

**William Donnelly**  
**Foreman of Works, Hutt Borough Council**

Lower Hutt Borough inwards correspondence – Hutt City Archives ARCH28597-28598 (1890-1892)  
Unless otherwise specified

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Hutt Borough – List of new buildings erected since March 1890

- [1] William Lawton, Alicetown, house, 5 rooms, land 66 feet + 109 feet
  - [2] Thomas Burt, Bloomfield road, house, 6 rooms, land 66 feet + 190 feet
  - [3] B. Macmanus, Bloomfield road, house, 5 rooms
  - [4] Thomas Graham, Hutt road, house, 8 rooms
  - [5] G. McIlvride, Hutt road, house, 7 rooms
  - [6] E. Whitehead, school
  - [7] G. Harnish, renewal
  - [8] R. Cleland, renewal
  - [9] John Cudby, Hutt road, bakehouse and oven
  - [10] F. Cooper, Alicetown, glass house
  - [11] C. Trevethick, Hutt road, work shop
- William Donnelly, Foreman
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02 Mar 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the work done during the past month. I have finished clearing the camp road. I have also cleaned Alice St, Alicetown road and foot path, the road and footpaths from main road to McNab's bridge, and also about 35 chains of the back Waiwetū road (as per instructions received from the late Hutt Town Board).

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03 Apr 1891 Lower Hutt – Application for Working Foreman as per Advertisement

Sir, I beg to apply for the position of Working Foreman to the Lower Hutt Borough and I am prepared to devote the whole of my time to the interests of the Borough hoping this may meet with your favour. I have, &c., William Donnelly, Foreman to the late Hutt Town Board.

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06 Apr 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month. I have cleaned the back Waiwetū road up to the junction of the middle Waiwetū road thence from the junction to the main road. I have also repaired the floor of the Hutt Bridge, cleaned the docks from Bloomfield road and the water table from the Bridge to Trevethicks. I have also cleaned the upper part of Belmont road.

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04 May 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month. I have put in 12 nine inch pipes across the road at Mr C. W. Brown's property. I had to add two extra pipes to those ordered on account of the depth of the drain. I have also cleaned and metaled over three parts of the Upper Belmont road the remaining portion will not take long to do as I will not require the carts the metal being convenient along the whole of the piece, with the exception of about eight chains. I will have the whole of it done this week. I have put in two crossings on Belmont road. They took ten six inch pipes.

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01 Jun 1891 Lower Hutt

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the work done during the past month and work requiring to be done. The upper Belmont road has been finished, and one new culvert of six inch pipes put in on same road. The gorse and overgrowth on Lower Belmont road has been cleaned off with the exception of a few chains, the men will start to clean the water tables this week. It will require some pipes along this road as some culverts are rotten. The Avenue foot path has been cleared of all gorse and rubbish and the fence and turn stiles removed off the same. I have patched the main road so as to make it secure for a time. The foot paths have also been repaired where required. I have metaled a part of Alicetown road by the School and sanded the path in the same road. I have also repaired Lynche's road leading to Mr Knight's, and also cleaned out the water tables from Pinkerton's corner to Hutt bridge and... water tables as far as the double foot path reaches and the foot path and water table by the Bank, and from the bridge along part of the main road. (Work to be done) The water table, along the main road will require to be done at once as they are all blocked up. The main road will have to be metaled as it is getting very thin in many places. There is not one inch of metal in the centre of the road. I wish to draw the attention of the council to the overgrowth of the trees along the road viz Captain Horne's and Captain Humphreys trees are spreading too far over they are becoming dangerous to people passing and also to Mr Cooley's quick hedge, it is taking up half of the path. I also beg to report on the state of the Culvert on the main road South and Naina road it has four broken stringers and the flooring is in a decayed state in some places the planks have entirely rotted away leaving nothing to support the road.

