
WAINUIOMATA RIVER POOL NAMES

Introduction

This document is about information on the location and the origin of the swimming pools names that are / were located along the Wainuiomata River.

Wainuiomata is named after the big water or stream of Mata. Wai means water. Nui means big. O means of. Mata refers to a woman's name Roimata. This is an official version. The origins of the word are disputed and other translations are:

- Refers to the women living in the now Hutt Valley who came over the Wainuiomata Hill to evade marauding Māori tribes These tribes in about 1819 were carrying muskets that came north from the Paremata area. In the battle the local tribes were said to have been destroyed. The Paremata Māoris came across the remaining women who were sitting wailing by the stream after the slaughter of their menfolk. From this we have “faces streaming with water”, “tears” or “weeping water”.
- Refers to the large pools of water which lay over the swampy surface of the northern end of the Valley, or the river itself which is known to flood the Coast Road / Wainuiomata Valley. From this it can also mean large river from the swamp.
- Refers to a runaway called Mata who was pursued into the Wairarapa by a small party, some of who were killed by the Wairarapa local Māori tribe.
- Refers to the whitebait that are present at the mouth of the river. Mata means whitebait. From this we have big river of whitebait.
- Refers to flint or obsidian which is hard rock found in the headwaters of the river.
- Refers to the origin and personification of water.

Other documents that relate to the area are:

- For information on road and street names of Wainuiomata see the Wainuiomata Street Names Origins document.
- 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 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.

See the Bibliography for further sources of information.

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Swimming Pool Information

A pool is an area where still water forms deep enough for swimming. All of the pool areas were formed by the Wainuiomata River. Often the pools were formed in a corner of the river.

Most pools have changed appearance over the years as the floods have brought down debris and changed the surrounds.

The pools were used by mostly by groups of children for swimming and jumping in, and having a great time with adult supervision. Often there was a rock, high bank, small cliff or trees where children could jump into the water where it is deep enough. There was often a willow tree nearby that provided shade in the summer. These willow trees were planted to provide flood protection.

South of the Wainuiomata River Bridge to about where Peel Place meets the Wainuiomata River, there were bull dozed swimming pools that were created during the summer months. These were constructed from the early 1950s to when the swimming baths were opened in Moohan Street in 1967. These are excluded and they had no names.

Only pools that had names are stated. Some have since gone. Some pools had more than one name.

The pools are listed as going from north to south. That is going downstream.

The document is laid out in the following style:

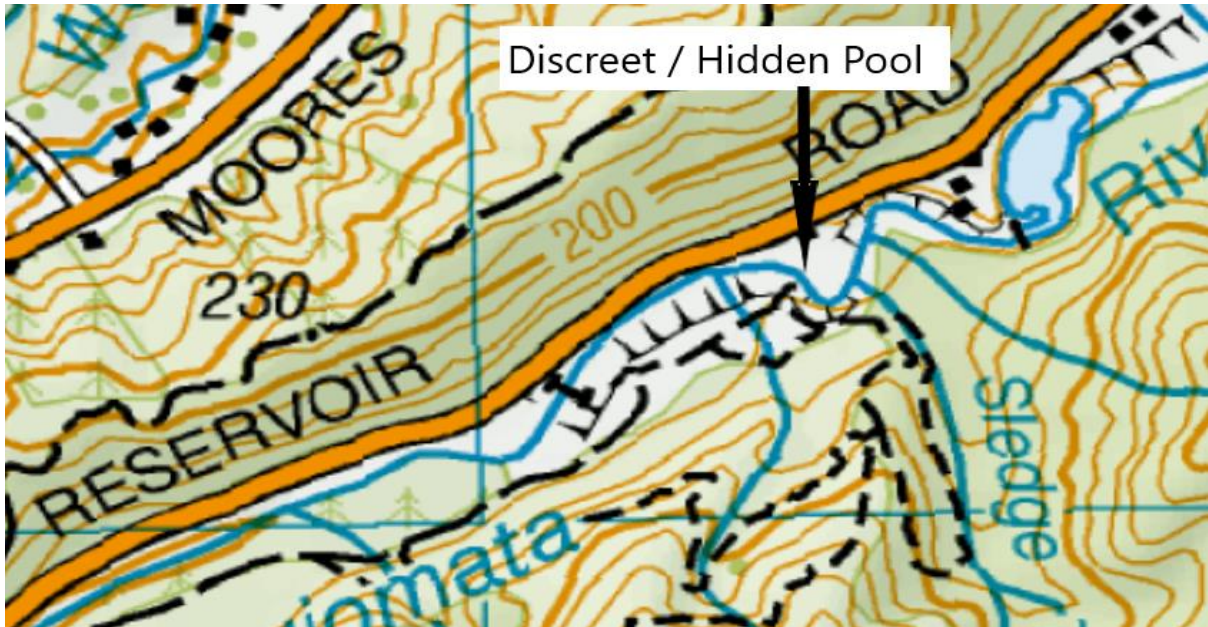
- Name of the swimming pool.
- Where the swimming name is located.
- The origin of the swimming pool name.

