

Subject: Street Names

Prepared by: Hans van Kregten (Environment and Planning Manager)

Meeting Date: 14 July 2010

Report to ENVIRONMENT & POLICY Committee for decision

SUMMARY


In 2009, two requests have been received by Council to change two road names in the northern part of the district. The requests are to change the name of "Shortcut Road" near Te Araroa to either "Roddick Road" or "Waikoriri Road", and the name of "Puhunga Road" near Mata to "Whakapaurangi Road".

Some public consultation has taken place, and there appears to be no consensus on the name changes. There are significant costs (financial and otherwise) to changing road names. Because of this it is suggested that the names not be changed in this instance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee

1. receives the report
2. declines the requests for changes of road name near Mata ("Puhunga Road" to "Whakapaurangi Road")
3. awaits further information from the Te Araroa Progressive Society on the desirability of a road name change of "Shortcut Road".



Hans van Kregten
Environment and Planning Manager

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September last year, Council received a request from Mrs Helen Renner to rename "Shortcut Road", a 550 metre stretch of road between two parts of State Highway 35 with no residences alongside it near Te Araroa to "Roddick Road". It appears that at some time in the past the name Roddick Road was used for this road.

John Roddick, says Mrs Renner, was a pioneer surveyor in the Gisborne District in the late 19th century. The Tairāwhiti Museum has confirmed there was a surveyor in Gisborne at that time, but has no further information on him. The HB Williams Memorial Library pointed us in the direction of the National Library papers website which has a few articles about John Roddick. They confirm Mrs Renner's reference to Mr Roddick's surveying activities. A copy of one of the clippings is attached.

A subsequent request came in by email on November 2009 from Phil Reid who is the chairman of the Te Araroa Progressive Society, and on behalf of the Te Araroa community, to change the name of the road to, and also the name of the adjacent stream.

- 1.2 In September 2009, Council staff were advised in a letter from Ms Sarah Sykes at a meeting at Kariaka Marae at Ruatoria, a motion was passed to request the change of the name of "Pohunga Road" to "Whakapaurangi Road" (copy attached).
- 1.3 Council staff then sought input from local residents:

Forty-five letters were sent to residents/property owners of Puhunga Road on 30 September 2009 asking for their views on a possible name change – each person will be representative of family members/whanau, which could be numerous.

To date we have had twelve responses – ten favouring the name change and two opposing. One family, who did not support the renaming, stated that they were speaking on behalf of the entire family. Each family member who responded would be speaking for all the whanau/family after consultation with them – accurate numbers not known. Another submitter opposing the name change says that he has support of his neighbour and kaumatua.

There is support for changing the current spelling to Whakapourangi – considered by some to be the correct spelling.

The NZMS 260 Topo map had "Whakapaurangi" as a geographic feature and the new Topo 50 map has "Whakapourangi" as the spelling. It has been changed based on some evidence we think. We have not been able to find out why it was changed.

2. DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Street names are important to local communities and Council should consider carefully serious requests to amend these. There are also considerable issues with changing names. These include:

- possible confusion, which can be serious in case of emergencies. The confusion can occur even a long time when people use old maps, or when mapping agencies are slow to amend maps.
- administration cost to council and other public and private organisations.

In the case of both Shortcut Road there is no consensus on how the road should be renamed. Further consultation is possible, but seems costly. Council staff tends to the conclusion that the disbenefits of changing the name of this outweighs the benefits and recommend to not amending the names.

Subsequent telephone discussion with Phil Reid indicated that while he believes there is significant support for a change to Waikoriri Road, there has been no formal discussion at the Te Araroa Progressive Society about this matter. Phil also indicated that a petition could reveal how much support there would be for a name change. It was agreed with Phil that he would come back to Council with a clearer indication of the local level of support which could form Council guidance on whether or not to support a name change.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

This issue is not significant in terms of Council's significance policy.

4. CONSULTATION

Input from local residents has been sought regarding the naming of Puhunga Road to Whakapaurangi Road.

