
BLACK CREEK, WAINUIOMATA BRIDGE NAME ORIGINS

Introduction

This document is about some background and the origin of the bridge names along Black Creek, Wainuiomata. The creek is located in the main valley of Wainuiomata. It is for the public bridges that are located from along Upper Fitzherbert Road to where Black Creek meets the Wainuiomata River. There are some private bridges in the Upper Fitzherbert Road area and these are excluded. Also prior to housing being developed in the area, the district was farmed and there were small bridges serving these farms. These bridges are long gone and there are no remains of them.

Black Creek is named after that the water is black from the swamp / vegetation that used to be located at the head of the main Wainuiomata valley area prior to it being drained in the 1880s. This was done so that the area could be farmed. For part of the area what is now Fitzherbert and Upper Fitzherbert Road, the road was beside the creek. This road used to be known as the Swamp Road. This road dates from the 1860s and there was a flax mill in the area and houses at the foot of the hills. Some of this road is now a public reserve. Black Creek was also known as the Black Stream / River. A considerable amount of the land beside Black Creek is public land and is known as the Black Creek Reserve.

Black Creek has been deepened and widened over the years. Its course has been altered somewhat when the roads and then the houses were built.

There are numerous small creeks which are mostly unnamed that are mostly piped go into Black Creek.

This document is part of a series of the origin of place names of Wainuiomata.

Other documents that relate to the area are:

- For information on the topographical features such as high points, tracks and streams of Wainuiomata, that is the watershed from the head of the Wainuiomata River to the mouth where it enters the sea at the Wainuiomata Coast and its tributaries, see the Wainuiomata Place Name Origins document.
- For information on central Wainuiomata, such as houses, parks and suburb names etc that are on the flat area see the Wainuiomata Central Place Names Origins document.
- For information on road and street names of Wainuiomata, see the Wainuiomata Street Names Origins document.

For more history about the Māori naming and their association with Wainuiomata see the article titled Wainuiomata – Whats in the Name in the book named Tales From Wainuiomata's Past – Volume 2 by Gavin Wallace and Dawn Chambers.

The document is split into two parts.

The first part is about the current bridges.

The second part is about a former bridge.

See the Bibliography for further sources of information.

The bridge names are from the head of the main valley to where Black Creek meets the Wainuiomata River.

All images are dated between 2020 and 2021 unless otherwise stated.

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Bridge Information

A bridge is a structure carrying a path, pipe or road across a river. For some of the bridges over the Black Creek a ford existed prior to the bridge being built.

The bridges are a mixture of foot and road bridges. They often used for pipes as well which are utilised for service utilities such as sewerage and water.

The bridges are a mixture of concrete / steel framed / wooden.

Some bridges were built by the developer when the area was developed for housing. Others have been built to make it easier to access recreational areas.

The bridges are all public.

There are some pipes that cross the Black Creek and these are excluded.

The document is laid out in the following style:

Bridge Name for example – Upper Fitzherbert / Wellington Road Bridge.

Definition for example – Upper Fitzherbert Road is named after William Fitzherbert (1810 – 1891) who was a independent Member of Parliament who represented the Hutt electorate in the 19th century. He also owned substantial areas of land in Wainuiomata in what is now Fitzherbert Road to the Upper Fitzherbert Road area. He had a flax milling operation in the area but this was gone by about 1875.

Wellington Road is named after the capital city of New Zealand.

While it is a road bridge to gain access to housing, the public has the right to use it as a foot bridge as it gains access to an alleyway between Upper Fitzherbert Road and Wellington Road.

Access from Wellington Road is between 352 and 355 Wellington Road.

Access from Upper Fitzherbert Road is from 129 Upper Fitzherbert Road.

Meaning of the information for example – Internet Dictionary.

Type of bridge for example – Road.

Time frame when the bridge was constructed for example – 2015.

Current Bridges

Upper Fitzherbert / Wellington Road Bridge

Upper Fitzherbert Road is named after William Fitzherbert (1810 – 1891) who was a independent Member of Parliament who represented the Hutt electorate in the 19th century. He also owned substantial areas of land in Wainuiomata in what is now Fitzherbert Road to the Upper Fitzherbert Road area. He had a flax milling operation in the area but this was gone by about 1875.

Wellington Road is named after the capital city of New Zealand.

While it is a road bridge to gain access to housing, the public has the right to use it as a foot bridge as it gains access to an alleyway between Upper Fitzherbert Road and Wellington Road.

Access from Wellington Road is between 352 and 355 Wellington Road.

Access from Upper Fitzherbert Road is from 129 Upper Fitzherbert Road.

Information – *Internet Search*. Type of Bridge – *Road*. Time Frame – 2015.



Arakura Park / Weymouth Grove Bridge

Arakura Park is means pathway to learning. Ara means path. Kura means learning. The name was suggested in 1965 by Ihāia Pōrutu (Paddy) Puketapu (1887 – 1971), who was an elder of the Waiwhetū Marae, Hutt Valley when approached for a name for a new school in the area.

Weymouth Grove is named after a town in Dorset, England.

People use to cross the pipe that is underneath the bridge. A foot bridge was put on top to stop this happening. A previous private bridge existed about 200 metres north until about 1970 serving a house that was located at what is now Arakura Park.

Access from Weymouth Grove is between 19 and 20 Weymouth Grove.

