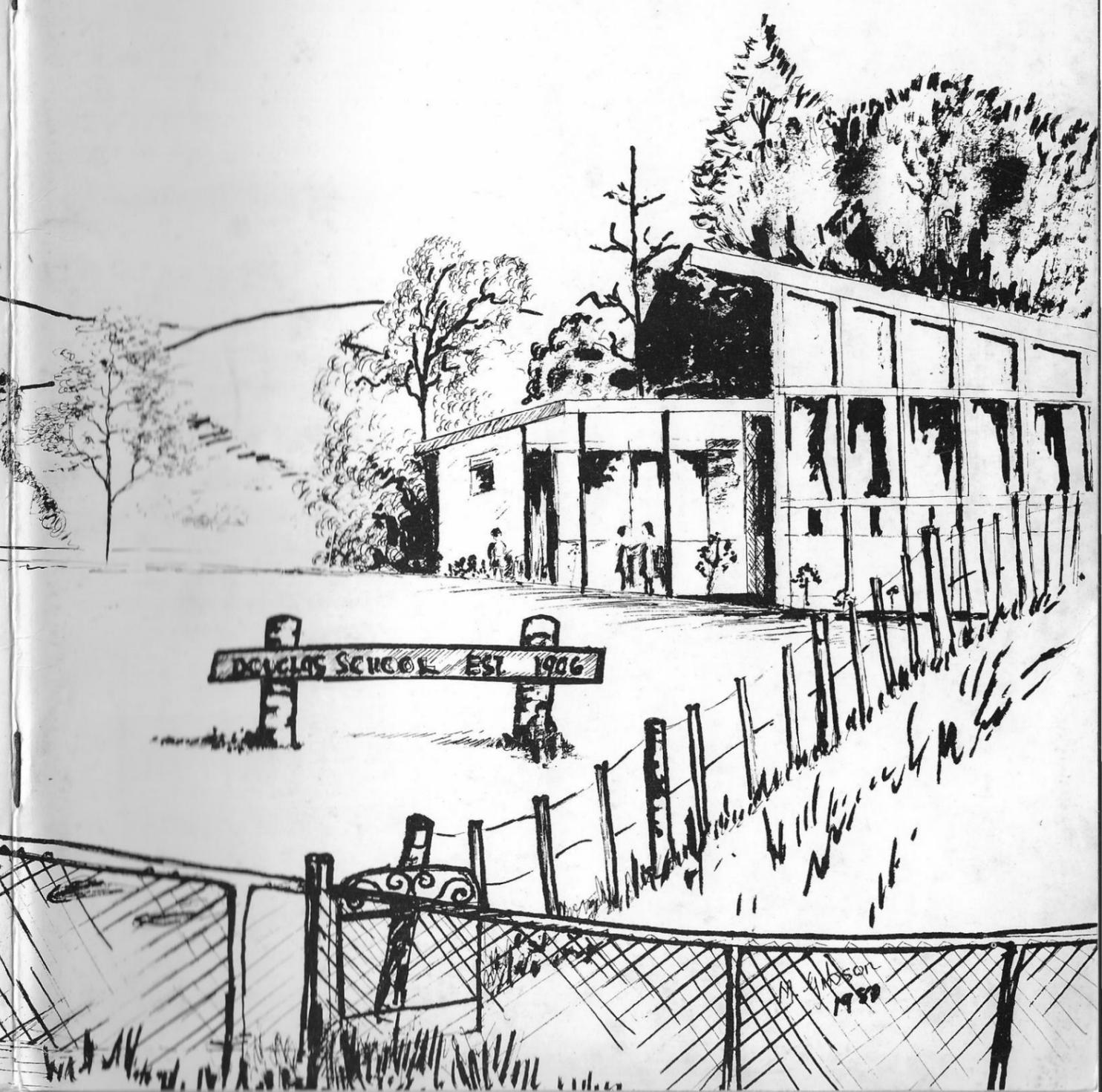


Douglas School 75th
Jubilee
1906 - 1981

DOUGLAS

A Taranaki Rural Community



FOREWORD

Through this booklet, we hope with photos and articles, to bring to you some of the memories of the past 75 years. We full well know that no matter how large we make this booklet we will never be able to fill all the high notes that you carry of these years. But we feel sure that from this booklet you will better be able to remember those that mean so much to so many. We wish through these pages to express our thanks and gratitude to all who through effort and sacrifice made these years so fruitful and rewarding.

*Tom Bredow,
(Chairman Jubilee Committee).*

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DOUGLAS DISTRICT

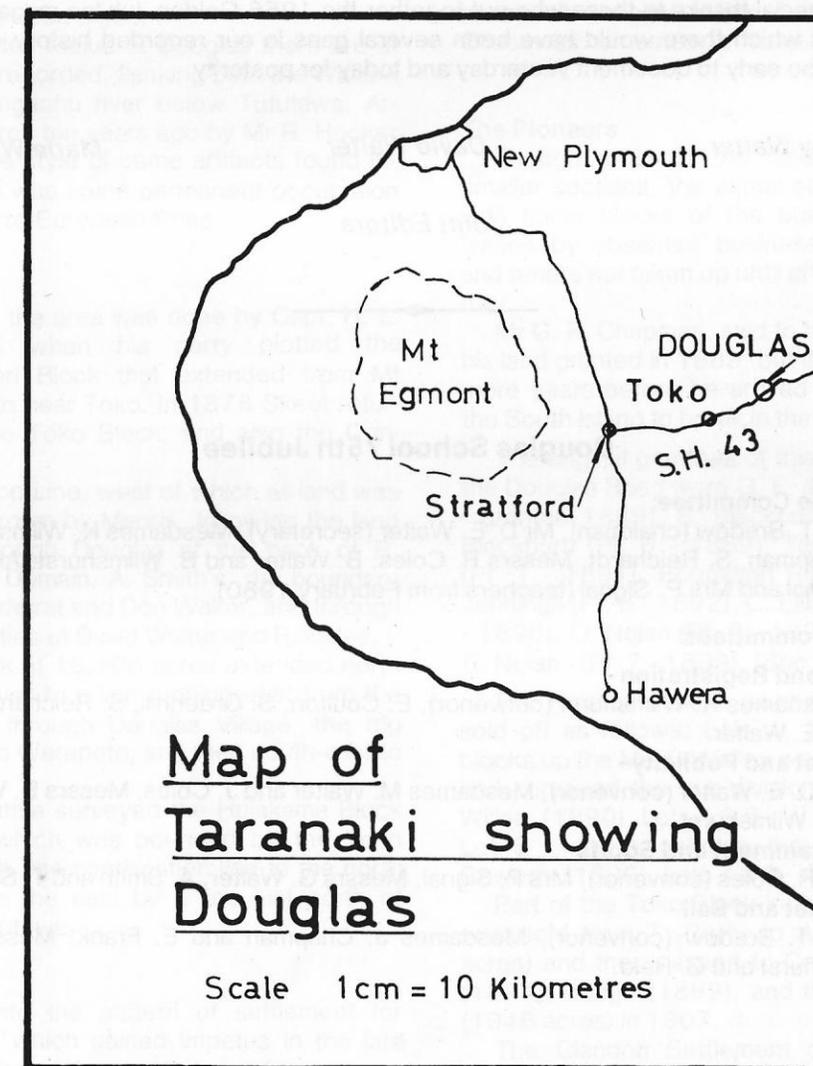
The Douglas district in Central Taranaki comprises an area of around 8000 acres centred on the Douglas village crossroads 20 km east of Stratford on State Highway 43.

Natural boundaries usually accepted are the Strathmore and Huiroa 'saddles' and to the west the Crown Road.

About 25 farms fall within the area, divided in almost equal proportions between dairying, sheep and beef, and mixed dairying and dry stock. Several of the farm units include run-offs.

The land runs from flat drained swampland to rolling hills and rises to some steeper skeletal hills. Soil is described as mainly yellow-brown loam with some volcanic ash and alluvium, the steeper parts being sedentary tertiary mudstones and sandstones. Average rainfall is almost 70 inches per annum.

Around 40 homes focus on the district, almost all of which are related to the farms.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Jubilee Booklet is an essential product of school and district reunions, trying to capture and record events and personalities over the changing years.

In less than a century Douglas has been moulded from dark rain forest and swamplands into fertile and thriving farmlands and attractive homesteads.

A bustling village once flourished based on dairy factory, store, boarding house, transport sheds, brickworks, railway and naturally the primary school.

The people of the district have through the years, shaped their future, providing amenities, forming recreational clubs and melding together as a community whether in good times or depression, war or peace.

Through the generations, the school has provided the focal point, as it did during a fine weekend in March. For those few short hours, the village was again alive and festive.

In the few pages, the booklet records aspects of life in the Douglas of yesteryear; the farming, the village, the school and above all the people.

To all those who have assisted with material, information, photos and reminiscences, our grateful thanks. Also to the many who in other ways have helped bring this to print. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy, but apologise for any omissions or errors that may appear.

A special thanks to those who put together the 1956 Golden Jubilee magazine, without which there would have been several gaps in our recorded history - it is never too early to document yesterday and today for posterity.

Bradley Walter

David Walter

Marie Walter

Joint Editors

Douglas School 75th Jubilee

Jubilee Committee:

Mr T. Bredow (chairman), Mr D. E. Walter (secretary), Mesdames K. Wilmshurst, J. Chapman, S. Reichardt, Messrs R. Coles, B. Walter and B. Wilmshurst. Also Mr T. Signal and Mrs P. Signal (teachers from February 1980).

Sub-Committees:

Rolls and Registration -

Mesdames K. Wilmshurst (convenor), E. Coulton, S. Greenhill, S. Reichardt and Mr D. E. Walter.

Booklet and Publicity -

Mr D. E. Walter (convenor), Mesdames M. Walter and J. Coles, Messrs B. Walter and B. Wilmshurst.

Entertainment and Sports -

Mr R. Coles (convenor), Mrs P. Signal, Messrs G. Walter, A. Smith and T. Signal.

Banquet and Ball -

Mr T. Bredow (convenor), Mesdames J. Chapman and E. Frank, Messrs B. Wilmshurst and G. Reid.

A History Of Douglas

Pre-settlement

Less than a century ago the Douglas district was covered by rain forest. Giant rimus, totaras, matais, ratas and pukateas stood above the smaller tawas and rewarewas on the hillsides, while white and yellow pines towered above the wet swamplands.

Though there are no signs of Maoris having settled permanently in the Douglas district, it is certain they traversed the land fairly frequently while moving in search of timber, stone, eels and birds.

Maori artifacts have been found in various parts of Douglas and there have been signs of excavations on the ridgetop leading down from the Oruru trig. towards the school. A hill above the railway gates on E. Rodgers farm has the remains of 'umus' where burnt stones and axes were found - a nearby part of the drain was said to have been an ideal place to catch eels, and the creeks grew fresh water mussels, while the surrounding bush was a haven for birdlife, including the tasty wood pigeon.

Within eight miles radius of Douglas there are at least five pa sites recorded, flanking both the Waitara river and the Mangaehu river below Tututawa. Archeological research ten years ago by Mr R. Hooker suggested that the style of some artifacts found indicated that there was some permanent occupation of these areas in pre-European times.

Early Surveys

First survey of the area was done by Capt. H. L. Skeet in 1875 when his party plotted the Mangaotuku Maori Block that extended from Mt Humphries back to near Toko. In 1878 Skeet returned to survey the Toko Block, and also the Confiscation Line.

The Confiscation Line, west of which all land was forfeited to the Crown by Maoris, following the land wars, passes through Douglas at the back of R. Down's farm, the Domain, A. Smith's, the boundary between B. Wilmshurst and Don Walter, and through the Makuri properties of David Walter and R. Coles.

The Toko Block of 16,106 acres extended north from the Patea river to a line running east from the confiscation line through Douglas Village, the trig stations Oruru and Werapoto, and then south-east to Tututawa.

In 1883 F. Duthie surveyed the Huiakama Block of 8540 acres which was bounded by the Toko Block to the south, the confiscation line to the north and west, and to the east by a line just north of Strathmore to Tututawa.

First Settlement

Douglas fell into the pattern of settlement for Eastern Taranaki which gained impetus in the late 1880's, from the price increases for primary produce, shortage of farming land and legislative policies directed towards boosting farm settlement.

The farming frontiers advanced finger-like into the eastern hill country from the lowlands to the west,

though the swamps surrounding Douglas were earlier considered less inviting than land further out.

The first positive steps towards transforming the Douglas district from heavy bush to farmland took place in 1889, when Mr Thomas Bayly, by then the owner of 23,000 acres comprising the Huiakama and most of the Toko Blocks, had much of his holding surveyed and subdivided.

During the same year, 1889, the first blocks from a Crown settlement on Douglas Road north of the crossroads were granted, after being surveyed and subdivided by P. Dalziell, who at the same time laid off the land north of the main road west of Douglas, including the Gordon and Waiwiri Roads.

The five homesteads on the original Bayly holdings were one on either side of the Toko Road at Huinga, where Loving and the Bayly Manager's houses are; the T. O'Byrne home being renovated west of the Gordon Road railway crossing; the old house site behind Milton Goble's house, and the Chesswas homestead at Tututawa.

The Pioneers

Though most of the land was surveyed into smaller sections, the actual settlement was slower, with some blocks of the bushland still owned or leased by absentee businessmen or speculators, and others not taken up until after the turn of the century.

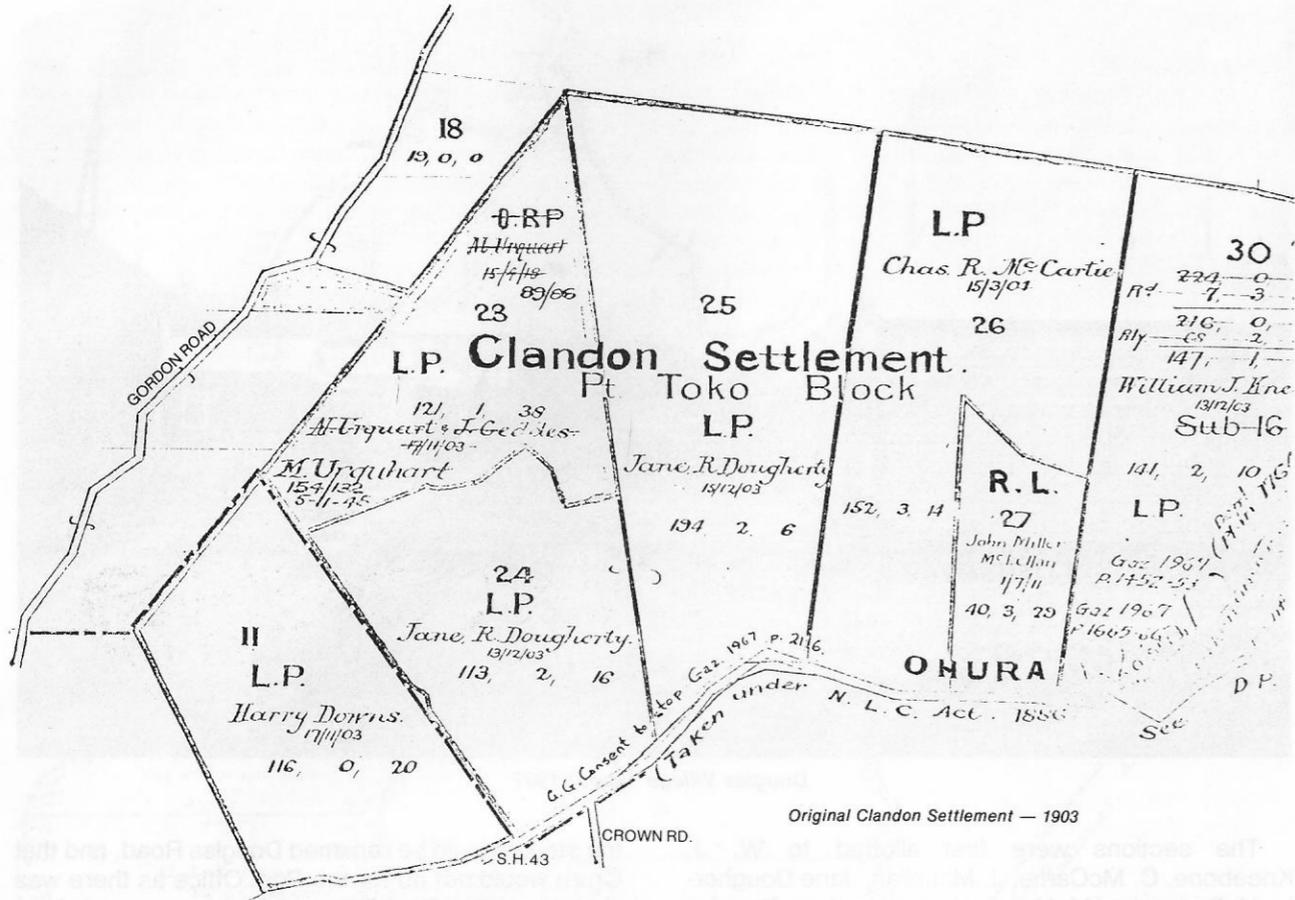
Mr G. F. Chapman, said to be the first settler, had his land granted in 1889, but it may have been a few more years before he arrived from O'Kanes Bay in the South Island to break in the bush and swamp.

