HUTT VALLEY DISTRICT LAND INFORMATION

The first settlement in the Hutt Valley was Britannia situated on the banks of the Hutt River Petone.

Geographical Areas of the Hutt Valley

The Hutt Valley area is under the jurisdiction of two separate local authorities the Upper Hutt City Council and the Hutt City Council. It is a combination of two cities Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt. The name "Hutt" is in honour of Sir William Hutt who was an early chairman and influential member of the New Zealand Company. He was also Member of Parliament for Gravesend from 1832 to 1841 and for Gateshead from 1841 to 1874 but he never did visit New Zealand and the place named after him.

Lower Hutt
Early in the 1840's Captain William Wakefield (brother of Edward Gibbon Wakefield founder of the New Zealand Company) bestowed the name "Hutt" on the area. Because the river was always dominant due to the continual flooding the place was referred to as "River Hutt".

Upper Hutt
The first families started to settle in the Upper reaches of the area from 1847 and places on the way were given names such as Trentham Silverstream and Wallaceville. Later the whole area was classified into two separate areas known as "Hutt" (lower) and "Hutt" (upper). The names gradually evolved into "Lower Hutt" and "Üpper Hutt".

Petone
Although never reaching city status Petone is the most historical significant area of the Hutt Valley having the distinction of being the place where the first settlers were discharged from early New Zealand Company ships on to its beach from September 1839 and long before either city had reached that status. The Maori name for Petone was Pito-One but the early settlers patriotically renamed it Britannia. Later the name evolved back to something similar to the Maori name Petone.

Wainuiomata
This is an area with early historical connections. Pioneer families settled there as early as 1844. They have to traverse a winding hill before entering into the bush-clad valley to put their roots down and eke out a living.

Stokes Valley
The first grants for this area were made early in 1853. Early Settlers made a living by felling trees and splitting timber. Farming did not flourish in this valley and in the 1870's it was referred to as 'Starvation Valley' indicating the state of the economy there.

Cities in the Hutt Valley

Lower Hutt City
Lower Hutt was elevated to city status in 1941. Within its environs are the districts of Wainuiomata - Eastbourne - Petone - Moaera - Koro Koro - Normandale - Belmont - Naenae - Taita - Stokes Valley – Maungaraki and Manor Park now all under the auspices of the Hutt City Council.

In 1876 when Lower Hutt was known as 'River Hutt' or just the 'Hutt' a Board of Commissioners was set up. By 1881 the status was raised to that of a Town Board. The main source of revenue then was a halfpenny in the pound (of capital value) three Publications' Licences at forty pounds

each and one Wholesale Licence of twenty pounds. A subsidy from the Government of five shillings in the pound and Dog Licenses of five shillings each.

In 1890 a petition was sighted by 174 Lower Hutt residents "praying for the proclamation of a Borough" and forwarded to the Colonial Secretary. On 1 February 1891 the Hutt Town Board was dissolved and the Lower Hutt Borough Council was proclaimed with Mr W A Fitzherbert appointed as first Mayor.

The Mayor in 1992 is Mr Glen Evans and the population is 94,500.

Lower Hutt – The First Garden City by David McGill was published in 1991. This hardbound book contains a detailed history of the city and gives a comprehensive overview of the area. This book is readily available for purchase or loan from the Lower Hutt War Memorial Library. For Hutt Valley Group members the book is available for borrowing from the Group library at the monthly meetings.

Upper Hutt City

Upper Hutt attained its city status in 1966 following post-war expansion in population housing and industry.

In 1908 the area in the vicinity of the Upper Hutt Railway Station became a Town District within the Hutt County. By 1926 Upper Hutt received full local self-government when it became a Borough covering an increased area. The first Mayor was Mr Angus John McCurdy who held office from 1926 to 1927 and again from 1931 to 1938.

Upper Hutt has within its environs Akatarawa, Karapoti (old timber mill area) Te Marua, Kaitoke, Totara Park, Mangaroa, Whiteman's Valley, Pinehaven, Heretaunga, Wallaceville, Trentham and Silverstream all under the auspices of the Upper Hutt City Council.

Since 1966 when Upper Hutt became elevated to a city rural portion of the old Hutt County within the watershed of the Hutt River have become amalgamated with the city.

A large part of the area included with the present boundaries of the city was administered by the former Hutt County Council records of which are held at the Alexander Turnbull Library in the National Library building Aitken Street Wellington.

The Mayor of Upper Hutt in 1929 is Rex Kirton. The population is 37,100.

A 1991 publication *Upper Hutt - The History* by J A Kelleher contains extensive details of the history of the council from its inception and includes the full list of names of every person who was in any way connected with the formation of the city. It is fully indexed. This book is available for purchase from the Upper Hutt Library or for borrowing by members. The Hutt Valley Group NZSG also has a copy in their library available to financial members.

Hutt Valley Land records and documents

Archives New Zealand Wellington Office - Land and deeds register room
Index to Deeds Register
Hutt = 1-258 Volume 3
Wainui-o-mata = 1-38 volume 3
Wainui =Volume 15
Wainui-o-mata = 39-93 volume 15
Hutt = 259-433 Volume 15

Mungaroa Upper = 24 Volume
Hutt = 434 -449 Volume 32

Hutt District = Deeds Index Volume part
Volume 3   part 1 & 2
Volume 15   part
Volume 24   part 2
Volume 32   part
Volume 33   part
Volume 37   part
Mungaroa – Upper
Volume 24   part 1
Wainui District
Volume 15   part
Wainuiomata district
Volume 3   part 2
Volume 15   part
Mungaroa Upper
Volume 24   part 1
Section 1 to 90   pages 1 to 90
Section 91 to 102   pages 301 to 312

Index alphabetical order (Yellow) Primary entry book 1 – 6002
697 = James BROWN
1955 = Richard BARTON
2239 = John BENGE
3856 = George BROWN
7885 = Richard BARTON
8180 = Richard BARTON'
5040 = WHITEMAN to FISHER (section No 5 Blue Book
191 = BARTON to WATERS
535 = BROWN to STEVENS
239 = BROWNE to DAVIES
543 = BROWNE to TREES or ?

Primary Index 1-6002
1955 = Richard BARTON
Town of Wellington Section no 341
Crown Grant 1 Volume Grants to 180
1 Volume A fo (page 341)

Land Affected Hutt District
Grant = Nature of Instrument Deed Index (Blue)
1 Volume E folio 61 / 3 Volume 6 folio 126
7885 =Lower Hutt District Part Section 28