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Lower Hutt - History

2156

File No.

26442

Subject: PRESERVATION OF WATER WHEEL

V. L. R. J. WEATHERILL

12-6-1949

26442
AFW/LG

2nd September, 1949.

The Clerk,
Hutt River Board,
P.O. Box 2,
LOWER HUTT.

Dear Sir,

re Water Wheel near Rungay Street.

I acknowledge your letter of 25th instant and wish to thank you for the information contained therein.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Messrs. V.R. and L.J. Weatherill, with the suggestion that they approach the Crown Housing Department, as owner of property in which the water-wheel concerned is situated.

Yours faithfully,

TOWN CLERK.

2nd September, 1949.

26442
AFW/LG

Messrs. V.L. and R.J. Weatherill,
53 Norton Park Avenue,
LOWER HUTT.

Dear Sirs,

RE WATER WHEEL NEAR RUMGAY STREET.

With further reference to your letter to His Worship the Mayor, dated 12th June, 1949, I have to advise that at the direction of my Council, a copy of your letter was forwarded to the Hutt River Board, as the controlling body of the stream from which water was originally diverted to drive the wheel in question.

A copy of the reply received from the Hutt River Board is enclosed herewith, for your information.

In view of the fact that the land concerned, and buildings erected thereon are in Crown ownership, I would suggest that you approach the Crown Housing Department with your offer to clean and maintain the area in which the water wheel is located.

May I again express, on behalf of my Council, its appreciation of your desire to assist in the preservation of this historical structure.

Yours faithfully,

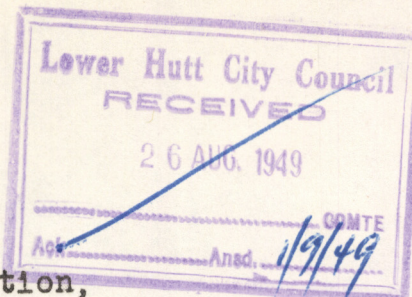
Encl.

TOWN CLERK.

The Hutt River Board

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE
ADDRESSED TO
"THE CLERK"

TELEPHONE 63-633



CORNER HIGH ST., & LAINGS RD.,
P.O. BOX 2,
LOWER HUTT,

25th August, 1949.

The Town Clerk,
Lower Hutt City Corporation,
P.O. Box 73,
LOWER HUTT.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 1st inst together with copy of a letter from V.R. & L.J. Weatherill, regarding Water Wheel at the old Flock Mill was placed before my Board at its meeting yesterday.

The wheel is certainly very old and not in a good state of repair, and is situated in a by-pass of an old dam and not in Waiwhetu Stream. Evidently years ago the stream was fitted with a floodgate which allowed a lake to form, and concrete channels were constructed to allow a flow from the lake to the wheel. This dam has long since been removed and the property of the old Flock Mill acquired by the Government for Housing Purposes.

There would be no objection from the Board to the Weatherill Brothers improving the site so long of course that the adjacent Waiwhetu Stream were not interfered with in any way, but as mentioned above the land and buildings are in the ownership of the Crown.

Yours faithfully,

C. Halpern
CLERK

*File please
a. 3. 6. send copy to weatherill
I suggest that Crown Housing
dept be approached.*

1st August 1949.

26442.
TGR.JL.

The Clerk,
Hutt River Board,
LOWER HUTT.

Dear Sir,

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter received by my Council on 23rd June.

The letter is self explanatory and I have been directed to refer it to your Board, as the controlling body of the stream in which I understand the water wheel is at present situated. From what I am able to deduce from statements made by Council officers, it would appear that the wheel is practically beyond repair, but it may prove valuable from an historical point of view.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.

TOWN CLERK.

5th July 1949.

26442.
TGR.JL.

Messrs. V.L. & R.J. Weatherill,
53 Norton Park Avenue,
LOWER HUTT.

Dear Sirs,

I am directed to thank you on behalf of the Council for your letter regarding the preservation of the old water wheel near Rungay Street.

The Council has referred this matter to the Reserves Committee for investigation. The land in which the wheel is situated appears to be in Crown ownership, but the creek is, of course, under the control of the Hutt River Board.

Again thanking you for your interest in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

TOWN CLERK.
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LOWER HUTT CITY CORPORATION.