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06 Jul 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have metaled 102 chains of the Hutt road and patched several places along the same. The metal has been put on from Collett bridge to Hutt bridge, S. Russell's to Mr Mellows, from Nainai road to Blatchford road and from the Scotch church to S. Parker's, making 32 chains from Collett's to Hutt bridge and 70 chains from Taitai to Parkers this is all the metaling that will require doing along the Hutt road. This winter, the road may want some slight patching. I have also sanded the foot path from the Hutt Bridge to Pinkerton's Corner. The water tables from Hutt Bridge to Black bridge have been cleaned and all stuff carted away. I put in 3-4 inch pipes in the path at Mr Carlson's to carry of the water as I could not get it past Parkes. Those pipes connect with the pipes in the footpath. On Wainui hill road I had to get one set of pipes lifted and cleaned out, they having become blocked up with dirt causing the water to overflow the road. I have raked the ruts in along the back Waiwetu road and Hutt road where they were cut up. The lower Belmont road is cleaned up and all the water tables cleaned out this road will require to be metaled. I can get most of the metal out of the hill along the road side. The Lowry Bay road will require the gorse clearing off and the water tables cleaning out and some few places will want patching. For the Lower Belmont we will want 40 six inch pipes and for Alicetown road near the school 4 four inch pipes.

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03 Aug 1891 Lower Hutt

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have metaled Lower Belmont road and put in 4 four inch pipe culverts, on the same road, and lengthened two. Others I have patched Parliament Street and Hutt road where it had got bad. I have also put the pipes in the Culvert across the Hutt road at Nainai. It took one more pipe than we thought it would. I have put a new Culvert in on Copeland's road the old one having fallen in and stopped the traffic on that road. The road from Wainui hill to Tepene's corner has been repaired and also Copeland's road. I have cleaned and done up Fry's lane, put in a four inch pipe drain at the Public School, and raked in part of Rosa's road. (Works to be done) Camp road will want some gravel put on it. The road from the boundary line at Mr C. Browns will want some slight repairs, some more patching will have to be done on the Hutt Road. Part of Rosa's road will want patching. The whole of the roads that have been metaled will require to be raked over. I will want 8-12 inch pipes for a culvert on Lower Belmont road. White's line is getting in a very bad state but there is not much use of doing anything to it till the Petone Borough contractor has finished his contract.

Hedges to be cut According to instructions received at the last meeting I have gone around the Borough and find that the following gorse fences will want cutting back.

Mr C. Hollards, this is occupied by Chinamen  
 Mr E. J. Riddifords, also occupied by Chinamen  
 G. Chitticks, part occupied by Chinamen the remainder by himself  
 Cavanagh's old place occupied by Chinamen and the gum trees opposite Mr Millers belonging to Mr E. J. Riddiford, and Mrs Caughan's trees Alicetown.

Removal of soil from Johnston Street

I have to report that a good deal of soil has been taken from Johnson Street and from instructions I received I wrote to the person that was taking it to at once desist from taking anymore soil away as he was taking it without the consent of the Council.

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07 Sep 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have metaled Waiwetu road from Tepene's corner to Freathey's also patched the back Waiwetu road and middle Waiwetu road and had the ruts... in on same road. Camp road has also been put repair. I have raked in and broke the stones along the Lower Belmont road. The Waiwetu road foot of Wainui hill to Mr Miller's and Copeland's road. I am now doing Upper Belmont road which I will have finished in a few days. Also patched main road. I have erected the foot bridge across the river at Mrs G. Knights and two bridges in Lower Belmont road, and put in one pipe culvert on same road. Lowry Bay road will require putting in order as there are getting some bad places along it. The other works requiring to be done will be raking in ruts, cleaning up water tables and keeping down weeds.

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05 Oct 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and work requiring to be done. I have cleaned Parliament Street and foot paths. I have finished the Belmont road, raked in the ruts along the main road, cleaned out the drain from Collett's creek to Pinkerton's, put the Lowry bay road in order, lowered the road at Mrs G. Knight and rake the ruts in on same. Also raked the ruts in from Mr Eglington's bridge to Freathey's corner. Cleaned the water table from Blackbridge to Captain Humphreys and repaired the Hutt Bridge. I am now cleaning up the water tables and foot paths along the Waiwetu road. The work requiring to be done will be to continue cleaning out water tables, foot paths and roads throughout the district. I would also require to do something to Whites line on both sides of the Hutt river as they are getting rough. I would also call the attention of the Council the way the Blackbridge is sinking there is too much weight on it by lowering the road on either side and across the bridge I could take about 10 tons weight off it which would stop any further lagging.

