

## 9.3 Naming of a Bridge on Spring Ridge Road over Goodiman Creek Beryl

REPORT BY THE REVENUE OFFICER  
TO 15 JUNE 2022 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400098, ROA100071

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. receive the report by Revenue Officer on the naming of a Bridge on Spring Ridge Road over Goodiman Creek Beryl;
2. support the name of O'Brien's Bridge; and
3. call for further submissions in relation to the proposed name and receive a further report at the end of the exhibition period to formalise the name of the bridge.

### Executive summary

Council has received a request from the public to name the bridge on Spring Ridge Road over Goodiman Creek at Beryl.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

Council received a request for the bridge on Spring Ridge Road over Goodiman Creek to be named. Letters were sent to the immediate neighbours of the bridge, and advertising was placed in the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 Mudgee Guardian. Submissions closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 with 3 submissions received for the name 'O'Brien Bridge'.

O'Brien is a valid name choice for the area and can apply to the bridge.

The recommended name of O'Brien relates to the O'Brien family who have resided in the area since the late 1800's, and continue to reside in the area adjacent to the bridge being named.

Council has the authority to name bridges and the naming of this bridge will assist in identifying locations along Spring Ridge Road when reporting incidents to 000.

### Community Plan implications

Theme	Connecting Our Region
Goal	High quality road network that is safe and efficient
Strategy	Provide traffic management solutions that promote safer local roads and minimise traffic congestion

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

Unlike road naming and place naming, the Geographical Names Board does not have any authority over the naming of bridges and this is entirely under Council's purview. Using Council's Road, Bridge & Place naming policy as a reference, notice of the proposed name will be:

- a. advertised in the Mudgee Guardian inviting submissions in writing from the public for a period of 21 days.
- b. concurrently, notice of the proposed name will be sent to Australia Post, the Registrar General, the Surveyor General, The Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW, New South Wales Fire Brigades, the NSW Rural Fire Service, the NSW Police Force, the State Emergency Service, the New South Wales Volunteer Rescue Association Inc., and, in the case of a classified road – the RMS, inviting submissions in writing for a period of 21 days.

### Council Policies

Road, Bridge & Place Naming Policy

### Legislation

Roads Regulation 2018

## Financial implications

Two names signs at an approximate cost of \$300. These costs are included in the existing signage budgets.

## Associated Risks

Nil

SARAH PRINGLE  
REVENUE OFFICER

NEIL BUNGATE  
ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

16 May 2022

*Attachments:* 1. Submission.  
2. Submission.  
3. Submission.  
4. Map.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

SIMON JONES  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**From: Abby-Lee Honeysett**

**To: General Manager  
Mid-Western Regional Council,  
PO Box 156  
Mudgee, 2850**

**To the General Manager,**

I am writing to submit a name for the new bridge on Spring Creek Road over Goodiman Creek, Beryl. The O'Brien Family have lived in the area around Beryl for generations, and with the passing of John O'Brien last year, I propose naming the bridge in honour of him.

The suggestion I am putting forward is:

- **O'Brien Bridge**

Sincerely,

Abby-Lee Honeysett



**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** Submission re NAMING OF BRIDGE ON SPRING RIDGE ROAD OVER GOODIMAN CREEK  
**Date:** Monday, 4 April 2022 9:18:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [BRIDGE naming.png](#)

---

I grew up in the homestead at Goodiman, the farm that surrounds this bridge.

My family history research indicates that 5 generations of relatives lived and worked on land all around this bridge since the 1870s.

Full details of the O'Brien history can be obtained here: <http://dibley-history.blogspot.com/2018/01/index-obrien.html>

The main players are listed below and shown on the attached aerial image.

