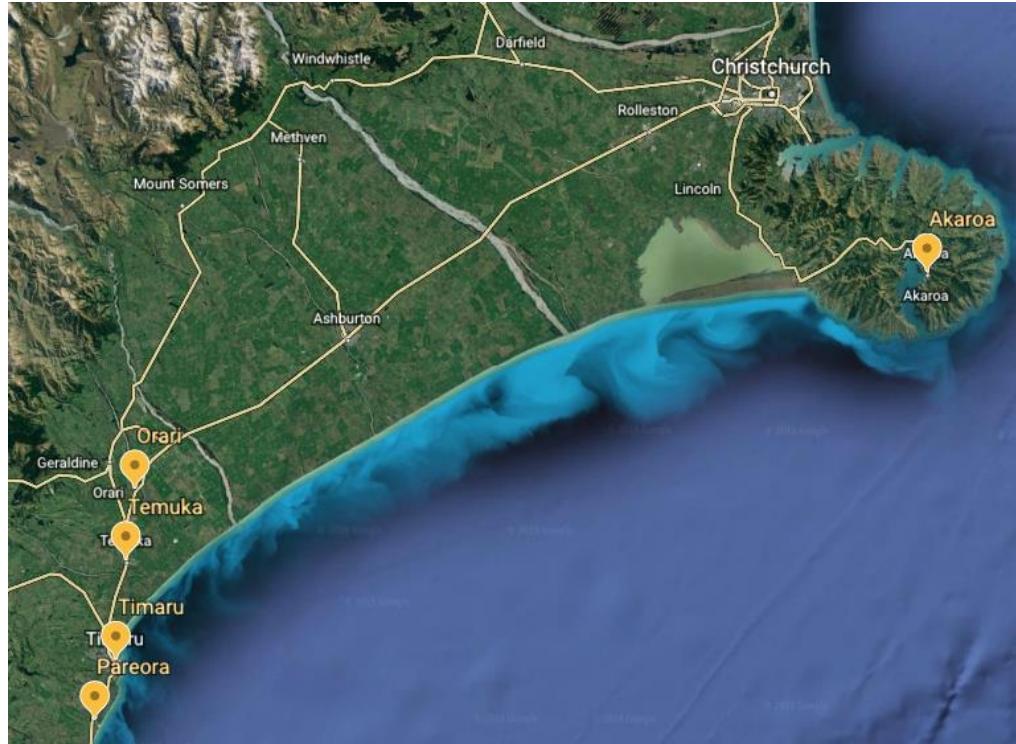


Palmer, S and Mercier, O 2020. Timaru, a top-5 street name in Australia. *Placenames Australia*. June. pp. 10-11 Available [https://anps.org.au/upload/June\\_2020.pdf](https://anps.org.au/upload/June_2020.pdf)

## < place- naming >

- Through the act and process of place-naming, space is transformed symbolically into a place, that is, a space with a history.
- Paul Carter, *The Road to Botany Bay. An Essay in Spatial History* (London: Faber and Faber, 1987).





# Decolonising

- Realisation / conscientization (G Smith 1998) and ...
- Reclamation (of what was lost) and ...
- Imagination and action (to reinstate what was lost) (Laenui )

- Case 1: orienteering
- Case 2: Middle Earth



## **Imagining Decolonised Cities**

Cities that are *just* places for all whānau,  
reflecting Māori values and identity.



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Ratonga

Ngā Tauwhāinga

Hākinakina

Nāu te Kōrero

Tō Koutou Kaunihera

He Kōrero Mō PōnekeRapu



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News



## Kia Kaha te Reo Māori

10 September 2018

Wellington is ready to embrace te reo Māori, not just for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, but every week, Mayor Justin Lester says.



This week is Te Wiki o te Reo Māori and the theme is about making the Māori language strong - Kia Kaha te Reo Māori.

"We know that language is the pathway to culture and that in Aotearoa New Zealand we have a rich and unique culture that we can still learn much from," the Mayor says.

"Te Wiki o te Reo Māori is our opportunity to learn new kupu (words), new tikanga (Māori protocols or customs), to challenge each other and find ways to use more te reo Māori in our day."

## City of Culture: returning to Māori roots

Written by [Chris Fitch](#) Published in [Cultures](#)



Megan Laybourn

The addition of traditional Māori names to Wellington's urban landscape is proving traditional language can be applicable to 21st century environments

From Auckland to Christchurch, New Zealand's urban landscape – including street names and major urban features – is often named after symbolic British motifs assigned by colonial settlers. This is perhaps most



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# Re-Mapping our World

- Place layered with meaning – each **name** tells a story
- Digital maps hold multiple layers → deeper readings and hold different versions concurrently
- Actively recalling place names, the stories behind them and then putting ‘our faces in our places’ gives a different reading of the world → decolonising place
- How to understand place branding, new acts of naming in the context of colonisation eg Middle Earth, Timaru PI?  
→ the VUW / Ngāti Toa, UNESCO-funded project, *Imagining a Decolonised City*, considers how the urban environment of Porirua could better reflect indigeneity, empowering mana whenua

# Ocean's 11 NZ GIS Databases

[LINZ](#), Topo maps etc

[ArchSite](#), NZAA  
Database

[Māori Land Online](#),  
Te Puni Kōkiri

Council Databases  
eg [Wellington City  
Council](#)

QuickMap (\$) via  
[Prover](#) give me yr  
email addy for a  
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Access

[LAWA](#) (Land Air  
Water Aotearoa)

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Landcare Research,  
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[Ngai Tahu Cultural  
Atlas](#) and [Te Kawa a  
Māui Atlas](#)