The original grantees of this Crown settlement on the Douglas Road were G. F. & H. N. Chapman Pt. 4 - granted 1889), E. Blackburn (Pt. 3 - 1889), H. Blackburn (Pt. 6 - 1889), Taranaki School Comm. (Pt. 1 - 1891), Education Reserve - leased to G. Jennings (Pt. 5 - 1892), C. Elliott - (Pt. 9 & also Pt. 1 - 1896), O. Nolan (Pt. 2 - 1898 also Pt. 8 - 1899), R. Nolan - (Pt. 7 - 1899). (See map, page 3).

The Huiakama block owned by Mr T. Bayly was sold off as follows: Lots 1, 2, & 3, northernmost blocks up the Makuri Valley went to C. Finnerty, who had surveyed the sub-division, (1890). Lot 4 - D. Wilkie, (1890). Lots 5 & 6 - W. & A. Symes, (1890). Lot 8 - which includes the township area - W. Cowern, (1890). Lots 7 & 9 - W. & G. Gower. (1890).

Part of the Toko Block in the Douglas south area was sold from T. Bayly to Aiken in 1890 (2484 acres) and then passed to Coutts (1891), Lysaght (1894), Budge (1899), and then to F. W. Bredow (1948 acres) in 1907.

The Clandon Settlement comprising land from Douglas towards Gordon Road on the north side was surveyed by G. H. Bullard in 1903. These blocks were from a part of the Toko block purchased by the Government from F. Bayly, and originally taken up as L.I.P. leases.



Original Clandon Settlement - 1903



Douglas Village - 1981

Messrs Hewer and Thacker ran a coach service before the turn of the century between Stratford and Whangamomona twice a week, leaving Stratford at 8.45 a.m. and arriving at Whanga at 5 p.m. for a fare of 14 shillings in 1898.

Land Development

Bush clearing was the first formidable task for the settlers. They knew that the rain and climatic conditions which had produced the forests would make the English grasses flourish, and had enough faith in their ability to tackle the transformation to pastures.

Bush felling gangs were sometimes employed, living on the site in tents, while some farmers tackled the task themselves between other chores or outside work.

Sawmills working in the district aided the clearing. One operated in the valley where B. Walter lives, where a permanent workforce lived in tents. Other mills were sited at various times up Walter Rd, near the Chesswas airstrip, and later Fazackerleys milled on a site behind the railway station and also down past the corner near Bredow's cowshed.

The gradual change to grasslands was reflected in the creamery opening around 1899, and the saleyards in 1908.

The hill country was first to be developed, as at first it was considered that large areas of swamp could never be farmed. It was Mr F. Bredow who first demonstrated that with drainage this land could produce good pasture from what had been quagmire.

The swamps had often been formed where the natural drains had been blocked by fallen logs or choked by weeds, and the remedy was to open up the main streams, as well as dig drains at the base of the hills to cut off springs. Today these former swamps are among the most productive dairying land in Taranaki.

After the first few years of settlement came the extra stock numbers, need for produce and supplies, road and bush felling or milling gangs, and of course the settlers' wives and families. It was natural a village centre with amenities should spring up.



Draining near Douglas village about 1907. Horace King (near) and Paddy Houlihan on bank. House in right background now on Alan Smith's.

The Village

The land sold off for sections in the village was part of a lot owned by J. J. Moore, a Canterbury farmer. Altogether more than twenty sections were available, and most were sold between 1905 and 1908.

These years were all action for the growing community. First the store and post office, the hall, the boarding house, and the opening of a school in the hall.

In 1906 Lot 3 of the sections went to A. Ferguson, of Toko, a butcher - Lot 4 to W. Cartwright, of Toko, a baker. Julius Kitchen, a fruiterer of Toko, bought Lot 8. Robert and George Morrison, blacksmiths of Toko, purchased a section to set up business, as did Fred Webb, who had the stables.

The community melded together with the development of the facilities and services for up to fifty families. The stables and boarding house provided stopping-over facilities for travellers and their conveyances. The railhead after 1905 provided a vital link; the following decade the establishment of the brickworks and shifting the factory to the crossroads strengthened the village settlement and its bustling liveliness for another forty years.

The village day in the twenties began with the metallic clangings from the dairy factory on the corner of the four crossroads. Then from about 7.30 a.m. onwards the mainly horse-drawn carts or waggons converged with their cans of milk, often frequently galloping to a place in the queue as each farmer viewed his rival approaching up one of the other roads, and assessed his chance of heading him off.

As old 'Chappie' (Frank Chapman) would boast of his 'blimey' horses - "I could lick any of those others with my greys!"

After emptying their cans, and exchanging news of the day with each arrival, the next move was across the road to the store, to pick up supplies and mail. No deepfreeze in those days, but most homesteads grew sufficient vegetables, while fruit trees were less susceptible to blight, or opossums.

Next, the children would be on their way to school, some on factory carts, a few bicycles and the more distant on ponies.

As well the boarding house was a hub of activity - particularly on saleday, when the stock mobs were driven through the village centre.

Up towards twenty men worked in the brickworks, the transport sheds were always busy, and the railway station catered for many passengers, goods and livestock.

Then the church services on Sundays, weekends and summer evenings on the tennis court, the small dairy herds nearby, swimming in the stream, the ring of the blacksmith's hammer and merry evenings in the hall - either cards, dances or social gatherings. Village life was full in the twenties!

The Railway

March 1st, 1905 was a red letter day for the growing community when the railway reached Douglas from Stratford, where the first sod had been dug in 1901.

The last swamp stretch into Douglas had posed problems for the construction, and in places large matai and rimu logs had to be placed under the track for stability - they are still there today - as well, drainage of some of the worst areas was essential and back-breaking work.

An account written of the arrival of the first train at Douglas station is as follows:-

"The arrival of the first train at Oruru marked the completion of a further section of the Stratford-Main Trunk railway, and the incident was made the occasion of a formal opening.

A great crowd gathered to see the train steam into the little wayside station.

Oruru was 'en fete'. It was making history. Its name had been unknown before, but now it was painted on the end of the goods shed, and across the little lean-to station, which was to shelter passengers and serve the dual purpose of a waiting-room.

'Oruru, Oruru!' shouted the guard, as the train drew alongside the platform.

There is always something interesting to see in the opening of a new length of railway, and the new country can be traversed. At the same time it gives the holiday-maker some idea of what it means to build a railway.

The opening to Oruru was particularly entertaining, because it was there that the line deviated, and turned to the left, through country where it was never expected to see a railway.

A coach ran from Oruru further out back. The drive was very enjoyable in the summer, passing through interesting country, but in the winter at times the roads were atrocious, and avoided.

The roads were cut up very badly, and many of the holes were nearly three feet deep.

It was with great difficulty that traffic over the Strathmore Saddle was maintained through the winter months. The saddle was situated on the main road, the coach-road to out back, and had to carry a deal of traffic both ways.

It had never been metalled, and various reasons were assigned to this, chiefly because it was intended to tunnel through from a point some distance nearer Oruru.

This would necessitate a tunnel of several chains in length, but once the work was put through, the difficulties of winter travelling from Oruru as far as Strathmore would be overcome.

Roads led off from the main road to the different settlements, and all the traffic in the future would come through Oruru. Oruru was out for a holiday and navvies and workmen alike joined in the festivities.

The line from Stratford had cost about five thousand pounds for each mile of construction. The proposed route from Douglas to Te Wera generated



Taken between store and railway crossing early in century. Note name Oruru on goods shed

considerable feeling between the private settlement of Strathmore and the government village of Huiroa. Huiroa eventually was favoured, partly because it was felt the land in that area would stand to gain more from the line, but no doubt being a government settlement had influenced the decision.

In early days the rail was widely used by locals and those from surrounding areas. As motor cars became popular after the first war the passenger trade wore off, but livestock cartage from farms and the saleyards continued. The growth of road cartage made inroads after the second war and by the 1970s stock cartage by rail had virtually ceased.

The factory, brickworks and store all used the railhead to advantage, as did farmers for fertiliser and other goods. Today, however, most facilities have been closed, and the station has been used as a demolition yard for railway stock by Pacific Scrap since 1979.

Passenger trains to Auckland started soon after the link with the main trunk in 1932, and in 1956 the thrice weekly night express was replaced by a railcar leaving New Plymouth at 2 a.m. and returning to New Plymouth late in the evening.

In 1971 the railcar service beyond Taumarunui was chopped, and in 1973 the timetable was changed to allow the present daylight service. Railcars were replaced by a train unit in 1978.

Before diesel engines started on the line in 1963, the engines to pull the goods and passenger trains through the valley were X's, Ab's and later J's, pulling up to 20 trucks with the carriage and guard's van at the rear.

In the 1970s when the facilities were gradually removed, L. Stallard took the sheep yards, W. Coupe the cattle yards, and J. Ries finally pulled down the goods shed in 1976.

Today the railway has little relevance to the district, with universal usage of motor cars and trucking by road of farm requisites and stock.

Between The Wars

Sporadic news of the fierce fighting on the fronts in Europe brought home to the now thriving community in the 1914-18 war years realisation that the world was wider than their developing valley. Several of the sons and fathers served overseas, not all returning.

The influenza epidemic hit the district soon afterwards, laying up many families. Initially some households were like hospitals, and then the dining room of the boarding house was converted to take the ill, with Dr Paget attending them from Stratford.

The district pulled together to cope, with youths and men not affected sharing milking duties; others distributed medicine around the homes.

There were a handful of deaths nonetheless - it was said the bodies of those who succumbed turned black, and as well, that the heavy drinkers were more prone.

The twenties saw more progress and another generation were gradually taking over from their pioneering parents. By now many families had their first motor-car, and the drudgery was being taken out of farm work with the installation of milking machines and shearing plants.

Roads gradually improved with more metal, and sealing of stretches towards Stratford. The land began to lose its raw look, as logs slowly rotted, and farmers stumped the better paddocks for crops.

Most of the thirty-odd farms in the area were milking herds of mainly jersey cows ranging from a handful up to almost a hundred, with the majority carting milk to the cheese factory. Some returned home with whey for pigs.

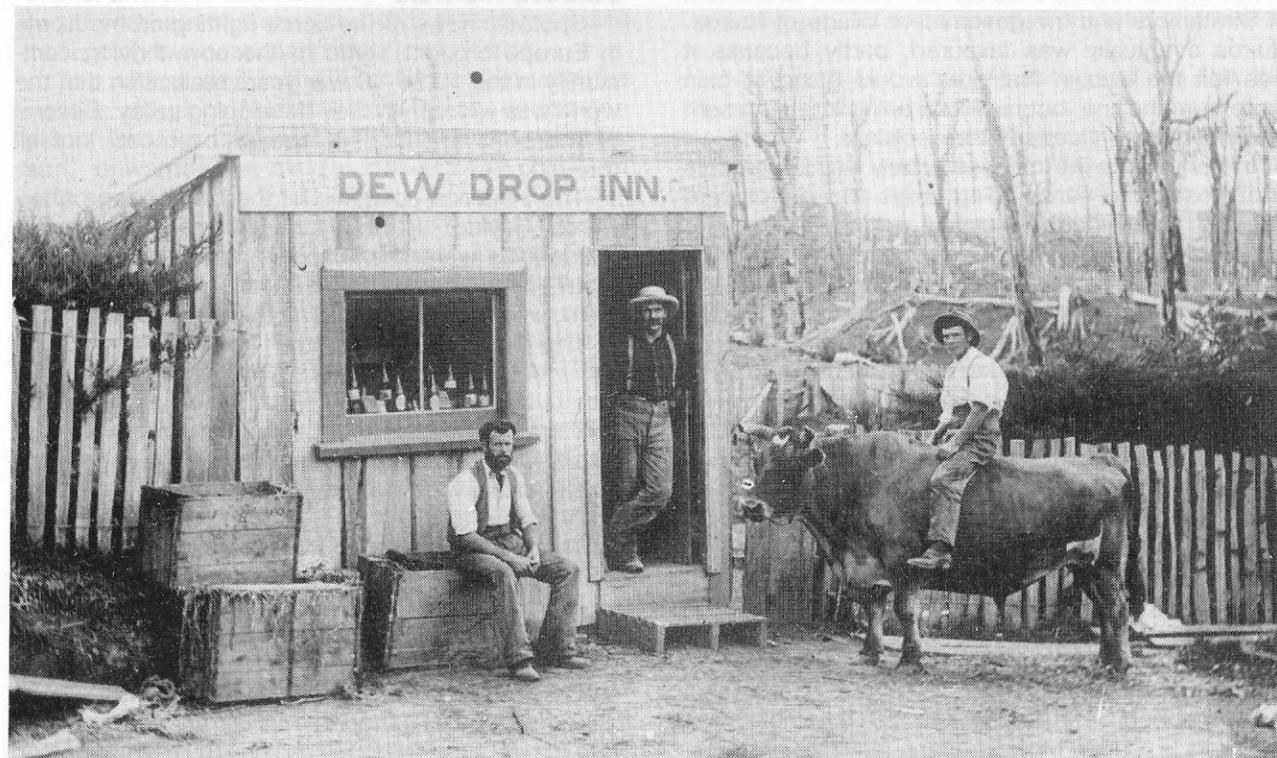
Sheep, predominantly the Romney breed, as well as dry cattle, were grazing some of the steeper land. Though production had increased up to the twenties, the weed curses of ragwort, thistles, blackberry and foxglove made their presence felt, with modern hormones yet to develop.

The depressions of the 1921-22 and 1929-35 years affected the progress and attitude of those living in Douglas. Money was scarce and land development was slowed down, with some hills in particular reverting to fern and manuka.

Despite this, community spirit abounded. The social pleasures were mainly cheap and localised, and with a degree of self-sufficiency from the land the district weathered those years much easier than their urban counterparts.

Electricity arrived to Douglas in 1927, bringing a new dimension to living as switches and plugs brought instant light and heat. Consumers initially had to pay for a minimum usage, or availability rate, and were able to purchase electrical appliances on favourable terms.

The 1930s saw an influx of 'newly married' onto many of the farms as the second generations took over. In turn the baby boom of before the first war was repeated, ensuring a healthy roll for the school in the 1940s.



Dewdrop Inn on horseshoe bend of Douglas Saddle. Est. 1903. Horace King in doorway.

Recreation

From the earliest days Douglas had been a district known for sociability. The settlers continued to meld together as a community to provide and use amenities for both themselves and those to follow.

The Dewdrop Inn on the horseshoe bend of the Douglas saddle provided hospitality for travellers before the first war; other impromptu convivial gatherings around imported kegs were held at meeting points in the village.

The hall was the centre for many social pursuits; the advent of the radio brought groups together in earlier days, sometimes to the boarding house, which was itself often a focal point for the locals in evenings.

Though people were slowly becoming more mobile, widespread and regular social contact outside the district was not common prior to the second world war. Summer holidays for dairy farmers were rare. 'Town' trips to Stratford were seldom more frequent than once a fortnight, or monthly. The physical demands of farming in most cases simply precluded more time off.

Second World War

Douglas was again affected by the international conflict as a good number of her kin served overseas. At home the community went through the years of restraints, concerns and uncertainty, responding magnificently to patriotic appeals.

The 1939-45 war, like the adversity of the depression years, brought the residents together,

almost to a family. Send-offs and welcome-homes, revues, appeals, cooking, soldiers' parcels, home guard, working bees and the queen carnival.