- - **Thomas O'Brien**, a police sergeant in Ilford, Mudgee, Hargraves and Peak Hill, owned the land now known as the "Old Station" in the 1890s – just up the road from the bridge.
- - His son, **John Michael O'Brien**, was a school teacher at Tallawang from 1886 to 1914. He travelled across Honeysett's land to socialise at the Goodiman Inn where he met and married Julia O'Connell.
- - Their son, **Wilfred O'Brien**, ran Goodiman farm with his uncles (the O'Connell brothers) who had moved to the area in 1879. Wilfred inherited the farm from them and passed it on to his son, our father, John O'Brien.
- - My sister currently runs Goodiman, with frequent visits from her O'Brien sibling

No other family has such a long standing connection to this geographic area and it seems fitting to memorialise that history in adopting the name O'BRIEN BRIDGE.

Yours sincerely,

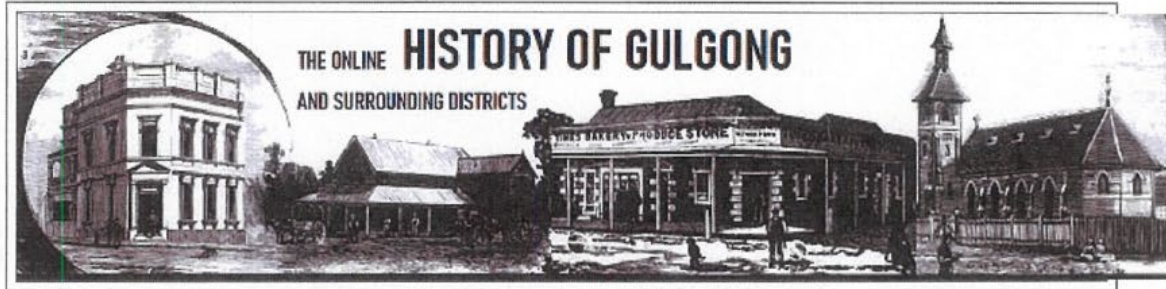
ren O'Brien

20/04/2022, 15:16

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Thomas O'Brien

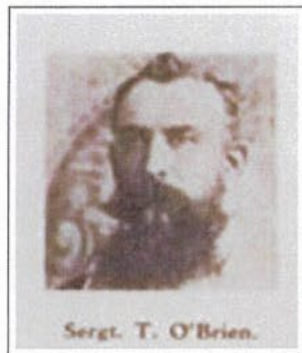
[More](#)

[Create Blog](#) [Sign In](#)



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

## Thomas O'Brien



Source: History of Peak Hill & District facebook page

Thomas O'Brien was born at Cloonnafinneela, County Kerry, Ireland, on 14 February 1839. He married Ellen Roberts, of Ennis, County Clare, on 21 February 1862 in County Clare.

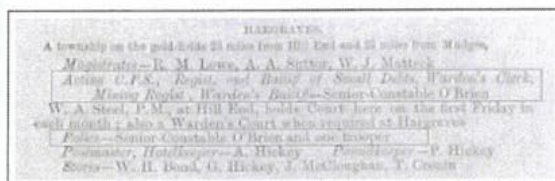
Ellen is thought to have been born in 1843-4 and died 2nd August 1879 at the age of about 36, having had 8 children, only six of whom lived beyond infancy. Ellen is buried in Hargraves.

### Employment

NSW State Records (Police Service Register) indicate that Thomas O'Brien, a native of Ireland, born in 1840, was appointed to the police force on 5 March 1863.

Source: Service No 1095; Reel 3043 Item [8/3251]. See: <http://srwww.records.nsw.gov.au/indexes/>

From 1869 Thomas worked as a constable in the Rylstone area. In 1877 he was Senior Constable at Hargraves. Moore's Almanac from 1889 shows a number of additional roles that Thomas performed in Hargraves.



