

# KAPONGA

SCHOOL CENTENARY  
1891 - 1991



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*The Kaponga School Centennial Committee wish to thank the following for their contributions in various ways:-*

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<i>Kaponga Lions.</i>	<i>Taranaki Electric Power Board.</i>
<i>M. Harding.</i>	<i>M. Finer.</i>
<i>L. Larkin.</i>	<i>Marie Horner.</i>
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<i>Ashleigh Lodge.</i>	<i>Spinax Motors.</i>

*To all the people who lent Photos and Memorabilia for the various displays, and those who lent equipment and took part in the parade, the many people who helped prepare the factory for the Celebrations, thank you.*

*This booklet does not presume to be a complete history of the Kaponga School, but rather a glimpse of events and happenings over the years. Every endeavour has been made to ensure the accuracy of the publication of this booklet. However we do apologise if any inaccuracies have occurred or omissions of former pupils achievements.*

*Special thanks to Janet & Clive Burrows for the many hours spent in collating the Rolls list and putting this publication together on computer for printing. To Mrs L. Yateman, Mrs J. Eliason, Mr J. Bruce and Mr D.J. Gibson for their help in compiling the booklet. W.A. Eliason Convenor.*

Address from the Member of Parliament Hon Roger F.H. Maxwell

## KAPONGA SCHOOL CENTENARY.

As Member of Parliament for Taranaki, I am proud to be joining the people of Kaponga in celebrating the 100th anniversary of this school.

The Kaponga School centenary marks a milestone for this district and it's a time to reflect on the achievements of the past century.

The story of this school takes us back to Taranaki's pioneering past - to the early settlers who created this township and its highly productive farmland out of the rugged, virgin land surrounding Mount Egmont. It's a story of hard work and sacrifice - and above all, it's a story of people wanting to give their children the best possible start in life - the gift of education.

When the school first opened on 22 June, 1891 there were 25 pupils - 14 boys and 11 girls. These were the days when children rode to school on horseback, and as the first teacher, Mr McLean noted in his log-book, many of these children had not attended school for up to five years.

Since those days, the school has played a leading role in the development of Kaponga. The School itself has grown until today it has a roll of approximately 100 pupils - and the students who have passed through its classrooms have gone on to a wide variety of careers.

Some former pupils have stayed to carry on the task of developing the district, while others have gone further afield. And there will be many who hold fond memories of their school days at Kaponga, because of the strong sense of community here.

This is what this centenary is about - to celebrate this sense of community, and to remember the good old days. But, a centenary has another function. In looking back to the past, we must also look forward to the future.

New Zealand is now moving towards the 21st Century - and the key to maintaining our place in the world is the education of our children. The world today is changing faster and faster with each generation. Whereas our predecessors at this school lived in the days of slate writing boards, horseback transport and the Boer War - our children today live in an age of computers, fax machines and a global economy.

The only way our children can survive and prosper in this rapidly changing world is through education.

When we look back at the achievements of the past 100 years, the people of Kaponga have much to be proud of. The task that stands before us now is to work together as a community, and build on this achievement, so that the children of this district will have a better tomorrow.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is my pleasant duty on behalf the Centennial Committee to thank all those who joined us to celebrate this wonderful weekend and all those former pupils who came back home to share this great occasion with us. It was certainly a just reward for the planning and work over a period of 3 years by a small but dedicated committee.

A visit back to your former school will undoubtedly bring back memories of those happy experiences that took place within the rooms and the grounds of the school and have played a large part in the lives of those who have passed through the school which has helped them to build their character and prepare them for the future.

As we celebrate our first 100 years we can reflect on the hard times those pioneer families endured to clean and settle the district thus allowing present day pupils to enjoy the results of their hard toil. We salute them for their efforts.

The importance they placed on education in the early days is a tribute to the spacious school grounds and

surrounds in evidence today. An excellent memorial to past and present committees and voluntary helpers whose labours have given the pupils an unequalled opportunity in education and recreation facilities.

To the teachers, past and present, we must commend them for their splendid efforts. We had many of them spending several years of their career at Kaponga. Without dedicated teachers the school cannot prosper and we are grateful for their efforts.

Over the years rolls have fluctuated reaching just over 200 in the sixties but dropping to 100 - 120 during the last few years.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Centennial Committee and all the voluntary helpers for their efforts and dedication to create an atmosphere where all those who came could share the fun and joy of this very memorable weekend.

**Norman Watts**

*Centennial Committee Chairman.*



Early photos of the Kaponga Dairy Factory, with horses, carts and wagons. This was the mode of transport for many children to get to school in earlier years.