In the case of "Shortcut Road", we are awaiting further information from the Te Araroa Progressive Society.

5. COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Street name changes supported by local communities may increase sense of place and belonging.

6. LEVELS OF SERVICE

No levels of service will be affected.

7. FINANCIAL

There are significant costs to changing road names.

8. LEGAL

If a road name change is approved by Council, external agencies such as LINZ, the Electoral Office, emergency services, mapping organizations need to be informed. Road renaming requires a special order procedure under the Local Government Act. Under 319A of the LGA, the Registrar-General of Lands and Surveyor General are to be informed of the new name change.

Internally, we organise for sign changes of the new name and a change to all Gisborne District Council systems/databases.

9. POLICY

No policy implications.

10. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No further considerations.

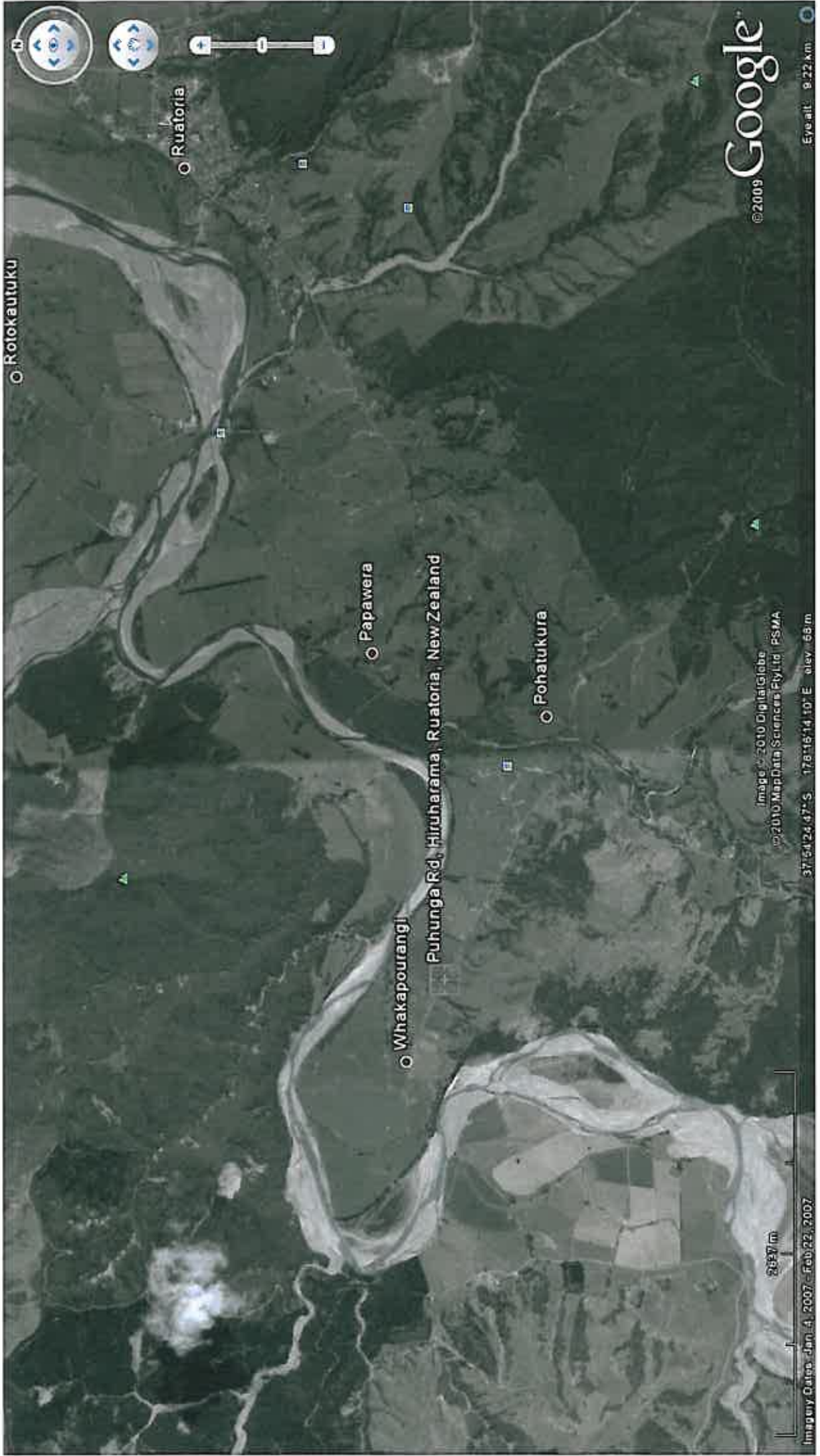
11. APPENDICES

- I. Copy of a map of Shortcut Road.
- II. Copy of a map of Whakapourangi Road.
- III. Letters from Mrs Renner re changing Shortcut Road back to its original name of Roddick Road.
- IV. Letter from Sarah Sykes re changing Puhunga Road to Whakapourangi Road.
- V. A copy of a newspaper clipping re John Roddick.

APPENDIX I



APPENDIX II



RP. 055
103774

16, A Vine Ave
Maungatapu
Lawanga 3112
14.10.2009

07 5446022

Mr. Higgs,
Secretary & Works Manager,
Waikato District Council,
Tane.

Mr. Higgs,

On 20th September 2009, I wrote to you on matter of the removal of the name Roddick Rd on Hwy 35 at Le Uruera, replacing it with Shortcut Rd. I would really appreciate a decision in favour of retaining this original name to the road.