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15 Oct 1891 Lower Hutt

List of hedges requiring to be cut and cuttings to be removed. To be cut – Mr G. Chittick, Waiwetū, hedge; Mr Butler, Alicetown, large trees to be cut back. Removal of cuttings Messrs Hook Bros, Waiwetū.

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07 Dec 1891 Lower Hutt

Sir, I have the honour to report on the works done and works requiring to be done. Stewart... road has been cleaned and raked over, the Hutt bridge repaired, the road widened at Frethey's corner leading to the race course, three small slips cleared off Belmont road and the road repaired where it had slipped away. This part of the road required patching so as to keep the stream from washing it away. Aglionby and Bridge Street foot paths have been cleaned, race course road repaired where shrinkage had taken place. I have also cleaned the foot paths from Dr Purdy's to the Black bridge. Acting on instructions received I cut and burnt off the gorse along Johnson Street. The work requiring to be done will be cleaning up roads &c.

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04 Jan 1892 Lower Hutt

Sirs, I have the honour to report on works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have had the following roads cleared of rubbish – Parker road, the road from Mr Blatchford's to Mr Silva's, middle Waiwetū road from main road to junction of back Waiwetū road, the back Waiwetū road from Mr Brown's to Tepene's corner thence along to foot of Wainui hill the Camp road and Alicetown roads. I have lowered and widened the road from Tepene's corner to Mr Frethey's erected fence on both sides of the road at Mr Ward's creek, filled in the hole at Mr Butler's in Alicetown, put in two crossings in Johnson Street and repaired McNab's bridge. I am now cleaning up Wainui hill road. The work for the present month will be cleaning up roads, drains and water tables and lowering the sides of roads.

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01 Feb 1892 Lower Hutt

Sirs, I have the honour to report on to the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have cleaned up Wainui hill road and water tables and filled in the place where the road was giving way. I have put up fence at Mr Riddiford's crossing, cleaned the water tables on Belmont road and cut back the undergrowth on same road. I have also cleaned the water tables along the western Hutt road with the exception of about ten or twelve chains. I also repaired the Hutt Bridge. The work to be done will be to clean out the drain and water tables along the Hutt road, also to lower the sides of the main road.

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07 Feb 1892 Lower Hutt

I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have cleaned up the remainder of the Western Hutt road, Parliament Street and drain. The drain from Collett's bridge to Pinkerton's Hotel the water tables from the Hotel to Hutt bridge and cleaned out the drain from Moran's creek to Johnson Street removed the obstructions in Alicetown streets. Cleaned up the Main road from Hutt bridge to Captain Humphrey's and main drain along same road. Also cleaned up the Waiwetū road from the Central Hotel to McNab's bridge. Removed two slips on the Belmont road and repaired breach on Wainui hill road and cut back the gorse along Mrs George Knight's lane. The pipes asked for by Mr W. Strand have been placed in the drain and cover it over and repaired bridge at Belmont road. The work requiring to be done will be the cleaning and lowering the sides of the Middle Waiwetū road and back Waiwetū road and thence along to the foot of the Wainui hill. I would suggest to the Council to have all the bye roads done the same as there is plenty metal on them for the present. It will not only let the water off but will widen them and make it much better for traffic.

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**04 Apr 1892 Lower Hutt**

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. The following works have been done. The approach to the river at Whites line has been lowered so that cattle can be driven across the river. The Hutt bridge has been repaired. The main drain along the Hutt road has been finished. The creek from Johnston Street to Collett's Bridge has been cleaned as also Alice Street. Cleaned off one slip on Belmont road. Wainui water tables have been cleared where blocked. Parker lane cleaned and sides lowered and about 48 chains of middle Waiwetū road cleaned and sides lowered. The work for the month will be a continuance of same work. Lowering sides of roads.

