

Fourth Decade 1905 - 1915



Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Strack and family (Headmaster 1896-1924) about 1910, from left, Fritz, George, Con, Karl, sitting: Taia, Mrs and Mr Strack, Riti.



A group of young teachers at Hawera
Robina (Sissie) Tait, Riti Strack, Alice Mills.
Front row: Norah Roche, Winnie Bates.

This was the decade which saw the whole world affected by the Great War before it closed. Hawera saw a big increase in population though many families were on the move. Hawera was host to the Brass Bands' Association contest in 1906 which was quite an event for the town. A four day Dominion Dairy Show, which was the forerunner of the popular Hawera Winter Shows, really put Hawera on the map with total attendances of over thirteen thousand in 1910. 1912 saw the disastrous fire in the business part of town in which the school lost its earliest records when McGruer Bone's premises were destroyed. Mr Bone was the school committee chairman.

EDUCATIONAL WORLD CHANGES

In the educational world, changes were afoot. When Education Boards were elected, school committeemen were to vote as individuals rather than as electoral units. Premier Dick Seddon and his Inspector General Mr Hogben, were working towards a system of free secondary education. Unfortunately, Premier Seddon died at sea, returning from Australia in 1906.

Another Education Act the same year gave more power to the Education Department, which took over the control of the inspectors from local boards.

The consequent Dominion Grading system became the basis of making ordinary teaching appointments. Committees and boards no longer selected staff. The one with the best grading marks got the position.

In Hawera, Mr Strack continued to organise and conduct his popular "Continuation Classes" which he had started in 1904. Ninety people attended classes in woodwork, sewing, latin, chemistry, English, book-keeping and commercial arithmetic in 1905. Sixty came in 1906 and took advantage of these classes which were organised at no cost to the Education Board, and Mr Strack's remuneration was a mere £5.

It was obvious people wanted to continue learning and in 1907 the Education Board appointed a Mr Hintz as a Director, to "organise and supervise Technical Education" for the northern part of the Wanganui Education Board, and it guaranteed his salary. It is not surprising that Mr Strack felt hurt and slighted when he was not consulted or asked to take part. It seemed, the board which had never contributed to his classes were prepared to lose money on its own scheme. Only 30 or 40 came to Mr Hintz's classes. Mr Strack felt the board could be out of touch and that it would have been better to base classes in areas like Patea, Hawera, Waverley, Eltham, Manaia and Kaponga, because each district would know its own needs.

Several leading citizens favoured starting a Technical School for Hawera, and this ambition was realised when a school was built in Princes Street to cater for Evening Classes in such subjects as millinery, art, photography, shorthand, book-keeping and wood carving. Mr Strack welcomed the idea and asked the inspectors for an urgent proficiency exam, for which the pupils themselves paid the cost. Seven passed and were able to start work and attend the technical school at night.

Later, the Technical School began to cater for Day Classes as well, and offered in addition, music, orchard work, signwriting and cookery. By 1914 the secondary department of the Hawera District High was so large that the pupils were moved out of the Hawera Main and into the Technical School. Soon the classes were combined and Mr Strack was appointed by the board as Headmaster of both Hawera District High and the Technical School.

Under Miss MacLeod, M.A., pupils could go as far as "matric." Mr Johnson taught agriculture, Mr Jackson took woodwork and Miss Holford was the sewing and cooking teacher. The idea that pupils would go on to secondary school became widely accepted.

STAFF UNREST AT HAWERA SCHOOL

Hawera School grew and so did its problems. A boy ran away from home because he "couldn't stand school any longer" and teachers were frequently disgruntled and quarrelled with the headmaster. In 1907 the log book entry read, "Unhappy with the discipline in the high school room. Neither Miss Poynter nor Mr Niven are exerting the influence over the pupils that commands true discipline, attention, cheerful obedience, love of work, and pleasure in school."

In 1912 when a party of 80-100 pupils was organised for an excursion to Wanganui for Saturday sports matches against Feilding, Mr Strack found the staff strangely stubborn. One after another refused to come on the trip and help. The Head "spoke strongly to Mr Williams about his duty," and "severely reprimanded Miss Mander in the presence of Miss Ellis." He even "told Mrs Ellis that she should come as a good example to the juniors". Three weeks before this he had spoken to Miss Henderson in a similar vein and told her he would never again give her an opportunity to assist. (However Miss Henderson thought better of it and did go.)

He had a running battle with Miss Mowbray who repeatedly dismissed the infants and then went home herself. when she should have remained until 3.40 p.m. when the rest of the school dismissed. Mr Strack noted her departure time over a period of a week to a fortnight and I rather think she must have enjoyed it. When he reprimanded Miss King for working at school until 5 p.m. she was absent, sick the following day. The teachers apparently thought it rather clever not to tell the head when they were leaving. This caused considerable inconvenience and

there are many instances where the log records the disbelief when one after another said they were "leaving today" or "tomorrow."

PUNISHMENT COMPLAINTS

School punishments were always a contentious issue. Special committee meetings were often held to enquire into allegations from parents that pupil teachers made the pupils hold out their hand knuckles up, or that some punishment had been excessive. At one such meeting Mr Reid accused the Head of holding up children to ridicule as liars if they told at home what he did not wish. The log records "All the staff were present to give evidence against such absurd wrong statements."

Many children exaggerated stories of punishments or told "deliberate falsehoods" with the result that parents rushing down to the school to complain were in for an embarrassing time.

Sometimes Mr Strack wrote Mr Nairn curt notes asking him to explain why a certain child was punished and in reply he would get a curt note saying Mr Strack could have the information if he came and asked for it.

DISSATISFACTION

Then there was Mr Stewart, an assistant in the secondary department. He objected strongly to having the headmaster tell him to teach drawing. He couldn't for the life of him see why it was in the syllabus and refused. He also couldn't see why girls should learn agriculture and left them on the doorstep while he taught the boys. And another thing . . . He didn't think the inspectors could MAKE him do playground duty.

A Mrs Noye complained that her two daughters in the primers had been told by their teachers to pronounce the H in Where, Why and What. "In my time," she said, "Even in the best school in England, WOT, WEN and Wy were accepted." She was informed that the method adopted by the teachers was the modern one. Mrs Noye insisted she could not allow her children to make such as absurd sound.

ILLNESS

It is hardly surprising to read that in 1912, Dr Thomson ordered Mr Strack to take a complete rest for one month. He and Mrs Strack had been at New Plymouth only a week when word reached them that the men teachers were so dissatisfied with affairs at the school that a letter of complaint had been sent to the board. (This was in the middle of a campaign to vaccinate the whole school against Small Pox doing about 20 a day. This, and the fact that pupils were aware of the undercurrents made for a general air of misery about the school.)

When Mr Strack heard how matters stood he abandoned his month's rest and returned to take charge of the school at

once. Mr Pirani of the Wanganui Board came up and conducted an enquiry into the causes of the staff unrest but its findings were not recorded.

CADETS

During this decade, the school Cadet Corps was in its heyday. In 1906 they were keen on their shooting practice and took part in the North Island Challenge Shield in December. They scored 655, the top scorer being George Strack with 74.

That year a party of 80 cadets went on another trip to the Christchurch Exhibition. Harold Finlay recalled that it was a wonderful trip. They sailed on S.S. Te Anu and bunks had been put in the hold for them. Unfortunately some of the bright boys went around pretending to be sick which rather detracted from the smartness of the group.

They were equipped with uniforms and at times paraded through the Hawera Streets. Cadets were also in the Parade when the King died and Mr Strack was NOT pleased to find that some of his cadets had actually marched with the Boy Scouts! He showed his displeasure by keeping them in from games. Good shooting scores were often put up by Cadets K. Clout, Karl Strack, Milne, Graham, Blair Robertson, Stevens, Fritz Strack and G. Parrington. On another occasion the top scorer in Cadet Shield competition was Colour Sergeant A. Spratt with a total of 79.

EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

Mr Strack was a strong believer in the educational value of outings for pupils. In 1906 he took a party to the pottery works of the Quin Brothers. After the visit, Mr Quin kindly donated 40 vases which were placed in classrooms and in brackets in Central Hall.

In 1913 there was a really grand outing. A hundred pupils went to Wanganui to see the Battleship about two miles out from the Wanganui Bar. Unfortunately the sea proved too rough for a trip to be made out to the ship. Still, the trip was not wasted. They all had a ride on the electric cars and went up Durie Hill. They returned to Hawera about 9.30 p.m. after an enjoyable day with no mishap.

GARDENING

Gardening and agriculture were important subjects in this decade and played a large part in school life. Long term gardening projects were undertaken and detailed and accurate records kept. Prices for seed, manure and vegetables sold were all recorded as were the crop weights and the varieties that were tried. The "Octagon" garden was planted about this time, just to the right of the main front gates. Eight cabbage trees were planted out in 1912 and another 30 trees later on. Hundreds of cuttings were set to be planted at later Arbour Day functions.

The eliagnus hedge was an Arbour Day project. The vegetable plot projects were a great opportunity for imparting useful knowledge to the pupils and the display at the annual show was a sight to be remembered. Varieties noted in the records include. MANGOLDS: "Yellow Globe," Mammoth Red," "New Large," "Prize Yellow Globe" and "New Golden Globe."

SWEDES: "Monarch," "Superlative," "Keepwell," "Cropwell" and "Pioneer." Then there were: "Mexican Sweet Corn," "Kendall's Corn," "Cou Cale," "Chou Moellier", "Silver Beet," "Touro Pumpkin," "Connecticut Pumpkin," and parsnips and potatoes. The school potato crops varied. One year 12 tons to the acre was recorded and in another the Irish Blight in December reduced the crop to 4 tons to the acre.

At the Dominion Show of 1912 the school won £4.5s prize-money for its exhibits. This was used to finance gardening operations.

In 1913 ten varieties of maize were successfully acclimatised. At the Show, Hawera again did very well, taking the big prizes of £10 for the "Best School District Display" and another guinea for "The Most Artistic School District Display." Root vegetable exhibits took seven firsts and a second and won another £2 for "The Best Display of Products from a School Garden."

In 1914 the Standard 5 part of the garden alone yielded 322lb of carrots, 288lb of swedes, 521lb of mangolds, and 405lb of kohlrabi. Money earned from the sale of garden produce was spent buying native shrubs from nurserymen, Mr Moreshead and Mr Smith. These shrubs were to beautify the school grounds and the "Octagon".

SCHOOL ACCIDENTS

School accidents were always a worry. Once a little girl Robertson from the "Lakes" fell in the corridor and injured an elbow, already sore due to a fall from a horse. The doctor was sent for and he gave chloroform and bent the arm into its right position again, but it remained stiff for some time. One day the cooking teacher, Miss Mallison forgot she was heating a tin of treacle on top of the range. The resulting explosion caused nasty burns on her hand and head and she was off work for three weeks.

But the most distressing accident of all is recorded in the log for November 1907. "An unfortunate accident happened at 1.30 p.m. today. Two cousins, Waldo Stevens and Harold Kirkby were fighting near the flag pole. Both are thirteen. Stevens threw Kirkby and the fall broke his arm (the humerus). Mr Bates was on duty in the playground. Mr Nairn ran and brought the boy in school and informed me. An impromptu splint was obtained and we carried the boy to my house. Dr McGibbon came and ordered the boy to hospital. I got a table top and open tray and drove the boy down and telephoned his mother in New Plymouth. Next morning doctors amputated the arm above the elbow. The break was a compound one. The humerus projected

three inches, and blood vessels, tendons and cartilage were broken." (As a result of this happening an ambulance stretcher was placed in the school.)

SOME EXTRACTS FROM LOG BOOKS

November 1906. "Busy with exams . . . school, matric and civil service. 90% promoted by inspectors. Miss Dowling neglected to write her lesson notes. Warned her of laziness and detained her after school to do the work."

1907. "The primers are making excellent progress under the "Do . . . Look . . . and Say" method. In inspectors' exams the paper on general knowledge was suitable for 18-year-olds and absurd for those under 14 years."

PRIZEGIVING. School Committee chairman, Mr Bone presented Dux gold medals to Karl Strack 617 marks and Dorothy Corrigan 599 marks. (Based on Inspectors' exam and marks.)

"I think it is wrong that the school committee issues exemption certificates so readily (six each week since May) and often for such reasons as wanted at home'."

"HYLOPLATE has been arranged round the classroom walls for freearm drawing."

1908. MATRIC RESULTS. Eunice Johnson, Riti Strack, Alice Mills all passed. CIVIL SERVICE EXAM: Norah Roach, Jack Sargent, Garland Morgan, Miss Dowling.

Telephone installed in the school office. Committee to pay the whole of the cost for the first year £6. Afterwards Headmaster to pay £2 if schoolhouse connected with the school.

April 1908. SWIMMING RESULTS. Genders Foden and Ella Craig were medalists. Pansy Young swam record distance . . . one and a half miles. Several people swam one mile.

The population of Hawera is fluctuating. There have been 110 new pupils since Xmas, but the roll is about the same. That means a third of the school are new pupils each year and it makes it hard to secure good results. The dairying industry is responsible for this "floating, fleeting, fleeing" population.

Mr and Mrs Robins and Dr Smythe were farewelled to Wellington. They were really founders of our District High School in 1901.

18 DECEMBER 1908. Teachers busy with returns every evening. Quarterly returns finished by 5 p.m. Friday.

Saturday, 20 December. I am still busy with returns for swimming, shooting, science and handwork.

EXAM RESULTS. MATRIC, Muriel Morecroft.

CIVIL SERVICE. Harry Milne, Fritz Strack, Dorothy Corrigan, Amy Hall, Kathie Gillanders, Mary Barkla and May Aris.

SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP. Arthur Foden.

FREE PLACES: Norman Gadsby, Amy Jenkins.

1909. For geography I told the children about my 1400 miles of travel by rail steam and coach in the holidays.

SWIMMING: Harry Milne won the senior 100 yards championship and won the senior distance race with 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Karl Strack won the Life Saving Competition. Phyllis Coutts (Standard 4) won the 50 yards championship.

FEBRUARY 1909. Annual School Show. 1600 visitors including pupils from Convent and Fraser Road. Best vegetables from the school garden will be kept for seed, and the rest will be sent to the hospital.

June 25 1909. Mrs Aris (mother of two of our teachers Miss Aris and Miss May Aris) has died. School closed at 2.30 p.m. for the funeral. (Miss Aris later resigned and Mr Strack placed on record his appreciation of her seven years of service. The Aris sisters later opened a private school in Manse Street in what was later Bickleigh Hospital.)

