

Proposal report considered by the Board on 15 October 2024 for:
Brückner Glacier [altered from Bruckner Glacier]
Hess Glacier [altered from Hesse Glacier]
Penck Glacier [altered from Pench Glacier]
with the Boards decision



Summary

The proposals are to alter the official place name Pench Glacier to Penck Glacier, and the unofficial recorded¹ place names Bruckner Glacier to Brückner Glacier and Hesse Glacier to Hess Glacier as official place names.

The glaciers are near the headwaters of Dart River/Te Awa Whakatipu in Mount Aspiring National Park and although possibly retreating, recent satellite imagery shows they are still glacial features.

The proposer has provided evidence that the glaciers were named in 1914 after prominent contemporary German glaciologists Eduard Brückner, Hans Hess and Albrecht Penck. Entries in the SCAR² Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica substantiate that the glaciologists' names are spelled as proposed.

¹ A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative maps, charts or databases, which the NZGB has resolved to be: NZMS map, LINZ Archived Place Names Database, [Kā Huru Manu](#), and all hydrographic and bathymetric maps and charts published under a New Zealand hydrographic authority at the time of publication. It is not official.

² Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

Brückner Glacier cannot be approved as official under section 24 of the NZGB Act 2008³ because 'Brwckner' is an alternative recorded name for the glacier on two published editions of the NZMS 13 maps.

The correct use of the diacritic mark on the [u] in Brückner Glacier to indicate pronunciation is consistent with a recent Board decision to use a diacritic mark in Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound.

TRONT⁴ has advised that Moeraki and Ōtākou rūnanga have no issues with the spelling changes, although Ōtākou noted it is a shame there is no known ikoa Māori. Independent feedback to TRONT from a prominent Waihōpai rūnanga member has not been supportive of the change. TRONT is still waiting to hear from Ōraka-Aparima, Awarua, Kati Huirapa ki Puketeraki and Hokonui rūnanga.

Noting that TRONT hasn't advised of original Māori names for the glaciers, they can still make objecting submissions if the Board accepts the proposals.

Board's decision

At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposals:

That it **accepts** the proposals to **alter** the:

- official place name from Pench Glacier to **Penck Glacier**
- unofficial recorded place name Bruckner Glacier to **Brückner Glacier** as an official place name
- unofficial recorded place name Hesse Glacier to **Hess Glacier** as an official place name.

Based on:

- the Board's responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling
- consistency with a recent Board decision to use a diacritic mark in Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound
- significant evidence from the proposer of the correct spellings
- evidence in the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica that the names of the glaciologists are spelled as proposed
- all three glaciers still existing and being discrete from adjacent named glaciers
- an alteration to each spelling being unlikely to impact on emergency services as there is little difference in how the current and proposed names are correctly pronounced.

and

Will **notify** as proposals to alter for two months.

³ New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008

⁴ Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Secretariat assessment

The proposals

The proposer is seeking to alter the official place name Penck Glacier to Penck Glacier and the unofficial recorded place names Bruckner Glacier to Brückner Glacier and Hesse Glacier to Hess Glacier.

The proposer advises that Captain Bernard Head (1876-1915), a British army officer, mountaineer and explorer, who led a party into the upper Dart River/Te Awa Whakatipu area in 1914 to carry out a topographical reconnaissance survey, named the glaciers after:

- Eduard Brückner (1862-1927) a German geographer, glaciologist and climatologist.
- Hans Hess (1864-1940) a German glaciologist.
- Albrecht Penck (1858-1945) a German geographer and glaciologist.

The proposer advises that in naming the glaciers after prominent contemporary geologists Captain Head was consciously following a tradition initiated by James McKerrow, who had some decades earlier named features in the region as a theme after prominent scientists.

The proposer has provided a significant amount of biographical research and reference material that record the names as proposed. Although not mandatory, the proposer hasn't provided copies of official records, for example birth or death certificates, to substantiate how the personal names are spelled. The proposer has advised that such documents were destroyed during the last days of Nazi Germany.

Names shown on maps and plans

'Hesse' has been consistently spelled with a final [e]. However, on the NZMS 1s published in 1974/75 'Brwckner' became 'Bruckner' and 'Penck' became 'Pench'.

| Map/plan | Date | Name |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Plan showing Topography surrounding the Dart Valley (provided by the proposer) | Not dated (c.1915) | Brwckner Gl. Hesse Glacier Penck Gl. |
| NZMS 13, OT16 NZMS 13, OT26 | 1921, 1958 1921, 1956 | PENCK BRWCKNER HESSE GL. |
| SO 12813 | 1959 | BRWCKNER GLACIER HESSE GLACIER |
| NZMS 1, S114, 1 st 2 nd eds. | 1974, 1984 | Bruckner Gl Hesse Glacier |
| NZMS 1, S106, 1 st 2 nd eds. | 1975, 1983 | Pench Gl |
| NZMS 260, E39 | 2003 | Bruckner Glacier Hesse Glacier Pench Gl |
| NZTopo50-CA10, edition 1.05 | 2019 | Bruckner Glacier Hesse Glacier Pench Gl |

Location, geographic feature types and generic terms

New Zealand Gazetteer, SCAR Gazetteer, associated names and duplication

The glaciers are near the headwaters of Dart River/Te Awa Whakatipu in Mount Aspiring National Park, approximately 50km northwest of Wānaka.

