

## UNUSUAL NEW ZEALAND PLACE NAMES

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New Zealand is a small Pacific country about the size of Colorado. A lot of places here bear their original Maori names, the most famous being the 85-letter TAUMATAWHAKATANGIHANG-AKOAUAUOTAMATEATURIPUKAKAPIKIMAUNGAHORONUKUPOKAIWHENUAKIT-ANATAHU, a hill about 40 miles south of where I live in Hawke's Bay province.

A large number of Kiwi localities were given their names by the early European pioneers, many of whom were farmers, miners and whalers. There is MT BEAUTIFUL and MT HORRIBLE, THE KNOBBIES and the NOISIES (island clusters), a peak called THE SHIP AT ANCHOR and a lake named SILLYPOOL. We have a JOHN O'GROATS and a LANDS END, as well as mountains called BLACK COW and BROWN COW, and streams with the names CHATTER-BOX, FIDGET, LITTLE MISERY, PASSION and RAVING TORRENT.

Here are some more interesting geographical names, all of which are listed in the *Gazetteer of New Zealand Place Names*, published by the New Zealand Department of Lands and Survey, 1968.

Mt Abrupt, Mt Alarm, Amazons Breasts [peak], Mt Awful, Mt Awkward  
 Bagshot, Bald Knob, Big Hellfire Beach, Black Rat [peak], Black Umbrella [peak], Blue  
 Bottle Stream, Breakheart Peak, Breast Burn, Bungtown  
 Camelhead Hill, Carbuncle [peak], Coalsack Stream, Conspicuous Hill  
 Damfool Mountain, Darkest Africa Stream, Deaths Corner, Mt Difficulty, Dipso Glacier  
 Dismal Swamp, Mt Dreadful, Dukes Nose Rock  
 Eyetooth Hill, Faerie Queen [hill], Fiery Cross Goldmine, Fryingpan Point  
 Mt Gorgeous, Groin Pool, The Gut [strait]  
 Heavenly Twins [lake], The Hooligan [peak], Horehound Knob  
 Mt Intervention, Just In Time Goldmine  
 Little Lottery River, Little Moggy Island, Little Wart Hill, The Lizard [mountains], The Lump  
 Madman Stream, Maori Tongue [forest], Muzzle Stream  
 Nervous Knob, New Year Pass, Nigger Stream, Oddstone, Only Island  
 Mt Pecksniff, Peepoday, Peggioh, Mt Philistine, Philosophers Knob, Pigsty Flats,  
 The Pimple [hill], Pinchgut Spur, Policeman Peak, Possibility Col, Power Knob,  
 Psyches Bath [lake], Puzzle Peak  
 Rag and Famish Gully, Rat Castle [rock], Revolver Bay, Riskend, Rununder Point  
 Savage Burn, Scratchback Hill, Scuffle Island, Mt Skedaddle, Slug Stream, The Snout [point].  
 Snuffle Nose [point], The Snuggery [Bay], Mt Sodom, Spit Beach, Starvation Stream  
 Taylors Mistake [bay], Terrible Knob, The Great Unknown, Thisbe Stream, Three Duck Lake,  
 Three Legged Wooden Bay, The Tits [hill]  
 Ugly River, Urchin Trig [peak], Useless Bay, Vampire Peak, Venison Top, Mt Vexation  
 The Wart [hill], Wet Jacket Arm [sound], Whalesback [peak], Widow Hill, Wild Cow Gully,  
 Wild Natives River, Womens Island, Wooden Peg [peak], Worlds End [channel]

The following collection contains the names of some New Zealand streams (just add 'Creek' after each entry).



Adverse, Aniseed

Baldy, Balloon, Big Devil, Birthday, Blue Mud, Boo Boo, Brandy, Brewery, Bullswool, Burnt

Charcoal, Chew Tobacco, Chop, Cockeye, Coffins, Comet, Content, Cowhide, Crayfish

Dangerous, Deadman, Deception, Devils Punchbowl, Doggies

Epsilon, False, Frying Pan

Geologist, Ghost, Go Ahead, Good Luck, Greek

Half Ounce, Hambone, Hercules, Hopeless

Ianthe, Infants, Invincible

Jap, Johnny Cake, Jumping, Kill Devil

Limbo, Lonesome, Lookup

Mailman, Man o' War, Merry, Midday, Misery, Mistake, Monkey, Moonstone, Mosquito, Music

Nardoo, Negative, Noisy

Obelisk, Oriental, Oxtail, Oyster

Packhorse, Patriarch, Pea Soup, Pegmatite, Perverse, Phantom, Pigroot, Playedout, Poverty,

Pug, Pussy

Quartz, Quoich

Rheumatic, Rip and Tear, Roaring Billy, Rough and Tumble

Sailor Jacks, Scone, Sheepskin, Skull, Slapjack, Sleeper, Smokeho, Specimen, Sputnik,

Squabble, Squatters, Stinking, Struggle, Styx, Suicide

Toe Rag, Trick, Tuning Fork

Uncle, Venture, Venus, Vine

Weary, White Sow, Wild Dog, Wild Goat, Wither, Woolwash

Yanki, Yashmak, Zit, Zulu

New Zealand is only a small country, but it's a great place for logophiles, thanks to the early settlers who gave us such a diversity of names for our geographical features.