Later 1909. Exams are over. There are 2000 foolscap pages for the Headmaster to mark.

Inspectors. School closed at 2 p.m. Friday when they had finished. All the teachers drove to Betty Guard Island (Strack's Beach) for a picnic.

DUX MEDALS 1909. Arthur Foden and Karl Strack. Kathi Gillanders, Ethel Dabinett.

FREE PLACES. Nine senior free places were awarded to pupils of Miss Strack's class.

1912. Our secondary pupils attended a "Rural Course" at the Technical School, doing agriculture, woodwork, dairying, poultry and veterinary work. I regret that during the two weeks they did not have ONE lesson in arithmetic, grammar, spelling, reading, comprehension, geography or book-keeping.

Bought some pictures for the school "The King" 1/- "The Queen" 1/6 "The Colosseum" 1/6 and "The Forum" 1/6.

Mr Trask and Mr Syme complained about Mr Nairn's punishment of their son and daughter.

Mesdames Tait, Bates, Sheat, Browne and Best came and examined the Standard 6 girls in cookery and needlework. Sixteen passed cookery with first class marks. Seven passed sewing. The ladies said that too much machine stitching was in evidence.

1912. DUX PRIZES, Joseph Sheat, Nellie Godfrey.

1913. The roll is up to 608. The Fete in aid of the PARK LAKE will be held soon. Pupils and teachers are spending far too much time practising dances and drills for it. It is not school time but it is still affecting their work.

Still no partition in the infants' room. I wish I could give Miss Mowbray an assistant.

At last many new desks have arrived. On several days 100% of the pupils did their homework. Morning cocoa is much appreciated in the babies' class. Arranged for boys' bicycles to be kept in the western cellar.

Correction of grammar and comprehension for 77 Standard 4 pupils took three and a half hours.

Pupils are inclined to neglect homework for band carnival practice. Term exams gave headmaster 50 hours of extra work.

1914. Mr Corp taken ill suddenly with paralysis of the eyes. (Away for some time, then resigned and later died.)

April 6 1914. A SIDE SCHOOL opened at Nolantown. Thirty children to have lessons there and are transferred together with a teacher, Miss Reeve.

NOTES

In 1914 a guardian of a pupil wrote to Mr Strack as follows:

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you that Lily came home this afternoon with her hands swollen and was not able to milk. Will you please ask Mr Taylor not to give her the strap as he only makes it worse for himself. Lily will not be driven. If she is left alone she is all right. She is slightly deaf and often gets the strap because of that. Lily has to help with the milking night and morning and if she is kept in or gets the strap it means that we get the punishment by having to milk her cows. If she cannot come out of school at three, we will have to keep her home altogether as we have put up with enough of her being kept in, which she says is because she doesn't get time to do her homework. It is not her fault if we are late milking and she is late for school. Her teacher is making it very annoying for us as it is hard work getting her to school. Please speak to Mr Taylor or I shall have to write to her parents and see what they say.

Mrs E. L.

Kathleen Burton (Mrs Brant) writes,

"I would like to pay tribute to two members of the staff when I was a pupil. I was transferred from a small rural school where one was not restrained from forging ahead on favourite subjects, ignoring as far as possible the less attractive ones. This state of affairs posed problems in the large school where such flexibility was not the accepted standard.

To rectify this situation, Miss Slattery my class teacher, offered to give me extra instruction in maths, during morning recess for a full term. While this was being done a real friendship grew up between us. I have always felt indebted to her and to Mr Strack, for the quality of understanding and guidance given so unstintingly to a shy child. It is this type of dedication in the members of the staff, that remains with the pupils in adult life making the memory of school a warm and pleasant one."

ARTHUR MANNING writes,

"Two teachers who made a great impression on me were Miss Slattery and Mr Nairn. To my child eyes Miss Slattery was an immense woman. I used to watch her arriving at school walking with a particular swaying rhythm to propel her body along. In class she would dominate the scene, standing enormously in front of the class with her right arm raised high to grip a very long bamboo rod with which she could suddenly reach the most distant pupil. It cannot have been my imagination because I knew she had a farmer brother who was so large that he was unable to get behind the wheel when he bought a car.

It was my impression that Mr Strack had an intimate knowledge of the entire roll of pupils. He would often release a teacher and take over a class to see for himself what progress was being made. He kept his staff up to the mark and when later as a young man I was for a time a pupil teacher I heard him laying down the law at staff meetings. I respected him greatly without much affection. He had no favourites.

Mr Nairn was a stern disciplinarian and used the strap freely but he had undoubted teaching ability, and considerable responsibilities.

He certainly taught me to spell which was a prime importance in a journalistic career. His method was simple. A certain number of mistakes without punishment was allowed during the first month of the school year. It was reduced each month so you learned to spell or else.

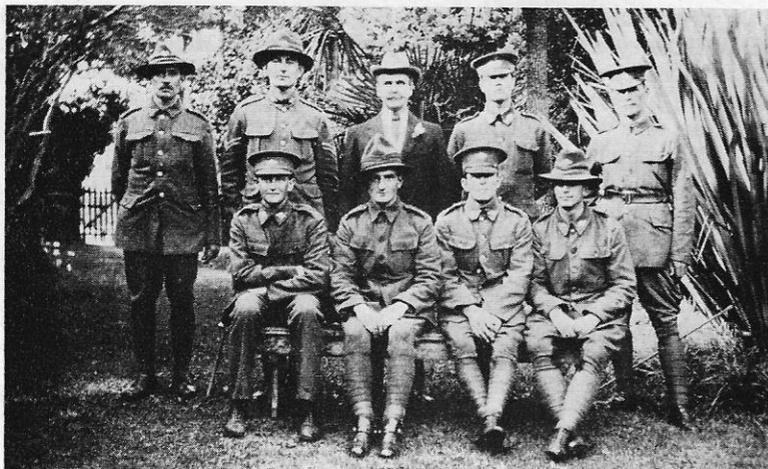
Gladys Hovind (Mrs Julian) says the following poem was current at Hawera Main about 1916-18.

Mr Strack is a very good man
He tries to teach us all he can
Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic
And never forgets to give us the stick.
He goes to church on Sundays
And prays to God
To give him strength
To whack the kids on Mondays.

Pupils of this decade have been having regular get-togethers ever since the last school jubilee when they renewed old friendships.

Stan Lay was Javelin throwing gold medalist at the first British Empire Games at Ontario in 1930. His British record stood for 29 years.

Mr G. Cyril Burton, O.B.E., worked in East Africa for U.N.R.A. and with United Nations in New York. He has been a Vice-President of the N.Z. Methodist Church.



A group of soldiers with Mr. Strack



Fireplace in the Central Hall

The decade which began in May 1915 saw sorrow and loss come to almost every family as the war continued. At school, things were far from easy. Manpower problems meant large classes, frequent staff changes, disappointing exam results and a great strain placed upon the staff members. With so many men away, the children were expected to help more at home, and many could hardly keep awake in lessons, while others attended irregularly. Since the school was staffed for the following year on the average attendance, and teachers' grading depended on their results, it was a frustrating time and health and tempers often suffered. Many log entries disclose that punishments must have been meted out while the teacher was under stress. "THE BOYS AT THE WAR" were always close to everyone's thoughts. Patriotic feeling ran high and there were frequent ceremonies round the flagpole, when the flag was saluted and patriotic songs sung. Soldiers going to, or coming home from the war were warmly welcomed as heroes at the school.

More emphasis was being placed on professional qualifications for teachers. The young ones attended Saturday classes until they qualified. At the end of the decade promising teacher trainees went away to Training College.

School still began at 9.30 a.m. and dismissed at 3.40 p.m. and the school year was still in four terms. Basketball gained popularity for girls, and groups of boys worked to prepare courts for it. The iron rings for the goals were priced at 7/6.

STAFF 1915

Mr C. A. Strack, Mr J. R. Nairn, Miss Lanyon, Mr Henderson, Miss Lavery, Miss Cody, Mr Taylor, Miss Ellis, Miss R. Tait (Junior Assistant), Miss Bates (Junior Assistant), Miss Reeve (Junior Assistant), Mr Murphy (Pupil Teacher), Miss Pinny (Pupil Teacher), Miss Morse (Pupil Teacher), Miss McLeod (Secondary), Mr Johnston (Secondary), Mr Jackson (Woodwork), Miss Holford (Cookery), Miss Slattery (began September), Mr William Sheat (began October), Miss Strack (Extra Assistant, began November).

The "SIDE SCHOOL" at Nolantown was still part of Hawera School and two lady teachers were in charge. Mr Strack paid regular visits there and to the secondary department under his care.

1915 LOG ENTRIES

MAY: Visit of inspectors Milne and Stewart. (More time is to be spent on composition and grammar and less on writing in senior classes. Pen writing is to commence in Standard 2.)

JULY: Special sewing classes. Seniors and lady teachers are making handkerchiefs for soldiers. On Friday we had a farewell afternoon tea for six old boys going to the Dardanelles. On Monday senior scholars allowed to see old boys farewelled at the station. Record attendance 707.

AUGUST: "Soldiers" Afternoon. Enthusiastic and loving meeting in central hall. Trees planted near gates by soldier boys and we say "Kia Ora" to them as they respond to the call of duty.

Nine soldiers and five old boys farewelled and presented with cakes of soap and handkerchiefs. Corporal Tait replied. Rev Blamires spoke, and the flag saluted. Mrs Strack entertained to afternoon tea.

SEPTEMBER: Montessori Method begun in the infant room.

OCTOBER: Mr Wilson relieving owing to increased average attendance.

NOVEMBER: The experimental vegetable garden of 60 square yards thoroughly trenched. Examined Standard 6 in every subject before the proficiency test begins on 17th.

DECEMBER: Disappointed with the exam results. By now nearly eighty old scholars have gone to the war and "The Silent Messenger of Death" has come to twelve of the bravest and best boys from the school. Dux of the school: Edith Squire and Fergus Doig (who in six years has not missed one half day).

EPIDEMICS

1916 opened with many cases of the dread diphtheria and infantile paralysis. Scarlatina was also about. Rooms were regularly fumigated with formalin.

At the suggestion of the board pupils were sent out in the summer weather to gather grass seed which was later sold to Mr Gillanders, a seed merchant and the proceeds sent to the Wanganui Education Board's patriotic fund. The 47lb of cocksfoot seed realised 1/- per lb, the 24lb of prairie grass, 4d lb, the 1½lb of cocksfoot 8d a lb and the cowgrass, 1lb at 10d.

Log Entries record:

FEBRUARY: The new probationer, Miss C. G. Robertson is showing aptitude for her work. A special display of war curios and objects from Ceylon, Egypt and Gallipoli was staged. Returned wounded soldier Duncan showed a belt made of regimental badges and buttons. Cheers for our King and our soldiers.

"Visit from Mr Threadgill, Physical Education Instructor, who held separate classes for the teachers. Ladies from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. Men from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Reprimanded Mr Henderson who reported giving a boy twelve strokes for misbehavior.

MARCH: Gave buglers twenty minutes instruction in playing "Last Post."

APRIL: On instructions from the board "ANZAC DAY" was celebrated. All scholars from the three schools gathered in central hall. Four old boys were welcomed home from Gallipoli and four going to Egypt farewelled. The Maori, Awatapu, gave a most interesting account of his doings at the seat of war. Presentations to the boys and patriotic pieces recited. Scholars and staff saluted the flag and repeated the declaration. Mrs Strack entertained afterwards. On Friday Mr Brown, the Agriculture Instructor came and took Standard 6.

"Mr F . . . called about my punishment of his son for playing in the horse paddock. (Four strokes on the hands and one on the legs.) It seems the two brothers had agreed to tell their father that he got fourteen strokes. I had sent for their father to show him that the boys told falsehoods. I also told the assembled scholars that if pupils told falsehoods at home about punishment I would make an example of them before the whole school.

"Mrs P. complained by telephone, that a lady teacher had struck her child ten times on head and shoulders with the strap. I feel sure it is another falsehood but will make inquiries at once.

"Mr Murphy, pupil teacher is leaving, and a presentation was made to him. Two of his brothers were killed on Gallipoli and he is leaving to help his parents on the farm. Mr Sheat absent (eyesight trouble). Miss Pinny absent owing to the death of her mother and no-one has been sent to replace Mr Murphy.

"School teams played in hockey tournament. Pulled carrots and sugar beet from Standard 6 garden. Very poor crop.

JUNE: On 23rd we had our last visit from an inspector of the Wanganui Education Board (Mr Strong). 30th, Miss Strack absent attending Otago University Capping ceremony for her B.Sc. Congratulations to an old pupil. Spoke to a teacher about discipline, keeping his room tidy and thorough supervision.

UNDER TARANAKI BOARD

4 **AUGUST:** My first week as a servant of the Taranaki Education Board. We had a visit from the board members, Messrs Masters, Chapple, Dixon, Trimble and Smith.

"Spring Holidays commenced. The Board Architect, Mr Moore, came and saw the need for twenty more double desks and need to lower the gallery floor in the infant room.

"Patriotic Work: During this week scholars gathered 15,600 bottles. Proceeds from the sale of them will buy Xmas puddings for our soldiers at the front. Miss Morse transferred to Okaiawa and no-one has been sent in her place.

DECEMBER: Old boys, Kendrick, Spratt and Clout came to say goodbye one day and later Privates Wills and Gungall. Record attendance 656 for Main School only. I suggested to the school committee that they close the school on Wednesday for the Xmas holidays to safeguard the attendance average needed



Miss Sartori and a group of her pupils, 1917

_____ E. Thompson, M. Rudge, _____, W. Rudge.
M. Leighton, Kath Robertson, D. Garnett, Miss Sartori, _____, G. James, A. Broadley.



Secondary Department of the Hawera District High School, 1917

Back row: Walter Cornwall, Cliff Wills, Hone Riley, Neville Martin, Roland Jensen, Tom Hannah, Cecil Wills, George Grey.

Second row: Ted O'Regan, Maurice Brown, Vernon Burton, Olive Grinrod, Dorothy Clement, Mary Death, Dorothy Sage, Nan Anderson, Millie Hobbs, Elsie Beauchamp.

Third row: Miss McLeod, Eileen Vooght, Ruth Sheat, Doris Petersen, Effie Kirk, Dorothy Benton, Mollie Laird, Linda Hight, Linda Grant, Teresa Renowden, Mr. Strack.