The black-outs after midnight, trenches at the school, worry if Taranaki would be the bridgehead for the Japanese - and for a few years after the relief of the war's end, still the rationing and shortages.

Progress In The 1950s

The 1950s saw more changes in Douglas than any other decade since the first of the century; great progress in agricultural mechanisation and production, and remarkable community involvement to form a domain, upgrade the hall, build the swimming baths, and reform the school grounds after the old building had been shifted and renovated.

The wool boom of 1951, advent of aerial top-dressing and improving butterfat prices were all good news for the farmers. Herds and flocks increased in size. Hills were cleared of scrub, acres of swamp tiled and grassed.

The Makuri drainage scheme towards the end of the decade marked the start of transforming the low-lying swampland valley. Tractors and trucks had soon almost replaced draught horses; sowing manure from a bag, draining with slasher, drag and shovel, plodding behind horses, hay stackers and waggons were nearly memories of the past.

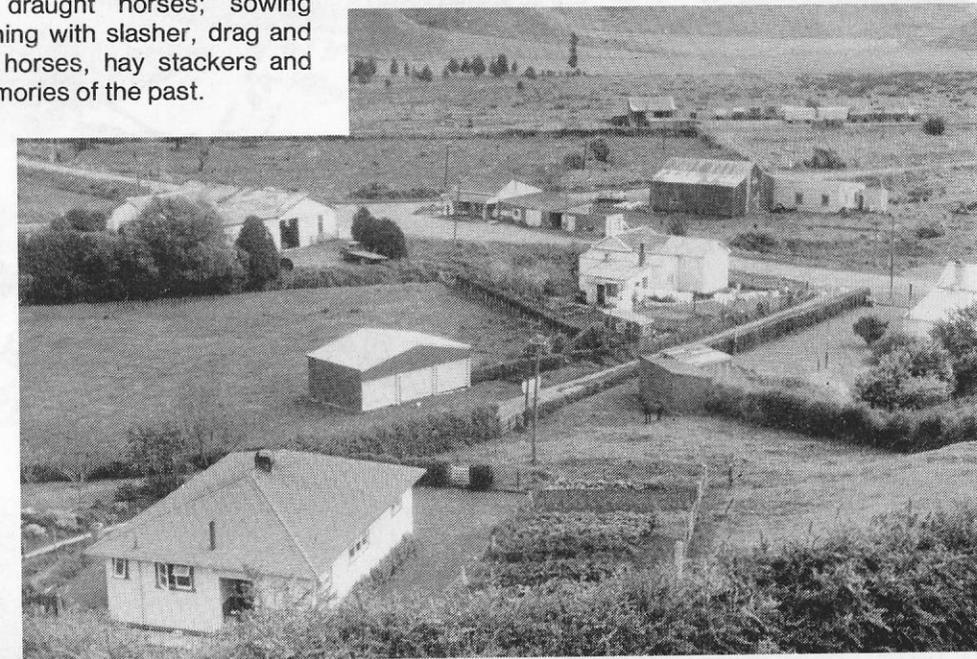
inside, rather than the evacuation outside between dances, or poky bar in the back corner of the hall.

Another turnover on the farms from second to third generation changed the social structure of the district in the sixties.

School facilities were upgraded significantly, with a new house and teaching block. Equipment became more readily available and sophisticated; the school was strengthened with the consolidation of Tututawa in 1969.

Though the village declined, farms and homesteads in the main became tidier and responded to advances in technology.

Herring-bone and rotary cowsheds now predominate. Management has become more intensive, with use of electric fencing on both dairy and



Douglas Village - 1961

Decline Of The Village

The factory closed in 1958, starting the decline of the village centre. The boarding house lay deserted for some years, the store lasted until 1972, the transport company lost its local identity, railway workforce was centralised and just recently both church and brickworks have closed.

The trend reflected that of many country villages. People bought deep freezes and traded further afield. Industries and services opted to centralise to retain viability.

The result left untidy, unoccupied houses and buildings, as well as the paddocks with daffodils and overgrown shrubs revealing where houses and families had once been.

The Last Twenty Years

Television made a big impact from about 1963. For the first few years the novelty kept people at home, sending some clubs into temporary recess and keeping attendances down at regular meetings.

The dances at the hall of the fifties were upgraded to the cabaret system as liquor came to be accepted

sheep units. Farm bikes have become almost indispensable, sheep farmers are moving towards the 'easy care' concept of ewe care at lambing, and streamlined cowshed methods have also minimised outside labour requirements.

These methods, together with a greater use of contract labour have meant that very few farmers in Douglas now employ outside permanent labour. Despite the relatively small holdings compared to some areas, there have been few farm mergers in recent years. Dairy herds are now predominantly Friesian with an average size of about 130 cows.

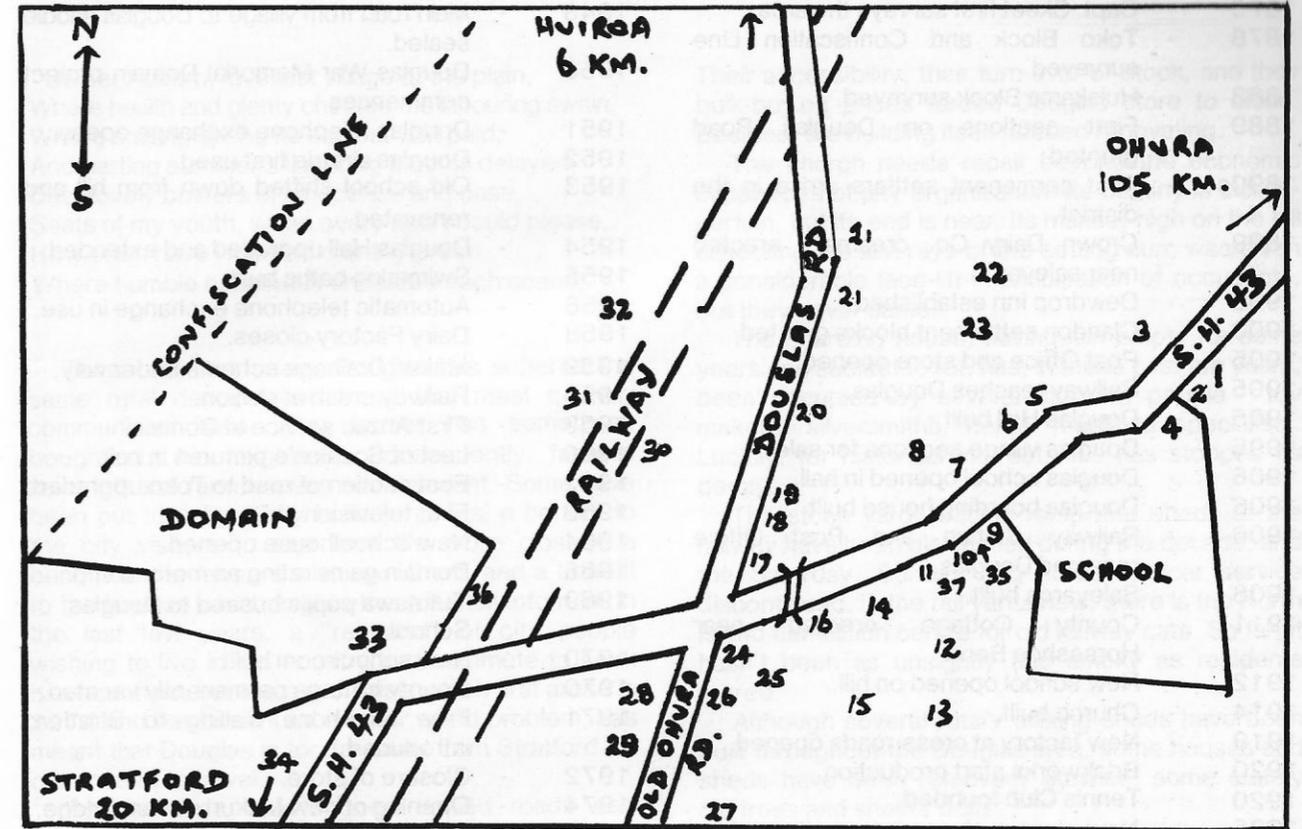
The improvements to the highway from Douglas towards Toko in the 1960s have brought Stratford and its facilities much closer; not much more than ten minutes by car.

Even so, the 75th School Jubilee of 1981 showed that the community spirit of the district is still strong. The years ahead are certain to put pressures on the family farm unit and rural communities.

By the time of the centennial in 2006, the district strength will reflect how these challenges have been met.



Flooded Makuri Valley - looking upstream from old bridge near Coles' house. February 1971



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Reader's & Douglas Transport truck shed* | 20. R. Latham, later F. Latham bach |
| 2. R. Frank's house* | 21. N.Z.R. houses |
| 3. Brickworks house | 22. Brickworks* |
| 4. First schoolteacher's residence | 23. Brickworks cottage |
| 5. Hall* | 24. Dairy factory* |
| 6. Tennis courts* | 25. Factory workers' hut |
| 7. Church* | 26. Factory manager's residence* |
| 8. Manse* | 27. Airstrip* |
| 9. Telephone exchange* | 28. Slaughterhouse |
| 10. Boarding house* | 29. J. Graham's farm worker's house |
| 11. Blacksmith | 30. Railway station shelter* |
| 12. Factory huts | 31. Railway goods shed |
| 13. J. Howse residence* | 32. N.Z.R./Pacific scrap demolition yards* |
| 14. Butchery - later storekeeper's house* | 33. Sports domain and camping ground* |
| 15. Needham & Rumball homestead | 34. R. Lampitt's home* |
| 16. Bakery | 35. Billiard room |
| 17. Store* | 36. Railway stock yards |
| 18. Stables - later transport shed | 37. Saddlery |
| 19. Engineering workshop* | |

* Denotes features still standing

Douglas - Calendar Of Events

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|--|
| 1875 | - Capt. Skeet first surveys the area. | 1948 | - Main road from village to Douglas saddle sealed. |
| 1878 | - Toko Block and Confiscation Line surveyed. | 1950 | - Douglas War Memorial Domain project commences. |
| 1883 | - Huiakama Block surveyed. | 1951 | - Douglas telephone exchange opens. |
| 1889 | - First sections on Douglas Road granted. | 1952 | - Douglas airstrip first used. |
| 1890s | - First permanent settlers arrive in the district. | 1953 | - Old school shifted down from hill and renovated. |
| 1899 | - Crown Dairy Co. creamery erected near saleyards. | 1954 | - Douglas Hall upgraded and extended. |
| 1903 | - Dewdrop Inn established. | 1955 | - Swimming baths built. |
| 1903 | - Clandon settlement blocks granted | 1956 | - Automatic telephone exchange in use. |
| 1905 | - Post Office and store opened. | 1958 | - Dairy Factory closes. |
| 1905 | - Railway reaches Douglas. | 1959 | - Makuri Drainage scheme under way. |
| 1905 | - Douglas Hall built. | 1959 | - Railway crash at station. |
| 1905 | - Douglas village sections for sale. | 1959 | - First Anzac service at Domain. |
| 1906 | - Douglas school opened in hall. | 1960 | - Last of Scanlon's pictures in hall. |
| 1906 | - Douglas boarding house built. | 1962 | - First section of road to Toko upgraded. |
| 1906 | - Railway Station and Post Office renamed Douglas. | 1963 | - First television at Douglas. |
| 1908 | - Saleyards built. | 1964 | - New schoolhouse opened. |
| 1911 | - County Cottage erected near Horseshoe Bend. | 1965 | - Domain gains rating as motor camp. |
| 1912 | - New school opened on hill. | 1969 | - Tututawa pupils bussed to Douglas School. |
| 1914 | - Church built. | 1970 | - New schoolroom built. |
| 1919 | - New factory at cross-roads opened. | 1970 | - County cottage permanently vacated. |
| 1920 | - Brickworks start production. | 1971 | - Free telephone dialling to Stratford introduced. |
| 1920 | - Tennis Club founded. | 1972 | - Closure of store. |
| 1925 | - New store replaces one destroyed by fire. | 1974 | - Opening of new Makuri stream bridge. |
| 1927 | - Electricity reaches Douglas. | 1975 | - Athletics club formed. |
| 1935 | - Teacher's residence built near school. | 1975 | - Signal lights installed at crossing by Domain. |
| 1941 | - Boarding house sold for dairy factory flats. | 1976 | - Goods shed at railway station pulled down. |
| 1947 | - Poliomyelitis epidemic cancels school breakup. | 1979 | - Demolition yards start up at railway station. |
| | | 1980 | - Last service in Douglas Church. |
| | | 1981 | - Closure of brickworks. |



Douglas Village - 1978

Douglas Village 1971 - 1981

(Contributed by Jeanne Coles)

"Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheered the labouring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid,
And parting summer's lingering blooms delayed,
Dear lovely bowers of innocence and ease,
Seats of my youth, when every sport could please,
How often have I loitered o'er thy green,
Where humble happiness endeared each scene!"

These past ten years, Douglas has suffered the same rural depopulation trend that most country communities have. One farmer has sometimes bought out his neighbour. Consequently, families have left and farm houses stand vacant. Some have been put to use as city holiday homes, a benefit to the city visitors to see farm life more closely; a benefit to the farmers who own them, and a benefit to the houses which might otherwise fall into ruin. In the last few years, a "rebound" of city people wishing to live in the country and commute to work has occurred, but the petrol crisis which first arose in 1974 and has continued a major world problem, has meant that Douglas is too far away from Stratford for commuters to travel.

Douglas area boasts good sealed roads particularly from the village to Toko. Douglas was placed on direct telephone dialling to Stratford districts in 1971, and in 1980 the telephone poles became obsolescent.

Perhaps these advantages mean that people can more conveniently shop and socialize in Stratford or elsewhere.

Douglas Hall committee was in danger of financial fold-up ten years ago, but a renewed interest by community members has changed the colour of the balance from red to a healthy black. Because of these funds, the hall has been painted, repaired, updated, and recently acquired a new tennis-court wall, new windows, new lining, a second bar, a new porch and a very attractive sign.

The Newton-King and Farmers' Co-op sale yard also appeared to be in danger of closing, but renewed interest has inspired new loading chutes which save having trucks across the road. This, plus a white centre line on the road by the sale yard to help keep cars on the proper side of the road, has given more road safety in the village, as has the widening and upgrading of the road and bridge in the village centre. Flashing lights at the railway crossing have been installed, as well.

But in these ten years, the local store has been closed. Once the factory closed, preventing the daily gossip exchange there, the store took over that function somewhat. But fewer and fewer came except for tobacco or emergencies. During this time, the first supermarket appeared in Stratford, which now supports six grocery stores of large proportions.

Their accessibility, their turn-over of stock, and their bulk-buying prices forced Douglas store to close. Besides, the building itself needed renovating.

The church needs repair beyond the economic capabilities of any organization. Its destiny is still uncertain, but its end is near. Its manse, high on the hill collecting the last rays of the setting sun, was given a considerable face-lift in anticipation of occupants, but they never came.

The boarding house, having lain empty for some years and subject to rot, has, in these past ten years, been occupied by several different people - toy makers, silversmiths, herbal medicine specialists. Luckily, for historical interest, this has stopped its decay.

The stock yard, loading ramp and sheds at the railway have been dismantled during the decade, and the Saturday, Sunday and holiday railcar service discontinued. In the rail yards now, there is the North Island demolition centre for old railway cars. So far, it hasn't been as unsightly and smoky as residents feared.

Although several rotary milking sheds have been built throughout the Douglas area, some houses and sheds have been removed; likewise, some stately old trees and shelter belts.

However, in the past ten years, the ornamental plantings at the Domain have grown sufficiently to make it a show area, worthy of "stop and stare" time often, especially in the spring and autumn. Douglas still holds Anzac services, attended by enthusiastic numbers. When held in the open air of the Domain, the services are more memorable because of the surroundings.

Douglas has its pockets of beauty, such as the Domain and the well-kept farms and gardens. But the decline of the village invokes nostalgia and sadness from those who knew it in its heyday.

Far, far away, thy children leave the land,
Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.

"The Deserted Village"
Oliver Goldsmith.