### MAIN INDEX

- ABORIGINAL HISTORY
- CHINESE HISTORY
- FARMING HISTORY
- MINING HISTORY
- SCHOOL HISTORY
- GULGONG DISTRICT
- GULGONG EVENTS
- GULGONG PEOPLE
- GULGONG NEWSPAPERS
- GULGONG TIMELINE
- GULGONG TOWN
- OLD MAPS & TOOLS
- HOME

### SEARCH BLOG OR GET HELP

### MY FAMILY INDEX

- DIBLEY
- GOODIMAN
- MADSEN
- McDONAGH
- MORRIS
- MORRISON
- NORRIS
- O'BRIEN
- O'CONNELL
- SAMPSON

[My Introduction](#)  
[My Full Index](#)  
[My Family Tree Index](#)

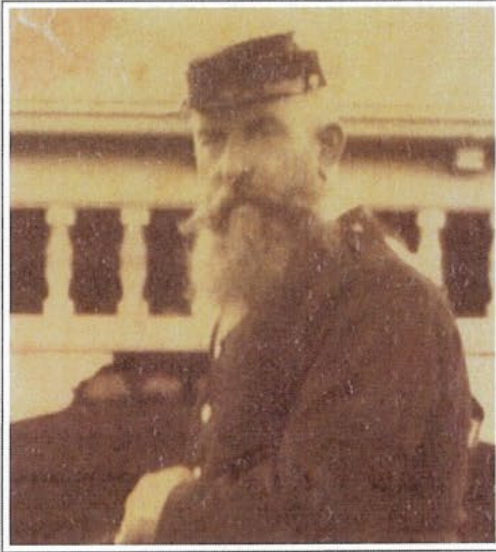
### CONTACT

Email [goodimanglg@gmail.com](mailto:goodimanglg@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: [Gulgong History](#)



20/04/2022, 15:16

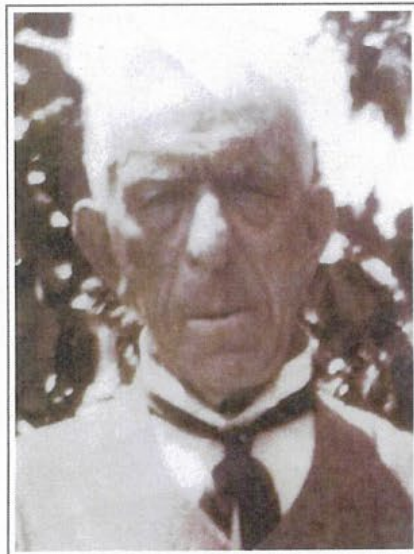
THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Thomas O'Brien



Sergt O'Brien, Peak Hill, detail

#### Family

Thomas and Ellen's children, at the time of Thomas' death were listed as Annie (deceased), John Michael O'Brien (Education Department), William Roberts O'Brien (Education Department, W.A.), George Cashel O'Brien (Sydney), Martin Casey O'Brien (Peak Hill), Sara Ellen O'Brien (Mrs. Sampson, Perth, W.A.), Mary Catherine O'Brien (Mrs. Mahoney, Temora), and Johanna (deceased).



20/04/2022, 15:18

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Thomas O'Brien

APPOINTMENTS -... senior-constable Thomas O'Brien to be Gold Receiver at Hargraves, and senior constable Thomas Purcell to be Gold Receiver at Hill End, both appointments to date from the 1st instant.

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) Wed 4 Jul 1877 Page 8

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

APPOINTMENTS.- ... constable Thomas O'Brien, to be warden's clerk and mining registrar, &c., at Hargreaves;

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) Wed 18 Jul 1877 Page 3

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Appointments. – Constable James Hoban to be mining registrar at Tarcutta, and to issue miners' rights, business and mineral licenses; and senior- constable O'Brien to be bailiff of the Warden's Court at Hargraves – both appointments to take effect from the 1st proximo.