A map is provided on where the pool is located.

Discreet / Hidden Pool

Discreet / Hidden Pool is located at the northern end of The Terrace near the start / end of the Sledge Track Creek.

Discreet Pool is named after that it is in a private area that is not easy to get to here.
Hidden Pool is named after that it is not easy to find.



Waterworks Pool

Waterworks Pool is located south of the ford and bridge access to where the Mackay and Pearson / Scout and Cottages / Huts were located.

It is named after that the valley has areas where reservoirs of water for distribution is kept. Also there are water intakes located in the area. It was used by people who lived at the Waterworks.



Ultimate Pool

Ultimate Pool is located along Reservoir Road where the Wainuiomata River meets the Road. It is south of the ford and bridge access to where the Mackay and Pearson / Scout and Cottages / Huts were located.

It is named after that it is the greatest of the pools in the Wainuiomata River. Also that there is a good diving platform.



Indian / Secret Pool

Indian Pool is located just northern end of the area of the grassy area known as The Triangle by the carpark along Reservoir Road.

Indian Pool is named after that it is a quiet place away from suburbia. It stems from the belief that the Native Americans of the American continent were living in harmony with their surroundings, before the arrival of the Europeans from the 16th century onwards.

Secret Pool is named after that it was not meant to be used as prior to the late 1980s, people were not allowed along Reservoir Road.



Top Pool

Top Pool is located at the north end of the Hine Road Reserve. Also on the east side of The Triangle grass area by the carpark on Reservoir Road.

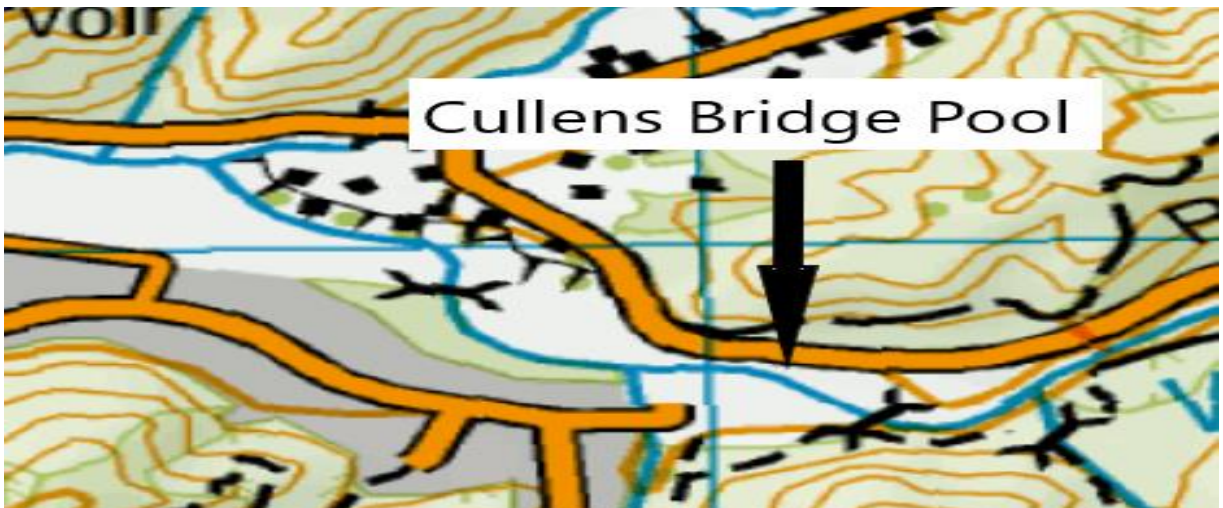
It is named after that it is the uppermost pool when going downstream on the Wainuiomata River that people swam in as newly developed suburbia reached the area in the 1950s. Officials from the then Wellington Regional Water Board from the 1950s to the early 1980s discouraged people from swimming in the area. This was because they wanted to restrict access to the area as it is water supply area but had no success. At one time a couple of truckloads of gravel was dumped in the pool altering the depth.



