
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

REGULATORY PROCESSES COMMITTEE

LATE AGENDA

Time: 01:00 pm
Date: Thursday, 1 September 2016
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

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2. General Business

APPROVAL OF NAME FOR A SQUARE OFF MOLESWORTH STREET

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the name William Colenso Square for a private square off Molesworth Street, as shown on Plan F 3083.

Summary

2. This is a proposal to name a square in Thorndon. The square is privately owned and maintained. It has no historic Maori name (Pipitea is already in use). The owners support the application. William Colenso briefly lived in Wingfield Street which was in the location of the square.
3. The adjoining National Library is the repository of most of Colenso's surviving manuscripts and one of his printing presses.

Recommendations

That the Regulatory Processes Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to give approval for the name William Colenso Square to be allocated to the square in Thorndon, as shown on F Plan 3083 (Attachment 1).

Background

4. The site is paved and used by the public. It is partly Crown Land that includes the National Library at 70 Molesworth Street. The other part is owned by Zircon Properties Limited. This property includes the building known as New Zealand Rugby House at 100 Molesworth Street.
5. The main access to the National Library and NZ Rugby House is from Molesworth Street, so their addresses will not change.
6. There are several tenancies that have access off the square. They currently do not have assigned addresses, so they will be assigned addresses off the square.
7. On early maps of Wellington, there was private land in this area that was used as a public street called Wingfield Street. It was closed in 1973 and in 1983 the name was assigned to a new road in Churton Park.
8. The Colenso Society have asked that the square off Molesworth Street, be named William Colenso Square.

Discussion

9. We received a request from Ian St George, Convenor of the Colenso Society Inc. The request said "I represent the Colenso Society. We are interested in exploring the possibility of having the pedestrian area just to the north of the National Library on

Molesworth Street named after William Colenso. I attach a copy of our reasoning: in short, he was a prominent New Zealander, a Victorian polymath, he lodged in that area when he was a Member of the House of Representatives, and, just to the south, the National Library has the largest collection of Colenso manuscripts in existence, as well as his composing stick and one of his printing presses.”

10. A copy of the information supplied by the Society is attached (Attachment 3). It includes a reference to William Colenso living in Wingfield Street in 1865, in the area to be named.
11. A photo showing the square to be named is attached (Attachment 2).
12. The Colenso Society is having its third conference in Wellington from 17th to 19th November 2016.
13. The owners of the square and the adjoining buildings support the proposal to name it *William Colenso Square*.
14. Tenants of shops adjoining the square are happy with the name and new addresses which will be placed over their doors. One would prefer to be number 8 rather than 7, however, the numbering standards require an odd number. There is no requirement for them to change their business names. They currently have no separate addresses, thus assigning an address will make it easier to find them, especially in an emergency. Most of them are currently regarded as all being at the same address, 100 Molesworth Street.
15. There is a Colenso Place in Otaki Beach. Using the full name and Square rather than Place, should avoid confusion.
16. Rather than supporting William Colenso, Iwi have said “why not one of our own?”, but would like more time to consider it. Normally more time should be allowed but in this case officers recommend the name, because the particular site seems to have no previous name that should be recognised. It is privately owned and maintained land with no registered public rights and there is an associated ‘story’ with the connections to Colenso. The Regulatory Processes Committee meeting on 1st September is the last chance to consider the name Colenso before Council elections and before the Colenso conference. The officers’ recommendation has been made after considering all these issues.
17. The Thorndon Residents Association have indicated they have no objection to the proposed name.
18. The Thorndon Society have made the following comment:

“While the Colenso Society may have been active in promoting his name it has little link with Wellington. If the square is to be named then the two options preferred are:

1. **Wingfield Square** as this relates to the previous address of the area. It also has links for us as our house was built for Harry tombs, who for many years ran the Wingfield Press in Wingfield Street. (Any alternative use of Wingfield seems immaterial given there is an alternative use of Colenso and some names (e.g. Moana) are used in several streets in wider Wellington)
2. An alternative name is **Molesworth Square** (This would make it easier to find and resolve any concerns for shops such as Viva on Molesworth.”

Both these options are prohibited by the Australasian Addressing Standards because the names are already being used in Wellington City.

Recommended Name

Council officers recommend **William Colenso Square** to be approved for this privately owned square. Officers feel that this name recognises the achievements of William Colenso and his association with this part of Thorndon.

Attachments

Attachment 1.	Plan F 3083 William Colenso Square	Page 7
Attachment 2.	Photo showing William Colenso Square	Page 8
Attachment 3.	William Colenso	Page 9

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Authoriser	Toni Thompson, Manager Information Centre Greg Orchard, Chief Operating Officer

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Engagement and Consultation

Consultation on this proposal has taken place with the National Library and Zircon Properties Limited, as owners of the land. They have no objection and support the proposal.