Front row: Gordon Carter, Marshall Grey, Frank Grant, Ken White, Bruce Hensen, Roy Tait, George Sturrock.

for an extra assistant. Side-school averaged 49 and the secondary department 19. EXAM RESULTS: Standard 6 (50%), Standard 5 (68%), Standard 4A (84%), Standard 4B (90%), Standard 3 (79%), Standard 2 (85%), Standard 1 (84%), Primer 4 (93%), Primer 3 (86%), Primer 2 (94%), Primer 1 (92%). (It is hard when big boys and old boys must be kept back.)

1917

REORGANISATION. Standard 6 Mr Nairn (60); Standard 5 (boys) Miss Bourke (42); Standard 5 (girls) Miss Sartori (41); Standard 4 Mr Henderson (70); Standard 3 Miss Slattery and a pupil teacher (78); Standard 2 (boys) Miss Palmer (42); Standard 2 (girls) Mrs Ellis (43); Standard 1 Miss Barkley and a pupil teacher (78); Standard 2 (boys) Miss Palmer (42); Anderson and a probationer (180); Side-school Miss James and Miss Scott (50); Secondary Miss McLeod (30).

MARCH: Mr Sheat returned after a month's sick leave. Spoke to the caretaker Mr Chadwick, re starting to sweep before teachers have finished their work,

"Returned soldiers Keen and P. Lewis came to school and Gunner Finlay on final leave. A cheering welcome given and a parcel was handed to Gunner Finlay. (Enough soap to last a lifetime, he recalls.)

"The press reports indicate that Otago province topped the 1916 Proficiency results with 76%. (In spite of Mr Strack's disappointing exam results, Hawera did well gaining 75% in the 1916 Proficiency exams.)

APRIL: The Ponsonby Boys' Fife and Drum Band visited and played for half an hour in the hall. A penny collection raised 27/6. The headmaster gave them a case of apples.

"A railway excursion. Many parents allowed their children to be away to take advantage of the half fare.

"Mr Campbell, who lost two sons at Gallipoli, complained that a teacher had called his son "a shirker" for having eight mistakes out of forty-one for dictation. The school committee agreed the use of the word "shirker" was objectionable. (This word had become almost a dirty word in N.Z. It was applied to those who were not in favour of our country's declaring war.)

"Wounded soldiers Foden and Epping visited school, also Corporal Potter on final leave. We welcomed home this month Privates Coleman and McDowall and farewelled old boys J. Bailey and Morsehead.

JULY: We held an exhibition of five thousand shells. It was seen by 300 adults and 700 pupils. Diphtheria cases reported. Miss Hosking in quarantine, therefore Miss Strack, Miss Graham, Mr Sheat and myself must teach the secondary classes.

SAD NEWS

12 OCTOBER: On Friday very sad news arrived from the seat of war, "somewhere in France."

ON 4 OCTOBER. KILLED IN ACTION—

Lieutenant Karl Justus Strack.
Private Wells (Lake Road)
Private Percy Rain

ON 12 OCTOBER KILLED IN ACTION —

Lieutenant Roy Foden.

I was absent for three days meeting my son Lieutenant George Strack at Auckland. He was invalided home. Oh the horrors of war! My dear son and my many dear scholars have made the supreme sacrifice for King and Country. Brave good lads they were and sweet and loving is their memory."

C. A. STRACK, Headmaster.

(A pupil of the time recently recalled that both Mr Strack and his daughter shed tears when the news came through. The pupils were deeply affected by their grief which they all shared. In addition the Strack family had to bear the hostility of many townfolk because of their German ancestry.)

NOVEMBER: Mr Henderson's little daughter seriously ill. Private Tarrant of the 31st Reinforcement farewelled and Private New and Lieutenant George Strack welcomed home.

"Senior boys taking well to cricket. A tennis lawn for the senior girls would be very acceptable.

DECEMBER: On the 20th the chairman of the school committee rang and demanded an interview although I was very busy. A deputation came and put the following questions.

1. Why did you not report on the work of the caretaker?
2. Why did you refuse to give the exam results to the press?
3. Could the committee have a list of work to be done in the District High School next year?

We consulted the Education Act and the board's regulations. We found.

1. There is no need to report if the caretaker's work is satisfactory.
2. The press had not ASKED for exam results.
3. The committee are at liberty to see the exam results at reasonable times. (At the time, results were not finished and I usually advise the children first, just prior to the break up.)
4. The work covered in the District High School is the syllabus of the Public Service, Matriculation, and Scholarship Examinations.

On Friday, in the afternoon I read to the pupils the very pleasing exam results. Standard 6 (90%), Standard 5 boys (88%), Standard 5 girls (100%), Standard 4 (83%), Standard 3 (89%), Standard 2 boys (81%), Standard 2 girls (89%), Standard 1

(90%), Primer 4 (95%), Primer 3 (88%), Primer 2 (90%), Primer 1 (98%).

IMPROVEMENTS

When the school reopened in 1918 improvements had been made to the infant rooms which were much appreciated. There were extra doors for fresh air and the galleries had been lowered to the floor level. New staff members were Mrs Hosking, Miss Foy, Miss Surgenor (Pupil Teacher), Misses Luman and Anderson (probationers) and Miss Scott (relieving).

LOG ENTRIES

"A Military Medal won by Mr Edwards (father of John and Sara) shown to the school. Cheers for the Hawera hero. Children dismissed early on two race days and warned about the traffic. Lifesaving: Two teams of girls and four of boys coached by Miss Strack and Mr Henderson passed their proficiency certificates.

MARCH: Carpenters busy with additions and alterations. Special playground supervision because of the old iron and timber about. Sixteen boys from secondary department visited the Model Farm at Stratford.

MARCH: Fifteen desks came for the "open air" classroom. Miss Strack absent on account of bereavement. (Mr Hogben, killed in action.)

MAY: Through the kindness of Mr Riley, the boys had the use of a horse and cart twice while filling in hollows in the football field. Took 400 pupils to a matinee (The Kid from Timaru). Inspectors Moreton, Ballantyne and Dempsey came.

JUNE: Spoke to the staff re coal. There must be no picking over for big lumps. When fire is taken from the fireplace in central hall, FUEL MUST BE PUT ON.

JULY: Winter Show Week. School won thirty prizes. Still diphtheria cases about. Turuturu-mokai Jubilee. Local school pupils met the veterans in the show buildings.

"Twelve teacher trainees from Hawera, Manaia, Normanby, Eltham and Kaponga examined by Headmasters Thomas of Eltham, Mitchell from Normanby and myself. For their class-lesson Hawera candidates chose, "The Noun," "Writing," "Signs of Winter" and "The Battle of Hastings."

"Each day now thirteen fires are kept burning until noon or later. This uses much coal but economy cannot be practised to the detriment of the children's comfort. Mr Watt and Health Officer Caudrey came and administered Chloromine T. inhalations to all pupils at both schools on four mornings and fumigated the cupboards. Drill Instructor Miss Blackie here for three days. Today High School played Technical School at football and girls' hockey.

"£50.13.6 collected from donations and sale of vegetables and plants. (This included 160lb onions and 150lb potatoes and beans harvested in March.) This money was sent to the Mayoress of Wellington, Mrs Luke, and will buy a thousand Xmas puddings for soldiers.

SEPTEMBER: "Miss Foy away sick, Miss Farquhar missed the train from the Auckland steamer and the relieving teacher sent has had very little experience.

OCTOBER: Two messengers sent from school to learn the meaning of continuous ringing of the firebell. They brought good news of a splendid victory of British and Allied forces and the downfall of Bulgaria. Scholars assembled and gave three cheers.

"Turks have surrendered. Hurrah for speedy end to the staff. (Once or twice Mr Strack was disturbed to note signs of war." National Anthem sung and the flag saluted by pupils and disloyalty in his school when a teacher was observed NOT to join in saluting the flag. These staff members had possibly tired of war and sacrifice.)

2 NOVEMBER. HURRAH FOR GLORIOUS NEWS

Germany has signed the armistice. THE GREAT WAR HAS ENDED. Victorious peace has been gained and now brings joy to millions. Wild vociferous cheering filled central hall from seven hundred happy pupils and teachers. Scholars took part in a grand procession three quarters of a mile long, around town and to the show grounds. School then closed for a week by the Government because of influenza. (In actual fact Hawera did not escape the great influenza epidemic which swept the world after the war. An extra hospital was set up in the winter show buildings and extra staff pressed into service. It is said that in our district there were a hundred Maori deaths and thirty-five European ones due to influenza. School was very late in reopening but when seven teachers and a hundred scholars contracted it, school was closed for another fortnight.

When the exam results came to hand it was learned that Scholarships had been won by Marjory Leighton, Marjory Beardmore, Doris Garnett and Keith McClellan.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAM: Bruce Henson, Doris Petersen, Ruth Sheat.

SENIOR FREE PLACE: Effie Kirk, Bruce Henson, Olive Grinrod, James Simpson.

1919 NOTES

In February a welcome home was extended to Private Gunderson, Private P. Lewis, Sergeant Hardley, Major Bishop, Sergeant Harry Brown and Signaller Tong. Miss Strack was farewelled on her appointment as Domestic Science teacher at Hamilton. A panic drill was held and 755 scholars were clear of the building in 60 seconds.

APRIL: School closed on polling day (Continuance . . . or Prohibition with Compensation.)

2 MAY: A FAREWELL SOCIAL HELD TO MARK THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE HAWERA DISTRICT HIGH

SCHOOL. (The Council of Education had announced some months before that the Technical School and the Secondary department would together form a new TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.)

Mr Strack placed on record his appreciation of his staff of secondary teachers Mr McKenzie, Mrs Hoskings and Miss Hilder.

MAY: When the inspectors visited I spoke to them about the recent appointment of two inexperienced teachers as junior assistants. Both are uncertificated. One has had a year and one a month of experience. Sergeant Hurrell and Corporal Mitchell visited.

JULY: Lieutenant Harry Laurent V.C. was welcomed home. Mr Sage, Chairman of school committee spoke and at Headmaster's request Mr Laurent explained the action for which the King has awarded him the Victoria Cross. At the ceremony were the hero's parents and grandparents, one of whom is ninety-three. Cheers for the hero and Hawera's other V.C. winner Lieutenant Grant.

25 July: Big Peace Celebrations. 850 children from our school, 250 from the Convent, 110 from St Mary's, and another 300 from Normanby, Ararata, Matapu and Meremere marched in costume and celebrated with a dinner and a wreath laying ceremony.

"Miss Lanyon presented with a handsome escritoire and bookcase in N.Z. oak as she leaves for Hamilton. She and Mrs Anderson have made our infant department equal to the best in the Dominion."

"Mr Con Strack came and spoke to the scholars about his work with the Y.M.C.A. among the members of the N.Z.E.F. On 31st, Lieutenant Grant V.C. was given a grand reception at the school. He spoke highly of the "Good Old School", and urged scholars to submit to the discipline of the classroom. No victory could be won without discipline, he said.

DECEMBER: Miss Sartori who always achieved spectacular exam results had a record of 100% passes with her class of Standard 6 Girls, whom she taught for three consecutive years.

THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITS

Everyone looked forward tremendously to the visit of the Prince of Wales in May 1920. The sewing classes made seven hundred rosettes. Two and a half thousand children marched to meet him but railway troubles prevented his arrival and nine hundred juniors saw a free picture show as consolation. On the 7 May however, he DID come. The band led the local children in a grand parade to King Edward Park where they lined the route from the gate to the platform, four deep each side, cheering, waving flags and strewing his return path with flowers.

At about this time new schools were opened at Whareroa and at Tawhiti which reduced Hawera's roll. With the opening



School Queen Carnival 1921

Back row: Joyce Grinrod, Edna Death, Maisie Ekdahl.
Front row: Trixie Lamb, Piki Tamaka, Maisie Patten.



Children in Fancy Dress for Queen Carnival 1921

of Tawhiti and the earlier loss of the secondary department, Hawera Main had no "side school" and no High School and the word "MAIN" became superfluous but has persisted.

JUNE: Parents invited to meet Dr Elizabeth Gunn. I asked her to speak about the very short dresses and stockings worn by the girls. I hope that in the near future pupils will receive free medical and dental attention as well as advice. Big boys stacked ten cord of wood in two cellars. A case of apples distributed among them. A presentation made to Miss Sartori who leaves to be Headteacher at Stanley Road.

NOVEMBER: On Saturday an aeroplane piloted by Captain Russell passed over the town and the scholars waved flags as it flew close to the grounds. (A few days later they wrote essays on "The Plane and its Sad Accident.") In 1920 the Teacher's grading list was made the sole basis for teaching appointments.
1921

MARCH: I spoke to Miss Foy re leaving her horse unattended in grounds and allowing small boys to harness the pony. Singers tested for a choir.

25 MAY 1921: Mr Strack wrote — "Forty-two years today since I came from Training College in Victoria and began teaching in N.Z."

"A **QUEEN CARNIVAL** for the school is being arranged. Funds will help improve the grounds, provide a drinking fountain and go towards baths for the school. Carnival tickets distributed. An egg collection for the **SCHOOL QUEEN, JOYCE GRINROD** was a great success.

DECEMBER: A very successful concert "The Merry Party" presented in the Opera House. Hawera Star praised the conduct of the pupils.

On the 9th a **DEMONSTRATION** Day was held at which maypole dances presented by Miss Allen's group were very well received.

Early in 1922 the benefits of the Queen Carnival began to be seen as men were busy at school asphaltting the playground. The roll was up to a grade 7E again and all teachers as required by regulation took the oath of allegiance.

PROTESTANT-CATHOLIC MISTRUST

The widespread Protestant-Catholic mistrust of the twenties erupted in Hawera when His Excellency Archbishop Cattenot, the Papal Delegate visited Hawera. The car of this distinguished visitor was seen to stop by the pupils of the Hawera School as he drove through the streets and Protestant uneasiness grew into many rumours. These led to angry words at the Householders' Meeting of April 1922 and the sudden resignation of the school committee. The local press was bombarded with correspondence, many letters urging moderation, good sense and brotherly love towards one's fellow Christians. The affair

soon died down on the surface, leaving a somewhat bewildered new committee in office and wiser heads, sad to have lost the old committee.

Another popular movement of the day, the "Prohibition" movement, also made itself felt in the school. The Board pamphlet No 12 warning of the dangers of abusing alcohol was distributed and teachers were told not to shirk their duty in this respect. A compulsory question on it was in each Proficiency test.

MARCH 1922. The log book records with astonishment: A new girl was admitted from a large school in the province. She had twenty-two books in all. Three drawing books, one copy book, one atlas, nine exercise books, three note books, one reader, one geography, one arithmetic and one pad! Is it any wonder parents call out at the cost of books?