As slowly moving compacted ice, the features meet the definition of a [glacier](#). They are discrete from adjacent named glaciers, and although it is likely they are retreating, recent satellite imagery shows they are still glacial features.⁵

No other features within the Board's naming jurisdiction are named 'Bruckner'.

[Hess Mesa](#) is an official place name in Antarctica. It was named for LO Hess, Master of the US Naval Ship *Maumee* during Operation Deep Freeze 1970 and 1971.

[Albrecht Penck Glacier](#), an official place name in Antarctica, was named for the German glaciologist.

[Penck Ridge](#), which is approximately 165km northeast of Penck Glacier, is an unofficial recorded place name in the Gazetteer. There is no record of who Penck Ridge was named for, but as it is surrounded by glaciers it was likely named for the glaciologist Albrecht Penck.

Entries in the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica for place names outside of New Zealand's area of interest also substantiate the proposed spelling:

- [Brückner Glacier](#): named after Eduard Brückner, German pioneer glaciologist.
- [Hess Glacier](#) and [Hess Inlet](#): named for Hans Hess, a German glaciologist.
- [Cape Penck](#), [Penck Glacier](#), [Penck Ledge](#) and [Penck Trough](#): named after Albrecht Penck, internationally known German geographer.

Research, history and references to the features

The Board's archives⁶ record that in May 1962 AJ Heine of the NZ Geological Survey (DSIR⁷) advised the Board:

'BRWCKNER glacier. Although this name has been spelt thus on many maps, including the original map of the area (Leonard – Dart Valley (1915) – Lands and Survey Dunedin Plan no. 401/3), the correct spelling should be BRUCKNER. Bruckner was an eminent German glacial geologist (1862-1927) in company with Hess, Hobbs and Heim.

HESSE Glacier. It is fairly certain that this glacier was named after HESS, a German geologist, and so I suggest that the correct form should be used for the glacier name. The original map shows the name as HESSE.

PENCK glacier. This glacier is a small ice tributary of the Dart Glacier. The name is shown on the original map of the area, Leonard – Dart Valley (1915), but isn't shown on NZMS 13, (OT) 16. The Geographic Board should decide whether the original name should be recognised, or whether it should be discarded and the glacier in question incorporated within the Dart glacier area.'

At its June 1962 hui the Board deferred considering Penck Glacier anticipating that the New Zealand Alpine Club nominated member would consult further with AJ Heine. However, there is no evidence of any follow up.

⁵ [New Zealand 10m Satellite Imagery acquired September 2022 – April 2023](#) accessed 9 July 2024

⁶ Board correspondence, Volume 35, pp.115-116

⁷ Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

At its hui in October 1974 the Board approved as official all names shown on the new edition of the NZMS 1, S106, including Penck Glacier.

Consultation

TRONT has advised that Moeraki and Ōtākou rūnanga have no issues with the changes to the spelling of the glaciers' names, although Ōtākou noted it is a shame that there is no known ikoa Māori for the glaciers. Waihōpai Rūnanga are still to come back with a joint decision, however, independent feedback from one prominent rūnanga member has not been supportive of the change. TRONT is still waiting to hear from Ōraka-Aparima, Awarua, Kati Huirapa ki Puketeraki and Hokonui rūnanga.

The Secretariat will communicate with the alpine community if the Board accepts the proposals.

Advice on orthography⁸

The addition of an umlaut (ie, Bruckner→Brückner) indicates how the name is pronounced.

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#) and the [Standard for New Zealand place names](#)

Under sections 10(1)(c) and 11(1)(b) of the Act the Board has a responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling. Because 'Brwckner' is recorded as a name for the glacier on two published editions of an official map, it is an alternative name. Therefore, Brückner Glacier cannot be approved as official under [section 24](#) of the Act.

1.3 Undesirable names and other considerations

(c) A name that already exists in a neighbouring area or is already in use throughout New Zealand should be avoided except where the story/kōrero explains the unique heritage and meaning(s) of the name. This avoids confusion and makes it easier to identify the correct place in an emergency. However, associated names with different generic terms are allowed.

Penck Ridge has a different generic term and is too far distant from the proposed Penck Glacier to cause confusion.

1.6 Altered names

Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long-term use and the practical need for location identification. *The glaciers are in a remote but significant recreational area and having been in use for ~50 years with the current spelling, the names are well established. However, there is little difference in how the current and proposed names are pronounced, so there is unlikely to be issues when identifying the glaciers in an emergency.*

Media

There is unlikely to be media coverage if the Board accepts the proposals for consultation.

⁸ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

Supporting information

1. Proposals for Brückner Glacier, Hess Glacier and Penck Glacier – 2024-05-22
2. Letter to proposer – request birth or death certificates – 2024-07-09
3. Email from TRONT – consultation feedback – 2024-09-25