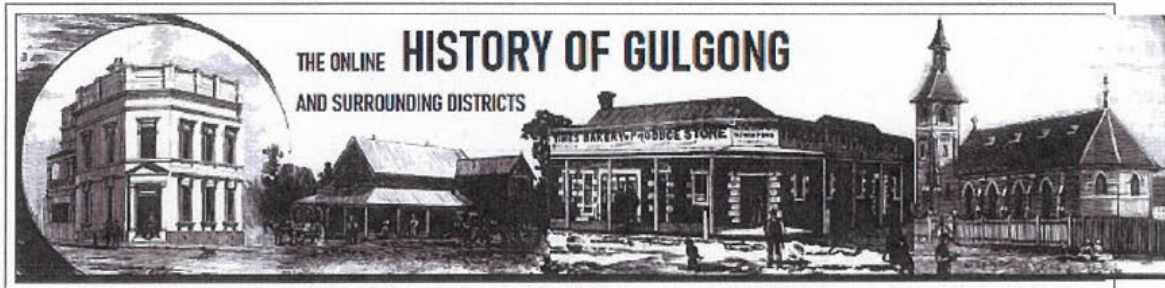
Source: The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1871 - 1912) Sat 6 Aug 1881  
Page 266

20/04/2022, 15:17

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: John Michael O'Brien

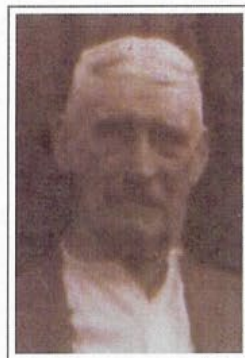
[More](#)

[Create Blog](#) [Sign In](#)



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

John Michael O'Brien



John Michael O'Brien was born on 9 June in 1865 to **Thomas O'Brien** (constable) 25 years of age (born in County Kerry, Ireland) and **Ellen Roberts**, 21 years of age from County Clare, Ireland. He was a school teacher in **Tallawang** for 28 years from 1886 to 1914.



Birth Certificate

In 1890, John Michael O'Brien married **Julia O'Connell** at Goodiman. Witnesses to the ceremony were John's brother **William Roberts O'Brien** and Julia's 19-year-old niece, **Maggie Isabella Payne**.

MAIN INDEX

- ABORIGINAL HISTORY
- CHINESE HISTORY
- FARMING HISTORY
- MINING HISTORY
- SCHOOL HISTORY
- GULGONG DISTRICT
- GULGONG EVENTS
- GULGONG PEOPLE
- GULGONG NEWSPAPERS
- GULGONG TIMELINE
- GULGONG TOWN
- OLD MAPS & TOOLS
- HOME

SEARCH BLOG OR GET HELP

MY FAMILY INDEX

- DIBLEY
- GOODIMAN
- MADSEN
- McDONAGH
- MORRIS
- MORRISON
- NORRIS
- O'BRIEN
- O'CONNELL
- SAMPSON

- [My Introduction](#)
- [My Full Index](#)
- [My Family Tree Index](#)

CONTACT

Email [goodimanglg@gmail.com](mailto:goodimanglg@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [Gulgong History](#)



20/04/2022, 15:17

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: John Michael O'Brien

After leaving Tallawang, John Michael O'Brien taught at Canimbla (in the Cowra district) for 3 years. He also undertook some relief teaching at Bobin Public School and Jones' Island School.

John Michael later lived at 41 Robert Street, Marrickville with his wife, Julia, and various children. His son, Eugene, lived nearby with his wife Doreen nee Madsen, at 20 Robert Street and also at 26 David Street.

John Michael O'Brien died of cerebral thrombosis on 25 June, 1950 in Marrickville at the age of 85, having been ill for a year. He was buried on 27 June, at the Catholic Cemetery Rookwood.