"A combined schools picnic held at Ngaere Gardens. A near fatal boating accident was averted by the prompt action and bravery of Walker of Tawhiti, and A. Pokau and D. Miller of Hawera.

It has been said that following the post war boom in land prices almost half the farmers were bankrupt by 1922. Possibly that was so but the children were still interested in agriculture for the BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB movement began to take shape. There were fifty four schools involved and hundreds of children reared calves and grew plants.

1922: End of term. All inkwells cleaned out and refilled. A framed certificate to go to Maisie Patton who has been Dux of her class in every year. The committee men are erecting twelve new seats in the playground.

1923 STAFF

The roll reached an average of 778 at the end of 1923 and the staff included Mr Nairn, Miss Slattery, Miss Barkley, Miss Bourke, Miss George, Miss Foy, Miss Renowden, Miss Frank, Miss Mountford and Miss Robertson. In addition there were probationers and pupil teachers Misses R. Beauchamp, Wood, Windelburne, A. Sheat, Leighton and Mr Reid.

FEBRUARY: Three diphtheria cases reported. Commenced "Tooth Brush Drill" this week. A hundred and sixty plasticine boards arrived.

MARCH: A school picnic by train to Ngamotu Beach, New Plymouth. Children treated to fruit and refreshments. Mrs Anderson resigned after eight years of excellent service. (She later died.) Mr Baker arrived.

"Boys are enjoying the "Big Playgrounds." The committee has two men clearing thistles from the girls' hockey field. Three more diphtheria cases.

Drinking fountains fixed. One for juniors at the front of the school and one each for girls and boys on the east and west sides. Miss Foy presented with a case of forks as she is leaving.

"School closed Tuesday afternoon. Death of Mr Nairn's wife." "Committee discussed furnishings for a "Teachers' Room." Mrs Corcoran replaced Miss Foy.

MR STRACK LEAVES HAWERA SCHOOL

7 MARCH 1924, Mr Strack recorded on his last day:

"My last week at this school where I have spent so many strenuous though happy years. I leave . . . under the happiest of circumstances. I have a splendid committee, a loyal staff, kind parents and most loving children (the parents of many of them I taught many years ago). The grounds are in excellent condition and the new concrete fence shows off the school to advantage. "Kai Ora" to my successor, and to my scholars . . ." Be thoughtful. Be thorough. Play the game. "Kanui taku aroha, ki a koutou."

C.A.S.

Mr and Mrs Strack were accorded a public farewell by the citizens of Hawera at which Mr Strack admitted that he had not punished a child in three years. They made their home in the South Island.

MR NAIRN IN CHARGE

Mr Ralph Nairn took command of the school for three weeks and as Mr Strack was not replaced and several teachers were absent the school was very short staffed. As well Mr Nairn discovered there were several discrepancies in the attendance register which he regarded as extremely serious. After three days of painstaking search he located the errors in the rolls and registers.

When the new Head, Mr F. A. Bates M.A. arrived he found everything going extremely well and complimented Mr Nairn and the staff. He knew the school well of course having been both a pupil and a teacher at Hawera. At mid year he quietly did away with the sex divisions in classes and divided classes where necessary into upper and lower divisions. Class meetings were organised to form football clubs and girls sports teams. Playing grounds were reorganised. Self-government was discussed with the staff and five girls and four boys were elected for the first council.

DIPHTHERIA AGAIN

MAY: Another outbreak. Dr Gunn came and swabbed all suspected sore throats, and tested all the teachers, but during the holidays, one of Mrs Corcoran's daughters died and another entered hospital. Several cases in the holidays meant the school may not have been the source of infection but each class had to gargle daily. The committee felled seven trees on the east side and some on the north-east and repaired the new front fence on which a tree had fallen. The now unused shed from the girls' horse paddocks was shifted to be used as a shelter shed.

DECEMBER: Misses Alice Sheat, Leighton and Francis, who are all well above average students left for training college.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS

Schools remained closed owing to the epidemic in 1925. Lessons were printed in the newspapers in a daily, and then a weekly column by Mr Bates and Mr Jackson of Tawhiti. Lessons were corrected by mail. Mr (Paddy) Lawn joined the staff and new probationers were Misses Eileen Sage and Dorothy Duke.

School Council President was Frank Brown and the secretary Zelda Spragg.

At the 1925 Householders' Meeting Mr Bates raised the matter of the school's starting time. He suggested Hawera was probably the only school on the West Coast starting at 9.30. He had found children to be alert in the mornings but drowsy by afternoon. Mr Nairn said 9 a.m. had been given a three month trial once but Mr Strack had not been in favour of it. A Mrs Ashton said that when her family first came to Hawera, she took the children to school and found the playground already crowded at 8.45 a.m. The meeting voted 20 : 5 in favour of 9 a.m.

"Mr Rod Syme, Agriculture instructor came to arrange for winter work. The conductor of the Borough Band, Mr Fox, was invited to visit the school and discuss forming a school band."

Plans were made to celebrate the jubilee of the school as this decade closed in May. Unfortunately it ended on a very sad note. Prime Minister Massey died and school closed for a day, but sadder, Joyce Grinrod who two years before had been School candidate for the Queen Carnival died. Her sister Miss O. Grinrod was on the staff still and the pupils sent wreaths and messages of sympathy.

REMINISCENCES AND NOTES

". . . Children who lived some distance from school often used to hold on to the dashboard chain on a milk waggon and hitch a ride in the early morning. Sometimes they were nearly run off their feet. This was quite dangerous when cars became more common.

A pretty fair young teacher named Queenie Foy lived near us and she went to school in a smart horse and gig outfit. We liked to be the one to open the gate for her as she usually offered a ride with her, which was a great treat. It was a highly competitive business and a great gamble because, if you lost, you were so late for school, you had no time to look in at the bakery, excite the green parrot on the Doctor's verandah or shout "Cattle-dog Catholics' as you went past the convent.

On wet days we were all allowed to play in the large unvarnished assembly hall and we shrieked and shouted and played gloriously uninhibited games with our wet coats hanging all around us until the bell rang and the drums and bugles played and we were silent and it was "work again."

It was the great delight of the girls to "Play house" with the pine needles under the trees, using these needles for walls, furniture and everything else. If a boy got the chance to run through the forbidden territory of our playground he might well laugh and kick our precious houses to bits as he ran. The Gymnasium was for boys only, for it would have been considered "rude" for girls to tumble over the bars and show our bloomers, which were often made of flour bags still carrying the brand names. I still remember the thrill of daring when I was once asked to take a message to a MAN teacher in the saw-dusted gymnasium.

—Jessie Henson (Mrs Anderson)

The boys were always happy to take liberties with the young men who were pupil teachers. When Mr W. A. Sheat was a pupil teacher, they loved to say — "Hey Bill . . . I can't do this sum. Could you help me?" (but of course, not when Mr Strack was about). One day a bright lad was just beginning, "Hey Bill . . . could you . . ." when somebody fetched him a hefty thump over the ear from behind. Miss Slattery had entered unannounced.

One of the passing fashions in playground games was "Blanket Tossing." On one occasion a lad who was small for his age was being tossed, when his mates failed to catch him and he landed with a sickening thud on his back. For a dreadful moment they thought they had killed him and the game palled.

Miss Bourke ("JINNY") was a good teacher who took no nonsense and was reputed to have a temper. One day she attempted a sarcastic remark which rather backfired. Seeing a boy named John Weithe looking sleepy she said "You're looking dreamy today John. What time did you get up?"

"Half past two," said John. "The other sharemilker is sick and we are milking two herds."

The inspectors' annual report for 1924 notes that of the 248 teachers in Taranaki schools only 227 were fully certificated. Most others were making an effort to study at Saturday classes and summer school for their D Certificate. Teachers not prepared to do this were to have their positions advertised. The Education Board Budget included £87,610:7:11 for salaries and half the cost of the Training College Staff.

DIXON BANNER

After Mr. E. Dixon completed his term as Mayor he donated in 1920 a Banner to be competed for annually by South Taranaki Primary Schools. Competition was open to schools in the counties of Hawera, Egmont, Waimate, Eltham, Opunake and also included Patea school and Ngaere school. The Banner could never be won outright.

Officials of the organisation in 1922 were: Patron, E. Dixon, Esq., M.P.; President, M. F. Purser, Esq; Committee, Messrs J. Winks, B. C. Bennett, J. E. Campbell, W. J. Shepherd, J. Gray, W. T. Bailey, J. W. Black, A. Kean, W. V. Patterson, F. Quin,

F. Perrett, B. Seaver, J. Scoon, J. W. Harding; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Fred Stevens.

It was competed for at the end of 1920 and was won by Manaia Convent. Hawera Main was the second winner.

After four years Bennett and Sutton's donated a Shield which was competed for by the Country schools leaving the Banner for Town Schools.

Prizes were donated for first and second place in each event which included a one mile race. This was later deleted as being rather much for primary school competitions and replaced by a 220 yard Hurdles for senior boys and a 440 yard relay for each section. The three sections were: Senior Boys (nine events for boys aged 12 to 15); Junior Boys (seven events for boys under 12 years). Girls Championship (50, 75 and 100 yard races and the relay for girls).

The 1922 meeting was held in King Edward Park on December 13th.

The "Old-Boy Returned Soldiers" afternoons, when they addressed the pupils brought forth many interesting anecdotes as the one Harold Finlay told them.

"Germany had begun to exploit the possibilities of propaganda. German soldier boys were told that New Zealanders were in fact cannibals who prepared human flesh for food by offering their victims a special kind of cigarette to smoke just before killing them. When Harold Finlay offered a cigarette to a young German chap just taken prisoner, he slid to the ground at his feet in a dead faint.

Mr STRACK'S FAMILY

Mrs. Uriti May Strack-Torrie of 19 Fairway Drive, Whangarei, writes:

"I am the only one of our family now living. Three of my brothers went to the war. Karl was killed in France in 1917 the same year as George was invalided home. Con who was in France with the Y.M.C.A., later married Miss Clara Mander. He taught at Napier and Dunedin where he was killed in a motor accident in 1933 leaving two young sons. George married and taught at Palmerston North and Christ's College, Christchurch. He died in 1959. Fritz taught at Whatatiri and was killed while cycling home from his school in 1930, by a motor accident. Taia married G. W. Reid and lived in Dunedin until her death in 1969. Taia and Con gained their B.A. degree at Victoria University and George his M.A. I gained my B.H.Sc. in Dunedin in 1915, and then taught again at Hawera and Hamilton. In 1920 I returned to University to study medicine and gained M.B. Ch.B. I married Ralph Torrie, County Engineer of Kaitaia and I practised there until 1945 when we moved with our four children to Otahuhu. I continued a busy practise until 1964. My husband died in 1971. We were a family of teachers but only one of my three sons, James, has followed the teaching profession.

World War I took many of our Hawera pupils, some very young, in their late teens or early twenties. In the School Visitors' Book which was kept by my father, are the names of many pupils who were farewelled at the school and had afternoon tea at our home. I have photos of some of the boys with their mothers. The first name is R. J. Seddon, Prime Minister, 3 February, 1904. I am presenting this book to the Centenary Committee of the Hawera Primary School. There are many famous names in the book.

The last pupils when the District High School was disestablished, signed on 30.4.19.

I remember so well, the fine Bugle Band and the drums which used to play as the pupils marched to their rooms. I am sending a photo of my group of young teachers. I am pleased to see Robina Tait, one of the group will be attending in October. I am so looking forward to being in Hawera for the Centenary.

The schoolhouse was newly built and the old one had been shifted to another site on South Road when we came in 1896. About 1914 or '15 Father and I bought a small Kauri tree at the Winter Show. We wondered if it was too far south for a young Kauri but we planted it among small trees lining the path from our back door to the school. A few years ago I noticed as I passed through Hawera, that the Kauri is flourishing though the schoolhouse has gone. I was glad to see it was still there. I would like to donate a tablet to be placed on or near the tree stating that it was planted by my father, C. A. Strack. I would like to do this in memory of my father and his six children who all attended the Hawera Main School.

The class of 1915 has been having a get-together in each other's homes every Labour weekend since the last jubilee in 1950.

Sixth Decade 1925-1935



Miss Slattery's farewell

From left standing: Mr Baker, Mrs Baker, Mr Nairn Miss E. Kirk, Miss Grinrod, Miss L. Carrol, Miss Burgess, Miss Robertson, Miss K. Grant, _____, _____, Miss Petersen, Mr Lawn.
Seated: Miss Hunter, Mrs Nairn, Miss Slattery, Mrs Bates, Mr Bates.
In front: Miss Brunton, Miss Jackson, _____.



Standard 6 1925

Back row (l to r): Hugh Westwood, Eric Spavin, Bert Appleyard, John Brough, Mick Riley, Rangl Carson, Ken Foy, Frank Kendall, Rob Lendrum.
Third row: Bob Pettitt, Maurice Shaw, Roy Miles, Bill Dymond, Roy Smith, Albert Prime, Stan Riley.
Second row: Jim Jordan, Hubert Harvey, Ron Evans, Rupert Griffin, Lou Hulbert, Ron Hancock, Fred Rodie.
Front row: Clyde Griffin, Jim Moloney, Hugh Roberts, Clive Sage, Harold Woollett, George McGlashan, Caleb Walker.

The decade began with a flourish when three days after the 50th jubilee, a grand celebration began on 16 May, 1925. About five hundred ex-pupils and ex-teachers gathered. On Friday afternoon classes demonstrated the marching and physical drill which had become so much a part of the school day.

Then the pupils marched into the hall, the visiting dignitaries took their places on the stage, and the visitors squashed themselves in around the edges of the hall and into the corridors as closely as they could. Among the guests were several pupils from the seventies, and a few from the Blockhouse days. Mr F. A. Harkness and his sister Mrs Oughton, Mr T. Tait, Mr A. Tait, Mr W. R. Butler, the Treweek sisters, Dr Home, Mr E. McAneny, Mr C. A. Innes, Mr H. Sutton, Mr A. E. Sargent, Mr V. C. Ekdahl, Mr W. McFarland and Mr H. Webby were among the earliest. The earliest teacher was Mr C. H. Warden.

Headmaster Bates in welcoming the guests paid a special tribute to headmaster Harre, who had given him such a fine grounding. He mentioned ex-pupils like J. Hunter and F. Roberts who excelled at sport, doctors Home, Young and Gadsby and the Hutchens family and F. Foster in the world of music who had all brought credit to the school. He told the children the back part of the building was the original school.