Also there is access from Arakura Park and Upper Fitzherbert Road.

Information – *Parks of Wainuiomata Notes and Internet Search*. Type of Bridge – *Foot*. Time Frame – 2000.



Norfolk Street Bridge

A county in England.

Information – *Internet Search*. Type of Bridge – *Road*. Time Frame – *1959*.



Edmonds Street / Westminster Road Bridge

Edmonds Street is named after Charles Alfred Edmonds (1903 – 1974) who was a caretaker at the Water Reservoirs located in Reservoir / Waterworks Valley in the 1950s. He was also the Wainuiomata Rugby Club first president.

Westminster Road is named after a district in London, England.

Access from Edmonds Street is between 19 and 20 Edmonds Street.

Access from Westminster Road is between 4 and 6 Westminster Road.

Information – *Internet Search and Tales From Wainuiomata's Past Volume 2 by Gavin Wallace and Dawn Chambers*. Type of Bridge – *Foot*. Time Frame – *1960s*.



McKay Street / Wellington Road Bridge

McKay Street is named after James George McKay (1879 – 1959) who was a bond holder in the Wainuiomata Development Company. He was also the first chairman of the Wainuiomata Domain Board from 1944 to 1951.

Wellington Road is named after the capital city of New Zealand.

Access from McKay Street is between 19 and 20 McKay Street.

Access from Wellington Road is between 52 and 54 Wellington Road.

Information – *Internet Search and Wainuiomata Development Company Papers*. Type of Bridge – *Foot*. Time Frame – *1960s*.



Nelson Crescent Bridge

William George Nelson (1901 – 1963) was a assistant Surveyor General and Town Planner for the Hutt County Council in the 1960s.

Information – *Hutt County Council Information*. Type of Bridge – *Road*. Time Frame – *1950s*.



Bryan Heath Park / Moohan Street Bridge

Bryan Heath Park is named after Bryan Hargrave Heath (1891 – 1962) who was elected president of the Wainuiomata Cricket Club in 1951. He was also the Hutt County Council Chairman from 1957 to 1958.

Moohan Street is named after Michael (Mike) Moohan (1899 – 1967) who was a Labour party Member of Parliament for the Petone and the later Pencarrow Electorate, which is now known as the Hutt South from 1946 to 1967.

In 1995 it was just a set of planks across the creek but was later upgraded to a foot bridge in about 1998. One of the purposes of the bridge was for better access to Wainuiomata Intermediate School and College that was located along Moohan Street, from the Fitzherbert Road area. But these schools were closed in 2001 meaning that since then the bridge is not used as much.

Access from Moohan Street is between 127 and 129 Moohan Street.

Information – *Parks of Wainuiomata Notes and Wikipedia*. Type of Bridge – *Foot*. Time Frame – *2000*.

The current bridge.



The original bridge – dated 1995.



Best Street / Fullerton Grove Bridge

Best Street is named after Leonard John Best (1879 – 1950) who was a bond holder in the Wainuiomata Development Company.

Fullerton Grove is named after Hugh Alexander Fullerton (1908 – 1995) who was a Works Commissioner at the Ministry of Works and Development. He was also Chairman of the Local Government Commission.

The bridge was originally built in the early 1960s. The bridge was replaced about 2010. The bridge is about 10 metres north of the previous bridge. This was done so that the creek could be widened for flood control purposes.

Access from Best Street is between 14 and 15 Best Street.

Access from Fullerton Grove is between 3 and 4 Fullerton Grove.

Information – *Wainuiomata Development Company Papers and Wainuiomata Historical Museum Society Information*. Type of Bridge – *Foot*. Time Frame – *1960s*.

The current bridge.



The original bridge – dated 1983.



Main Road Bridge

A principal street of a town. Prior to 1958 the road was known as the Wainuiomata Road. It is also known as the Moohan Street / Black Creek Bridge. The concrete bridge was constructed in the early 1950s.

It is also where pipes from the water intake schemes located at Reservoir and Ōrongorongo Valley cross the creek.

It is the 4th bridge at this site. The first 3 were wooden.

“The Wellington District Highways Board are calling for tenders for the re-construction of a bridge over the Black Creek, Wainuiomata.” Source: Evening Post 8 June 1877.

“The bridge at Wainuiomata destroyed by fire had been rebuilt and the road again opened to traffic.” Source: Evening Post 12 February 1907.

Information – *Internet Dictionary*. Type of Bridge – *Road*. Time Frame – *1870s*.



Former Bridge

Crooked Bridge

The wooden road bridge was not straight and floated when the water level was high. It was built in the 1880s and was demolished in 1959. It was located at what is now the southern end of Pukeatua Primary School (this was known as Glendale Primary School) and in the vicinity of 24 to 26 Wellington Road. The road was on the west side of Black Creek and crossed over to the east side at this point. It was replaced by a bridge further south called Nelson Crescent.

It was also known as Skew Bridge which means neither parallel nor at right angles to a specified or implied line.

The road that was beside the creek from what is now Nelson Crescent to Norfolk Street is now the Black Creek Reserve.

The road was known as Fitzherbert Road but it was also known as Swamp Road.

There is no images known of this bridge apart from distant ones seen in aerial views. All traces of the bridge has gone.

Information – *Tales From The Swamp* by Vicky Alexander. Type of Bridge – *Road*. Time Frame – *1880s*.

Where the bridge used to be.



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