... First day pupil Mrs Flora Mason (nee Smith) recalls shifting house when a young child in about 1904 and leaving a doll's pram behind in the house on the main road just west of the village that used to be the Bredow homestead. Next day she was taken back in the gig from their new home, now occupied by the Coles, but to no avail - it had disappeared.

Do You Remember?

... Remember Margaret Christie's (Wilmshurst) pony Dainty? She passed away in the summer of 81, reputed to be of similar vintage to her owner.

... *Collecting the Weekly News, Free Lance or Truth at the store each week.*

... Over the years fire has destroyed several houses in the district. They include houses near sites now lived in by B. Wilmshurst, J. Smith, R. Frank, Don Walter, David Walter, the old Bredow homestead on the main road, the old creamery near the saleyards, the store, and B. Walter's woolshed, the original McClellan home.

... *Rod Symes coming to school for decades with the same quiet enthusiasm and encouragement for calf and lamb judging, potato plots, nature study and tree planting.*

... Racing through milking early in the afternoon in the summer of 1954 to get into town in time to see the Queen and Prince Philip walk up Broadway.

... *First invasions of the yellow and black wasps, 'Vespula Germanica', around 1950, and the bravery needed to exterminate nests.*

... Elation for some in the district when 'Cabin Boy' won the main race at Otaki in 1976 at odds of about 100 to 1, some of the stakes going to local part-owners Brian Wilmshurst, John Rodgers and Alan Smith.

... *Using the top of the old lancewood tree outside the school as a catapult to fire hunks of dirt towards the road.*

... The hockey club five-a-side tournaments at Jim Reid's, or the club barbeques at Peter Greenhill's.

... *Working-bees - whether they were for school, hall, domain or a sports club; the late starts, late lunches, predictable work habits of each individual and general willingness to let someone else be the 'boss' for the day.*

... The circuses droving stock down to the railway yards - especially weaned lambs - before cartage by truck came into vogue.

... *When there were seventeen frosts in succession during the 1971 winter - or back in the twenties or thirties when a run of over twenty allegedly occurred.*

... *Tennis Club minute book shows one meeting was closed in time to observe the passing of the first man-made earth satellite.*

... The 1950 school picnic at Opunake Beach - the jellyfish; first time many had sampled 'Coca Cola', and the children that disappeared around the cliff and were thought to have been washed out to sea.

... *Cliff Selby found a coin dated 1865 with a hole in it and Napoleon's head on one side when ploughing near his old house site to put potatoes in.*

... Three members of the Smith family started school at Douglas when it opened - Charles and Flora the first day, and Madge the next. Over the years 30 members of the family have been pupils.

... *Going outside to see the first jet aircraft pass over Taranaki in 1952.*

... The poker school that used to 'open' after hall committee meetings around the '30s.

... *The 'Calcuttas' at the Douglas Hall for fund-raising, with 'Felix' usually behind the crown and anchor board.*

... Each corner and hump on the old road to Toko before it was upgraded in the 1960s.

... *Seeing the red glare on the horizon to the east on the day of the Napier earthquake in 1931. And climbing the nearest high point at night in the late 1940s to see Ruapehu erupting.*

... The tennis trips to Whangamomona, with a sit-down lunch in the nearby hotel, getting back to milk, and the tempting orchards handy to the route - and the return visits to Douglas, with reciprocal dining in the boarding house.

... Gladys Cruickshank, who started school in Douglas in 1926 was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours 1947, for her services in the Air Department during W.W. II.

... The Ball held at Toko by the Douglas Plunket group soon after the war - the crayfish, splendour of the occasion, first time a bar had appeared in that hall (so it's said!) and cleaning up the following day.

Douglas School

School Building Opened

The children moved into the new school building on March 12, 1912, with Mr J. W. T. Jones as teacher who later recalled the hard work the pupils put into levelling an assembly ground on the same elevation as the school building. Trees were planted and gardens formed to put the grounds into order.

With the roll continuing to increase, an assistant teacher, Miss Ida Cameron was appointed in 1914. During these years the playground at the bottom of the school hill was formed, with the assistance of the school committee.

It is recorded that no prizes were presented at the end of the 1915 school year - instead proceeds were donated to the Patriotic Fund. School closed for the 1918 year on the day that was later to be known as Armistice Day, but under the shadow of the great influenza epidemic. The first Anzac Day observance was recorded in 1916.

Post World War 1 Years

Mr Bridger the dentist visited the school in 1923 as a fore-runner to the modern school dental treatment. Infants first attended the Stratford Dental Clinic in 1929, and in 1934 a mobile dental treatment system was introduced for a period of three years. This proved unsatisfactory, however, and the children later returned to the Stratford Dental Clinic for treatment.

The school colours, navy blue and gold with a badge in the form of a triangle enclosing the intertwined letters DS, were registered in 1926.

After 14 years functioning as a two-teacher school, the roll dropped to sole-charge again. Miss Anita Frethey (Mrs E. E. Walter), first commenced teaching duties in 1928. She reported, "the school was delighted to win one of the ball games at the big sports meeting in Stratford, celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the town".

Early History

Douglas schooldays began officially on September 17, 1906, in the supper room of the Douglas Hall. Seventeen pupils attended, and the teacher was Miss Laura Riley.

A year later the roll had increased to 31, the children travelling to class by gig, dray, horseback and on foot. Any wonder attendances dropped in bad weather!

The second teacher, Miss Lilla Finnerty remembered there being only one window in the schoolroom, the desks almost filled the room, and there was no space for blackboard or teacher's table. The room was far too small for the number of pupils, and in the summer lack of ventilation resulted in her moving the pupils into the big room of the hall, against the wishes of the both the hall and school committees who couldn't come to an agreement over the price to charge for the use of the hall. They moved back into the cosier atmosphere of the little room for the winter months.

There were two main holidays, summer and winter, and four terms in the year. The Easter break in 1910 developed into an extra week's holiday for the children when the teacher, Mr C. F. Smith ran into difficulties with his coach and train travel arrangements.

Holidays were usually declared after a visit by the school inspector, who thoroughly examined each child. Promotions to the next class were made strictly according to exam results, and the pupils travelled into Stratford for their Proficiency and Scholarship examinations.

A first committee, formed in 1906 consisted of Messrs E. Walter (chairman), A. Walter, Kneebone, Hill and Needham. The committee was later disbanded (1923) and replaced by a commissioner. Mr Alf Needham took this position for a number of years, followed by Mr Walter Rumball.

Built in 1912, the school stood on the hill till 1953





Miss Riley, the first teacher, with a school group in 1906. Boys, from left: Charlie Jones, Don Baxter, Arthur Keightley, Fred Needham, Jack Baxter, Robert Hill, Dennis Needham, Maurice Woulfe (partly obscured), Charlie Smith, Eric Puckridge. Girls, from left: Doris Woulfe, Hilda Needham, Ivy Needham, Elsie Woulfe, Doris Kneebone, Isobel Kneebone, Flora Smith, Annie Keightley, Leila Hill, Madge Smith, Kathleen Woulfe.

Douglas School - 1908



Back Row: Walter Bredow, Jack Baxter, Charlie Smith, Gertrude Bredow, Myrtle Gedge.
Second Row: Hilda Knox, Flora Mason, Dennis Needham, Martin Gedge, Hilda Needham, Gladys Newell, Ivy Needham.
Front Row: Sarah Knox, Arthur Walter, Jean Walter, Keith Webb, Leo Needham, Fred Floyd, Stan Webb.



Back Row: Gladys Newell, Madge Smith, Leila Needham, Flora Smith, Myrtle Gedge, Ethel Newell, Gertrude Bredow, Ivy Needham, Hilda Newell, Doris Smith, Hilda Needham.
Second Row: Jack Walter, Harry McClellan, Dennis Needham, Charlie Smith, Jack Baxter, Martin Gedge, Leo Needham, Jack Smith, Les Needham.
Front Row: Jean Walter, Dolly Wilmshurst, Tottie McClellan, Ada Chapman.

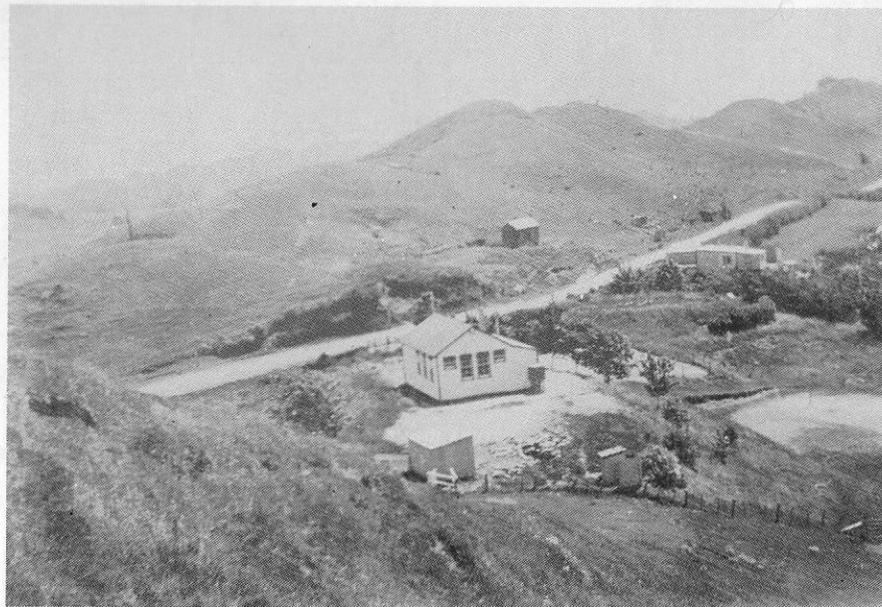
Douglas School - 1917



Back Row: Harry McClellan, Arthur Chapman, Ivy Chapman, Dolly Wilmshurst, Ada Chapman, Tottie McClellan, Hector Lockhead, Les Bunning, Tom Smith, Ernie Walter, Joe Jacobs, Jimmy McClellan, Jack Thomas.
Second Row: Louie Walter, Bessie Walter, Dolly Bunning, Jean Needham, Arthur Watson, Muriel Lockhead, Rita Jacobs, Ester Rogers, Chris Wilmshurst, Richard Watson.
Third Row: Joan Watson, Maidie Bunning, Roy Rogers, Mick McClellan, Clem Chapman, Claude Rogers, Keith Rogers, Arthur Smith.
Front: Jack Smith, Bert Wilmshurst, Archie Rogers, Nelson Bunning, Snow Needham.

Mr H. O. Donnelly relieved for a year while Miss Frethey travelled abroad. A keen cricketer and father of future New Zealand representative player, Martin Donnelly, he reported a successful year for the boys' cricket team.

Extensive work was carried out on the school grounds, particularly the terraces that formed the school hillside, and in 1934 a concrete assembly area was laid. The school committee was reformed at a special householders' meeting in 1933, with Mr W. Bredow elected chairman, A. Walter secretary, and Messrs F. Reader, W. Kelly and P. Skousgaard.



Douglas School - about 1930

School House

Mr H. Maingay, the first married teacher to take up an appointment at the Douglas School, arrived in 1934. The Education Board approved a grant for the erection of a school house on the grounds. It took 15 men two days to fell the trees and clear a level patch for the building. The school residence was officially opened in September 1935, the occasion apparently developing into quite a party.

Electric lights were installed in the school and the dwelling during this time. A garage was built in 1937, by voluntary labour, using materials supplied by the Board.

In 1936 an outbreak of infantile paralysis caused the annual break-up and prizegiving ceremony to be postponed. The prizes were later distributed at the school picnic held in the schoolgrounds in March 1937.

Coronation

The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth was commemorated by the presentation of bronze medals supplied by the Post Office, and buttons donated by Mr Hillock, of Stratford.

In 1936 Olga Skousgaard passed the Scholarship examinations which enabled her to study at university. She worked as a research assistant in the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell,

England, for a time and, later as Dr Olga Batt, as a lecturer in physiology at Otago University.

Rev. J. D. W. Raine introduced the Bible to the school's system in 1938. Mr D. R. Hill, Headmaster at that time found it necessary to add hockey to the school sports curriculum - he found there weren't enough boys for a rugby team, nor enough girls to make a basketball team. A junior and senior team were selected from the 22 pupils, and the teams returned from a tournament with a championship cup each.

Milk and apples, both distributed through the railway station were an everyday feature of school life. Cocoa too, was supplied in the winter. Pupils attending school at that time will well remember the long haul up the hill from the station with the crates of milk - and often on popping the cardboard lid on the bottle, finding the milk had soured from sitting in the sun.

War Years

During the war years a fully-stocked medicine chest was kept at school. The bigger boys were responsible for digging slit trenches in approved positions on the schoolgrounds. And black-out regulations were strictly adhered to, particularly during school committee meetings which were held in the school house at that time.

In 1943, after 15 years of sole-charge, an assistant, Miss Marjorie Hedgman, was once more appointed to help with the steadily increasing roll numbers, now over 36.

A feature of these days was the vegetable plot competition. In 1946 Rex Ford's crop of potatoes, 31 ton 6 cwt, won the Corrigan Cup for the best crop in Taranaki and the Stewart Wilson Cup for the best vegetable crop in New Zealand. For two consecutive years the school won the Robinson Cup for

Douglas School - 1931



Back Row: Mr H. Donnelly, —, Laurie Shine, Albert Jacobs, Eddie Wills, Laurie Cruickshank, Bill Walter, Bob Mason, Edith Jacobs.
Second Row: Harold Mattock, Eric Wills, Amy Walter, Olive Rumball, Margaret Walter, Joyce Angus, Hazel Wilmshurst.
Third Row: Rowan Cuff, —, Eris Cruickshank, Nancy Walter, Olga Skousgaard, Joan Fishwick.
Front Row: Burt Reader, Reggie Cruickshank, Ernie Reader, —, Bill Reader, Ronnie Reader, Bob Reader.

Douglas - 1943



Back Row: Ivan Pepperell (teacher), Bessie Reader, Margaret Mason, Ngaire Smith, Marita Bishop, Dorothy Mason, Charlotte Jacobsen, Eileen Saywell, Freda Alvis, Nora Bishop, Marj Hedgman (teacher).
Second Row: Tom Bredow, Tom Mason, Des Bonner, Joe Bishop, John Reith, Murray Walter, Rex Ford, Brian Wilmshurst.
Third Row: Freda Hook, Shirley Bonner, Bradley Walter, Jim Mason, Ian Rumball, Basil Jacobsen, Robbie Cox, Owen Walter, Jean Saywell, Betty Ward, Ruth Ford.
Front Row: Shirley Chapman, Joan Walter, Eva Selby, Barry Pepperell, Ray Saywell, Graeme Chapman, Alison Selby, Peggy Bellamy, Edna Mason.

the best average of three plots. The following year, Ruth Ford (Mrs A. Bonner), gained the world record of 42 tons 12 cwt per acre, with seed saved from her brother Rex's crop, again gaining both Corrigan and Stewart Wilson Cups. Norman McClellan won both cups in 1949.

Second Polio Epidemic

The 1947 annual break-up ceremony was cancelled on account of another polio epidemic. Mr Jackson Brown dressed as Father Christmas, and Mr Pepperill, the teacher at the time met the children of the district at the gates of their homes, to distribute books, presents and toys. Colin Walter, then 20, sadly died of the disease. Following the holiday break, lessons resumed through correspondence school for a short time, until school reopened in March 1948.

Removal Of School Building

Negotiations with the Education Board to replace the original school building were begun in 1948. It wasn't until Mr Hill's second term as teacher (1951-53), that the shift actually took place from up on the well-kept terraced hillside, which all vanished beneath the blade of the bulldozer, to its present site. The old classroom was expected to become a manual training centre, with the new school on the top flat.

However, due to a change in policy, the plans for the new school building fell through, and the task lay ahead of repairing and remodelling the 'dumped' school, and starting afresh on developing the grounds. A number of concentrated working bees saw the levelling and fencing completed, paths and an assembly area concreted, septic tank systems installed to both school and residence, and the grounds laid out.

Swimming Baths

For local families, the school baths provide the ideal setting in which to combine swimming, sunning, baby-sitting and the exchange of idle gossip, particularly during the summer school holidays.

Swimming instruction and life-saving is an important facet of the school curriculum.

The district has not always had such a well-patronised amenity. In earlier days swimming 'holes' were the Patea or Waitara rivers and locally, in the Douglas and Makuri streams. Thought was first given to providing swimming baths for the school in 1938. And at one time the baths were an alternative for the War Memorial project.