Mr B. McCarthy spoke kindly of his headmaster, Mr Mair, in whose day Hawera was the top-rated school of the Wanganui Board. Mr P. O'Dea said that Hawera had some of the Wanganui Board's best teachers and no school had turned out more pupils who had taken honours in scholarship or in other walks of life. The School Committee Chairman, Mr J. W. Harding (who did so much for the school during this decade), then spoke, followed by the Mayor, Mr Pacey, and Mr Collins and Mr Swanger of the Wanganui Board who congratulated the school.

The evening was a monster get-together, concert and dance in the Winter Show Buildings, which were gay with greenery, palm fronds and coloured lights, and Union Jack's draped over tables and stage. Down below, the ball room and supper room were decorated in school colours, black and gold. Mr Harding told the gathering how generous the town had been and how the Queen Carnival and subsidy had raised £2 500. He thanked Mrs J. P. Page for her enthusiasm and help with the jubilee. There were more speeches and tributes to Mr F. Pirani and Mr G. S. Bridge of the Wanganui Board who had achieved so much.

Highlights of the concert which followed were a couple of humorous sketches from Dr Home and Mr C. H. Warden on life at school in "The Good Old Days." Vocal solos were sung by Miss

O. Tait, Mr B. McDonald and Mr Eddie Sargent. Miss M. King played her violin and Mr W. Watts his flute. There were elocution items from Miss M. Dixon and Miss Carroll and then McDonald's Orchestra and the Hawera Municipal Band entertained. After a fantastic supper, McDonald's supplied music for dancing and reminiscing and a great time was had by all.

When the Taranaki inspectors presented their 1925 report to the board they expressed the hope that teachers of history would dwell on worthwhile peacetime achievements and stop placing any emphasis on battles. They were happy to notice a new emphasis on keeping classrooms clean and bright and an interest in the environment and beautifying school grounds. They were also pleased that cursive script was replacing script printing for lessons.

In this decade the old rigid system was relaxed a little more, and music took on a new importance while the demands of arithmetic were eased. Saturday classes for teacher trainees were abolished in 1927 and any uncertified teacher refusing to study lost his position.

At school, Mr Bates proved a great asset. He was the highest qualified academically of the headmasters we had had and was also a keen sportsman, being very enthusiastic about surf live-saving and swimming.

STAFF 1926

Mr F. A. Bates, M.A., Mr J. R. Nairn, Miss C. M. Robertson, Mr E. S. Baker, Miss Julia C. Slattery, Miss H. H. Hunter, Miss Mary Bourke, Miss C. G. Robertson (Katie), Mr A. W. Lawn, Miss Olive Grinrod, Miss Doris Petersen, Miss Lucy M. Carroll, Miss A. Fleming, Miss E. B. Nutting, Miss E. A. J. Kirk, Miss K. I. Buckeridge, Mr Charles E. Hucker, Miss D. E. Duke, Miss Louisa McLean, Miss Eileen F. Sage.

During the twenties, teachers were allotted grading marks by the inspectors, young teachers being rated at about 200 and headmasters and old teachers from about 40 down to about 10, the highest possible grading being 1.

Approval for nine a.m. starting was rather slow coming to hand, but it officially began on 29 June, 1925. The flutes for the boys' band arrived and tuition began. Their first appearance was on 14 August, when they provided playground music for the march-in after drill.

The orchestra just grew and grew from its flute band beginnings, and it was just a hobby for Mr Fox at first. On two days a week they played as school came in from morning and afternoon assemblies, the flute band playing on the other days. They practised an hour a week after school and were in great demand. Mr Bates proposed a charge of 3d per player a week so that Mr Fox could be rewarded in some way for his services. The following year the orchestra went to Wellington where they broadcast a concert. The N.Z. Education Gazette even carried a

photo of the group. In October, Dr McLagan, a lady doctor from Canterbury came and examined several classes for goitre and took away soil samples and several products for analysis of the iodine content. Examinations were conducted in December for Proficiency, Endorsed Competency and Competency, by inspectors Griffin and Ballantyne. The school concert in the Opera House drew very favourable comment from the press and raised over £100. It featured the school orchestra and flute band and the Whareroa School dance group. Joan Tonks and Mervyn Dymond recited and Doris Gilmore sang, "There are fairies at the bottom of our garden". There was also a polished instrumental trio from Louis Fox, Marion Archbold and Betty Pinson.

1926 LOG ENTRIES

12 FEBRUARY: School excursion to Ngamotu Beach saw the longest passenger train ever to leave Hawera with a thousand passengers in twenty carriages. High School, Whareroa and Tawhiti joined in too and the fares were very reasonable. Adults: 4/- return, children 2/- return. For adults and young people aged 15-23 who were pupils or pupil teachers it was 2/6. The committee provided drinks and fruit on the train.

25 FEBRUARY: Carpenters arrived from the board with materials at 11.30 a.m. and by 5 p.m. had completed a small room for a dental clinic.

1 MARCH: Carpenters fitting up interior of the clinic. Miss E. M. Burgess commenced as 6th assistant. A baloptican arrived for class teaching.

SWIMMING SPORTS: Betty Powdrell won the Championship cup donated by Mrs Arnold Thompson an old pupil. D. Hammond won the Boys' cup donated by Technical High School Principal, Mr Gray. With the £6 profit, books will be bought for the class libraries and inscribed with the winners' names.

APRIL: Miss Whittington arrived to take charge of the dental clinic. A long awaited gramophone has come to hand. Contractors for the school tennis courts have excavated half the area and begun concreting.

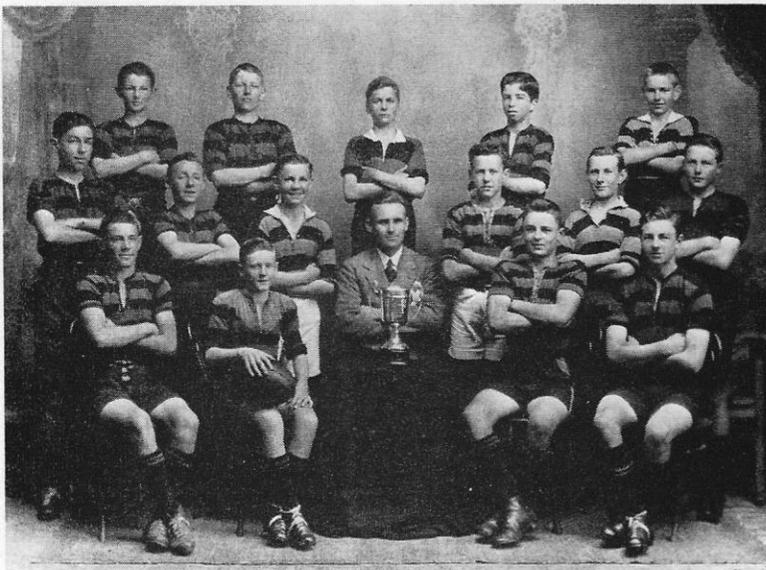
16 APRIL: Formal opening of the dental clinic by Mr Dickie, MP for Patea.

22 JUNE: Visit from C. A. Strack and his wife. An enthusiastic welcome in the hall from his former pupils.

JULY: Three half holidays for the Winter Show. Dental nurse reported 133 treatments for June. (101 fillings and 70 extractions — only one a permanent tooth.)

Mr Baker absent, his father died on the 1st and his mother on the 29th. Two hundred pupils out of six hundred and sixty away with influenza.

AUGUST: Dental treatments for July included, nine permanent teeth extracted.



Hawera Main School First XV. Winners Linkhorn Cup, 1926

Back row: E. Smith, R. Ashton, W. Ewington, R. Carson, J. Sargeson.
 Centre row: L. Wise, D. Hayward, H. Woollett, J. Campbell, W. Wilson, H. Harvey.
 Front row: H. Meharry, F. Kendall (Captain), A. Lawn (Coach), C. Meharry, A. Dowdle.



School Staff 1929

Back row: Miss Cate, Miss Burgess, Miss Fleming, Miss Robertson, Miss Petersen,
 Miss Tully, Miss O. Grinrad, Miss Trewin.
 Centre row: —, Mr Nairn, —, Mr Bates, —, Mr Baker.
 Front row: —, Mr Lawn, Miss Campbell, —

SEPTEMBER: Mrs Judd (nee Miss Queenie Foy), relieving for Miss Grinrod who is ill.

OCTOBER: Three children who were successful at the recent Competitions Festival gave a concert and raised £4.12.11 for library funds. Ten permanent teeth extracted last month.

NOVEMBER: Proficiency exams again (except for the twenty-five who were exempted.)

DECEMBER: Farewell to over a hundred Standard 6 pupils. Also Miss C. M. Robertson and Misses Kirk, Nutting, Simpson and Clarke.

ENERGETIC ACTION

When Mr Bates reported to committee at this time (the end of 1926), he was a very worried man. Epidemics had continued to strike the school. A hundred and fifty-three had been in quarantine in October and two hundred over the winter. The attendance averages were so poor that possibly three teachers would have to leave and only one probationer would be coming. There were already six classes with 50 pupils and others of 55, 57, 59 and 67. In conversation with headmasters from Tawhiti and Normanby, Mr Bates learned that they had not suffered from these epidemics. He blamed the old buildings with all their shortcomings and urged the committee to take **ENERGETIC ACTION**.

There were sixty new entrants at the start of 1927 and the roll was at 641. Pupil No 10 000 was admitted on 23 February. New staff were Misses Grant and Henry and J. Tonks, (probationer), and Miss Kirk came back as relieving infant mistress.

MISS SLATTERY RETIRES

Miss Julia Slattery retired after a decade of service to the school and a lifetime of strenuous and devoted service to education on 28 February, 1927. The staff entertained her on the lawn at the schoolhouse. Mr Bates and Mr Nairn referred to her faithful and long service and presented her with an attache case. On 27 March committee members, old pupils and friends held a social evening in the Savoy tearooms for her.

1927 SWIMMING: Betty Powdrell and Wiremu Chadwick were the winners. £5 was raised for library books. Dr Thompson entertained at his home, Nurse Whittington and her successor Nurse Cato (who incidentally, went down with mumps a fortnight later).

Meanwhile the school committee HAD taken energetic action. A Health Department report on the state of the school was obtained which read:

"The school appears to have been built over various periods with little regard for aspect. Rooms D, F, and G and the infant room get practically no sunlight and four others get very little. Two rooms do not have adequate lighting and two have ventilation through central hall and have only one exterior wall.



Hawera School Fife and Drum Band—late 1920's

FLOOR SPACE: Twelve square feet per child is the standard, but one room has only 8.4. Some rooms are very large while six are too small. **SANITATION:** The tip-up galvanised iron hand basins are rusting and unsanitary. They cause splashing and are situated in the passageway where they block the traffic. **CONVENIENCES:** The boys ten-hole plastered-trough convenience has rotten worm-eaten seats. The thirty feet long plastered-wall urinal has a build up of salts and a very perceptible smell. It is twenty-seven feet from classroom windows which must be kept shut when the wind is in a certain direction. We have the same objection to the girls' privvy.

The headmaster's room appears to have adequate light and ventilation but has been boxed in by the growth of the building.

The committee told all this to the hundred householders at the annual meeting and a resolution was passed calling for the immediate construction of a new school, and new latrines for boys and girls. They also asked for improvements in the meantime. Mr J. W. Harding, supported by Dr Thompson wanted a healthier type of school building altogether, and the board's architect agreed with them. During the late twenties there were always enough candidates to warrant specially printed voting papers for committee elections.

LOG ENTRIES

"Concert by school orchestra and Municipal Band. Miss McCartie replaced Miss Carroll who is to be married."

"Dr Mecredy came to select children for the proposed class for the physically unfit. School ball netted £44 for the committee.

AUGUST: School choirs won a second and two firsts at the competitions.

Mr Fox took our boys band to Wanganui for the school bands competition. We were defeated by Wanganui East Bugle Band.

12 SEPTEMBER, 1927: TURUTURU SCHOOL OPENED TODAY, with eighty-eight pupils, thirty-nine of whom were formally on our roll. They are under Mrs Carter, (formerly Miss Sartori), as acting head teacher. I visited and conveyed our best wishes. "Marching competitions won by Mr Nairn's senior boys squad.

13 OCTOBER. Sad news received today of the death of Mr Strack. Message sent at once from the school.

14 OCTOBER: Special mention of Mr Strack. Music dispensed with. Scholars marched to their classes in silence.

5 NOVEMBER: Two hundred and forty letters sent to Warrington School in England.

"Summer Time" commenced in N.Z. for the first time. (The forerunner of Daylight saving). School began at 9 a.m. by the clock. We revert to solar time on 5 March.

NEW INFANTS SCHOOL

Work began on 5 December, 1927, and it was ready for occupation by April 1928. The infants moved in on 2 April and all the other classes lined the big playground as a guard of honour as they marched to their new school led by the band. The carpenters then turned their attention to remodelling the old rooms to make them more suitable. They put in new windows altering the appearance of the school, dismantled rooms C and D and made the headmaster's room into a storeroom-broom cupboard for the caretaker. The head got a new office. The board planned to ask for departmental permission to establish a special "Health Class" and an "Art and Craft" class for backward children.

The board and the school and the parents were very proud of the new "Open-air" Infant School. It was officially opened on 22 May by Hon Mr McLeod, Minister of Lands and Mr Dickie, MP.

There were five classrooms each to take forty children and they measured 24 feet by 21ft 6". There was a free room of 33ft x 24ft to be used as a hall and two rooms of 33ft x 10ft to be used as a teachers' room and a cloakroom.

A suspended verandah five feet wide ran the full length on each side. The side walls were four feet high and above that was five feet of window space. These windows could be dropped enabling the room to be thrown wide open. In the roof was six feet of "Vita glass" which completed the impression of sunlight and fresh air. In charge of the Infants School was Miss R. McAllister, with Mrs Lee, Miss Simpson, Miss Campbell, and Miss Terry.

Thirteen hundred went to the 1928 picnic at Moturoa by train and car.

Wireless sets were becoming more common. Davy Electrical Co. wrote offering to install a wireless temporarily for a children's broadcast but the staff thought the children grew very weary while listening. Senior pupils were later allowed to stand on the headmaster's lawn to hear the wireless description of Kingsford Smith's arrival in New Zealand after the first trans-tasman flight. A week later he visited Hawera and all South Taranaki schools were granted a holiday. Young teachers leaving training college at this time, were told that there could be no guarantee of employment.