The name has been checked for duplication, similarity and suitability by the Wellington Regional Council.

Consultation with the Thorndon Resident's Association and the Thorndon Society has taken place.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Consultation with Iwi has taken place.

Financial implications

Not applicable

Policy and legislative implications

Allocation of street names is a statutory function under section 319A of the Local Government Act 1974.

The report is consistent with the Council's Road Naming Policy.

Risks / legal

Nil

Climate Change impact and considerations

Nil

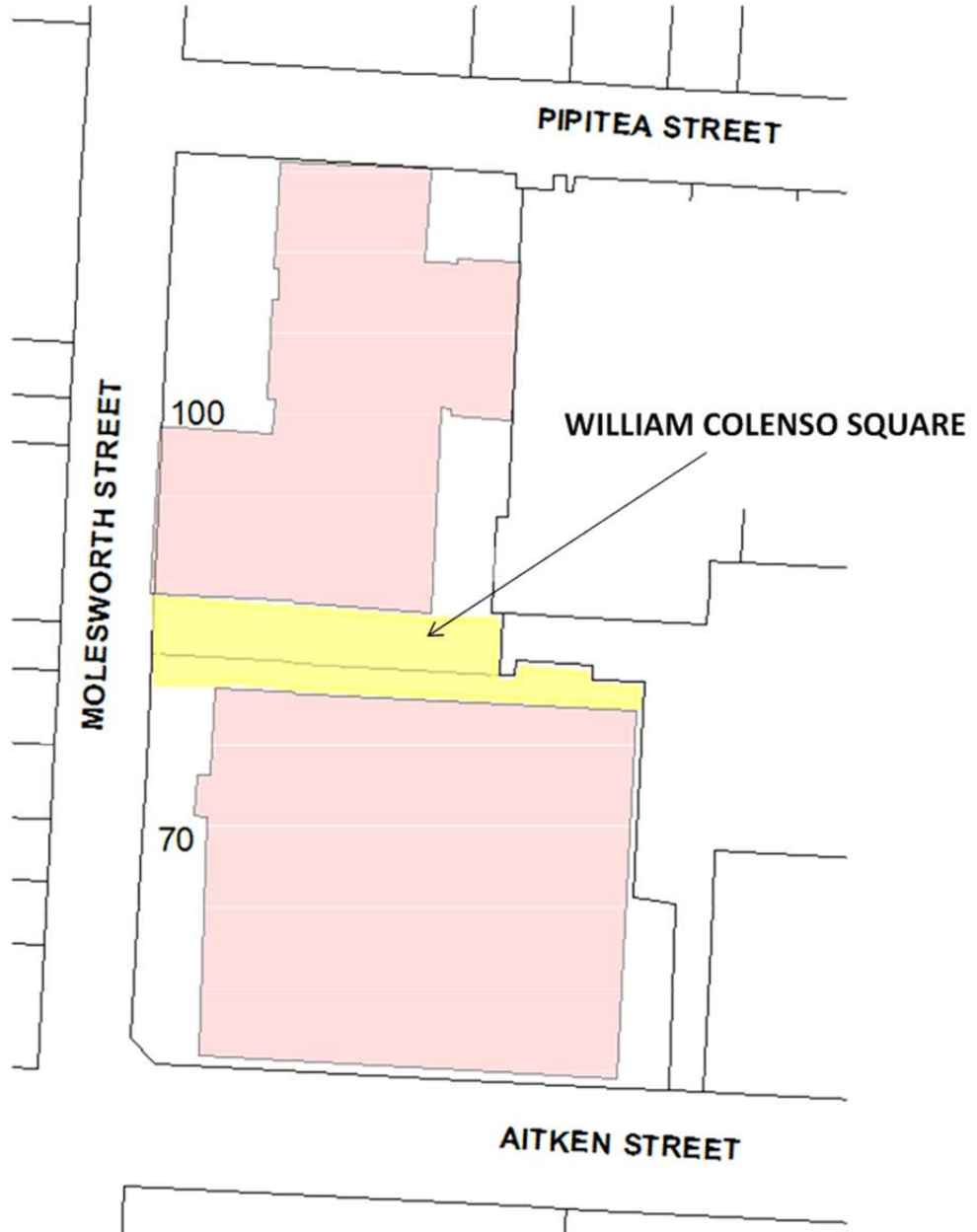
Communications Plan

There is an extensive notification list which includes Land Information New Zealand and emergency services.