After considerable local effort and assistance from the Education Board, the school baths were opened in January 1956. The water was pumped from the back of the Rumball property, and was changed every week, the process taking a whole day.

A progressive step was made in 1963 when the school was connected to the village water supply from Arthur Walter's property. A filtration plant was installed at that time. This served until 1980 when

the plant was replaced at a cost of \$2076 - of which the Board provided a grant of \$650. The rest was provided by the local community.

Over the years, the original pool area has been added to, concrete terraces constructed, a grassy slope formed, and toilets and changing sheds built. When the high fence was erected, it was immediately used by the head teacher's delighted young pre-schooler as a climbing frame.

In 1977 it became Board policy to pay the teacher for the maintenance of the baths in school time. As a means of keeping the baths operational during the summer holidays, families contribute \$3 towards their upkeep by a paid helper, and at times a roster of families has had to be used.

Today, the complex boasts the main pool, a learners' pool, and a popular toddlers' pool.

Grounds And Buildings

The school grounds and appearance have been totally transformed from the original old building sitting atop terraces planted in fine trees.

Mr D. R. Hill, (teacher 1938-40 and 51-53), wrote in the Golden Jubilee booklet that the land chosen for school sites, particularly the Douglas School site, is often most unsuitable. Trevor Signal, principal 1981, comments, "Thanks to the hard work put into it by the members of the community, I feel this is now one of the most attractive and interesting school grounds to be found. The trees, shrubs and varying levels of the ground create setting. We are at present continuing a policy of planting the empty spaces on the bank between the school playground and the bus shed in native trees. This will replace those removed when the redevelopment took place". Like some other government schemes, the proposal in 1953 to build a new school and use the old building as a manual training centre for eastern schools, never eventuated. The "new school" block was not used until the third term 1970. The senior classes moved in, and the infants spread out into the old building. It is planned in the long term to replace the original building, and add a second classroom beside the top school.

The full-sized netball court, concreted in 1957, was broken up in 1970 to make way for the new school block. The court was rebuilt on its present site in 1973, and is now used for netball, pater-tennis and tennis.

In 1962 the land extending to the boarding house was leased from Ken Latham for grazing the school sheep. It was purchased outright ten years later, and now supports a small flock.

A hundred macrocarpa trees were planted on the school hill in 1941, no doubt for timber and firewood. In 1981, they tower above the school house, creating concern - some are dying, and they are unwanted for commercial purposes by timber merchants.

The school playground reflects the current trend towards 'adventure' equipment, with ropes from the trees on Graeme Walter's boundary, a maypole rope, and a climbing tower with an attached 'flying-fox' wire which was completed in 1977.

Falls from this equipment have caused fractured bones and many children have been dunked in the not-so-clean water of the boundary drain.

Tututawa Consolidates

The consolidation of Tututawa school with Douglas on July 8, 1969, added 17 more pupils to the roll of 34. The Education Board provided a bus, based in Douglas, travelling as far as the Tawhiwhi Road, 15 kms from school, making a daily trip of 60 kms.

A shed to house the school bus was moved from Huinga on an Aitken Bros. truck - literally on top, as the truck was driven into the shed, and the construction lifted to fit on the truck.

In 1974, a fuel-tank was installed at the school, replacing the service previously provided by the Douglas store.

Bus drivers have been Mick Paton, Dick Mitchell, Bev Baker, Brian and Kath Wilmshurst, Rex and Karen Downs, Walter and Faye Molloy and Trevor and Pam Signal.

Recent School Activities

The end-of-year break-up concert, with its carnival-like atmosphere always features the appearance of Father Christmas, who hands out presents off the tree to the pre-schoolers and juniors, and books to the senior pupils.

Recently a special presentation has been made to the Form II children leaving for high school.

As a gesture of appreciation to the older generation the committee invites senior residents and ex-residents to perform this presentation.

The concert itself is sometimes very ambitious, often a strain on both teachers and pupils, but always much-appreciated by the parents.

In 1961 the school concert was held outdoors, with folk-dancing and a nativity play performed under coloured lights on the bottom flat.



Lamb Judging - 1974

Calf Judging

Calf judging days always feature in the school year, and most pupils will remember the associated animal 'friendships' and frustrations, and the feeling of relief when the day has been and gone.

Bradley Walter recalls the sorrow on discovering his pet lamb had slipped down the slope under the sycamore trees at school on judging day and strangled itself. And Andrew Bredow's Friesian calf unfortunately leapt out of the trailer on to the road near the church on its way to the school for judging - it completed the course, but in a somewhat unconscious state.

Judging is normally held on the school grounds, often accompanied by an indoor show and display of work by the pupils. In 1970 judging took place at the domain, due to re-development on the school grounds, and in 1972 very wet weather forced the event to take place inside the old factory building.

In the days of the boys' and girls' agriculture clubs, under the enthusiastic leadership of Rod Syme, a group judging day was held at Toko for the winning calves from each local eastern districts' school. The place-getters from Toko went on to a final judging at Eltham.

In 1937 Betty Jury won the Rosedale Cup for the best-groomed and handled calf in the light breeds section at the group judging, and went on to win the leading competition at the finals in Eltham.

Lorraine Bishop and Carolyn Smith won with their calves at the group judging in Toko in 1958 and '59 respectively.

Since 1964 the emphasis has moved from breed and dairy type with calves, to rearing and handling, reflecting better the child/calf relationship. Today a pets' contest for pre-schoolers, and the drinking competition for lambs both help contribute towards an informal day.

Manual training one afternoon a week for Forms I and II pupils at Eltham, then Stratford High School, was obtained in 1964. As well as assisting the country children to adapt to the large school environment, they receive tuition in sewing, cooking, woodwork and metalwork.

Douglas School - 1947



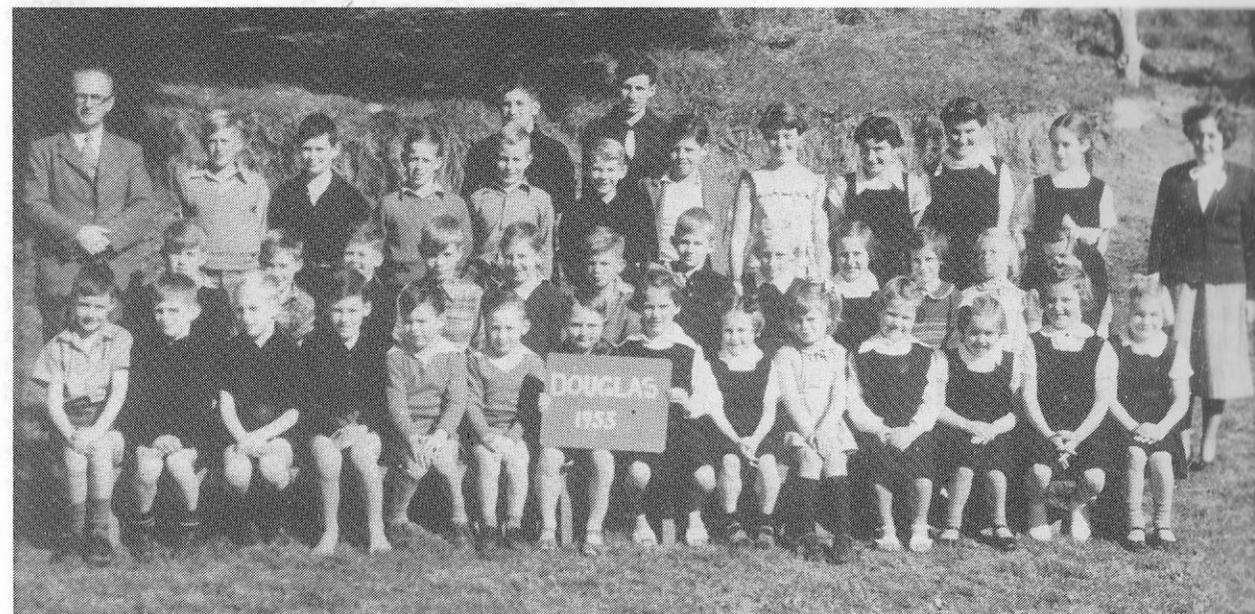
Back Row: Barry Pepperell, Graham Chapman, Ian Rumball, Raymond Saywell, Brian Wilmshurst, Graham Miers, Jim Mason, Noel Saywell, Bradley Walter, Owen Walter.
Second Row: Edna Mason, Jean Saywell, Shirley Chapman, Dulcie Saywell, Shirley Bonner, Joan Walter, Eva Selby, Alison Selby, Margaret Diffey, Peggy Bellamy.
Third Row: Ashley Pepperell, John Baker, Ivan Franklin, Jennifer Ward, Bessie Selby, Avis Saywell, Barbara Diffey, Justine Walter, Margaret Wilmshurst, Elizabeth Walter, Glen Johnson, Ian Johnson.
Front Row: Murray Johnson, Robbie Diffey, Denys Latham, John Rumball, David Walter, Colin Saywell, Alistair Reith, Barry Rumball, Murray Rodgers.

Douglas - 1951



Back Row: Barry Dillon, Bill Rumball, Barry Rumball, Michael Hill, Colin Saywell, Bryan Dillon, Denys Latham, David Walter, Robbie Diffey.
Second Row: Neil Walter, Shirley Perrett, Bessie Selby, Margaret Wilmshurst, Elizabeth Walter, Alison Selby, Barbara Diffey, Peggy Bellamy, Justine Walter, Avis Saywell, John Rumball, Beverley Chapman, Alan Smith, Mr D. R. Hill.
Third Row: Mrs H. Lampitt, Rodney Brown, Selwyn Rodgers, John Rodgers, Graeme Walter, Ian Latham, John Howse, Tony Rumball, Peter Coles, Ian Saywell, Michael Howse, John Walter, Terry Ewens, Michael Paton.
Front Row: Heather Coull, Helen Walter, Lorraine Bishop, Colleen Rogers, Janice Dillon, Margaret Smith, Eleanor Sexton, Beverley Cadman, Shirley Coles, Marion Saywell.

Douglas - 1953



Back Row: Denys Latham, Alan Lewis.
Second Row: Mr D. R. Hill, Godfrey Ham, John Rumball, Tom Buckingham, Neil Walter, Peter Coles, Alan Smith, Justine Walter, Margaret Wilmshurst, Elizabeth Walter, Bessie Selby, Miss D. Murphy.
Third Row: Raymond Wilson, John Howse, John Rodgers, Michael Howse, Kelvin Collier, Jim Ham, Tony Rumball, Eleanor Sexton, Beverley Chapman, Lorraine Bishop, Pauline Ham, Margaret Smith.
Front Row: Graeme Walter, Selwyn Rodgers, Ian Latham, John Walter, John Smith, Terry Ewens, Michael Paton, Helen Walter, Judy Paton, Judy Ham, Mavis Walter, Jocelyn Chapman, Heather Coull, Shirley Coles.

Douglas School - 1956



Back Row: Terry Ewens, Selwyn Rodgers, John Rodgers, John Walter, Kelvin Collier, Jim Ham, Michael Howse, John Howse, Graeme Walter, Ian Latham, John Smith, Duncan Anderson, Michael Paton.
Middle Row: Judith Paton, Colleen Collier, Mavis Walter, Helen Walter, Margaret Smith, Beverley Chapman, Lorraine Bishop, Pauline Ham, Judy Ham, Shirley Coles, Jocelyn Chapman.
Front Row: Trevor Smith, Maurice Ham, Peter Foote, Alec McDonald, Lynne Mackay, Colleen Rodgers, Carolyn Smith, Raewyn Latham, Jeannie Smith (?), Janice Fowler, Jevana Shelford, Beverley Rangitonga, Michael Foote, Trevor Alan Smith, Euan Anderson.
In Front: Peter Mason, Gordon Rangitonga, Evan Mason, Antony Slape, Denis McDonald.

Cultural Activities

The Douglas children have often participated in combined school music festivals - under the expert training of Hugh Wright, Faye Molloy and Liz Hughes in recent years, and the direction of schools' music advisor Mr Ian Menzies.

In 1971 Douglas children presented a musical item at a reception in New Plymouth for a touring women's hockey team from Wales. The touring Children's Art Theatre performed for Douglas and surrounding schools in the Douglas hall during the 60's and 70's. The emphasis was on audience participation.

The introduction of 'new maths' into the curriculum for Stds 1-4 in 1968 was reason for the teacher to conduct a series of night classes for the parents - was it to keep them up with their children, or to allow them to assist with their children's homework?

An important recent project has been to set the library under the Dewey system of cataloguing, introduced in 1973.

This enables the children to use the library efficiently, and combined with the full use of the school library service, has given a wider choice of reading for leisure and for study purposes.

In 1974 the school qualified for the use of a teacher aide - working at the teacher's direction, with the hours of work dependent upon the roll. Kath Wilmshurst and Eva Frank have filled this role, working between five to fifteen hours per week over the years. The Board finances this scheme.

School Picnic And Trips

In early years the annual school picnic was held in the district, often on the school grounds. Prior to the Second World War an excursion train took a number of local schools to Ngamotu Beach for a common picnic day. In more recent years popular venues have been Ngamotu Beach, Opunake, Urenui, Kawaroa Park and King Edward Park in Hawera. In 1974 the school picnic was organised on the bottom flat at the school in the form of a mini-gala day. Some years a winter trip to Mt Egmont has taken place.

Day trips by the pupils to places of interest, (Post Office, Library, Fire Station, Museum) in Stratford and New Plymouth are frequently arranged. In 1967 a school group visited the Tatu State Coalmine at Ohura, and in 1974 parents and children travelled on the railcar to Taumarunui for the day. One year a camp-out took place on the school grounds.

On a grander scale, trips to Wellington, Christchurch, Napier, Manukorihi Pa (Waitara), Manganui Ski Lodge (Mt Egmont) and Lake Rotokare have proved a valuable experience for the children and parents. Finance for these school trips has been raised by parents and children running raffles, conducting bottles-drives, cake stalls etc.

Miscellaneous Events

Governor General, Sir Bernard Fergusson (1966) and Sir Arthur Porritt (1971), paid vice-regal visits to the school.

New schoolhouse opened in November, 1964.

Neil Bell won a national drawing competition in 1965.

In 1969 a rare species of native skink (Latilinearun) housed in the nature table of the infant room attracted the attention of DSIR scientists. Pupils of Cheryl Spiers (Mrs John Howse) found them in bush areas at the back of Stallard and Bredow properties, and successfully raised a batch of young at the school. Their natural habitat is fallen maire logs, and other skinks of this species found recently on the farms of John Howse and Bradley Walter are believed to be among the last to survive European settlement. Douglas is thought to be the only area in New Zealand where they are still found.

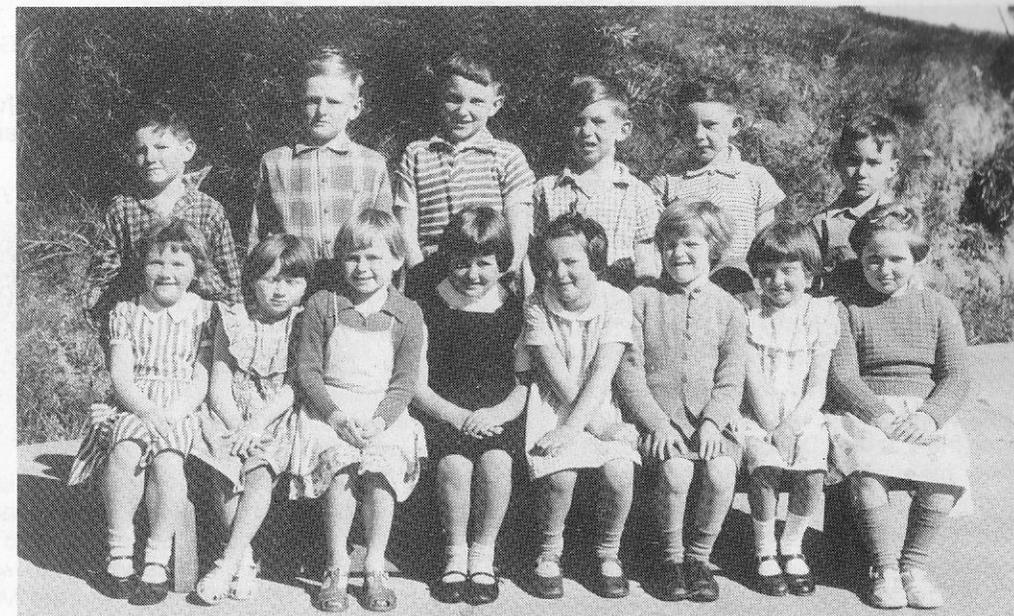


Governor - General Sir Bernard Fergusson lifts David Lampitt's cap while Headmaster Mr Hugh Wright looks on - vice-regal visit, 1966

Sports Events

Over the years the children have been given opportunities to compete in a variety of sports - athletics, tennis, swimming, rugby, netball and hockey have been the main activities, but in recent years cross-country running, cricket, softball, soccer life-saving and gymnastics have been included, with table-tennis and even indoor bowls introduced one year.