Cullens Bridge Pool

Cullens Bridge Pool is located in the southern corner of the Hine Road Recreation Reserve near Reservoir Road.

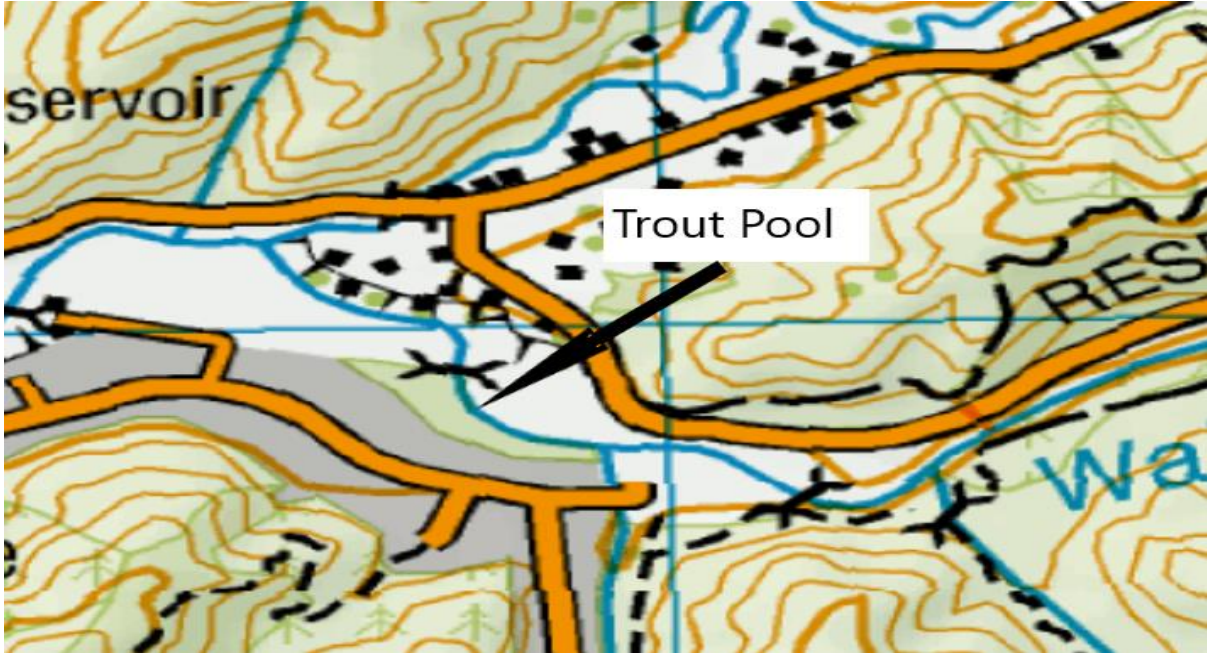
It is named after Cephas John (Jack) Cullen (1891 – 1981) who had a farm in the Hine Road / Sunny Grove area prior to the arrival of suburbia. A bridge was built across the Wainuiomata River at this point to gain access to it from Reservoir Road. To a lesser extent it was also known as Gollens Bridge Pool, which is an alternative spelling of Cullens. The bridge was in existence from the 1920s to about 1970.



Trout Pool

Trout Pool is just north of the first crossing of the pipes at Richard Prouse Park.

It is named after the fish that inhabited the area.