Health and Safety Impact considered

Nil

Attachment 1 : F Plan 3083



AREA TO BE NAMED
WILLIAM COLENZO SQUARE
F PLAN 3083 01/09/2016

Attachment 2: Photo showing William Colenso Square.



William Colenso Place

This is a proposal that the pedestrian area just north of the National Library in Molesworth St should be named “William Colenso Place”. The area was once named Wingfield St and Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS, Member of the House of Representatives, representing Napier in the first Parliament to be held in the new Capital, Wellington, lodged there.

In Wingfield St

On 2 August 1865 William Colenso MHR wrote to his friend Edward Catchpool in Napier, from the General Assembly Library in Wellington,

An ugly Wellgn. morning rain & wind—& severe *hail* storms: it cost me 10/- *cab hire* alone that day. Lyon very kindly came on the wharf to meet me—at first I went to an Hotel away beyond Rhodes’—in the evening to my lodgings (taken for me by L.) in Wingfield St.—not far from the Ho.—& arranged for 15/- extra (i.e. £2.15.0) per week to get *Breakfast & firing &c.* My rooms are small, but the *only* 2 in the little cot. (save the skillion & garret, into which the man & his w. & child stow themselves!) the front door, open to the S.,—opens bang into the sitting room, ditto the back-door, ditto their ladder & trapdoor to the upper, & the fire place (such as I never saw) just large eno. to roast a lark, & chimney smoky! The Bedroom, on the ground floor, is very damp—from which I have a good share of Rheumatism.—And I fear, I cannot well leave it (the lodgings)—although I *may*. I spend most of my time in “*the* House”—or its Library, and Dine at Bellamy’s at 6.—

In the House

Colenso was a Member of the national House of Representatives 1 July 1861 to 27 January 1866—during the Fox Ministry (1861–2), the Domett (1862–3), Whitaker-Fox (1863–4), Weld (1864–1865) and Stafford (1865–1869) Ministries. Initially he was William Colenso, M.G.A. (Member of the General Assembly), later M.H.R. (Member of the House of Representatives); Members were not designated M.P. until 1907.

Edward Catchpool had been in public service in Wellington, and at this time was Postmaster at Napier. Colenso reported political gossip and the doings in the House to him—five letters survive, the first from Auckland dated 6 November 1863, announcing, among other things “Domett Ministry *out*, Fox Ministry *in*.” In 1865 Wellington replaced Auckland (capital since 1841) as the capital city of New Zealand. At that time, the population of Wellington was 4,900. Parliament officially met in Wellington for the first time on 26 July 1865; Colenso was there; Lyon (probably William Lyon, Lambton Quay bookseller) had found him lodgings in Wingfield Street, and met him on the wharf.

His letter is an interesting documentation of the first sitting of a Wellington Parliament...

The Govr’s. speech, (given the day before I arrived,) and our (precious) reply, you will see in the Papers. Yesterday we commenced in good earnest at noon, & sat till 1 this morning, mostly on the *reply*: sharp & bitter things were said on both sides:—by Stafford, agt. *Weld* (!) & Sewell—by Weld in reply—by Williamson agt. the Ministry, & by sarcastic Richardson.—Though opposed to much of the reply, we had promised *not* to divide on it: at 1 this mg., Weld, *unwisely*, called for a Division (amid loud cries of “no, no,”) & persisted in having it: on which, we left the Ho. joined by several Otago & Southland Members: even Featherstone & Harrison, did so: Ormond also: so that there were only about half left—when the Division was *not* taken. I spoke, *against* some parts of the reply—*i.e.*

—the Natives into Parliament—their love of “law & order”—their loyalty—peace being partially established—& the absurdity of *thanking* (!!) the Governor for taxation. Such *may* appear in the Wellington papers: if so, you will see it. We go at it again this day: the Native franchise Bill, against wh. I shall speak—& *lots* of other work. There will be lots of *sparring* this Session—Stafford seems to be regularly primed: & now that Weld has come out, too, so bitterly & *tauntingly* (which Stafford cannot stand)—mischief will be brewing.—There is a strong feeling, however, to support the Weld Ministry—especially from the South. But it is weak: Fitz. (one of their best) is very weak in health.—The increase of duties is from *stamps* (but this perhaps includes *more* than we know—*perhaps* Papers! among others.) All say we are in for 3 months *certain*. Bunny has been returned to the disgust of many Wellingtonians: It made us laugh to see Fitz. & Waring Taylor march him up to be sworn!

Wellington is wonderfully improved outwardly. The Asphalte foot pavement all along Lambton Quay makes it dry & nice walking.