Mr. Roddick was a pioneer surveyor in the district in the late 19th century and I feel it is fitting his name be retained as part of local history. You assured me in your letter dated 16th Sept. 2009 there was no known reason for changing the road's name, and that the Le Uruera Progressive Association was unaware. So I can see no reason, nor barriers to retaining this name which is part of the district's early history. I would appreciate a reply to this communication. I feel strongly that a part of the district's history is in danger of being lost.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. H M. Kenner.



120383

RTP-055

19A Vine Ave
 Maungatapu
 Tauranga.
 20. 9. 2009

Higgs
 receiving & Works Manager
 7a KOKO
 orne.

Peter,
 Thank you for your letter dated 16th Sept 2009
 Roddick Rd naming, and Trafford's Hill
 appears that the Trafford's Hill issue has been
 red. Thank you for that.

I appreciate the time you have given to
 correspondence but would still like to know
 or the historic, and original name Roddick's
 can be restored.

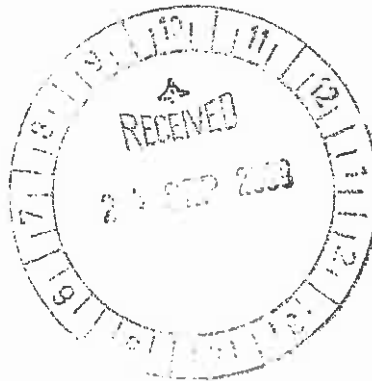
The fact that there is no information on
 ing files as to why Roddick Road was renamed,
 that the Te Araroa Progressive Association is
 aware, indicates to me that this is possible i.e. there
 is no known reason as to why the name was
 ced for either party, so it is unlikely that
 would be any objections to restoring the
 e Roddicks Rd.

I hope you will see this as an opportunity
 obtain a piece of the districts history, and I
 forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely
 Mrs Helen Reano.

120285

The Chairpeson
Whakapaurangi Pa
Sarah Sykes
245 Puhunga Road
Hiruharama
RUATORIA
EAST COAST
4032



22 September 2009

The Mayor
Meng Foon
Gisborne District Council
P.O. Box 747
GISBORNE

Kia ora Mayor Meng,

Re: WHAKAPAUANGI ROAD

At a Te Haeata Haapu Cluster Hui meeting held at Kariaka Marae Ruatoria on the 8th August 2009, a motion was passed to change the name of our road from the current Puhunga Road back to Whakapaurangi Road. This decision was unanimous.

