

The Derivation of some Names of Places in Horowhenua

Bainesse:	Possibly named after the location of Bainesse in North Yorkshire, England.
Foxton:	Named after Sir William Fox, 1812-1893, Premier of New Zealand on four occasions. Politician, lawyer, writer, journalist, temperance supporter, farmer. Built Westoe House.
Heatherlea:	May have been named by the McDonald family. Agnes McDonald moved to Heatherlea, a substantial estate north of Levin in late 1894. This was owned by her son John Roderick McDonald. She took the Horowhenua post office with her, renaming it Heatherlea. However as it served few people, the government brought its closure within four months.
Himatangi:	Hi (to fish). Matangi, a warrior chief who fished and killed a taniwha that was eating his relatives.
Hokio:	Should be Hokioi, the gigantic extinct bird of prey.
Ihakara:	Named for the chief Ihakara Tukumarū who died, mid January 1881, aged 60/70 years.
Kereru:	The alternative name for Koputaroa.
Kimberley:	Possibly named after Kimberley, in South Africa, after the Boer Wars.
Koputaroa:	Should be Koputoroa – the breast of the albatross.
Kuku:	Local name for the Kereru or wood pigeon.
Lake Horowhenua:	Should be Punahau? The guesthouse or principal sleeping house of the former te Rae-o-te-Karaka pa, the principal pa of Muaupoko at Lake Horowhenua.
Lake Papaitonga:	Should be Waiwiri. Quivering water, the shimmer of sunshine on the still waters of the lake. Papaitonga – beauty of the south.
Levin:	Named after William Hort Levin, 1845-1893, Director, Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company. Merchant, politician & philanthropist.
Linton:	Named after James Linton, Director, Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company. Twice Mayor of Palmerston North.

Makerua:	Could be Makureua/Makerirua, meaning a waterfall.
Manakau:	Named by Te Rauparaha. To subjugate by prestige (not by force or warfare).
Mangaore:	Should be Manga-ore, the stream where a hole was bored (Ore – to poke with a stick).
Moutoa:	Said to be named for the island in the Whanganui river where the Whanganui fighting men defeated the Hauhau in 1864.
Muhunoa:	(East & West). Cannot locate a positive definition. It is possibly alluding to stones!
Ohau:	Should be Awa-iti. Renamed by Haunui-a-Nanaia on his journey south.
Opiki:	Name of a former Maori village, O-piki Kainga.
Poroutawhao:	Should be Poro-tawhao, scrub end (of the forest).
Rangiotu:	Named for the local Rangitane chief, Hoani Meihana Te Rangiotu.
Shannon:	Named after George Vance Shannon, 1842-1920, Director, Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company.
Tokomaru:	Said to be named for the Tokomaru canoe.
Waikawa:	Bitter or unpalatable waters.
Waitarere:	Copious flowing water, or elevated water. Refers to the artificial water-race that powered the flour mill, built in 1853 or 1854, on Paeroa Rd.