Today

Wingfield St (named for JR Wingfield of the New Zealand Society) ran between Molesworth and Mulgrave streets in Thorndon, and part of it is now an unnamed pedestrian mall.

Just south of the pedestrian mall is the National Library. It is appropriately close to where Colenso lodged: for it is the repository of most of his surviving manuscripts.

William Colenso

William Colenso 1811–1899 was a Victorian polymath: New Zealand’s first significant printer, liberal theologian, inspired educationalist, perceptive botanist, politician in the first Wellington session, explorer over much of the North Island: a man whose contributions to New Zealand history are amply recorded in the output from his press, his published scientific work, his own surviving publications, his many letters (including those to the editors of newspapers) and his journals and diaries. He has been the subject of television drama, plays, creative nonfiction, formal biography, letter collections, numerous portraits, two conferences (a third is planned for 2016) and (for the last 4 years) a monthly journal (“eColenso”).

Colenso’s contemporaries had this to say of him,

Sir Julius von Haast: “a capital botanist.... a great Darwinian &... a very liberal minded man” .

Sir Joseph Hooker: “being gifted with the love of natural history and of travel, a cultivated mind, an iron constitution, and methodical habits as an observer, collector, and recorder, all of which he used to the best advantage during a long life, it is not surprising that he was regarded as the Nestor of science in a colony his arrival in which antedated its foundation.”

Robert Coupland Harding: “only personal acquaintance could reveal the beauty and spirituality of the hidden life—the unfathomable kindness of his nature.”

In July 1886 the *Hawkes Bay Herald* was able to report with some satisfaction, “The last mail has brought the news that at a meeting of the Royal Society held on June 4th the Rev. Mr Colenso, of Napier, was made a Fellow of the Society. Not only was the honour conferred on him, but it was conferred in a manner peculiarly gratifying. There were 65 nominations, and only 15 Fellows to be elected, yet Mr Colenso’s election was unanimous. That is, if not unprecedented in the annals of the Society, a distinction rarely accorded, and Mr Colenso may well feel proud of it.”

Sir James Hector referred to: “the Rev. William Colenso, who is recognised as the greatest authority on the folk-lore of the Maoris, on whom he was among the first to confer a printed literature in their own language. His long-continued work as a field naturalist, especially as a botanist, is exceedingly interesting, seeing that it forms a connecting link that has continued the early spirit of natural history research in New Zealand that commenced with Banks and Solander, and was continued by Menzies, Lesson, the two Cunninghams, and Sir Joseph Hooker prior to the arrival of colonists. This we have in my esteemed friend, Mr Colenso, an active veteran naturalist of what we may call the old school of explorers.” Hector said that Colenso “was the founder, with the late Sir George Grey, of the New Zealand Society”.

Henry Hill: “looked upon Mr. Colenso as a teacher; and had never been in his presence without feeling that his life was an example, a sermon, and everything that was good and noble”.... “When the history of Early New Zealand comes to be written the name of William Colenso, F.R.S., F.L.S., printer, missionary, scientist, philologist, and best of all, humanitarian, will be found among the list of the honourable roll of men who spent their talents in laying a strong foundation for the future of this land”.

The *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, 1908:

The Rev. William Colenso was a distinguished New Zealander, who gave upwards of sixty years of useful life to his adopted country. He was born in 1811, at Penzance, Cornwall, England, and was a son of Mr. Samuel May Colenso, and first cousin of the late Bishop Colenso, of Natal. He was educated privately at Penzance, learned printing and bookbinding in his native town, and subsequently worked as a compositor in the book-printing office of Messrs Watts and Son, of Crown Court, Temple Bar, London. In the year 1833 the Church Missionary Society, feeling the need, through their missionaries in New Zealand, of a printing press in this country, where all errors might be corrected on the spot by those familiar with the Maori language, appealed to their supporters with a view to securing the services of a missionary printer; and Mr. Colenso, on the recommendation of Messrs Watts, and after the usual preliminary examination was appointed to this position. On the 3rd of January, 1835, he landed at the Bay of Islands. On opening his boxes, however, he found that he had no cases, leads, rules, ink table, roller stocks, nor frames, lye brush, potash, and, worst of all, no paper. Fortunately, he had provided himself with a composing-stick, the resident missionaries had a little writing paper among their stores, and his ingenuity enabled him to supply other requirements. On the 17th of February, 1835, he worked off, in the presence of admiring spectators, the first copy of the first book printed in New Zealand—the Epistles to the Ephesians in Maori language. In December, 1837, Mr. Colenso printed, amidst many difficulties, the New Testament in Maori. If the printer of today were asked to produce a volume of the New Testament in the Maori language, single-handed, and with even the best appliances that were available in the Old World seventy years ago, he would sicken at the thought. But the father of the New Zealand press had to surmount difficulties tenfold greater than those indicated by the above supposition. Time seems to have been the only thing to go slowly in those days; eighteen months could slip by comfortably while an order despatched from New Zealand was being fulfilled in London and sent to its destination. Yet all this time Mr. Colenso was turning out printed work, which, under the circumstances, reflected upon him unlimited credit. At the same time he was learning the Maori language, and performing the arduous duties of an ordinary missionary. For many years past Mr. Colenso had been the only surviving European who was present and took part in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Fortunately he was indefatigable in keeping up his diary, and from these notes he was able to write for the Church Missionary Society a full and true account of Governor Hobson's arrival, and the interesting proceedings consequent thereupon, and the account was afterwards attested as correct by the late British Resident, Mr. James Busby, who was present officially on that great occasion. This “History” of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi was copied by Mr. Colenso in 1890, and