1961 Juniors



Back Row: Murray Reid, John Selby, Allan Curry, Ross Graham, Colin Curry, David Lampitt.
Front Row: Robin Paton, Lyn Cox, Christine Carryer, Marilyn Chapman, Susan Bredow, Alison MacKay, Denise Attley, Karen Bishop.

1961 Seniors

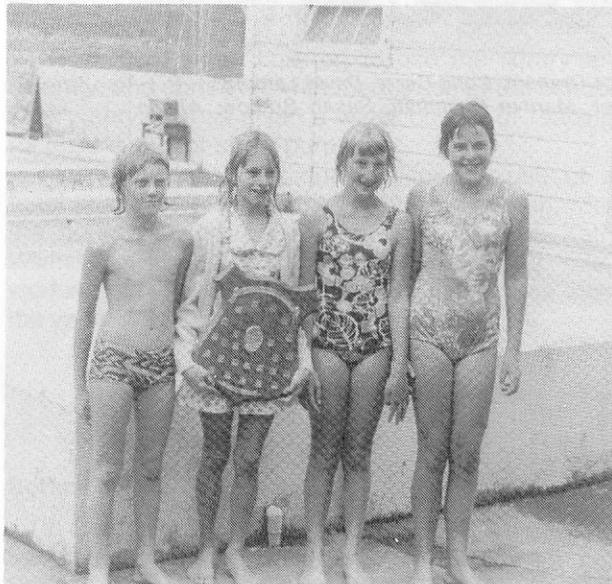


Back Row: Kevin Graham, Irene Curry, David Bell, Raewyn Latham, Peter Curry, Colleen Rodgers, Graeme Reid, Conagh Ewens.
Front Row: Allan Reid, Valma Cox, Charles Lampitt, Bronwyn Garlick, David Stallard, Shona Stallard, Graeme Garlick.

Although it cannot be strictly classified as a sport, a great deal of fun eventuated in the late 70s from a mudslide on the hill. Very popular with the pupils and a certain teacher, but not so with mothers!

For many years Douglas participated in an inter-school sports competition with other eastern district schools e.g. swimming, athletics, rugby and netball. Lately the emphasis has shifted to an involvement with neighbouring schools of a similar roll number, namely Huinga, Stanley and Toko. Competition with eastern district schools still continues through the Jones' Cup day, Amy Smith tennis tournament and athletic sports.

The athletic sports meeting, originally held at Toko to compete for the Were Banner, was transferred to the Douglas domain in 1978 - considered a better venue, now that the Eastern Districts' Athletic Club conducts weekly meetings there and maintains the ground. The format of this athletic meeting has been altered, and now also includes field events.



Swimming Team with Bertrand Shield - Mark Walter, Sharon Aitken, Kristin Wilmshurst, Linda Reichardt

Recent Sports Achievements

1952 - Margaret Wilmshurst and Michael Hill win Barometer trophy for doubles in Amy Smith Memorial Tennis Tournament.

1953 - Elizabeth Walter and Alan Smith win doubles at Amy Smith tennis.

1955 - Bev Chapman and Neil Walter win doubles at Amy Smith tennis.

1958 - John Walter wins singles at Amy Smith Tennis Tournament. Senior netball team (combined with Huiroa) wins Jones' Cup. Senior rugby team (combined with Huinga) wins Childs' Cup.

1959 - John Smith represents Taranaki in the primary school rugby team (and also in 1960). Senior rugby team (combined with Huinga) wins Childs' Cup again.

1960 - Senior netball team wins Jones' Cup. Mavis Walter and Jocelyn Chapman selected for final trial Taranaki Primary Schools' netball.

1965 - Ross and Kevin Graham selected for Taranaki Primary Schools' hockey team.

1966 - Shona Stallard and Graham Garlick win doubles at Amy Smith tennis.

1967 - Won country schools' trophy for relay at Turnbull Cup swimming meet: Ross Graham, Denise Mosen, Denise Attley and Jenny Gordon.

1968 - Won Central Taranaki Primary Schools' Hockey Tournament.

1972 - Teacher (Mr Molloy) finds lost Jones' Cup (missing 10 years), while cleaning out cupboards at school. Douglas wins FIRST game of rugby at Jones' Cup day for 10 years.

1974 - Kaye Walter runner-up in singles Amy Smith tennis.

1976 - Kristin Wilmshurst and Steven Avery win doubles Amy Smith tennis.

Kaye Walter runner-up singles Amy Smith tennis.

1977 - Combined Toko/Huinga/Douglas 10-aside rugby team loses final McLeod Shield to Opunake Convent 4-3. (Steven Avery, Andrew Molloy, Dawson Coupe, Mark Walter). Andrew Molloy and Anna Coupe win doubles Amy Smith tennis. Steven Avery selected for final trial Taranaki Primary Schools' rugby team - plays in Ross Brown Shield.

1978 - Senior boys win cross-country race at Huinga (1st Andrew Molloy, 2nd Paul Avery, 3rd Andrew Bredow). Andrew Molloy and Anna Coupe again win doubles at Amy Smith tennis. Anna Coupe runner-up Central Taranaki Primary Schools' Tennis Tournament, and with Linda Reichardt wins doubles.

1979 - Senior rugby team wins Childs' Cup at Jones' Cup day. Anna Coupe wins singles Amy Smith tennis.

1980 - Mark O'Byrne selected for final trial Taranaki Primary Schools' Rugby team. Selected for Ross Brown Shield team. Paul Avery and Robyn Walter win doubles Amy Smith tennis.

Finance And Fund-Raising

Since 1978 the school committee has leased the Tututawa Domain where a flock of ewes is run, cared for by local parents. This supplements money from the education board, along with the proceeds from the few sheep run at the school itself.

In the two years 75-77, the board provided \$1242 to the committee for maintenance, electricity, water, etc. and \$2653 for wages to cleaner and groundsman. A special account had been opened for this purpose in 1958.

In the early 1960s, gala nights were held at the hall to raise money. Gala Days at the domain in 1959 and 1960 featured go-karts. And a motor sports gala day on Jim Reid's farm was organised by the school committee to raise funds in March 1969. Scramble bikes, go-karts, saloon and stock cars were featured.

An unexpected spectacle was a tractor that rolled off a track and down a hill. There was no injury, fortunately.



Back Row: Mr W. J. Molloy (teacher), Shelley Wilmshurst, Sally Bredow, Shona Frank, Penny Barret, Lynnette Charteris, Gayleen Wilmshurst, Harold Gibson, Stanley Brown, Jane Walter, Louise Te Huna.
 Second Row: Graham Charteris, Sonia Coupe, Julie Bell, Keith Smaller, Anne Walter, cousin of Te Huna's, Valerie Te Huna, Keith Reichardt, Graeme Cox, Alan Baker, Claire Bredow, Mrs M. Bellamy (teacher).
 Third Row: Kerry Aitken, Kathryn Stallard, Dianne Baker, Margaret Brown, Janine Cox, Steven Avery, Susan Taylor, Simon Te Huna, Lynnette Baker, Kim Molloy, Kay Walter, Linda Reichardt, Kristin Wilmshurst, Julie Gibson.
 Front Row: Wendy Avery, Andrew Molloy, Jennie Stallard, Sharon Aitken, Shawn Robbins, Karen Bonner, Dawson Coupe, Janice Te Huna, Helen Thomson, Andrew Bredow, Mark Walter, Debbie White.

School Committees

The school has always been served by willing and capable committees supported by a community prepared to give voluntary assistance at the many working-bees.

In the past 48 years since the last School Commissioner, Mr Walter Rumball retired, there have been only four school committee chairman - Walter Bredow 1933-1950; Jack Walter 1950-61; Tom Bredow 1961-79; Rex Downs 1979-

In 1973 Education Board policy changed from subsidising money raised locally for the purchase of equipment, to one of providing the desired amenities with board funds. This does not allow for all requirements at all schools to be met, and efficient lobbying by the committees has been necessary to ensure priorities at Douglas to receive attention.

School Inspectors' reports have always praised the amenities and attitudes of teachers, children and parents at Douglas and describe the children as friendly, courteous and a pleasure to visit.

School committee at the time of the jubilee was: Rex Downs (chairman); Bob Thomson (secretary); Judy Chapman, Richie Coles, Brian Williams. The school cleaner 1981, Mrs Eva Frank, and groundsman, Bruce Reichardt.

The Home and School Committee organises certain fund-raising projects - such as selling drinks and iceblocks and supplying lunches for sale, on athletics day, and manning a bring-and-buy stall on calf-judging day.

Through these efforts a set of rugby jerseys, school T-shirts, netball skirts and other incidental items of equipment have been supplied to the school.

Chairman of the Home and School in 1981 is Cheryl Howse and the secretary, Joyce Callaghan.

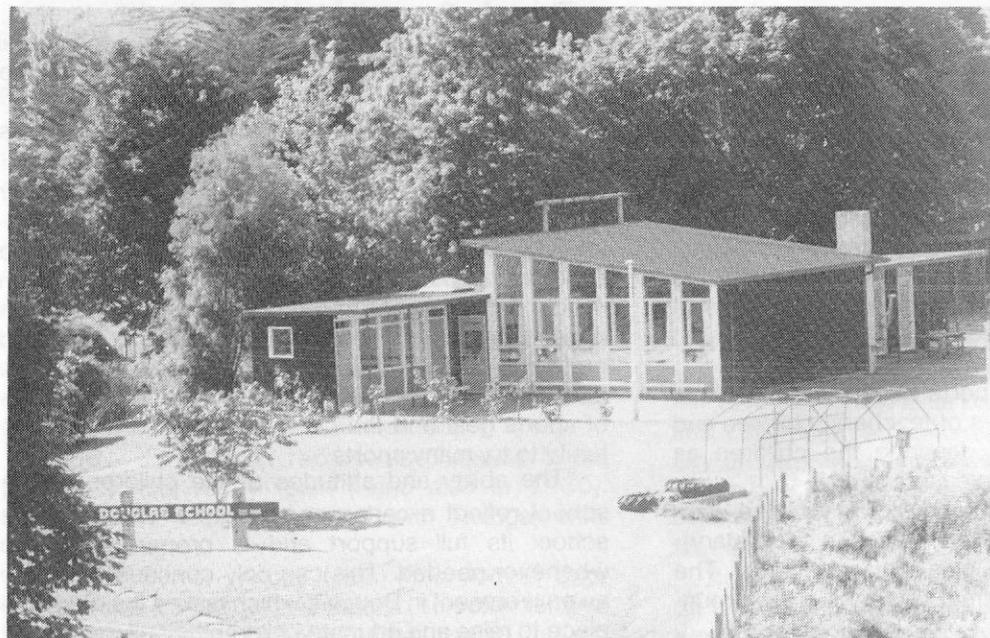
In the words of the present principal, Trevor Signal, "As well as having very attractive surroundings, Douglas is a well-equipped school. Among the varied equipment is a thermal heat copier which makes banda sheets to reproduce written material in large numbers, and make acetates for the overhead projector; tape recorders; listening posts, and movie and filmstrip projectors. The school has a wide range of sports gear and the children are given the opportunity to try many sports.

"The ability and attitudes of the children at the school reflect a caring community which gives the school its full support and is prepared to help whenever needed. This can only continue to create an environment in Douglas which makes it a desirable place to raise and educate children".

List Of Teachers

| Year | Head | Assistant | Roll | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|------|------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Appointed | | | | 1949 | | Mrs B. Lampitt 49 |
| 1906 | Miss L. F. Riley | | 17 | 1951 | Mr J. W. Taylor (R) | |
| 1907 | Miss L. Finnerty | | 30 | 1951 | Mr D. R. Hill | |
| 1908 | Miss M. Berry (R) | | | 1952 | | Miss D. Murphy |
| 1908 | Mr D. Cameron | ... | | 1954 | Mr R. S. Munro | Mrs D. Anderson |
| 1909 | Mr W. H. Scammell (R) | Sole Charge | | 1957 | | Miss J. Sander (R) 35 |
| 1909 | Mr C. F. Smith | Charge | | 1957 | Mr K. C. Cathro | |
| 1910 | Miss S. R. Hickey | ... | | 1957 | | Miss S. McKenzie (R) |
| 1912 | Mr E. Vickers (R) | | | 1958 | | Mrs M. Cathro 34 |
| 1912 | Mr J. W. T. Jones | | | 1959 | | Sole Charge |
| 1914 | | Miss I. Cameron | | 1960 | | Mrs M. Cathro |
| 1916 | F. B. Peart (R) | | | 1961 | | Miss M. Ford 35 |
| 1916 | Miss I. Westrup | | 61 | 1961 | | Mrs M. Cathro (R) |
| 1919 | | Miss E. Surman | | 1962 | | Sole Charge 1st Term 29 |
| 1920 | | Miss D. Woulfe | | 1962 | | Mrs M. Cathro (R) |
| 1926 | | Miss S. Lawrence | | 1963 | | Miss J. Hall |
| 1928 | Miss A. Frethey | ... | 36 | 1963 | Mr H. O. Wright | |
| 1931 | Mr H. O. Donnelly (R) | | 27 | 1966 | | Miss K. Hilmer |
| 1932 | Miss A. Frethey | Sole Charge | | 1967 | Mr N. Barrett | |
| 1934 | Mr E. Mason (R) | | | 1968 | | Miss C. Spiers 42 |
| 1934 | Mr H. Maingay | | | 1970 | | Miss A. Mace 51 |
| 1937 | Miss E. Geddes (R) | | | 1970 | | Mrs L. Barrett (R) |
| 1937 | Mr C. Baunton | | 20 | 1971 | | Mrs M. Bellamy |
| 1938 | Mr D. R. Hill | | | 1971 | Mr W. J. Molloy | |
| 1940 | Mr D. G. McCracken | | | 1975 | | Mrs E. Hughes |
| 1942 | Mr I. T. Pepperell | ... | 32 | 1976 | | |
| 1943 | | Miss M. Hedgeman | 38 | 1980 | Mr R. T. Signal | Mrs P. Signal 55 |
| 1946 | | Mrs E. Walter (R) | | 1981 | | 33 |
| 1946 | | Miss D. Willetts | | | | |

NOTE: Very short-term relieving teachers have not been included.



Douglas School - infant block, 1981

1956 50th Jubilee

1906 - 1915



Back Row: Walter Bredow, Burt Wilmshurst, Arthur Chapman, Nelson Bunning, Fred Needham, Chris Wilmshurst, Harry Watson, Keith Webb, Dennis Needham, Archie Rogers.

Middle Row: Arthur Watson, Doug Needham, Harold (Snow) Needham, Tottie Cox (McLellan), Dolly Walter (Wilmshurst), Tom Smith, Rita Caldwell (Jacobs), Jack Thomas, Dolly Sattler (Bunning), Jim McLellan, Betsy Bush (Bunning), Cyril Aker, Jean Parkes (Needham), Harry McLellan, Ester Gibbs (Rogers), Jack Walter, Isabel Milne (Wylie), Ernie Walter, Leila Thompson (Needham), Tom Watson, Ada Cawsey (Chapman), Leo Needham, Arthur Walter, Hilda Bredow (visitor).

Front Row: Bessie Allen (Walter), Jean Bell (Walter), Louie Rumball (Walter), Doris Phillips (Smith), Hilda Howard (Needham), Flora Mason (Smith), Miss Finnerty (teacher), Ivy Wylie (Needham), Madge Dowdle (Smith), Doris Davis (Kneebone), Isobel Walsh (Kneebone).