Black / Cliff / Corner / Swirl Pool

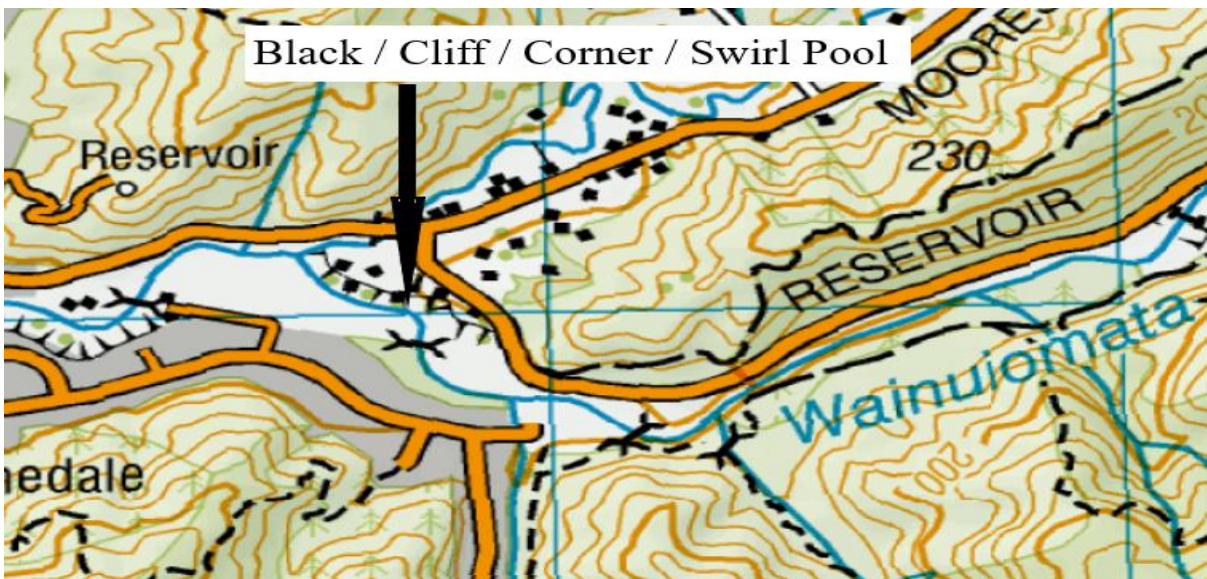
Black / Cliff / Corner / Swirl Pool is located at the north corner of Richard Prouse Park. That is the Reservoir Road side.

Black Pool is named in that it is always in the shadows and the depth of the pool.

Cliff Pool is named after that there is a cliff where the Wainuiomata River turns a corner in a sharp bend.

Corner Pool is named after where the Wainuiomata River turns in a sharp bend.

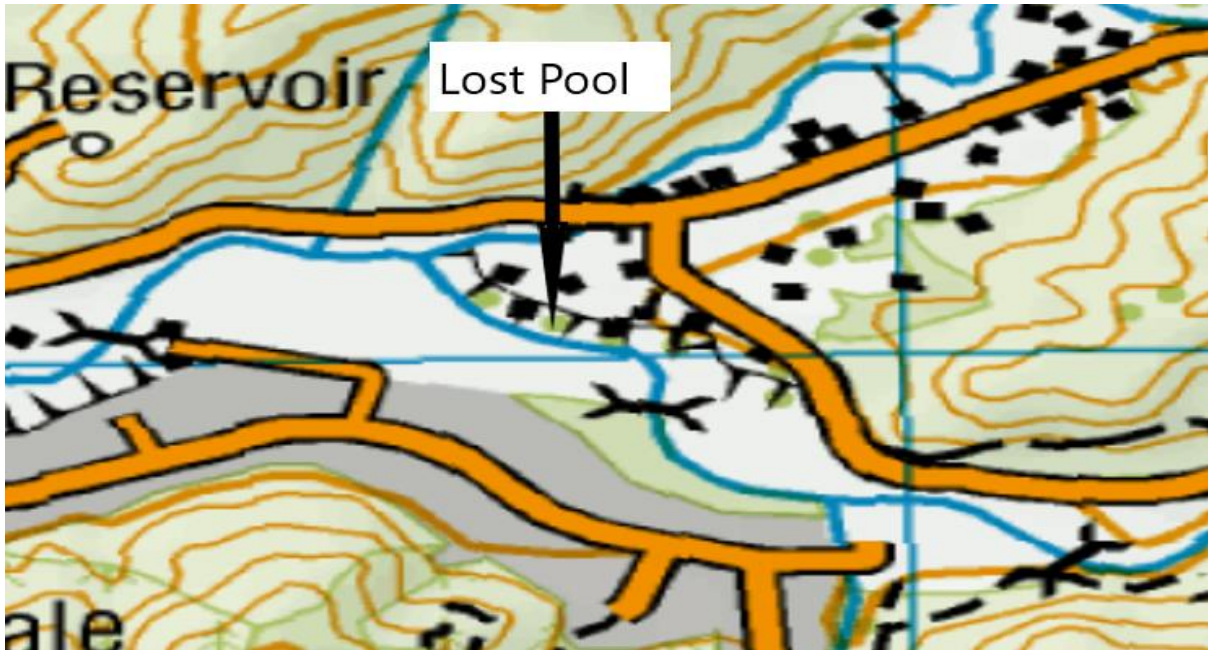
Swirl Pool is named after that the water moves in a twisting or spiralling direction.



Lost Pool

Lost Pool was located between the Rock Pool and Black / Cliff / Corner / Swirl Pool at Richard Prouse Park.