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**02 May 1892 Lower Hutt**

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. The gorse along Silva's lane has been cut down. 36 chains more of the Middle Waiwetū road has been cleaned and the sides lowered. Two crossings 40 feet long and one 12 feet has been laid down in Johnson Street. Kerbing has been put in from Collett's foot bridge around McKain's corner and the foot path filled up to the level of the same. I have had to repair the kerbing along the main and Waiwetū road, foot paths, the road to the new quarry on the Wainui hill has been made and a quantity of rock got out, but the late storms stopped us carting on the hill. There has been a few slips along the Belmont road which have all been cleared off. The works requiring to be gone on with will be metalling the roads, the main road in parts of it will want a good coat put on as it is getting too flat. I wish to draw the attention of the council to the state of the Black bridge the decking is becoming rotten as also the stringers. This is a work which will require looking to at once as I am afraid there will be an accident there. There was a very bad break on Saturday afternoon last.

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**06 Jun 1892 Lower Hutt**

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the works done during the past month and works requiring to be done. The road to Mr G. Knight's has been metalled. I have metalled about 28 chains of Lowry Bay road and patched the remainder. The race course road has also been repaired and the water table along the same lowered so as to allow the water to run off. Mr O'Callaghan's road has also been repaired. I have also had the sides of Copeland's road lowered, and the centre filled up and the road from Tepene's corner to Waiwetū bridge, done in the same way. I have also to report on the late gale the damage done during the gale was very light there was one slip on Wainui hill and several small ones on Belmont in places trees were blown down which had to be cleared off at once, this work was done on Sunday. I was out all day myself, and one man for half pay for which I allowed him time and half on the day following I put on an extra man for one day to clear the Belmont road. This is all the extra expense with reference to the gale. I have had to lift and clean out five pipe culverts on Wainui road and repaired the culvert at the court house. The work I should recommend to be done will be to lower the hill side of the Wainui road and spread the stuff across the road – by doing this it will not require metalling and will stop the water from running down the middle of the road. If this is not done it will cost double to quarry and metal the road.

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**04 Jul 1892 Lower Hutt**

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the work done during the past month. I have put in two pipe drains along Johnson Street and opened one small drain and put in a crossing for Mr Scales at lower end of Johnson Street, put in one new pipe culvert on Belmont road, lifted and cleaned out pipe culvert across main road below the Court House, metaled portion of No.1 road and part of No.4 road, cleared off the large and one small slip on upper Belmont, finished cleaning No.4 road and started Wainui road, gravelled portion of Alicetown road, repaired Mr G. Knight's lane a culvert having given away on No.1 road. I had to get timber from the mill, put in a new one, gravelled No.1 road from Bridge Street to Mr Pinkerton's and lowered side so as to let the water run off, the foot path being gravelled required. The work of metalling is progressing as well as it is possible to do with the way the river keeps up. The work for the month will be a continuation of the same as last month.

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07 Nov 1892 Lower Hutt

Sirs, I have the honour to report on the work done during the past month and works requiring to be done. I have finished Whites line, picked in the ruts on Mr George Knight's lane, repaired Silva's road, cleaned out drain from Railway Hotel to Collett's creek. Put in two culverts on eastern end of Whites line (one of timber and one of pipes) cleared away timber from booms and lowered them into their places they having got blocked up with drift wood during the flood. Cleared slips off Belmont road, filled up and repaired damage caused by the flood in Bloomfield road, replaced the willow breaks where washed away, cleaned water table along western Hutt road and widened same road in places. The works to be done is clearing roads and water tables. There is one place I would like to call the attention of the council to is the eastern end of Middle Waiwetū road. There is an open drain on the turn eight feet deep which will require something done to. I would recommend a three foot culvert to be put in and covered over to make it safe it will require to be twelve feet long.