Senior boys helped to lay out the grounds for the Infant School and they planted tree lucerne on two sides for shelter and also forty-seven pinus muricata trees. At the end of 1928 the probationers, Miss Brett and Miss Horsley went off to training college and Miss Death, Miss Trewin and Mr Lovegrove were farewelled at the end of year fete.

Early in 1929 the Hon Harry Atmore visited Hawera school. Mr Atmore was Minister of Education and his wife was the former Dorothy Corrigan of Hawera. (Mr Atmore was responsible for the "Atmore Report on Education" in which it was

advocated that the leaving age be fifteen and that primary schooling finish at Standard 4 and INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS be established to enrich the learning of Form 1 and 2 pupils. It also recommended that more emphasis be placed on agriculture.)

1929 SWIMMING CHAMPIONS were Ron Buckland and Jill Hunter.

The combined orchestras of Hawera Main and High School gave a polished concert which they repeated a few days later over 2YA, Wellington.

When a motor gymkhana was held at the show grounds the pupils were granted a half holiday.

There were twenty at the 1930 householders' meeting and they were told that the capitation grant was inadequate. A committee of ladies had raised most of the £150 in hand for improving the infants' grounds which with the subsidy was worth £300. Delegates from neighbouring schools agreed to try to raise £250 to provide the capital cost of an A Type dental clinic. The committee secretary, Mr H. Collier was also secretary of the clinic committee. (Hawera Main's share would be £100.) The 1930 picnic was not a combined affair, and showed only a small profit. Combined schools shared up the profit from previous combined picnics, Hawera receiving £26 as its share. Mr Herbert Webb was thanked for carrying on with music tuition while Mr Fox was away in England. It seemed Miss Terry's practice of allowing the primers to dry wet socks and shoes on the warm pipes until hometime, was much appreciated by the parents.

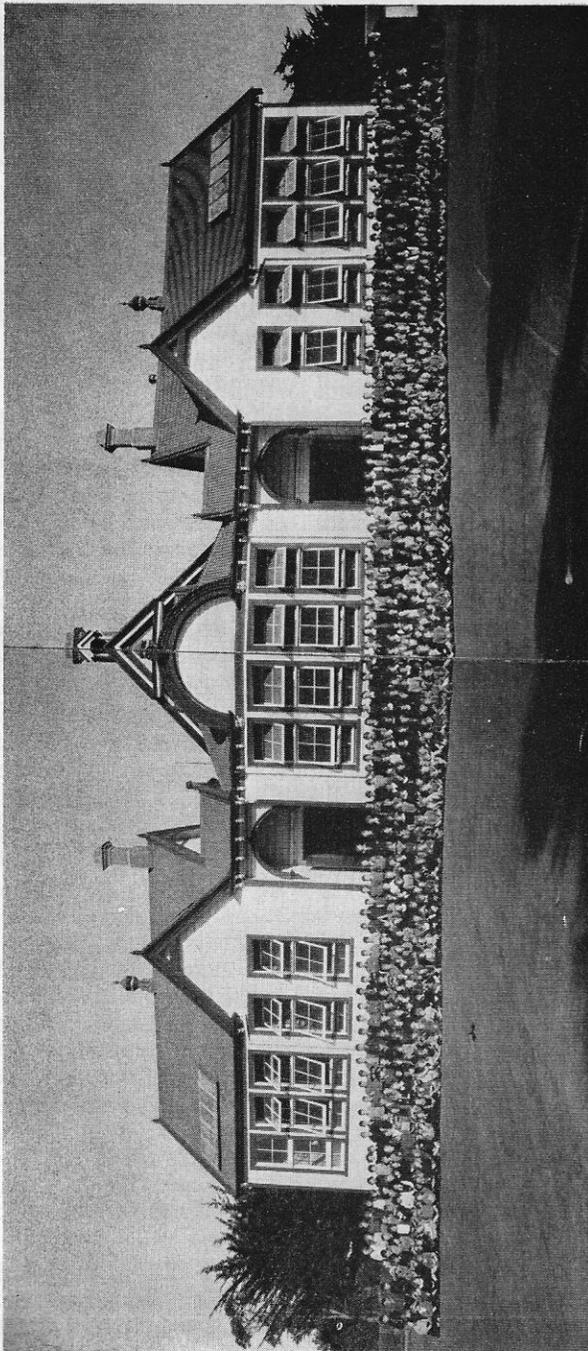
At this time, Mr Bates, having been offered a position as an inspector decided to accept it and left Hawera after what he described as a very happy five years.

Mr Nairn was again in charge and as no teacher was living in the school house he had the grounds cleared by 4 p.m. which some pupils were very reluctant to accept.

MR J. W. THOMAS

The new committee chairman, Dr Thompson and Mr Nairn introduced the new headmaster after the May holidays. Mr J. W. (Joe) Thomas who came from West End School at New Plymouth was a member of a well known pioneer family at Ngaere which produced many well remembered teachers in Taranaki. He had been a Rugby representative in his youth and was keen to see sporting activities flourish. (To the small children Mr Thomas seemed like a kind policeman with policeman's feet.) Mr Thomas's log book entries are few and far between and his writing is difficult to decipher. His discipline was pretty firm and he kept a good school.

We know that another Fancy Dress Ball was held and that a concert raised £6.10 towards furnishing the office for the headmaster. A bazaar just before Christmas raised £36.5.10 for infant material and library books. Times were getting hard and



Pupils in front of the renovated school about 1928 (note new style of windows)

the committee had come to rely on revenue from pupils' functions and concerts.

The highlight of 1930 was the arrival of a set of second-hand military band instruments. (While on holiday in England Mr Fox had heard that the instruments were for sale. £100 was raised and Miss Doris Swadling (an ex-pupil in the Hawera Orchestra), had generously donated the other £100 and Hawera became the first primary school in the country with a military band.

LOG NOTES

Bible-in-schools began in 1930 in response to pressure from the Bible-in-schools league

13 MARCH: Miss O. Grinrod absent. Death of her sister.

18 MARCH: Pupils heard wireless account of Byrd's expedition.

APRIL: New dental nurse is Miss Cousins. A visit from Mr Douglas Taylor, director of Music in Schools. Infants' Paddy's Market raised £17.8.

SEPTEMBER: Bayly Memorial Sports held. Inspectors McKenzie, Hawke and Henry visited, also the Drill Instructor, Mr Roydhouse, who gave a lifesaving demonstration. Another concert and operetta presented.

THE DEPRESSION

1931 marks the start of the really hard years. Civil servants had several wage cuts. A lady teacher of this time says she had three cuts of 15%, 10% and possibly again 10%, and that her wages dropped from £18 a month net at the beginning of 1931 to £13 in around twelve months.

The "MARRIED WOMEN TEACHER'S EXCLUSION ACT" came into force whereby a married women teacher received three months' notice when she advised the board of her marriage, unless she could supply written proof signed by a J.P. that her husband earned insufficient for her upkeep.

A "SUBSTITUTED ASSISTANT" scheme which seems to have been operating since about 1928 was in operation. Under this scheme, the board substituted "One year only" appointments instead of permanent appointments for a few teachers whose services they did not wish to lose. Probationary teachers were an embarrassment. They had been warned that positions could not be guaranteed, but they had to take turns at a few months' work each.

There were said to be two hundred and fifty persons out of work in the Hawera district alone. Many were reported to be down to their last and best suits of clothes. Rotary and Savage Clubs organised a big relief collection of clothing and blankets and shoes tied together in pairs. People in employment were asked to leave parcels near their front doors for collection.

The log book records the sorrow of the school at the death of a teacher, Miss O. Grinrod described as a most kindly, conscientious, and efficient teacher, just exactly a year after the death of a second sister.

MR NAIRN RETIRES

On 6 May, 1932, Mr J. R. Nairn retired after twenty-seven years at Hawera. Many wondered why he had not moved on to a headmaster's position but he owned a few acres and seemed content to settle in Hawera. Bruce Henson remembers him as a very fair man. Everyone knew exactly where he stood in so far as the number of mistakes permitted before punishment was meted out.

One thing Mr Nairn would not tolerate was insolence. The instances where the committee held an inquiry into Mr Nairn's alleged undue punishments were usually the result of insolence. He was an acknowledged top teacher who achieved very good results with very large classes under conditions which were often almost impossible.

Past pupils were invited to Ralph Nairn's farewell and Harold Finlay writes, "Bob had given me more than my share of the strap, usually for being late. I had to ride 4½ miles to school over roads where it took six horses to tow a ton of cheese from Inaha to Hawera. Rod Syme had been asked to represent the old pupils at the farewell but he was unable to be there so Dr Thompson asked me to be the speaker. I had heard that the last boy to get the strap would put in a claim for it, so I thought I'd be in too. I asked the last boy to be strapped to go and fetch it. When he gave it to me I asked "Bob" to stand up and hold out his hand. Then . . . I GAVE HIM A SMALL TASTE OF WHAT WE GOT . . . to the joy of all and sundry. The folk across the road later asked me what caused all the noise over at the school. (More than they'd ever heard from there.) I didn't hurt "Bob" much. I was enjoying myself. I turned to the Chairman of the Taranaki Education Board and I asked him, "Does this strap belong to the board?" "No, it doesn't", he replied. I asked Dr Thompson, "Does this strap belong to the committee?" "No", he said. I asked Mr Thomas, "Does this strap belong to the school?" "No". Then I said to the boys and girls, "Since this strap is unclaimed property, "I CLAIM IT."

Mr Finlay says he will bring this famous persuader to the centenary celebrations. (Many boys vowed it was soaked in kerosene or methylated spirits over the holiday periods.)

Mr Nairn was replaced by Mr G. H. Percy as first assistant and Mr A. E. Gilliver joined the staff in 1932. Teachers did not move often as a good position was worth holding on to.

By 1933 the economic situation can only be described as grim. Five-year-old children were not permitted to start school as an economy measure. A "RATIONED TEACHER" SCHEME was operated whereby teachers surplus to the board's requirements were offered four month's employment a year and spent the remaining months idle. For this they were paid £60-less wages

tax, less unemployment tax, less superannuation deductions. No new teachers were trained and training colleges were closed for a time. The log book records the arrival from the board of half a gross of inkwells and the replacement of the thirty-year-old piano. Miss Terry left after seven years of excellent work. The special class was closed down. Five year olds were still excluded in 1934 and school was closed for a half day to enable pupils to take part in a competition in aid of "The Unemployed". The log book mentions that Mr Lawn and Mr Gilliver were away at military camp early in each year. The board sent a gross of pastels and 4 lb of grey plasticine. It was well known that much teaching material was made or bought by the teachers themselves.

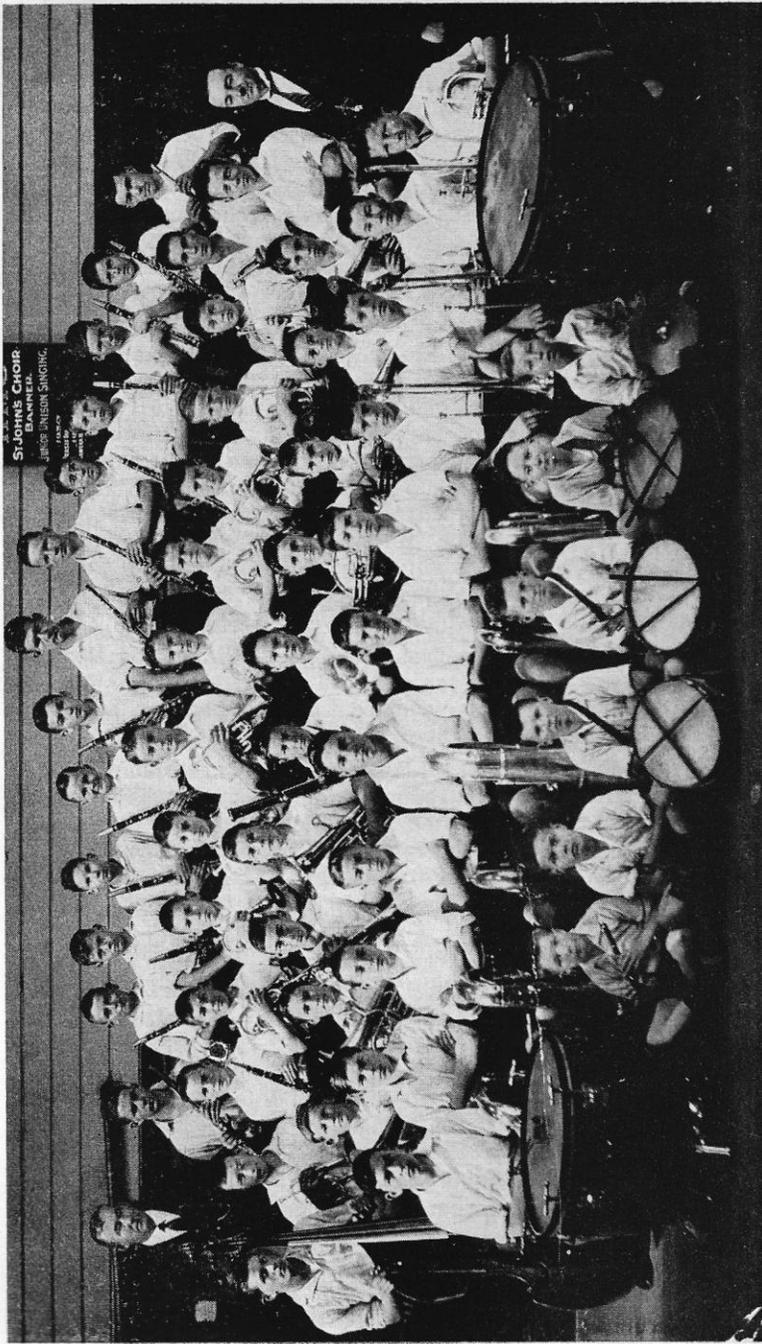
Life was very difficult for the school committees at this time and householders' meetings were very poorly attended. Ten attended in 1931 and only three were not on the school committee. (School roll was 610 at the time.) The 1932 meeting was told that in spite of buying only the barest essentials the committee had spent £100 more than their capitation money. Only the school concert had saved them from ruin. Dr Thompson criticised the report of the National Expenditure (Economy) Commission. One proposal was to cut by 10%, allowances to school committees, thus saving £10 000. It also suggested suspending for a year all school maintenance, thus saving \$25,000, and charging 1d a copy for school journals which would defray the £7 000 printing costs.