1916 - 1925



Back Row: Frank Latham, Doug Bunning, Bill Gichard, Keith Rogers, Claude Rogers, Jackson Brown, Ken Latham, Herbie Wilmshurst, Ted Reader.

Middle Row: Mary Walter (Rumball), Mabel Rogers, Ted Rodgers, Ivy Chapman, Hazel McIntosh (Wilmshurst), Albert Gichard, Edna Boulivard (Rodgers), Dorothy Iremonger (Rodgers), Gifford Brown, Pat Ewens (Needham), Bob Reader, Reg Phillips, Burt Reader, Keith Hancox, Ted Smith.

Front Row: Florrie Howse (Rumball), Edith Potroz (Jacobs), Francis Milner (Jacobs), Eileen Clarke (Rodgers), Kingsley Southam (Brown), Edna Jacobsen (Phillips), Joyce Hayes (Cresswell), Maidie Johnstone (Bunning), Maud Ford (Rodgers), Mary Harding, Monica Jimmieson (Harding), Phyllis Feek (Harding).

Douglas School Pupils - 1906 - 1981

1906

Harold Puckridge, Victor Wiles, Fred Needham, Dennis Needham, Charlie Jones, Robert Hill, Harold Nelson, Charles Smith, Elsie Woulfe, Gladys Needham, Doris Woulfe, Ivy Needham, Doris Kneebone, Isobel Kneebone, Flora Smith, Hilda Needham, Kathleen Woulfe, Madge Smith, Annie Keightley, Eric Puckridge, Arthur Keightley, Eric Baxter, Donald Baxter, Austin Goss, Philip Goss, Leila Hill, James Woulfe.

1907

Laura Gedge, Myrtle Gedge, Martin Gedge, Doris Smith, Emily Macbeth, Eileen Macbeth, Jessie Houlding, Arthur Walter, Robert Swan, Richard Swan, Marjory Woulfe, Ruby Swan, Helen Bredow, Walter Bredow, Gertrude Bredow, Leslie Needham, Jean Walter.

1908

Charles Gifford, Florrie Keightley, Philip Goss, Sarah Knox, May Knox, Bessie Knox, Stanley Webb, Keith Webb, Evelyn Zimmerman, James Murtagh, Mary Rooney, Nellie Rooney.

1909

Evelyn Edwards, Edward Murtagh, Sydney Marsh, Arthur Marsh, Harold Marsh, Gilbert Marsh, Lilian Marsh, Elsie Marsh, John Walter, Ethel Newell, Gladys Newell, Hilda Newell, Harry McLellan, Linda Mclver, Henry Watson, Thomas Watson.

1910

Ivy Chapman, Ada Chapman, Mary Wilmshurst, John Smith, Phyllis Murtagh, Constance McLellan, Leila Needham, Leo Needham.

1911

Arthur Chapman, Richard Watson, Bertram Wilmshurst, Dulcie Needham, Harold Needham, Guy Webb, Maurice Gillard, Beatrice Gillard, Eileen Bottin, Isabella Wylie, Hugh Wylie.

1912

Edna Orbell, Archie Rogers, Clarence Rogers, David Rea, Doris Watson, Arnold Watson, Arthur Watson, John Rea, Margaret Johnstone, Frederick Floyd, Raymond Watson, Ester Rogers, Christopher Wilmshurst, Eva Lee, Ernest Walter, Eric McLellan, Thelma Anderson.

1913

Douglas Needham, Thomas Smith, Douglas Gillard.

1914

Cassie Jacobs, John Jacobs, Joseph Jacobs, Margarita Jacobs, Bessie Walter, Claude Rogers, Joan Watson, Cyril Aker, Eileen Law, Lilian Law, Harold Law, Joseph Law, William Lockhead, Brabb Hayes, James Main, William Main, John Main, Frederick Main, Moreen Main, Kathleen Needham, Linda Mclvor.

1915

Beatrice Bunning, Elizabeth Bunning, Nelson Bunning, Jack Thomas, Florence Jonas, Max Jonas, Jean Copeland, Louie Walter, Arthur Smith, Clement Chapman, James McLellan, Evelyn Wilmshurst, Frederick Corney, Hubert Main, John Carter, Alfred Bunning.

1916

Frederick Perreaux, May Perreaux, Rose Perreaux, Roy Rogers, Muriel Lockhead, Corris Hayes, Eric Death, Hilda Death, Amy Death, Ella Death, Martin Rea, Charles Jacobs, Muriel Walter.

1917

Roy Needham, Pearce Watson, Keith Rogers, Jane Olsen, George Olsen, Arnold Hancox, Leslie Hancox, Evelyn Hancox, Ina Hancox, Stanley Thacker, Jean Anderson.

1918

Irene Chapman, Edward Smith, Margaret Harding, Maidie Bunning, Cecil Savage, William Epping, Jackson Brown, Kingsley Brown, Clifford Rea, Logan Brown, Thelma Rae.

1919

Lionel Ryan, Thomas Ryan, Charles Ryan, Monica Harding, Muriel McPhee, Vera Jacobs, Arthur Gillard, Francis Latham, Albert Lander, Maud Rodgers, Mabel Rodgers, Eileen Rodgers, Edward Rodgers, Reginald Phillips, Alfred Phillips, Audrey Burch.

1920

Gwen Newman, Roma Newman, James Hodgins, Eileen Witherford, Arthur Witherford, Marion Witherford, Dorothy Rodgers, Vida Needham, Herbert Wilmshurst, Lorraine Latham, Gifford Brown, Edward Reader, Melanie Gichard, Albert Gichard.

1921

William Gichard, Edna Rodgers, Bertha Key, Asyneth Key, Maud Emeny, Florence Chapman, Maisie Rea, Beatrice Rea, Ivy Gichard, Kathleen Gooch, William Gooch, Ellen Gooch, Teresa Gooch, Mary Gooch, Cecil Gooch, Agnes Gooch, Kenneth Latham, Maurice Rogerson, Daniel Gooch, John Wilmshurst, Francis Wilson, Mary Phillips, Phyllis Harding, Douglas Bunning.

1922

Claude Jonsen, Sidney Bayly, Mollie Needham, Clara McPhee, Kathleen Schwieters, Mary Rumball, Florence Rumball, Clayton Taylor.

1923

Esther Gooch, Leslie White, Hughie White, Rainford Cresswell, Edna Cresswell, William Walter, Royden Wirwood, Gladys Wirwood, Victor Taylor, Myrtle Wirwood, Ellen Ritter, Norman Ritter, Phyllis Jonsen, Burton Reader.

1924

Francis Jacobs, Edith Jacobs, Maxwell Brown, Aubrey Harding, Hugh Stutter, Violet Thompson, Maisie Thompson, Amy Walter, Phyllis Gooch, Hazel Wilmshurst.

1925

William Harding, Lionel Garlick, Bert Garlick, Robert Reader, Eric Kearse, Bob Mason.

1926

Nancy Ewans, Kathleen McPhee, Maisie McPhee, James Deane, Ada Deane, Joseph Deane, Albert Jacobs, Ellen Deane, Frederick Cruikshank, Gladys Cruikshank, Olive Rumball, Edgar Wills.

1927

Hugh Ancell, Ernest Reader, Mary Claridge, Mary Harding, Margaret Walter, Vera Muldrock, Eric Wills, Allan Wallace, Maurice Kearse, Jim Thompson.

1928

Alick Boyce, Trevor Boyce, Eris Cruikshank, Reginald Cruikshank, Ivor Gould, Marion Gould, Leonard Angus, Irene Thompson, Robert Mann.

1929

Lawrence Shine, Harold Mattock, Ray Mattock, Valentine Mattock, Joyce Mattock, Eileen Bevins, Ronald Reader, Patrick Lush, Norman Bevins, Sidney Mattock.

1930

Joyce Angus, Joan Fishwick, Nancy Walter, Leonard Caldwell, Olga Skousgaard.

1931

Rohan Cuff, Harold Bates, Robert McCoy, George McCoy, Trevor McCoy, Maurice McKenzie, Lorna Northcott, Mavis Northcott, Vida Grimwood, Irene Wilmshurst, Pearl Kelly, Leslie Kelly, Stanley Kelly, Nancy Kelly, Dorothy Fishwick, Gloria Walter.

1932

William Reader, George Ashley, Lesler Yeatman, Leon McKenzie, Noel McKenzie, Shirley McKenzie.

1933

Kenneth Stutter, Eric Stutter, Cyril Angus, Roy Nicol, Donald Walter, Patricia Olsen.

1934

James Gilligan, Thomas Gilligan, Joseph Gilligan, Bessie Reader, Alfred Ashley, Colin Walter, Raymond Hill, Alec Priest.

1935

Audrey Bonner, Vernon Harwood, Bain MacPhearson, Beryl Cruikshank, Raymond Jones, Margaret Mason, Alan Skousgaard, Sheila Cossey, Bertram Cossey, Mervyn Cossey, Rex Cossey, Len Jones, Colin Fishwick.

1936

Dorothy Ashley, Desmond Bonner, Thomas Mason, Leslie Kelly, Colin Olsen, Thomas Bredow, Brian Patten, Rea Stewart, Colleen Stewart, Archibald Stewart, Daphne Harwood, Joyce Cawsey, Florence Busby, Joyce Busby, Doreen Bishop, Marita Bishop, William Abbott, Clive Abbott, Myfanny Abbott, Patricia Abbott, Leslie Davidson, Yua Dons, Ruth Dons.

1937

Joe Bishop, Frank McLellan, Nora Bishop, Dorothy Mason, Betty Jury, Donald Jury.

1938

Margaret Corrigan, John Bovey, Theo Cuff, Charlotte Jacobsen, Jack Guthrie, Margaret Guthrie, Patricia Guthrie, Gordon Guthrie, Maureen Guthrie, John Reith, Patricia Welch.

1939

Valerie McCracken, Murray Walter, Norma Reid, Valerie Reid, Shirley Blyde, Thelma Alvis, Ronald Alvis, Ronald Kovaleski, Noeline Diffey, Patricia Smith, Freda Alvis, Milton Murray, Mary Reid.

1940

Rex Ford, Ruth Ford, Shirley Bonner, David Blyde, Gordon Cawsey, Arthur Hockey, Margaret Macartney, Daphne Marr, Norman McLellan, William Phillips.

1941

James Mason, Milton Smith, Patricia Smith, Eva Selby, Brian Wilmshurst, Phyllis Steer, Shona Trass, Basil Jacobson, Margaret Diffey, Hilary Dornbusch, Clayton Dornbusch, Joan Walter, Shirley Chapman, Bruce Ancell, Ian Rumball.

1942

Robert Cox, Margaret Hill, Jean Stewart, Donald Stewart, Ngaire Smith, Shirley Smith, Owen Walter, Freda Hook, Raymond Newport, Allison Stewart, Edna Mason, Barbara Diffey, Bradley Walter.

1943

Barry Pepperell, John Southam, Stella Newport, Alison Selby, Betty Ward, Eileen Saywell, Jean Saywell, Raymond Saywell, Marlene Reader, Evvonne Reader, Graham Chapman, Peggy Bellamy.

1944

Margaret Bishop, Newton Duenden, Bessie Selby, Ernest Cox, Barry Rumball, Kenneth Stevens, Malcolm Hunt, Colin Saywell, Dulcy Saywell, Noel Saywell, Murray Johnson, Murray Rodgers, David Walter.

1945

Alistair Reith, Margaret Wilmshurst, Jennifer Ward, Margaret Cox, William Rumball, Robert Diffey.

1946

Denys Latham, Elizabeth Walter, Ian Johnson, Glenn Johnson, Audrey Bellamy, Justine Walter, Graham Miers, Brian Miers, Ian Dowdle, Graeme Dowdle.

1947

Ashley Pepperell, John Rumball, Avis Saywell, John Baker, Ivan Franklin, Beulah Marsh, Myra Marsh, Leila Marsh, Robert Marsh.

1948

Marlene Marsh, Alan Smith, Neil Walter, Ian Saywell, Beverley Chapman, Lois McKinnon, Tony Rumball.

1949

Averyl Johnson, John Rodgers, Graeme Mawson, Lionel Cadman, Michael Howse, John Howse, Gail Pepperell, Margaret Smith, Gordon Baker.

1950

Beverly Cadman, Lorraine Bishop, Heather Coull, Graeme Walter, Ian Latham, Selwyn Rodgers, Rex Pollock.

1956 50th Jubilee

1926 - 1935



Back Row: Bill Reader, Alan Wallace, Jim Thompson, Hugh Ancell, Tom Bredow.
Front Row: Nancy Conn (Walter), Eris Willis (Cruickshank), Audrey Bell (Bonner), Margaret Garlick (Mason), Bessie Williams (Reader), Margaret Wackrow (Walter), Irene Thompson.

1936 - 1945



Back Row: Barry Rumball, David Walter, Alistair Reith, Ernie Cox, Bill Rumball, Murray Johnson, Colin Saywell, Newton Duendon.
Middle Row: Robbie Cox, Ian Rumball, Bradley Walter, Barry Pepperell, Bill Phillips, Ron Alvis, Bruce Ancell, Milton Smith.
Front Row: Valerie Broadmore (McCracken), Alison Selby, Shirley Bonner, Eva Selby, Ruth Ford, Dulcie Chainey (Saywell), Justine Walter, Jennifer Ward, Margaret Wilmshurst, Elizabeth Walter, Joan Walter, Bessie Selby, Margaret Cox.

1951

Marion Saywell, Marion Baker, John Walter, Helen Walter, Michael Hill, Michael Paton, Doris Cadman, Peter Coles, Shirley Coles, Janice Dillon, Barry Dillon, Bryan Dillon, Shirley Perrett, Owen Perrett, Eleanor Sexton, Rodney Brown, Colleen Rodgers.

1952

Terence Ewens, Jocelyn Chapman, John Smith, Godfrey Ham, James Ham, Pauline Ham, Kelvin Collier, Colleen Collier, Judith Ham, Mavis Walter, Alan Lewis, Raymond Wilson, Judith Paton.

1953

Tom Buckingham, Georgina Harwood.

1954

Colleen Rodgers, Duncan Anderson, Christina Fewson, Doreen Fewson, Beverley Rangitonga, Jeuvana Shelford, Euan Anderson, Trevor Smith, Janice Fowler, Lionel Fowler, Margaret Wood, Raewyn Latham, Peter Foote, Maurice Ham, Anthony Slape, Michael Foote, Carolyn Smith, Alex McDonald.

1955

Thomas Shelford, Lynn Mackay, Trevor Alan Smith, Judith Lowe.

1956

Gordon Rangitonga, Denis McDonald, Evan Mason, Peter Mason, Graeme Mackay, Dennis Collier, Frederick Smith, David Stallard, Margaret Jackson, Michael Slape, Avelyn Anderson, Joy Bellamy, Cheryl Bellamy.

1957

Graeme Reid, Margaret Foote, Kevin Graham, Gael Smith, David Bell, Charles Lampitt, Conagh Ewens, Ian Raven, Selwyn Gooch, Sandra Crombie, Bronwyn Garlick.

1958

Judith Bellamy, Dawn Foote, Ian Quigley.

1959

Allan Reid, Graeme Garlick, Lynette Crombie, Sharon Harwood, Trevor Warner, Jeanette Warner, Philip Warner, Neville Warner, Gary Price, Lyle Williams, Valerie Warner, Shona Stallard, Ross Graham, Marilyn Chapman, Pauline Bayly, Roxanne Goldup, Denise Goldup, Harold Jerguons, Lorraine Jerguons, Valerie Jerguons.

1960

Karen Bishop, David Lampitt, John Selby, Kathleen Harris, Ian Price, Jennifer Bayly, Kathryn Crombie, Leslie Jackson, Robyn Paton, Mervyn Wright, Alex Lubbers, Christine Carryer, Denise Atley.

1961

Alison MacKay, Jeffery Forman, Neville Forman, Susan Bredow, Murray Reid, Daphne Forman, Peter Curry, Irene Curry, Alan Curry, Colin Curry, Valma Cox, Lynne Cox, Wayne Curry.

1962

Pauline Mayo, Austin Mayo, Eunice Mayo, Brenda Mayo, Colin Carryer, Wayne Garlick, Diane Mason, Lawrence Bishop.