A lively discussion was held as to how did we end up with the name Puhunga; obviously named after the block by Council with the road signage. For the residents of our road we have been Whakapaurangi Road, named after the Pa since it was moved there in 1927. Before that it was the Old Matahiia Road. Attached please find supporting documentation to this effect.

Please amend the name of our road back to Whakapaurangi Road.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah Sykes'.

Sarah Sykes
Chairperson
TE AOWERA

said that a fairly extensive search had been made, but it had not been possible to locate the bond yet.

The council, in the meantime, approved of the plan of subdivision of the area, which was close to Hapara and Dalrymple roads, in Mangapapa.

OBITUARY

Gisborne Herald
12 Aug. 1942

MR. JOHN RODDICK

WELL KNOWN SURVEYOR

The death occurred yesterday of Mr. John Roddick, who was a well known surveyor in the Gisborne district some years ago.

Born in Essex, England, 88 years ago of parents who came from Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Mr. Roddick spent the greater part of his life in New Zealand. Joining the Lands and Survey Department, his activities were on the North Island Main Trunk railway until he moved to Cheviot, and while in the Gisborne district he was associated with much of the work in the back country. On his retirement from the department, he worked at his profession on his own account for some years.

To mourn their loss are his wife, three sons and three daughters, the family comprising Mr. Andrew Roddick, Auckland, Mr. Jack Roddick, Hastings, Mr. Frank Roddick, Auckland, Mrs. J. Sadler, Wellington, and Misses Isobel and Marjorie Roddick, Gisborne. The interment will take place at the Taruheru cemetery on Friday, the funeral leaving his residence following a service at 2 p.m.

MISS CATHERINE MCLEOD

The death of Miss Catherine Mary McLeod removes one who has spent the whole of her life, extending over 62 years, in the Gisborne district.

Born in Gisborne, she lived a retired life during the past 30 years at Waerenga-a-hika at the residence of Mr. William Barron, the late Mrs. Barron being her sister. She is survived by two sisters and three brothers, Mrs. H. B. Taylor, Ormond, Mrs. G. A. Grant, Gisborne, Mr. M. J. McLeod, Gisborne, Mr. A. H. McLeod, Whatatutu, and Major D. N. McLeod, of the New Zealand Army.

The interment will take place at the Makaraka cemetery to-morrow, and the funeral will leave the Victoria Room, Grey street, following a service

younger people who made use of the shacks mainly

Mr. De Costa still there.

Dr. Singer

have been freed of the shacks a long time ago for more public use.

Mr. G. J. Jeune said that if the matter was put off much longer some other excuse would offer itself. Mr. De Costa did not know the circumstances of the people round on the beach, so why "this sentimentality" now? Mr. Jeune added that if any person could show genuine hardship the case would be considered, but in some instances shacks had been re-let at a goodly profit.

One of Best Picnic Spots

Mr. J. H. Hall also opposed the motion, and said apparently Mr. De Costa had moved it merely out of stubbornness. Mr. De Costa had always opposed the removal of the shacks. Should the people of Gisborne be deprived of one of the best picnic spots in the district just to satisfy a few owners of shacks? On principle the position should not be tolerated any longer than possible.

The Mayor, Mr. N. H. Bull, said that the reasons put forward by Mr. De Costa were not sufficient for the council to alter its decision. The property was common ground for any person to use. The councils of the past had made that common ground into private ground for the benefit of a very small percentage of the people. In principle that appeared to him to be quite wrong. The council would not like to disturb people from their quasi rights of the past, but in present times of restricted transport the necessity for an easily accessible beach became all the more pressing. Mr. De Costa had not placed any facts regarding wartime hardship before them, but opposed to that, wartime conditions had made the removal of the shacks even more desirable.

Mr. De Costa said that years ago Kaiti Beach was one of the finest picnic grounds in Gisborne, but now Waikanae Beach attracted the crowds. The motion was defeated, only Mr. De Costa voting for it.

COUPON DRIVE

COMFORTS FOR TROOPS

FRIDAY NIGHT PARADE

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Appendix V

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