Extract from Minutes of Ordinary/~~Special~~ Meeting
of Council Held on 27th June 19 49

C. V.R. & L.J. WEATHERILL (26442): Re the preservation of wooden water wheel in Rungay Street. The letter was received, and it was resolved on the motion of His Worship the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Matthews, That the matter be referred to the Reserves Committee for investigation with a view to seeing what arrangements could be made for the preservation of the water wheel, and that a letter of thanks be sent to Weatherill brothers, informing them at the same time of the steps being taken. (NOTE: His Worship the Mayor suggested that the Hutt River Board as the controlling body of the stream on which the waterwheel was built, and the Crown as owners of the portion of the land, might first be approached).

Confirmed 11th July 19 49

23rd June, 1949.

26442
TGR/LG

Messrs. V.R. & L.J. Weatherill,
53 Norton Park Avenue,
LOWER HUTT.

Dear Sirs,

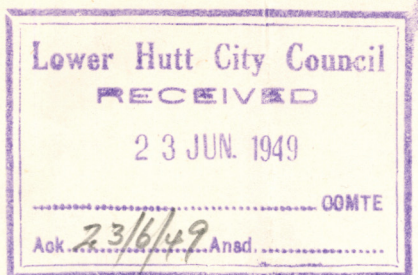
His Worship the Mayor, Mr. Gregory, has handed me your letter of the 12th June, with instructions to acknowledge it. He has directed that the matter should be referred to Council officers, who will report back to him in due course. You will be again communicated with in this connection, when the reports by the officers concerned have received the consideration of my Council.

Yours faithfully,

TOWN CLERK.

"Aliceville"
53 Norton Park Ave
Lower Hutt City
12-6-49.

26442



To the Mayor.

Lower Hutt City Council.

Dear Sir.

My brother and I have completed, a few months ago, a bicycle trailer tour from this City, to the Bay of Islands & back. For many years, we had read & were told, of the wonderful happenings of our pioneers, and of the places, these things occurred.

On our trip, we found some of these places and were terribly disappointed at the way, they were preserved. In fact, they weren't looked after, at all. To us, who love our country, we found this state of affairs, rather depressing. & it must have been, the feeling, of hundreds of others, who came to find the history of our land, & found nothing.

This all leads up to the fact, that when we arrived home here, again, we determined to do some thing, about this neglect of our places of history. We feel, that those coming on, will have the impression, that all this, which is around them, has always been here & had never been fought & worked for. If we don't watch, there will

not be one building or place preserved to show, how our Valley started. With all this lost, we lose a pride or tradition given to us by our forefathers, and as well as a great deal of that much needed Civic pride.

Our first effort, is to produce a short movie film, on the Battle of the Boulcott Gorm, so as to give those that see it, some idea of what had to be put up with, by the pioneers of this Valley. This film, we hope, will go in to production with the coming of the warmer weather.

I might add, that we are all amateurs, at this art & use all young people to do our acting. Our second effort needs the help of your Council.

You may not be aware, but at the back of the "Garth Tile Companies" building (Rumgay Street) there exists the only (as far as we know) wooden water wheel in Lower Hutt and Wellington.

As young children, we remember it working by water power, driving the machines to make flock. So us, it seems a shame, that such a

wonderful piece of work, should be left to rot, when, at a small cost, it could be made in to a real beauty spot, & show to our Valley people, some thing of the not so distant ~~future~~.

If some ~~move~~ could be made, my brother & I would be only too pleased, to keep such a place in order. To us, it would be, a little something, that we could do, to help make up, for the neglect of our places of history.

We would be obliged, if you could read this letter to your Council, as I feel sure, they would be interested, in helping preserve the past of our Valley.

Even, if nothing can be done, by your Council, the permission to clean & keep tidy around the Wheel site, & to the erecting of a sign, in the form of a Miller holding a bag of flock, which has the history of the Wheel printed on it, would be greatly appreciated by us both.

We ^{would} gain nothing, by doing this effort, but would be knowing that at least, one historical site, was safe for some years.

Trusting you can assist in some manner & will excuse the length of this letter. We are

Yours Truly,
V.R. & L.J. Weatherill.

S.D. S.H. 11
this is yours