printed by the Government for general circulation. Mr. Colenso had been in New Zealand about five years, when the advent of Captain Hobson, the first Governor, marked a new departure in the history of the country, and during the whole of that time he had been working at his occupation of church printer, producing several other books, both small and large, in thousands, the principal ones being the "Common Prayer of the Church of England," 372 pp., 12mo., and the "Gospel of St. Luke," 68 pp., 12mo. Among many important acts of assistance rendered by the missionaries to the new Governor, the work done by Mr. Colenso was by no means the least. With his own hands—unlike the Government printer of today—the typographical missionary printed the Proclamation and the Treaty itself, besides much other Government work, including the first "Government Gazette" issued in the colony. Prior to this the Maori Testament of 356 pp., 8vo., had been entirely "set up" by Mr. Colenso, and with such assistance as he could get, no fewer than 5,000 copies had been printed, and a large number of them were bound by himself. It was the first edition of the New Testament printed south of the equator in any language, and only one copy of it is now known to exist, and was in Mr. Colenso's own possession. As a "legislator," Mr. Colenso's abilities were recognised by his election, in 1861, to the General Assembly, as a representative of Hawke's Bay, and he remained in Parliament five years. As a debater his weight was felt also in the Hawke's Bay Provincial Council, where he held the office of provincial treasurer, and as a scientific man he towered high on the list of celebrities. As a botanist he was in the front rank, with a world-wide reputation. Speaking of Mr. Colenso's scientific achievements, the "Inland Printer" said: "He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society, and a few years ago was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, in recognition of his distinguished services in the cause of botanical science. He was the first to identify the fossil bones of the long extinct moa as those of a gigantic bird, and very accurately indicated its place in the animal kingdom. On the subject of ferns, lichen, and the humble but beautiful hepaticæ, he is one of the greatest authorities. On the subject of Maori history and tradition there is only one other man—Sir George Grey—who will bear comparison with him as an authority. He has in manuscript a voluminous lexicon of the Polynesian language, which he was commissioned by the Government many years ago to write. The work was approaching completion when a change of administration reversed the order, and succeeding Governments have declined either to carry out the work officially, or to permit the author to find a private publisher. Mr. Colenso was one of the founders of the Hawke's Bay branch of the New Zealand Institute, and has always been the largest and most valued contributor to the 'Transactions' of that auxiliary branch. For precise, exact, and well-authenticated information his 'Contributions towards the Better Knowledge of the Maori People,' excel all that has been written or collected by any other writer." Mr. Colenso removed from the Bay of Islands to Hawke's Bay in 1844, which place he had also visited in the preceeding year, having been stationed at Port Ahuriri as the resident clergyman of the district by Bishop Selwyn. Among many positions filled by him since that time was the inspector of schools for Hawke's Bay. He published many valuable books which will live to his memory while the language lasts. During his missionary days, Mr. Colenso became thoroughly acquainted with the North Island, for he traversed the whole of it on foot from Cape Terawiti, in Cook's Straits, to Cape Maria Van Diemen, besides frequently travelling over both the east and west coasts, and more than once crossed the great dividing range, the Ruahine Mountains. The reverend gentleman continued to enjoy good and hearty health almost up to the time of his death, which took place on the 10th of February, 1899, in his eighty-eighth year.





Thorndon, Wellington, about 1890. Thomas Ward map, National Archives, Wellington.

1 = Wingfield St; 2 = Houses of Parliament. See next page for today....



This is where Wingfield St was

National Library



William Colenso MHR FRS FLS

Parliamentary photograph Swan & Wrigglesworth 1865

Alexander Turnbull Library 1/2-005028-F.