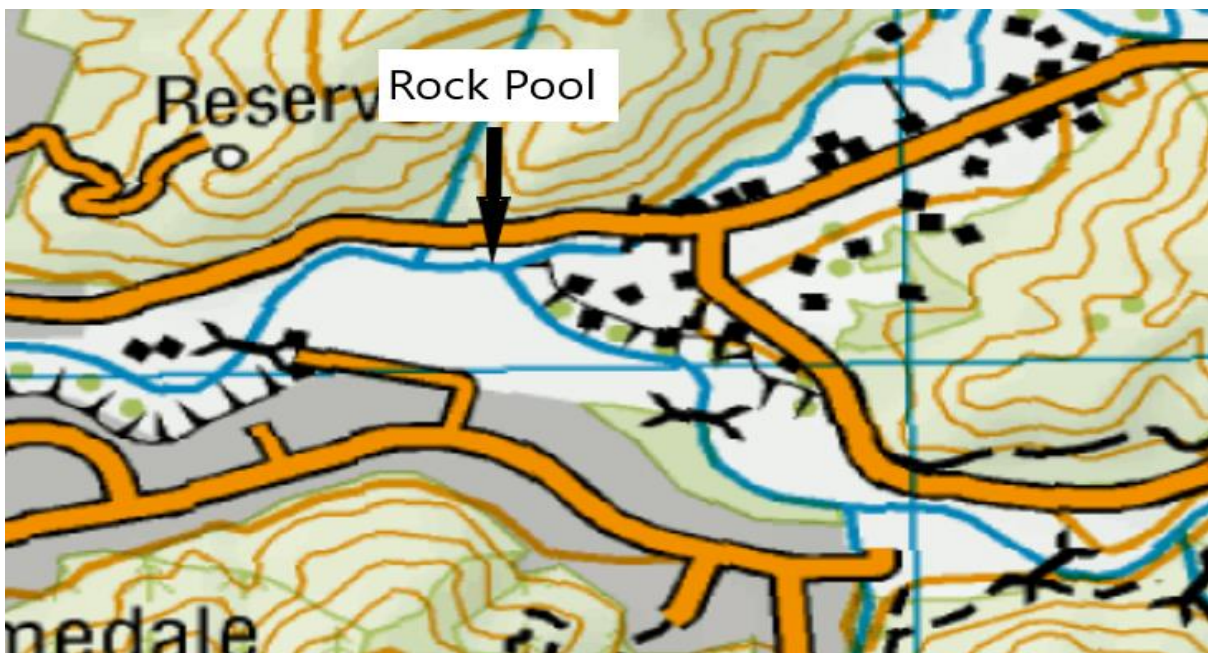
It is named after it was removed by the Hutt County Council who straighten that part of the Wainuiomata River in the 1960s.



Rock Pool

Rock Pool is located at Richard Prouse Park opposite where the accessway is between 87 and 89 Hine Road is located.

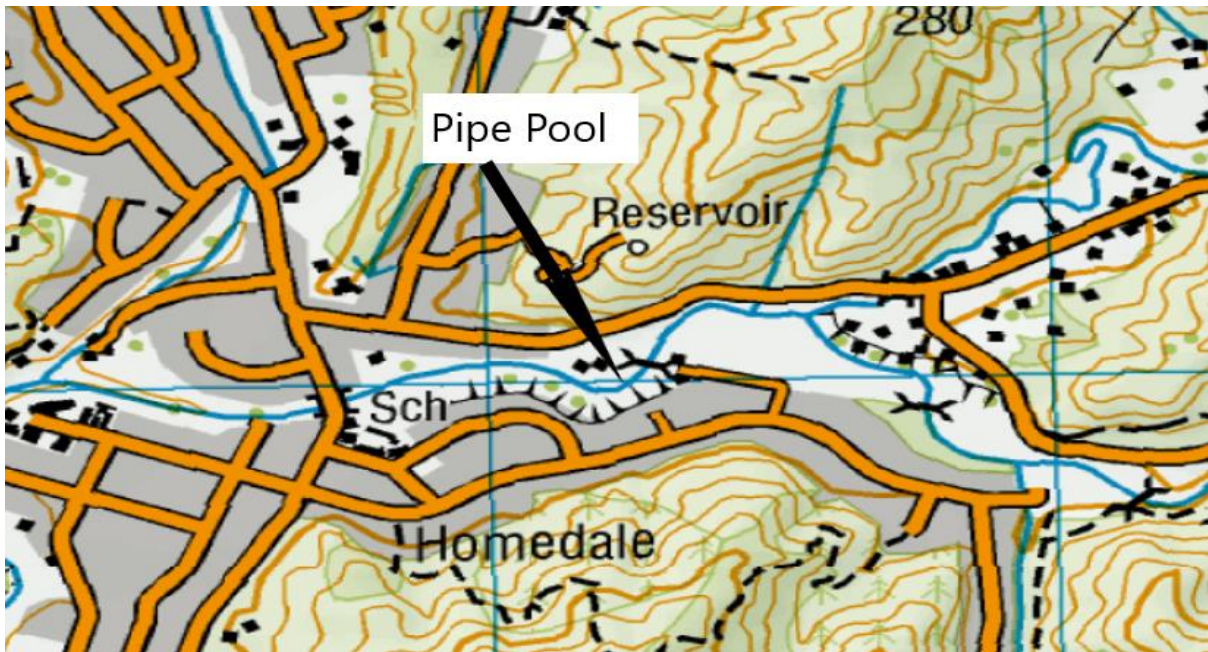
It is named after a large rock that is exposed at the surface of the ground beside the Wainuiomata River.