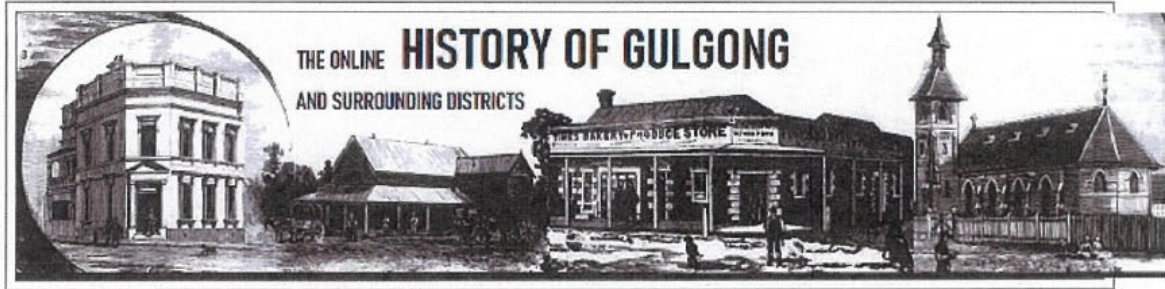


20/04/2022, 15:18

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Wilfred O'Brien

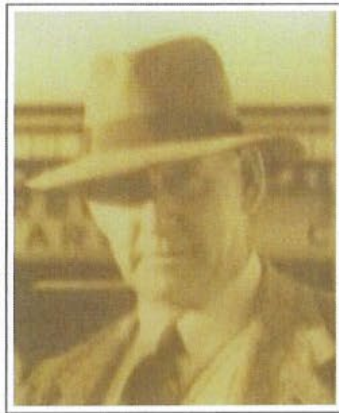
More

Create Blog Sign In

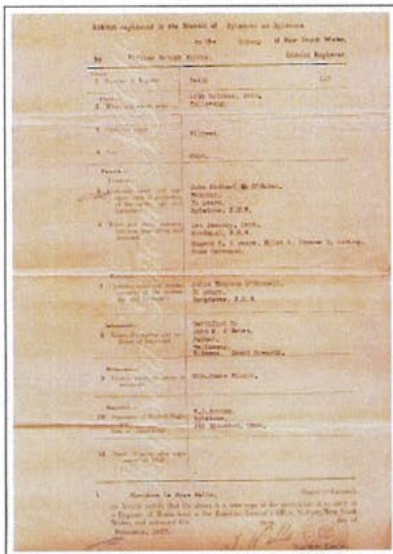


TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

### Wilfred O'Brien



Wilfred O'Brien was born at Tallawang on 12 October 1896, the fourth child and third son of **John Michael O'Brien** and **Julia (nee O'Connell)**. He attended his father's school in Tallawang.



Wilfred's Birth Certificate

#### MAIN INDEX

- ABORIGINAL HISTORY
- CHINESE HISTORY
- FARMING HISTORY
- MINING HISTORY
- SCHOOL HISTORY
- GULGONG DISTRICT
- GULGONG EVENTS
- GULGONG PEOPLE
- GULGONG NEWSPAPERS
- GULGONG TIMELINE
- GULGONG TOWN
- OLD MAPS & TOOLS
- HOME

#### SEARCH BLOG OR GET HELP

 Search

#### MY FAMILY INDEX

- DIBLEY
- GOODIMAN
- MADSEN
- MCDONAGH
- MORRIS
- MORRISON
- NORRIS
- O'BRIEN
- O'CONNELL
- SAMPSON

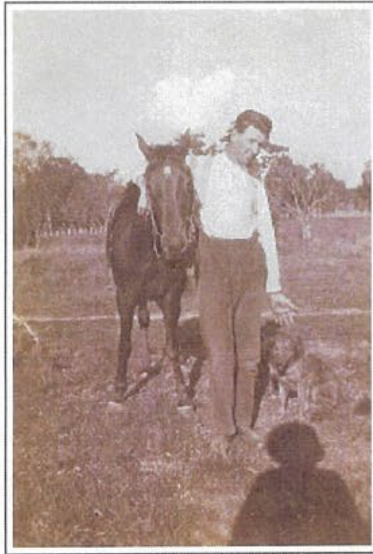
- My Introduction
- My Full Index
- My Family Tree Index

#### CONTACT

Email [goodimanglg@gmail.com](mailto:goodimanglg@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [Gulgong History](#)

20/04/2022, 15:18

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Wilfred O'Brien



This appears to be Wilfred at Goodiman. Year unknown.



