It's complicated! I hope this explanation doesn't confuse you more …

The hill name is a ‘recorded unofficial name’, meaning that the New Zealand Geographic Board has not considered it before and therefore has not researched its correct spelling. However, the NZGB needs to list it in the Gazeteer to provide a comprehensive set of geographic names across New Zealand. We have just over 32,300 recorded unofficial names. The NZGB Act 2008 provides for a fast track process to approve them as official if certain criteria are met. However, this is currently a slow process!

Yes, reserve names can be named after associated physical landscape features, which is probably the case here. But as you say they have different spellings and the reserve name is official, whereas the hill name is not.

This is because the Department of Conservation (DOC) formerly named all of its reserves prior to the NZGB Act 2008. DOC’s former naming practices were not standardised or regulated, which is partly why the NZGB now has a concurrence role for DOC’s reserve names (see the Standard for CPA naming). So in 2001, DOC set aside Smokey Hill Scenic Reserve, with the ‘e’ spelling. I would expect that DOC researched the correct spelling at that point, then accepted official reserve names under section 35 of the NZGB Act 2008:

35 Validation of certain names
(1) In relation to actions taken before the commencement of this Act, this section applies to every name—
(a) that the Board has assigned to, or altered for, a geographic feature in Antarctica, whether or not that name has been gazetted; and
(b) assigned to, or altered for, a Crown protected area under an enactment, whether or not the proposed name—
(i) was publicly notified and consulted on; or
(ii) gazetted under, or included in, the enactment.
(2) The names referred to in subsection (1) are official geographic names and as valid as if they had been assigned or altered in accordance with this Act.
(3) The Board must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act, publish in the Gazette the official geographic names referred to in subsection (1) that have not previously been gazetted.

It would’ve been preferable if DOC had made a formal proposal to the NZGB back in 2001, to have the hill name corrected (if indeed the correct spelling is Smokey).

So we now have an inconsistency between an official and unofficial name right next to each other (and obviously connected), which is not ideal. The question is whether this is a priority for the NZGB to resolve. If someone were to make a formal proposal to the NZGB, then we would process it. But with other work priorities, it’s unlikely that we would make a formal proposal ourselves.

*Revisited... Is it -y or -ey?*

In a recent issue (September 2017, ‘The regulation of place-naming’) Jan Tent outlined the roles of the various placenaming authorities in Australia and New Zealand. One of their responsibilities is to ensure consistent place-naming and spelling of toponyms. However, as he noted in our March 2018 issue, (‘Which suffix: -y or -ey?’) the variable spelling of Stony vs Stoney and Smokey vs Smokey shows that this is not always achieved.

One notable example in the Gazetteer of New Zealand was Smoky Hill and its adjoining Smokey Hill Scenic Reserve. Jan asked our colleague Wendy Shaw (Secretary, New Zealand Geographic Board) about the incongruence of those spellings. This is a slightly redacted version of her response.
As to the official Government publication which you mentioned, Holland (2011), it is compelled to use the official name, *Smokey Hill Scenic Reserve*. This is a requirement of section 32 of the NZGB Act 2008. Non-compliance can result in heavy measures as set out in section 32 of the Act. The definition of an official document is under section 4 of the NZGB Act 2008.

I trust this lengthy response sheds some light!

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**Endnotes**


So, there you have it, Wendy's full explanation of the incongruence.

And as for the pervasive Stony/Stoney problem—our Victorian correspondent Roger Stanley tells us that in order to get to nearby Stony Point he has to drive along Stoney Point Road!

Jan Tent

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**A Cook anniversary**

**A walk to Little Rame Head**

The twenty sixth of August 2018 is the 250th anniversary of James Cook's departure from Plymouth.

On that day he passed Ram Head, Cornwall (now spelt *Rame Head*), and to mark the anniversary the *Restoring Cook’s Legacy 2020* team is organising a weekend event on 25/26 August at Mallacoota, Victoria. This will include a talk, ‘Lt James Cook on the coast of Victoria 1770—a comedy of errors’, and a walk to Little Rame Head. All are invited and would be warmly welcomed: email restoringcooksllegacy2020@gmail.com for details.

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**Luise Hercus AM FAHA**

Mentor and friend to many

Her many friends and colleagues will be sad to hear that Luise Hercus died recently, at the age of 92.

There is not space enough here to properly acknowledge Luise’s outstanding contribution to Australian linguistics. Suffice to say that, from 1962 to her death she worked unceasingly on salvage work in Aboriginal languages, studying languages that were on the brink of extinction. In recent years she was Visiting Fellow in the Department of Linguistics, School of Language Studies, ANU, writing up grammars, dictionaries and traditional texts, and continuing fieldwork mainly in the north of South Australia and adjacent areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

Her expertise in these languages has been, on many occasions, invaluable (and willingly offered) to the Australian National Placenames Survey. Our debt to her is great—we will all miss her generous gifts of mind and spirit.