Pipes Pool

Pipes Pool is located just south of the second crossing of the pipes at the southern end of Richard Prouse Park.

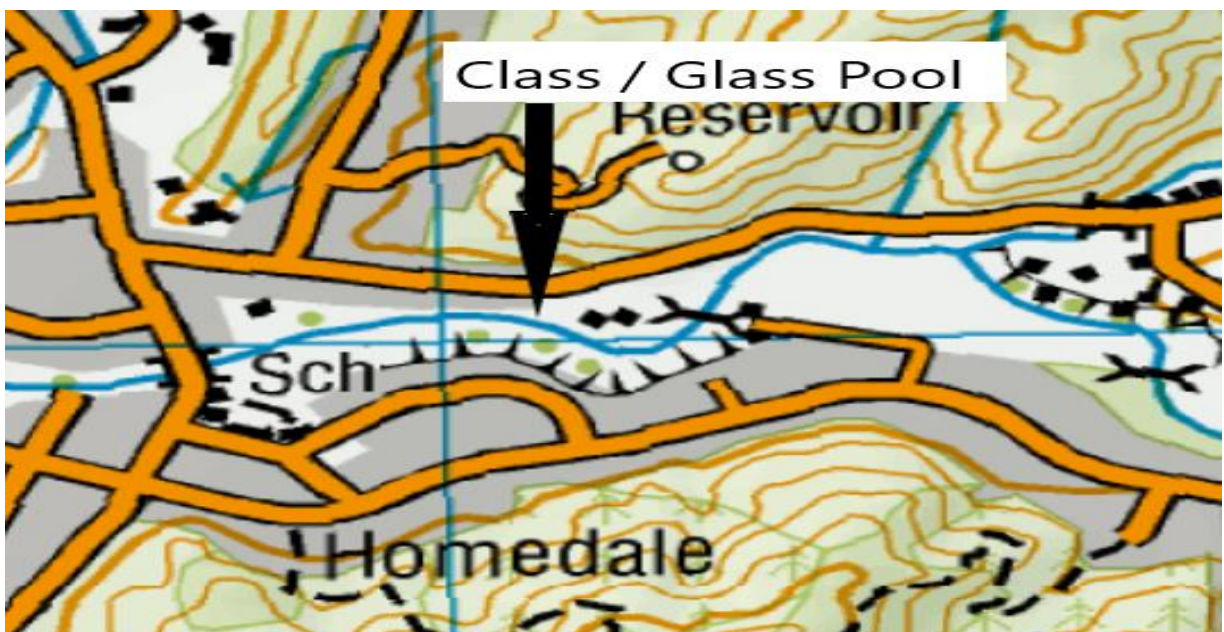
It is named after the pipes that carried water from Reservoir Valley to Wellington crossed the river at this point.



Class / Glass Pool

Class / Glass is located at Poole Crescent Reserve just north where the accessway is between 27 and 29 Poole Crescent is located.