Wilfred with a young girl? But who?

Wilfred had a bank job lined up in Sydney but broke his arm so stayed with the O'Connell's in the country while it mended and his brother Charles took the job.

After Eugene's death, Wilfred took over the running of Goodiman farm.

### 1930 - [PROBATE]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
PROBATE JURISDICTION— In the Will of EUGENE  
O'CONNELL late of Goodiman Gulgong in the State of



20/04/2022, 15:18

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Wilfred O'Brien

Wilfred O'Brien, of Goodaman Station, Gulgong, third son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Brien, of Sydney.

Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald* Saturday 4 February 1933 p 12 Family Notices

---

#### 1934 - [DEPARTURE]

Mr W O'Brien, of Goodiman, left for Sydney a few days ago to see his wool sold.

Source: *Mudgee Guardian* Thursday 18 January 1934

---

In 1934 Wilfred married Grace Morris. For more details of the wedding, see [Grace Morris nee O'Brien \(nee Morris\)](#)

#### 1934 – [WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS]

Arrangements have been made for the wedding of Miss Grace Morris, of Mudgee to Mr. Wilfred O'Brien, of Goodiman Station, to take place in Sydney. They will be married at 8 o'clock on December 1 at a Nuptial Mass at St. Mary's Basilica. The bridesmaids will be Misses Jean Kirk and Kath O'Brien, and the best man the groomsmen, Messrs. Charles and John O'Brien. The reception is to be at Usher's, and they will leave on the Strathaird at about noon the same day for Bombay. The honeymoon is to be spent touring India.

Source: *Catholic Freeman's Journal* Thursday 29 November 1934



20/04/2022, 15:18

THE ONLINE HISTORY OF GULGONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS: Wilfred O'Brien

Constable A E Tucker, of Gulgong, and Mr W O'Brien, of Goodiman, Gulgong, have joined the ranks of new car owners.

...

MRS. O'Brien nee Miss Grace Morris, of Mudgee), wife of Mr. W. O'Brien, of Goodiman, Gulgong, rendered a much-appreciated carillon recital at Bathurst last week.

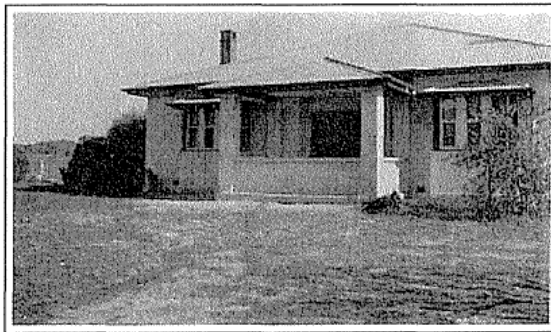
Source: Mudgee Guardian Thursday 28 May 1936

---

#### 1936 - FINE NEW HOME

THE new home being erected for Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred O'Brien, of Goodiman Station, is nearing completion. It is a very fine building of nine rooms and sun verandahs, and has all modern conveniences, including a sewerage system. Mrs. O'Brien, before her marriage, was Miss Grace Morris, of Mudgee. Mr. Rayner, of Mudgee, is the contractor. — 'Mudgee Guardian.'

Source: Mudgee Guardian Thursday 9 July 1936



Goodiman Homestead

#### 1938 - GULGONG PERSONAL

Miss Kath O'Brien, who, prior to being the guest of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Naughton for a few days, was the guest of her brother, Mr. Wilfred O'Brien, and Mrs. O'Brien, of 'Goodiman,' returned to Sydney a few days ago.