He also referred to proposals to abolish Education Boards. Committees, he said, had been stripped of much of their former power until now they were reduced to being beggars, and this would remove their last right, of electing the boards.

Headmaster Thomas said that under the economic crisis measures, staffing had been reduced, no additional assistants and no trainees had been appointed and unless a teacher was away for a whole month, no reliever would be sent. Mr Maunder and Miss Joyce Dix were thanked for helping Mr Fox.

Talk of monetary reform was widespread and five year olds were again excluded in 1935. A National School Committee Federation of N.Z. was formed in 1933 to put forward committee claims. The "Rationed Teacher" scheme ended about 1936. The roll at Hawera (and indeed for all Taranaki), fell steadily from 1931-1935. Hawera roll fell from 638 to 522. This was blamed on five year olds exclusion, the falling birthrate and immigration cuts. Badly needed repairs to the school asphalt were only accomplished by the use of "unemployed labour." The 1934 meeting was the last of the ANNUAL Householder meetings which then became biennial. The decade ended on a decidedly impoverished note.

Staff of 1930-35 were.—Mr J. W. Thomas, Mr Nairn, Miss Terry, Miss Fleming, Miss C. G. Robertson, Miss E. M. Burgess, Mr Baker, Mr Gray (P.A.), Mr Lawn, Miss I. Tarrant (P.A.), Miss H. Murray, Miss Rawson, Miss Trewin, Miss Sage, Miss E. Kennedy (Dalton's class), Miss O. Grinrod, Miss N. S. Brown



Mr. J. W. Thomas (Headmaster) and Mr. H. C. A. Fox (conductor) and the School Orchestra. Early 1930's

(P.A.), Miss Beechy (P.A.), Miss J. Tonks, Miss Peggy Morris (pro), Miss Lorna Campbell, Mr Dan O'Dea, Miss S. Pickett, Miss Ethel Briggs, Miss N. Griffin, Mrs M. Roberts, Miss L. Corlett, Miss Potter, Miss Caigou, Mr J. O'Dea, Miss Flo Campbell, Mrs Lee, Mr Gilliver, Mr G. H. Percy, Miss Harkness, Miss McAllister, Miss Mary Garvey, Miss M. D. Patterson, Miss W. Z. Donnelly, Miss M. E. Murray, Miss Melba Jackson, Miss W. Hall, Miss G. Leech, Miss Downs, Miss Harley, Miss Wytkin, Miss Tully (pro), Miss Callaghan (pro).

NOTES

The Dixon Banner Programme carried an advertisement from DIXONS which read, "Why not listen in? Good Programmes every night.

Five valve set in oak case	£20. 0.0
Two 45 volt batteries	£2. 0.0
Six volt accumulator	£4.10.0
Five valves at 12/-	£3. 0.0
One earth clamp	1.6
100 ft of aerial	7.0
Six insulators	6.0
One lead-in tube and wire	3.6
One loud speaker	£3.10.0
	<hr/>
	£33.18.0

Loud speakers may also be had at £4.10, £6.10 and £9.00



Staff 1935

Mr Lawn, Miss Campbell, Miss _____ Mr Gilliver, Miss M. Murray, Miss "Katie" Robertson, Mr Percy.
 Front: _____, Miss Burgess, Mr Thomas, Miss R. MacAllister, Mrs Lee, Miss _____.



1937 Class Group. Teacher Mr G. H. Percy

Back row: R. Morgan, Stuart McLean, Dave Roberts, B. Pierce, A. McKay, _____ Bill Jones, E. Arnold, R. Wynne-Jones, G. Pierce, C. Frampton.
 Third row: L. Bayly, Josie Smith, C. Wylde, Naida Sorenson, Betty McGregor, Lottie Waterland, V. Walsh, Francis Fyffe, B. Coombes, Pat Cummins, P. Ross, Shirley Walters, Gwen Archbold, Harvey O'Neil.
 Second row: S. Flack, S. Thomas, J. Arthur-Worsop, B. Clement, A. Gabbie, R. Collins, Veta Chapple.
 Front row: T. Bremner, D. Horton, I. Chisholm, P. Markham, George Sargent, P. Cressey, G. Wills, J. Young, I. Rowe, P. Nathan, Leo Marter.

Seventh Decade 1935-1945 War Again

As this decade began, the very bad economic situation seemed to be improving a little. The five-year-old children were still excluded as an economy measure and school committees and staff alike were feeling the pinch.

School log books of this decade contain very little information but "Hawera Star" reports of biennial householders' meetings and break-up functions contain many items of interest.

A sixtieth (Diamond Jubilee) celebration was held in spite of the economic climate, in mid July. Between five and six hundred people gathered even though it was only ten years since the last reunion.

A ball on the evening of the 12th drew a large crowd. Wills's Orchestra supplied the music and Mr R. Morrissey was M.C. The "Hawera Star" devoted a column and a half to the description of the dresses of the ladies present, and gave similar space to the Fancy Dresses worn by the large number of children at the school pupils' function. (Margaret Buist was "Jack Tar" and Cora Gribble and Marjory Butchart "Chinese Twins".)

At school on the 13th, each old pupil wore an identification card and those first decade pupils present were again honoured. Mr A. V. Tait tolled the bell at 2 p.m., Mr W. Douglas unfurled the N.Z. Ensign and Mrs M. J. Campbell and Mrs Oughton planted a kauri tree in front of the school to commemorate the event. Mr J. A. Valentine, speaking for the Education Board, suggested that as so many people had come to the jubilee, it would be a good idea to form an association of friends to help the school. The Mayor, Mr Jim Campbell welcomed Mr George Davidson an ex-pupil who was a great, great nephew of Headmaster Alex Mair. Mr Tait also spoke and recalled the arrival of Hawera's first two loads of metal. A bouquet was presented to Miss J. Slattery and a warm welcome extended to Mr Ralph (Bob) Nairn.

Other first decade pupils present were Mesdames T. Botten (Naomi Goodwin), A. Phillips (Rhoda Bashford), A. Hannah (Bessie Ecclesfield), Mrs Hendle (Annie Beamish), A. Gudgeon (Agnes Clarkson), W. D. Linn (Bernice Ecclesfield), W. G. Bishop (Bertha Nicholas), M. Walsh (M. Evans), A. E. Death (Alice Winks), W. Jobson (C. Adamson), P. Petersen, Miss B. Hobbs, Miss Cowper, Miss J. Buchanan, A. G. Larcom, G. S. Watts, Alex Hunter, F. Castle, R. Castle, Jim Winks, Horace E. Nowell, Chas. T. Nicholas, Walter Syme, Guy Livingston, Victor Elliot, H. B. Nicholas, F. A. Harkness, W. H. H. Young, J. H. Hobbs, J. Syme and W. McL'Dowie.

Young school pupils, Shirley Henderson, Shirley Horton, Thelma Trask, Beth Bayliss and Barbara Excell were chosen to present sprays to the old pupils.

The log records visits from inspectors Haslane and Henry and Warren, and from Dr Champtaloup and Dr Dawson. More "rationed" teachers joined the staff for the last four months of the year. (Teachers offered four months of employment only per year.)

The Annual Contest for players of Brass and Woodwind instrument players who were members of the school military band or orchestra was held in December. Mr H. C. A. Fox and Mrs K. Anderson were the tutors of these young players. Prizes awarded were: Champion Band Soloist (Brass) B. Marshall, tenor trombone. Champion Soloist (woodwind) Murray Findlater, clarinet. Most industrious students: Miriam Goldstone (senior), Nola Cross and Betty Evans (intermediate) and Dorothy Lyons and Jim Walker (junior).

FIVE-YEAR-OLDS ADMITTED

1936 saw five-year-old children once more allowed to start school. For the previous three years, they had had to wait for their sixth birthday. The sweeping victory of Michael Joseph Savage and his Labour party may have had something to do with it, or perhaps it was just the improving state of the economy. Married women teachers were re-employed at this time too.

In the light of Mr Valentine's suggestion at the Diamond Jubilee, a meeting was called to form a Hawera Main School Parents' and Wellwishers' Association. Forty-five attended and a committee of twenty three was elected with power to add (believe it or not!). Subsequently more were added and the committee comprised the following public spirited citizens, President, Mrs Alice Collins; Secretary, Mr S. F. Prosser; Committee, Mesdames A. M. Young, C. K. Cressey, R. H. Leece, E. J. Yearbury, A. H. Larkman, V. Lord, W. Marshall, J. B. Rowe, E. Evans, E. M. Lendrum, P. O. Veale, S. F. Prosser, S. T. Hunt, H. D. Caplen and C. G. Trotter; Messrs C. G. Trotter, M. J. Burns, W. C. Fyfe, S. Hunt, H. W. Lacey, A. H. Larkman, P. Trim, A. K. Fyson and M. R. Jones, plus teachers, G. H. Percy, A. E. Gilliver and A. W. Lawn.

This committee divided into sub-committees on "Houses", "Library", "Garden" and "Social" interests. The meeting was told how inadequate was government aid especially for library books and art and craft materials, also for the repairing of band instruments. An annual sub of 2/6 was decided on. Unfortunately parents generally viewed this request for 2/6 with suspicion and very few paid it. Only about seventeen attended subsequent meetings but those who were enthusiastic were really enthusiastic. They organised a Parents' Day for August and many shy parents responded to the invitation. Opportunity was taken to present the Syme Afforestation Trophy won by the school at

the Winter Show. Other awards were also presented: Swimming: Bruce Clark and Lillias Smith (seniors), Peter Dymond and Jetta Trotter (juniors). Dixon Banner Certificates: Colin Boyce (2), Eva Stewart, Margaret Craigie, Audrey Brown (2), Bill Marshall, Don Bailey, Lola Davies, and Bruce Clarke (2). Corrigan Cup (Champion Garden Plot): Marion Bernard. Calf Rearing: Ray Prestidge, Rodney Langdon and Alan Tozer.

As parents had demonstrated that they would come in a crowd, another day was planned for December, with a pleasing attendance. The Mayor, Mr J. Campbell, officially "switched on" a wireless set given to the school in memory of his mother, a foundation pupil.

Infantile Paralysis closed the school early and it did not reopen until March the following year. Shortly the school was again closed and correspondence lessons were published in the press and corrected by post. During 1937 the Government was able to increase Capitation allowances and grants to schools which was a cause of much rejoicing. In May the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth was marked at school by yet more tree planting. This time, Mr H. Dickie, M.P. planted a totara and Dr Thompson an oak.

PROFICIENCY GOES

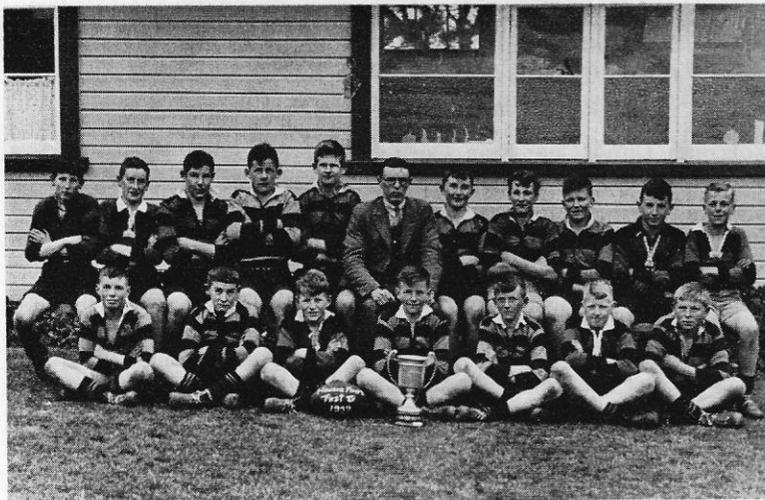
The Standard 6 Proficiency Exam was abolished in 1937. Paul Mountford, the youngest pupil in Standard 6 was successful in winning the Andrew Lees Memorial Scholarship. The Parents' and Wellwishers' continued to work hard and five hundred library books were added to the collection. Only forty families paid their 2/6 but Gala days and Fancy Dress Balls were arranged and the parents of the other five hundred or so children enjoyed them very much.

The Milk in Schools Scheme began in 1938 and each child was offered a half pint bottle of milk and a straw each morning. During the very hot weather large classes were taken to the Town Baths in Albion Street. The sixteen persons present at the biennial Householders' meeting passed a resolution "That we go immediately into the question of Baths for the School". The school committee after so much scrimping and saving, found itself in the best financial position for eight years. Musical activities continued to flourish and there was a large stringed instruments class as well as a band of twenty players.

The log records, "Pedestrian crossings placed near the school". "Maps arrived from the Board . . . two of Europe, one of the British Isles, two of the world, two of Australia and one of New Zealand".

May: First assistant Mr Percy farewelled after six years of very good work,

In June the school at Whareroa was closed and the children were brought in to Hawera Main by bus each day. A Parents' Day in July resulted in an attendance of a hundred and fifty.



**School Team 1939. Winners of Taranaki Primary School
Rugby Championship**

Back row: K. Mitchell, R. Lenz, A. Armstrong, G. Davidson, G. Walker, B. Wills, J. Linnell, J. Hurrell, S. Oakes, B. Hayter.
Front row: D. Robertson, W. Marshall, N. Dymond, P. Dymond, R. Leece, E. Coombes, A. Travis. Absent: J. Goodwin.



1936 Form 1 and 2. Teacher Mr A. Gilliver

Back row: Cora Gribble, Margaret Buist, Lola Davies, J. Zinli, Mervyn Leece, Eva Stuart, Valda Baker, Lilian McNeil, Poppy Marter, Sadie Haym, Betty Shore, N. Wilkinson.
Third row: Elsie Hartmann, M. Butchart, Ian Cameron, Colin Boyce, Jack Bernard, S. Shore, Don Tait, Eddie Yearbury, W. Glenn, L. Beaufort.
Second row: _____, Paul Swinburn, Murray Findlater, Brian Dash, I. Baker, Don Egglestone, Doug Rawson, — Struthers, G. Carter, L. Ackroyd, Bruce Wills, Ray Muir.
Front row: Pauline Purser, Dorothy Bull, Shirley Walker, Joyce Warcup, Margaret Fincham, Maefyny Marter, _____, Merle Fairweather, Joan Schweiters, Betty Sage, Muriel Openheim, _____, M. Irvine.

Another Gala in December was held just before Mr Thomas the headmaster left. He wrote in the log:

“On retiring, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the very great assistance that has always been given the school so willingly by the committee, parents and Parents’ Association. Mrs Thomas and myself will always look back with pleasure on our long term in Hawera where I have been Headmaster for the last ten years.”