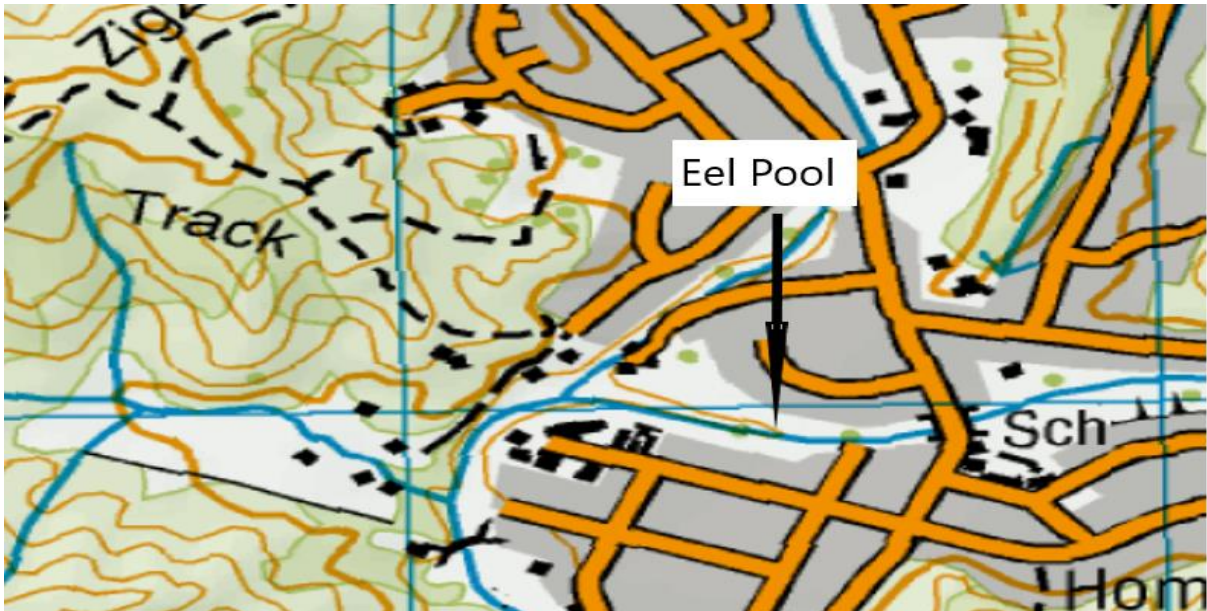
Class Pool is named after that students from Wainuiomata Primary School use to swim here.
Glass Pool is named after that water is still and clear at this point.



Eel Pool

Eel Pool was located at Rotary Park opposite where the accessway is between 23 and 25 Gibbs Crescent is located.

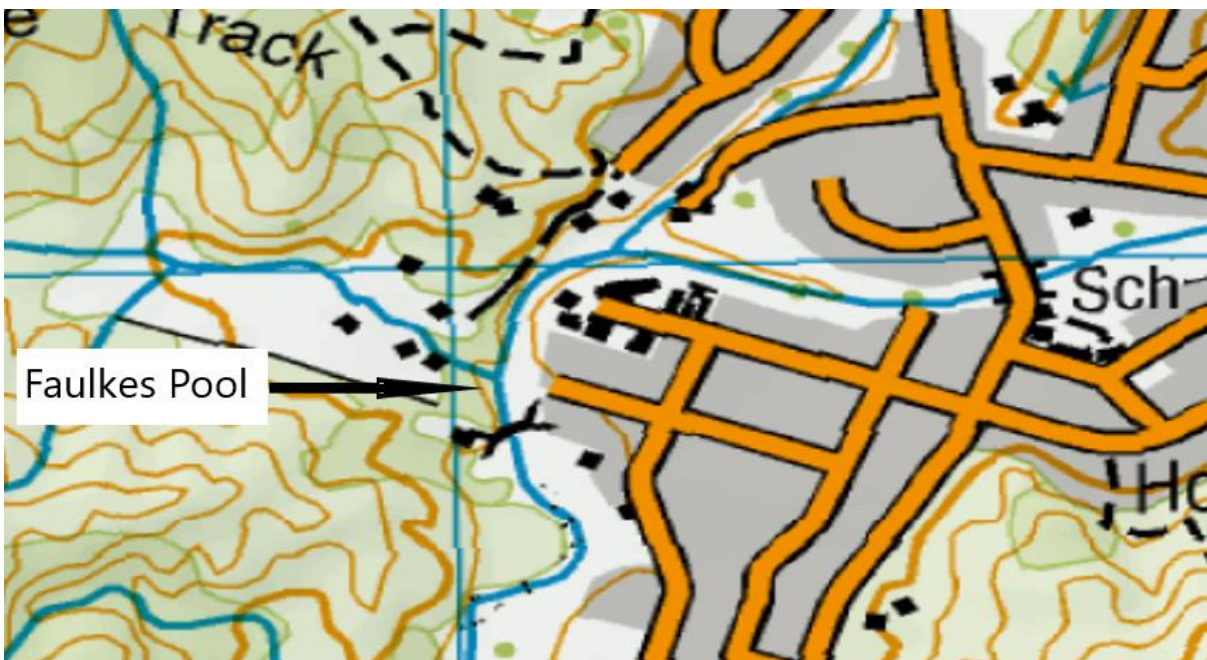
It is named after a long, thin snake like fish and poorly developed fins with slipperiness that inhabits the area. The pool was removed when the Wainuiomata River was diverted away from the houses in the Gibbs Crescent area in the early 1950s.