Source: *Mudgee Guardian* Thursday 27 January 1938

In 1939, Eugene O'Brien took a series of photos around Goodiman. They are a fantastic record of the homestead, sheds and paddock at the time.

***Extract of biographical information for Thomas O'Brien, John Michael O'Brien & Wilfred O'Brien from 'The Online History of Gulgong & Surrounding Districts'***



Michael O'Brien

March 24, 2022

The General Manager  
Mid-Western Regional Council  
PO Box 156  
Mudgee NSW 2850  
[council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au)

RE: *Submission to name the currently unnamed bridge at Goodiman the O'BRIEN BRIDGE.*

Dear Sir,

A Council sign has gone up at the bridge along our road announcing the 'Goodiman Creek Bridge Replacement' to be completed by late 2022. It seems to me (a) this would be a good time to give the bridge an official name, and (b) I would like to submit that the bridge be named O'BRIEN BRIDGE after the O'Brien family, which has owned the land on each side of the bridge for some miles in either direction for 5 generations and over 100 years.

(a) The bridge in question urgently needs an official name and signpost.

There are few landmarks or signposts along Spring Ridge Road and the bridge is a distinctive place, coming as it does just after the junction with Lahey's Creek Road. It would be helpful to be able to say *'the fire/flood/cattle on the road are just this side/that side/four kilometres past O'BRIEN BRIDGE'*. Twenty years ago, only 3 families owned all the country along this road all the way from Goodiman to Spring Ridge, but now there are hundreds of small blocks, a lot more through traffic and more emergencies occurring along Spring Ridge Road requiring specific reporting as to location.

(b) Why name it O'BRIEN BRIDGE?

My name is Michael O'Brien and I am the fifth generation of the O'Brien family to farm 'Goodiman', the land on either side of this bridge. In fact, the bridge has always been known in the area as the bridge at Goodiman (our property name), but unfortunately 'Goodiman Bridge' is the official title of the new bridge on the Mebul Road. We would be perfectly happy with 'Goodiman Creek Bridge' (as is written on the current sign about the rebuild) but if that is too similar and likely to be confused with 'Goodiman Bridge' then we would like to propose O'BRIEN BRIDGE.

Five generations of O'Briens have associations with this bridge and the surrounding country:

- Thomas O'Brien, a police sergeant in Ilford, Mudgee, Hargraves and Peak Hill, owned the land now known as the "Old Station" in the 1890s – just up the road from the bridge.
- His son, John Michael O'Brien, a school teacher at Tallawang, travelled across Honeysett's land to visit the Goodiman Inn (a former Cobb & Co. coach stop just before the bridge) where he met and married Julia O'Connell.

- Their son, Wilfred O'Brien, ran Goodiman farm with the O'Connell brothers and inherited it and passed it on to his son, our father, John O'Brien.
- And now I run Goodiman, with frequent visits from my six O'Brien siblings.

Over the years Goodiman's boundaries have extended for as much as 5 miles in either direction from the bridge. So that bridge has always been right in the centre of our property and a location for everyone on both the Spring Ridge Rd and Lahey's Creek Rd to mark as the place where the O'Brien property of Goodiman was located.

The bridge means a lot to us and there are hundreds of stories of floods and adventures affecting that bridge and our family. During the incredible floods of 1956 Gwen Bryant, heavily pregnant with her first child up at the homestead at Spring Ridge was driven down to the bridge by her husband Bill Bryant where she walked hand over hand in pouring rain over what remained of the washed away bridge to where my grandfather Wilfred O'Brien waited on the other side to take her to hospital.

If such an event were to happen again it would be great to be able say *'the ambulance will meet her at O'Brien Bridge'*, not *'... at that bridge about half a kay down the road from the junction of Spring Ridge Road and Lahey's Creek Rd, about half a kay from the O'Brien front gate...'*

I'd be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about my submission, and would be grateful if you could advise me if there is a more formal submission process for naming this bridge.

Yours sincerely,

*Michaëley O'Brien*