1963

Nancy Mayo, Carolyn Browne, Neil Bell, Graham Cox, Lesley Wright, Gillian Wright, Richard Wright, Lorraine Carryer.

1964

Gayleen Wilmshurst, Anne Walter, Graeme Attley, Stanley Browne, Roslyn MacKay, Claire Bredow, Jennifer Gordon, Karen Skedgwell, Judith Latham.

1965

Sheryl Garlick, Keith Reichardt, Paul Skedgwell, Dennis Skedgwell, Shirley Reid, Colin Reid.

1966

Julie Bell, Susan Heke, Jane Walter, Sally Bredow, Margaret Browne, Shelley Wilmshurst, Denise Mosen, Alister Mosen.

1967

Alan Baker, Lynette Baker, Sonia Coupe, Kevin Frank, Shona Frank, Harold Gibson, Barry Reid, Coralie Frank, Dianne Baker, Marlene Smaller, Jillian Smaller, Keith Smaller, Dianne Smaller, Janine Cox, Kathryn Stallard.

1968

Judith Davison, Susan Taylor, Kay Walter, Kristin Wilmshurst.

1969

*Donn Buchanan, *Stanley Chesswass, *Robert Ure, *Michael Ure, *Maree Ure, *Christine Ure, *Anna Ngawharau, *Shirley Ngawharau, *Karen Ngawharau, *Freddie Ngawharau, *Adam Barrett, *Stephen Avery, *Karen Bonner, *Denyse Condon, *Rex Charteris, *Graham Charteris, *Lynette Charteris, Allan Schrider, *Penelope Barrett, Jilanne Barrett, *Judy Williams.

*From consolidation with Tututawa.

1970

Richard Condon, Julie Gibson, Jeffrey Taylor, Helen Thomson, Jennifer Stallard, Wendy Avery, Ann Schrider, Dawson Coupe.

1971

Freda Botica, Mark Walter, Linda Reichardt, Kerry Aitken, Sharon Aitken, Kim Molloy, Andrew Molloy, Shawn Robbins, Andrew Bredow, Hilda Te Huna, James Te Huna, Louise Te Huna, Simon Te Huna, Valerie Te Huna, Debbie White, Leona Taputoro, Kevin Williams, Anna Coupe, Nicola Walter.

1972

Sharon Downs, Paul Avery, Robert Thomson, Pauline Baker, Jennifer Charteris, Richard Stephens.

1973

Jean MacDonald, Phillippa Walter, Jonathan Walter, David Smith, Gavin Taylor, David Downs, Gayleen Aitken, Robyn Walter, Gladys Hutton, Meryn Wills, Michael Prescott, Frances Williams, Peter Williams, Steven Hutton, Maree Chapman, Gina Knight.

1974

Cara Wills, Christine Dehar, Janice Dehar, Donald Dehar, Mark O'Byrne, Gerald Smith, Keith Harris, Andrea Walter, Gavin Williams, Lloyd Robbins, Andrina Browne, Roderick Walter.

1975

Tracie O'Byrne, Vanessa Thomson, Tracey Kumeroa, Leanne Downs, Matthew Walter, Megan Molloy, Deralee Chapman, Daniel Featonby, Fiona Harris.

1976

Mandy Coupe, Karl Robbins, Sharon Bunn, Rachelle Bunn, Angelena Bunn, Karl Bunn, Donna McKinley, Dianne McKinley, Jeffery McKinley, Craig Hockly, Naomi Callaghan, Francis Callaghan.

1977

Graham Hughes, Bernice Williams, Stephanie Thomson, Antony Smith, Natasha Forester.

1978

Andrew Howse, Nicholas Gray, Josephine Coles, Anthea Williams, Douglas Simons, Donald McLachlan, Michael Shaw, Michelle Ward.

1979

Joe Bray, Cindy Gray, Steven Selby, Shane Gorrie, Kevin Phillips, Annette Phillips, Diane Phillips, Sheree Chapman, Kelly Gorrie, Paul Howse.

1980

Alan Williams, Jack Phillips, Jennifer Signal, Grant Signal, Stuart Signal, Juileann Ward, Peter Bray, Cheryl Smith.

1981

Carrie-Anne Reid, Brook Tyrrell, Bronwyn Lamont, Dean Christie, Pauline Bent, Louis Charlett, Leanne Charlett, Tracy Carpenter, Margaret Carpenter, Lynda Carpenter.

1956 50th Jubilee

1946 - 1955



Back Row: Glen Johnson, Alan Smith, Tony Rumball, Neil Walter, John Rumball, John Rodgers, Kelvin Collier, Graeme Walter, Michael Howse, Ian Latham, John Walter, Duncan Anderson, Brian Miers, Ashley Pepperell, Ian Johnson.
Middle Row: Gail Pepperell, Averil Johnson, Eleanor Sexton, Beverley Chapman, Lorraine Bishop, Margaret Smith.
Front Row: Euan Anderson, Trevor Smith, John Smith, Terry Ewens, Michael Paton, Jocelyn Chapman, Mavis Walter, Shirley Coles, Helen Walter, Pauline Ham, Raewyn Latham, Judy Ham, Caroline Smith, Judy Paton, Colleen Collier, Colleen Rodgers.

Douglas School Days In The Twenties

By Anita Walter (Miss Frethey)
Sole Teacher 1928-34

To look back over fifty years is a long, long time - so much has changed both in the way of life and the pattern of school education.

When I became sole-teacher in 1928, Douglas was a lively village, with factory, garage, railway station, boarding house and store, all a vital part of the community. Life for school children then revolved around local activities.

From the school grounds they viewed the passing parade of milk-carts and 'bone-shaker' lorries rattling their way down the stony road in the morning to join the concourse of farmers arriving from the four cross-roads to be weighed-in - then to catch up with all the local news with a leisurely call at the store for groceries and mail.

Everyone knew everyone, and I think the children riding or walking to school were much more closely in touch with activities on farms or roads than they can be today, arriving at the school gate by bus or car.

Once a month there was the blacksmith's shop to linger by and watch horses being shod, or machinery dealt with. As for sale days - to see the flocks of sheep or mobs of cattle being manoeuvred through the village to the accompaniment of dogs barking, whips cracking, was as good as a rodeo at times. In contrast one scarcely notices the present day transport in great trucks.

Much greater emphasis was placed on adherence to formalities insofar as 'manners' or respect for custom was concerned. I recall when some VIP had died way out back and the funeral procession was making its slow progress towards Douglas. In accordance with this respect for the dead, I pulled down the blinds on the windows facing the road. Suddenly Ted Reader, one of the older boys rushed in and implored me "Do have a peep, Miss Frethey, it's the best I've ever seen!"

Again, one morning on the school path, a boy passed me and I said, "But what do you with your hat when you meet a lady?" "Hang it up!" he answered. I was always reminding them to hang up their caps in the porch. Both hats and ladies are outdated today!

One thing I have never forgotten was crunching my way up the road from the boarding house in winter, on those frosty mornings, and entering what felt like a freezing chamber - woe betide the boy on duty who forgot to set the fire. Even worse was the onslaught of chilblains on hands and feet which almost drove me silly.

School equipment was minimal - no teacher's room, few shelves or cupboards. One just accepted what was there and no protests. Dealing with a roll of thirty-odd children and all classes was a big responsibility with no school committee, or parents' association, but was accepted as part of the job.

School concerts have always been a special feature of the Douglas school life - a joy to both parents and children - and have more entertainment value than many city schools. I have missed few over the years.

Even in my time, they were a highlight. The dressing-up, practising in the hall, everyone having a part. What preparations had to be made to provide an adequate stage then. There was a sort of platform held by iron pegs to the end wall. Local young men had to be called in to lower this, and support it on a long form. Then to make the stage large enough, we would borrow strong kerosene boxes from the store and place long tables on top. We erected our own side curtains for entrances from what was then the supper room, with its big open-fire, used as our dressing room until supper time.

Douglas school, over the years, has produced many pupils who have made their mark in various fields, not only academic - successful farmers, businessmen and householders. As this anniversary is a landmark for Douglas school, I think it fitting that I recall a remark made by the late Miss Allum (New Plymouth Girls' High School), that "pupils from Douglas always come well-equipped for merging into High School studies". One of the masters from the Boys' High School also remarked on the high regard in which Douglas pupils were held.

Douglas School Days 1946-53

(Contributed by Justine Cranfield nee Walter)

I must admit I have very few memories of classroom activities as such. Methods may have changed, but no doubt the 3 Rs are timeless. What did change, though, was the positioning of the school itself. In my time it started off up on the hill, then was shifted down to the flat, and my school memories are rather schizophrenically balanced between the two.

Associated with the "up" era is the flat lawn behind the primers' room, complete with jungle gym, holly bushes, and high up on the hill behind, a fast-growing plantation of lawsonianas or whatever, which provided an ideal setting for playtime hide and seek, Tarzan exploits, even Jack and Jill re-enactments - the tumbling down part anyway. The terraces behind were also an integral feature of school life, both as a nature study area (sycamore,

Dairy Factory



The original creamery at the Douglas branch, built by the Crown Dairy Co. during the 1890s and later taken over by the Stratford Dairy Co.

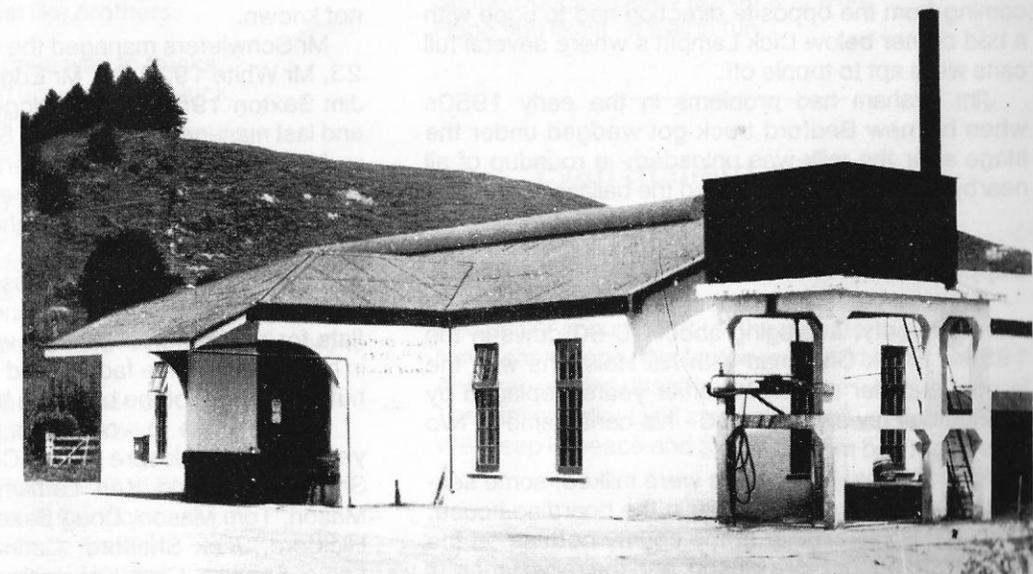
First Creamery

The Crown Dairy Company built the first creamery in the late 1890s on the flat area towards the village by the Douglas cattle saleyards.

In November 1899 a letter to the Stratford County from six suppliers of the creamery - H. Blackburn, G. Chapman, H. King, E. Walter, G. Jennings and J. Pfenneyer - requested the council to form and metal the approaches to the creamery.

In earlier years suppliers were paid on a volume basis, with the payout in the 1899-1900 season being threepence per 11 lb gallon.

The Stratford Co-operative Dairy Company took over the creamery in 1902, and through the years as production from the developing farmland increased extensions were made to the building until it was destroyed by fire in 1918.



The modern and well-equipped Douglas branch 1954.

Most of us had music lessons with Miss Savage in the hall, and her musical band was quite something. Castanets, triangles, recorders, drums, mingled in an unbelievable assortment of more or less musical noises, and although I can't think what we actually ever performed at, I remember McNamara's Band as one of our favourites. Breezy was the soloist, but was usually drowned out by David on the drums, who thought everyone else should keep time with him. No doubt the chief performance of the year must have been at the annual Break-up concerts, which were just as popular then as now. Two highlights I've never forgotten were Mr Pepperill's production of "The Blue Bird", and the Maypole Dance. Father Christmas duly dispenses largesse, and managed to bear a striking likeness to Harry Lampitt, whom I also remember as a hilarious Shah of Sham (prophetic title?) at a Stratford Savage Club performance.

And how in those days did we spend our out-of-school time? I certainly don't envy children who had a "townie" upbringing. Streets and parks are no substitute for the farms and wide open spaces we had as playgrounds. Apart from the tennis courts (used in summer evenings to play on until it was so dark all one could make out was the shocking pink, luminous green, and burnt orange socks that were all the rage then), there were the usual farm activities; milking, calf feeding, haymaking in pre-baling days, with endless supplies of freshly baked scones and tea, mustering and shearing, pony club on Saturday afternoons (people look disbelieving when I say I sometimes used to ride a horse to school). A bit of extra pocket money was earned by picking cocksfoot off the road verges, or doing some never-ending ragworting or foxgloving, or during term-time receiving the impressive sum of one pound per term for sweeping out the school every afternoon.

Sundays were slightly less reverent than parents fondly imagined when their little darlings were sent along to Sunday School. Favourite tricks consisted of balancing the kneeling mats on the door so that as the Sunday School teachers pushed the door open they received a rather "heady" welcome. More likely than not someone was busy at the organ thumping out the latest pop tune, while putting in threepence and taking out sixpence was one of the popular collection games.

All things considered, I think it's hard to beat a country school upbringing, both then and now.

... A helper at a school working-bee sent off to Toko by chairman to collect a "crate", returned with a crate of flagons!

... Remember the swaggers passing through the district, mainly during the depression years. The requests for a cup of tea, or meal, a bed, or some work for a few days. All sorts of people, with varied backgrounds; mainly considerate and polite, many well-educated. And even at least one woman carrying a swag!

oak and five-finger are all I can remember now), and as a less academic jungle warfare location. Someone who shall be nameless was almost suspended for tying up some poor hapless victim up in a tree, ready to be scalped by his band of marauding Indians.

The shelter shed at the beginning of the terraces just in front of the unmistakable outside "dunny" (May I leave the room please Sir"), was the social centre of playground life. What a pity a tape recorder couldn't have been permanently hidden in the walls to provide a highly-entertaining account of playground stories over the years - unfortunately I can't remember any! Judging by my daughter's present school, playground games haven't changed much in 30 years. We skipped (salt and pepper, oranges and lemons), hopscotched, knuckleboned etc, just as they do today, but we also did the Maori stick games, flax plaiting etc.

To complete my memory's circular tour of the grounds, the bottom field conjures up visions of the annual lamb and calf judging day, quite a hilarious event in the school calendar, as all the carefully learnt leading skills, patiently practised for weeks beforehand on long-suffering pets, went for a six in the excitement of the competition itself, and the proximity of so many other leading contenders for the coveted title of Miss Well-Groomed Bovine Beauty of the year. Up went the tails, down came the skitters, and the spectators received far better value than any Melbourne Cup coverage, as over-excited frisky heifer calves galloped helter-skelter round the course followed at break neck speed by their breathless "trainers", in danger of having an arm pulled from its socket.

Sporting fixtures between members of the same species were also keenly contested. Douglas always seemed to do well at the something-or-other Banner Sports at Toko Domain. Huiakama was the venue for winter sports' fixtures, and I remember one year the transport for some of us was provided by Uncle Arthur's pre-war vintage lorry. On leaving for home at the end of the day, a certain amount of suppressed feeling was suitably expressed by the radiator, which burst its boiler and sprayed our farewelling hosts (Colleen West on a bicycle was the first to beat a hasty retreat) with a scalding shower of boiling hot water and steam. I presume we all eventually cooled down enough to negotiate the Strathmore Saddle safely home again.

Nearer to home, what would we have done without the tennis courts across the road. No swimming pool then (unless you count the cowshed effluent - infested drain by the store in which most of us somehow learnt to swim yet escaped permanent deadly microbe damage!). So intervals and lunchtimes saw a mad dash across the road to "bag" a court. Many of us prided ourselves on going barefoot most of the year, and after a term of enforced "shodding" once I'd started High School, I knew the rot had set in when my "softy" bare feet winced noticeably as I tried the usual running across the shingle outside the hall.