Faulkes Pool

Faulkes Pool is located at the entrance to 31 and 34 Faulke Avenue.

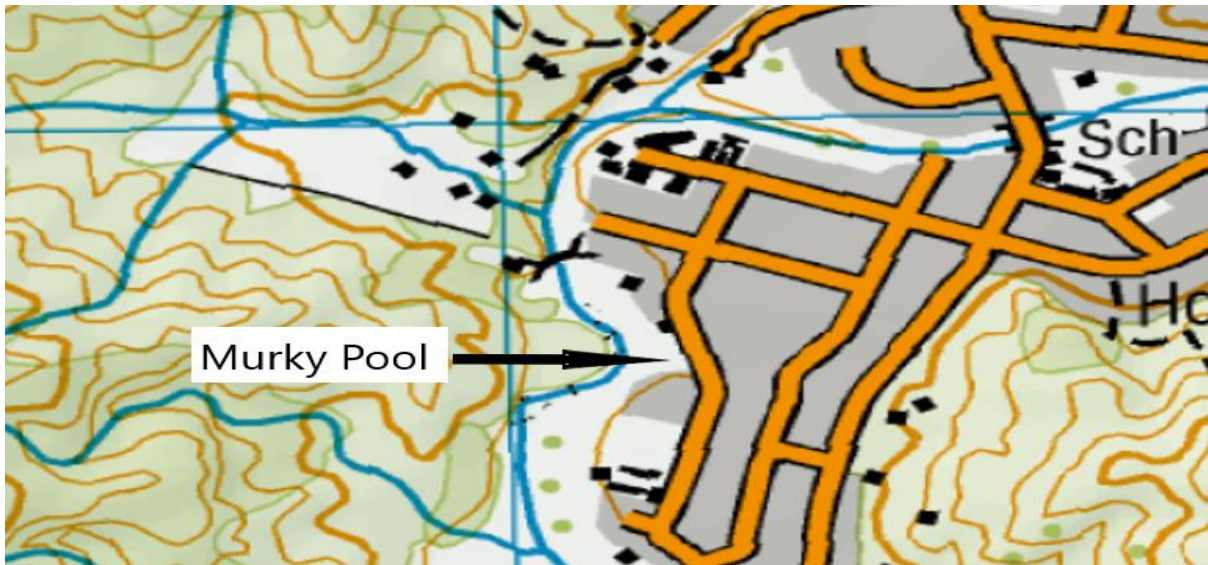
It is named after Herbert Charles Faulke (1865 – 1933) who owned a farm on the eastern and western side of the Wainuiomata River in the area. His wife and sons took over the farm after he died.



Murky Pool

Murky Pool was located at 32 Wood Street in what is now known as the Wood Street Reserve. Prior to the mid 1970s the Wainuiomata River was in the area before it was pushed towards the west. There used to be a row of giant macrocarpa trees beside the pool on the east bank. There was a small area of horizontal ground on top of the cliff-like bank that was about 4.5 metres high that could be walked along between the river and the trees.

It is named in that you could not see the bottom of the pool. Also that it was often full of debris as it was on a corner of the river.



Mystery Pool

Mystery Pool is located opposite to Orewa Grove in the Leonard Wood Park area.

It is named after that it was not well known that it was there. You had to walk between some trees which have since gone to get to the pool. The area beside the pool was farmland until the late 1960s when the area was developed for housing. The stopbank was also built around this time.



Green Pool

Green Pool is located at about 636 Coast Road just north of Jacksons Farm.

It is named after that the surrounding area is the colour green.



Bibliography

Maps

- Wellington NZ Topo50-BQ31 Edition 2.03 2016.

Other Sources

Birth and Deaths dates have been obtained from:

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- O'Hara, Yvonne. If You Want A Pool, Build It Yourselves.

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