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*Evening Post 24 Dec 1892*

Mr William Donnelly, the Foreman of Roads for the Lower Hutt Borough Council, met with a nasty accident on Thursday. It appears that when going his round of road inspection he noticed a hole in a culvert on the main road, and in order to ascertain its depth he pushed a rail down. In withdrawing the rail, he unintentionally struck his horse, with the result that the animal lashed out, inflicting a severe blow on Mr Donnelly's knee. The injury was attended to by Dr Purdy, but it will be some days before Mr Donnelly is able to resume work.

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*New Zealand Mail 18 Jan 1895 Chit Chat*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> instant at St. Patrick's Church, Palmerston North, Miss Annie Frances Donnelly, eldest daughter of Mr William Donnelly, of the Lower Hutt was married to Mr Ambrose Alphonsus Rogers, eldest son of Mr Thomas Rogers, Rangitikei Line. The bride was given away by her two brothers, and was attended by two bridesmaids, her sister, Miss Alice Donnelly, and Miss E. Rogers, the bridegroom's sister.

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*Evening Post 10 Oct 1896 Borough of Lower Hutt*

Resignation and Appointment of Borough Inspector

Notice is hereby given that Percy R. Purser has been appointed Inspector of Abbatoirs and Slaughterhouses and of Cattle intended for Slaughter, Inspector of Nuisances, Inspector of Licensed Carriages and Carts, and Inspector under the Bylaws, for the Borough of Lower Hutt vice William Donnelly, resigned. W. A. Fitzherbert, Mayor. Lower Hutt 09 Oct 1896.

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*New Zealand Times 24 Jul 1902 The Hutt Bridge*

... Mr William Donnelly, foreman of works of the Hutt Borough, stated that the approximate number of cattle which crossed the bridge and forded was 6800 from the Wairarapa. This included cattle which came round the coast. Some herds passed through which he did not see. He would say there were over 7000 from the Wairarapa. He was in bed sometimes when they passed. He could not say what proportion crossed the bridge some weeks. Sheep at the rate of 150,000 a year crossed the bridge from Wairarapa. The total number of Lower Hutt vehicles in the second week of February which crossed the bridge was fifty-eight, from Taita 104. Traffic was rather heavy on holidays and race-days. That traffic was one-third of the general traffic altogether. The county traffic passing over the bridge was generally rather larger than the borough traffic, but Petone traffic was not heavy, except on a holiday...

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*Evening Post 25 Jul 1902 Hutt Bridge Commission*

... William Donnelly, recalled, said there were 25 milk-suppliers in the Hutt County who carried milk and 15 in the Hutt Borough...

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*Evening Post 12 Sep 1905 Local and General*

Mr William Donnelly, who was foreman of works for the Hutt Borough Council some time ago, has just been reappointed to the position.

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*New Zealand Times 14 Aug 1908 Patriarchs of the Hutt*

Perhaps the most generally interesting feature of the sitting of the Compensation Court, over which his Honor Mr Justice Chapman presided yesterday, was the fact that it provided occasion for the meeting of several gentlemen who may be spoken of as patriarchs of the Hutt District. They were called to give evidence as to the condition of certain roads, bridges, etc., in the long-ago days when, if Wellington existed at all, it was a mere village. Mr William Milne was the first to come along. He was born in Glamis, Scotland, on New Year's Day, eighty-four years ago, and came to New Zealand in the ship *Lady Nugent* in 1841, arriving on St Patrick's Day. He was engaged in the construction of the first road made through the Wairarapa Valley, and two years later assisted to make the first road or track to Karori. His wife arrived in the colony a year earlier. The next witness was Mr Henry Sanson, who also went to the Hutt in 1841. He, however, left in 1872. Mr Joseph Hall, who is seventy-six years of age, first saw the Hutt in 1846, and has lived there continuously since 1852. Mr **William Donnelly**, who is much younger than either of the gentlemen named, is now foreman of works for the Lower Hutt Borough Council. He has lived in the district for 43 years. Mr Thomas Paul Allen has known it for 43 years. Even the oldest of these witnesses seemed to be in almost robust health. Their eyesight in each case was apparently but little impaired, and their hearing was remarkably good, whilst their memories could carry them back to the conditions of the district in those early days with a surprising degree of accuracy.

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