Mr H. E. Webster, the new Headmaster took up his duties at the beginning of 1939. Though a small man, he had quite a reputation as an athlete. As a young man he had represented Auckland at tennis in 1920-22 and at soccer in 1911-12. While at Te Puke and at Greytown he had won their local golfing championships. Naturally he was keen to see the school do well at sporting activities. He spoke very precisely and soon decided to try to remedy some the “Kiwi” speech of the children. Many will remember his efforts to have pupils pronounce correctly the days of the week and words like “women” and “milk”.

War broke out in 1939 but in contrast with Mr Strack’s war time log books, the war this time is hardly even referred to in passing. The log does mention the visit of some musicians from the Blind Institute and the fact that only four calves were presented for judging. Warwick Harris won the Andrew Lees Scholarship for the year.

With the outbreak of war, people’s interest in the Parents’ Association fell off markedly and it went into recess.

The Hawera Main School Band and Orchestra came under the auspices of the Hawera Orchestral Society in 1940 when it took over the administration of school music from the old Hawera Main School Band and Orchestra Committee. The school committee secretary, Sergeant Collier resigned after ten years’ service. The popular school festivals featuring music, drama and dancing continued. These began about 1937 and the proceeds went to provide the free library service of participating schools. Ron Trotter won the Lees Scholarship in 1940.

Free apples as well as free milk were distributed in 1941 and it was noted that where 70% of the children took the milk, 100% wanted the free apples. The dental clinic re-opened at this time with Nurse Pallairet and Nurse Logan. The staff seems to have been very stable over a two year period. Mr Murphy who went in to military camp, was replaced by Mr Mills, a keen football coach.

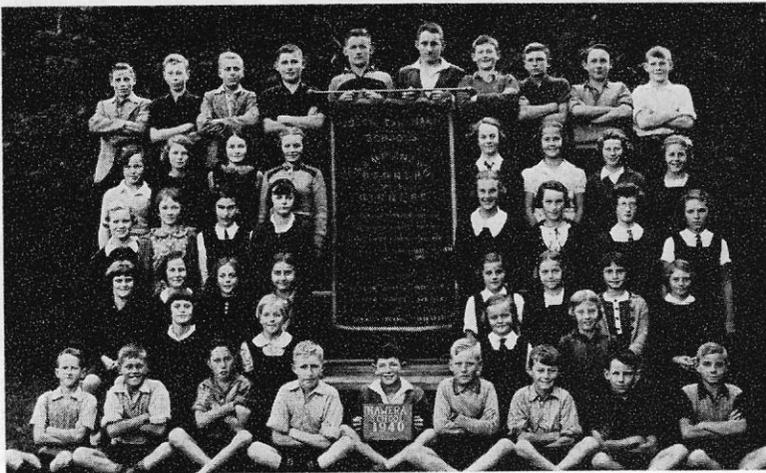
Swimming Championships: Des Wilson and Marie Illingworth (seniors); John Veale and Doris Veale (juniors).

On Parents’ Day, Miss Blake’s choir sang and Mr Rex Head’s class displayed the new physical exercises. The drill squads and marching competitions were judged by Mr Hunter and Mr Thomson from the High School. As well as class displays there was an exhibition of Dressed Dolls.



Form I 1940

Back row: Pam Berg, Phyllis Trim, Val Tregoweth, Joyce Kelson, Barbara Trask, Lillian Allen, Avril Pope.
 Fourth row: Marjory Beale, Joan Thomas, Janet Parker, Muriel Johnson, Doris Veale, Cecily Stokes, Margaret Haytor, Betty Mancer, Ngaire Bell, Alison Murch.
 Third row: Zoe Lippingwell, Jocelyn Lovell, Clare Tugwell, Mavis Brown, Daphne Matson, Shirley Hatcher, Shirley Henderson, Lynette Grieg, Betty Tait, Joan Thomlinson.
 Second row: Ken Collier, Bob Thompson, Angus Dunlop, Des Wilson, Peter Laurent, Alan Rolf, Peter McFaddeon, Sid Reynolds, Don Sharp, Smeaton Craigie, Harry Coombe.
 Front row: Reg Ellison, Wi Kurangi, Ross Marking, Russell Todd, Rod Reynolds, Jim Wills, Alex Crichton, Torrie Leece, Jim Ross, Des Hannah.
 (The Reynold's boys were identical twins)



Dixon Banner Team 1940

Back row: S. Craigie, P. McFaddeon, B. Haytor, E. Johnson, G. Davidson, I. Peters, — Moore, — Bayly, C. Harwood, M. Hartmann.
 Fifth row: P. Woodhead, O. Goodwin, B. Hine, G. Hannah, B. Gilmore, D. Veale, N. Bell, P. Berg.
 Fourth row: L. Greig, B. Holloway, V. Ward, — Warner, B. Pearson, J. Hitchcock, C. Tugwell, N. Goldsmith.
 Third row: V. Coutts, B. Clement, A. Hatcher, B. Trask, A. Pope, T. Trask, A. Harding, D. Fraser.
 Second row: L. Dodd, A. Plant, A. Trotter, P. Mather.
 Front row: B. Murch, B. Mann, Stevenson, P. McWilliam, G. Purser, M. Cockerill, D. Sutherland, R. Laurence, B. Zinzli.

By 1942 the war in the Pacific had made people very much aware of possible danger. At the Householders' meeting questions were asked about what plans had been made for trenches at school. The Mayor, Mr Clapham, told the meeting that digging trenches was a personal responsibility. He felt sure there would be ample warning of an enemy attack, but in the unlikely event of a surprise attack while children were at school, the senior children would be evacuated to the shelter of the Dives' Avenue trees and the infants would be taken under the trees behind their classrooms. The school was chosen as an E.R.P. Casualty Clearing Station and it was decided that if the school had to be blacked-out, the E.R.P. should do it. A great many old pupils were in the armed forces and at one time, a large number of pupils from the same class met in London. A "Hawera Star" photo showed three Hawera brothers, George, Evan and Arthur Evans who met by chance on active service in Egypt. The log book almost mentions the war when it notes, "Mr Johnson who was appointed P.A. did not report. He appears to have gone into military camp".

The new Governor General, Sir Cyril Newall and Lady Newall met the local school children at King Edward Park early in the year. The first assistant Mr Finlay left for Turakina in May and was replaced by Mr J. H. (Harry) Thomas. Miss Blake also left for a position in Feilding. The roll was climbing again and reached 503 by mid 1942.

Dr Thompson, Chairman of the School committee and one who had done a great deal for our school died on 13 September, 1942 and the school was closed as a mark of respect and affection.

On Armistice Day the ceremony of "Honouring the Flag" was observed in the hall to mark the anniversary of the end of World War One. A similar ceremony was held the following February to mark the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi Anniversary.

1943 Swimming: Royce Barclay and Mavis Hitchcock (senior); Barry Aston and Moira Young (junior).

Miss Burgess was away from school for some time as her father was ill and she was unable to get help. Mr Burgess died in September. For Arbor Day, once more native trees were planted in the circle by the front gate. This time it was kowhais, Lacebarks, Kahikateas, Akeake, Hinau and Totara.

A class was formed at the hospital and a teacher appointed for it (Mrs Black). A Vocational Guidance Officer, Mr G. C. Burton, made an exploratory visit to the school and spoke to the Form 1 and 2 pupils on choosing careers when they left school and he answered many questions. The roll continued to rise reaching 523 which made the school a Grade 6 E/F for 1944.

At the end of 1943 three boys, Royce Barclay, Graeme Claridge and Donald St John tied to win the Campbell Scholar-

ship for Standard 6 children going to Hawera Technical High School from the Hawera Town area.

Funds towards Baths for the school were now being raised in earnest. A Parents' Day effort raised £30 and Miss Webster and Miss Clayton collaborated to write and produce an operetta "Robin Hood" which really inaugurated the Baths Appeal. There was a great deal of competition for leading roles in the operetta and the title role was played by Ian Galloway with Marie Spragg as "Maid Marion" and Purvis McCulloch as Friar Tuck.

The 1944 Householders' meeting was told that school baths were now in sight. Mr Revell had kindly dug two wells and working bees had done some excavating. The £1 for £1 subsidy was available for learner pools up to £200 and it was confidently expected that work would go ahead. Unfortunately the Health Department condemned the water supply and that was that.

The war in Europe was over just before the end of this decade and Inspectors Merrington and Johnson visited just before the Peace holiday was granted. Mr Webster urged the 1944 incoming school committee to press on and work for a NEW SCHOOL.

Teachers who taught at Hawera during the decade include:

Mr J. W. Thomas '28-'38; Mr G. H. Percy '32-'38; Mr A. E. Gilliver '32-'36; Mr A. W. "Paddy" Lawn, Miss E. M. Burgess, Miss "Katy" Robertson, Miss R. MacAlister, Miss Garvey, Mrs E. V. Lee, Miss L. Campbell, Miss F. Campbell, Miss Simpson, Miss M. Murray, Miss S. Pickett (R), Miss Walker (R), Miss M. C. Morris (R), Miss Wylkin (R), Miss D. Patterson, Miss O'Donnell '36-; Miss M. Morrison, Miss D. M. Hamblett, Miss M. Traynor (R), Miss O. Wernham, Mr Chas Mountford '36-'38; Mrs K. Fox (R), Mr C. Guilford, Mr A. I. Begg, Miss A. Thompson, Miss Gannon '37-'38; Mr F. Bush (R), Mr G. H. Mills '37-'41; Miss A. L. Burton, Mr D. Kirkby, Miss F. L. Walsdorf, Miss McLean, Miss A. Craig (R), Mr I. Finlay '38-'42; Mrs C. F. Marsh (R), Mrs M. Whittaker (R), Mr R. C. Forbes (R), Mr H. E. Webster '39-'51; Miss F. Wills, Miss Murray, Mr G. Knox, Miss M. D. Webster '39-; Mr H. Webster '39-; Miss A. Murdoch, Miss I. M. Baldwin, Miss M. H. Blake '39-'42; Miss M. S. Clayton '39-'51; Mr L. Keedwell '39-'43; Mr Goodwin, Miss R. M. Veale (R), Miss G. Civil '39-; Miss Z. Tocker, Mr A. J. Crawford, Mr W. Tocker (R), Miss M. W. Jennins, Mr Rex Head, Mr J. Murphy, Mrs M. Benjamin (R), Mrs M. Milner (R), Miss E. Jones, Miss M. Collins (R), Mr J. H. Thomas '42-; Mrs J. Stacey (R), Mrs B. McCarty (R), Miss P. C. York '42-; Miss Cato (R), Miss R. Scott, Miss M. Oppenheim, Miss McElroy, Miss M. M. Helvig, Mrs E. J. Black, Miss M. Murdoch, Miss Mary Parker, Miss Marion Jamieson, Miss Dawson (Hospital class), Miss T. W. McCulloch (R), Miss Wells, Miss Colson (R), Miss Weller (R), Miss O'Donnell (I.M.).

NOTES AND REMINISCENCES

Mr Alf Gilliver, a teacher of this decade, recalls that his first class at Hawera was Standard 5 in a room on the south east front corner. There was very little heating and occasionally a very disagreeable smell pervaded the room. He was not sure whether it came from the great turtle which hung on the wall at the back or from local farmers feeding out bad ensilage. He wonders what became of that turtle. There was a rock garden and sundial in front of the school, which was the work of first assistant, Mr Percy.

One of the more unusual characters who came to the school was Rev. Curran, a tall stooped retired Methodist minister (probably in his eighties) who took Bible-in-School lessons. To teach us that Salvation is a free and quite unmerited gift, he held up an attractive little new testament and announced, "This book is for whosoever will come and take it . . . for WHOSOEVER WILL . . ." We looked blankly at him. Did he mean what we thought he might mean? He kept repeating his message until someone took him at his word and went up and accepted the gift from his hand. Most of us saw his meaning.

Sometimes he gave away copies of a medical book which I think he had written. Parents were apt to regard this as unsuitable reading for children.

After a period of ill health Miss E. M. Burgess retired in the middle of this decade, the actual date unfortunately is not in the log book. She had been associated with the school for two decades. She had a heart of gold but in moments of stress her voice rose in pitch alarmingly. As she took the class in the centre front room teachers in neighbouring rooms would quietly close their doors when they heard the familiar cry, "GIRLS, GIRLS!"

One year Miss Frances Wills trained our choir. We sang:

"O hush thee, my baby
Thy sire was a knight"

and we polished it until we could draw out every possible shade of meaning, and were rewarded with first prize. Miss Burgess sent along a large box of chocolates which we polished off while we were waiting to go on stage for the winners' concert in the evening.

Pupils of this decade remember well, the hot dusty marches to the town baths only to find swimming almost impossible because of the crowd, the Maypole dancing, marching in to the hall simultaneously from four entrances and marching out again to either "Sussex by the Sea" on the loudspeaker or to Don Sharp's piano music. The Barnardo Helpers' League box-opening parties, usually in Mrs Fyson's garden, were great affairs. Generous box-holders (or ones with generous fathers) were rewarded with long service awards.

Pupils from this decade seem to have gone far and wide and done many interesting things. Some found very interesting niches for themselves.



The cast of the Operetta "Robin Hood" written and produced by Miss Clayton and Miss Webster about 1943.



Of the family of Mr and Mrs P. O. Veale, Arthur is professor of Human Genetics at Auckland (formerly at Otago). He is Director of the Medical Research Council of N.Z.'s Human Genetics Research Unit and a member of the W.H.O. Advisory panel. John is also a doctor and is now Professor of Human Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Adelaide. Doris (Mrs Rivalland) won two awards to the Royal Academy of Music in London, and later a scholarship to Paris. Then her interests turned to Child Psychology and she took her degree from London University and now lectures at Stockwell College of Education, Bromley, Kent.

Geoff Wynn Jones served in Korea as a medical officer for some time and after a four year post-graduate course in England he is now Consultant Surgeon at the Waikato Hospital.

Phyllis Trim has been based in the West Indies for many years. She manages the bookroom for a Christian Literature Crusade and is their area organiser for a chain of Islands serviced by aircraft.

Ron Eustace is an engine driver for the Mount Newman Mining Co. in Western Australia.

Ralph Aldridge is an Associate Professor of Music at the West Ontario University in Canada.

Robin Holloway is Army Chief-of-Staff and is a Major General, and W. J. Stratton an Air-Vice Marshal. Maurice Cockerill became an "All Black".

Popular teacher Mr A. W. (Paddy) Lawn did not return from the war. He was drowned on active service.