## Message from Principal and Board of Trustees

The Present-day pupils, staff and Board of Trustees are pleased to send greetings to past pupils, staff, committee members and friends of Kaponga School in this, its centennial year. We are proud to have been associated with the school at such a significant time in its history and hope that the occasion has helped you to relive many happy memories and renew many acquaintances.

Preparation for the centenary has been a huge task, over a long period of time, and the organising committee is to be congratulated on its efforts in putting together such a memorable event. Those who attended the centennial celebrations over Queen's Birthday weekend this year will, we're sure, have enjoyed a weekend that they will remember for some considerable time. It was very gratifying to see so many people wanting to come back to their primary school to meet friends and revisit the buildings from years gone by. It was also pleasing to hear so many positive comments about, and fond memories of, past events of this school. School days are obviously never quite as bad when you have the benefit of hindsight and the passage of time!

The children of Kaponga School today have a major responsibility ahead of them as it will be their duty,

and privilege, to maintain the history of this school in the years to come. With the current trends in education we can no longer look ahead with absolute certainty that Kaponga School will still exist in the 2016 (the year of the 125th Jubilee). However, we can certainly hope that the memories and friendships being made by today's children will remain as important to them in twenty five years time as your childhood memories and friendships are to you this year. We also hope that there will be a willing group of people with fond memories of their school days who will organise an occasion to mark the reaching of the next milestone in the school's history.

For our part, we can assure you that every effort is being made by the current administration of Kaponga School to develop and improve its buildings, grounds, resources and academic reputation to ensure that future generations will enjoy being part of an institution that has already enjoyed one hundred successful years of existence.

**J. K. Bruce**  
Principal

**D. E. Christensen**  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

## Message from the Mayor of the South Taranaki District Council

Jubilees are times of recalling memories of days gone by. Of remembering the faces, voices and places of our childhood.

They are very special times. But along with looking back at past achievements - it is a time too to look forward to the exciting challenges the new era brings.

Kaponga School can be proud of the academic record of its pupils over the years. It can be proud too of the way it has brought the parents of the area together in times of trouble and in times of celebration. It has fostered the community spirit that is alive and well

today. I am sure this pioneer spirit will be enjoyed by future generations as well.

While this area shares the common bond of agriculture and of it's children, you can rest assured that there will be a future worth striving for and working together for.

Congratulations on the past 100 years of progress. I am certain the community will ensure the challenge of the next 100 years will be as successful.

**Pierce Joyce**  
Mayor of the South Taranaki District Council.

# Kaponga Public School

1891 — 1991

Of late, school jubilees have marked the growth and progress of many localities so that there is nothing new about the celebrations in connection with the Kaponga School as far as schools are concerned. Jubilees have a distinctive local colour, and although ex-pupils may now be residing faraway, their thoughts, if not their person, return to the haunts of their childhood. They realise that "a happy childhood is the pledge of a ripe manhood" and ungrudgingly give to the town of their youthful days and to its many associations, the credit for their present success in life.

It was for the sole purpose of stimulating this memory and of renewing old acquaintanceships, that the earnest band of present residents and ex-pupils, still privileged to reside in Kaponga, devoted many hours, leaving nothing undone to make the celebrations fully fitting to the occasion.

100 years is a long time in the history of a New Zealand school. During such a stretch of years thousands of pupils have passed through the school and to locate these would, on first thoughts, have

seemed an insuperable task, but the executive was composed of men and women of determination and one clear purpose - and through innumerable channels contact was made with a large number of ex-pupils. Hundreds of replies came to the letters sent out and they had a response about them that repaid the task of searching for addresses.

Then, too, the recalling of the happenings of bygone days; the searching of long discarded records; the tracing of definite progressive steps in connection with the School; of ex-teachers and ex-committee men - all this provided a record of which any community might justly be proud.

It is to preserve this record as well as to provide the pupils of today and tomorrow with an ideal, to approach, which they must need to give continually of their best, that this booklet is published, and if it serves this purpose as well as occasionally recalling fond memories and a tingle of pride to ex-pupils, wherever they may be, the executive will have cause to feel that their efforts in connection with the Centennial of the Kaponga School have been well worth while.

## IN THE BEGINNING

### 1891 Kaponga School Centenary 1991

A brief survey of the early days of the Kaponga district should be made now before we open an Historical Review of the School itself.

The early pioneers arrived about 1885 although there had been visits made by men in search of land and timber for milling purposes. As the population in the coastal areas increased it was natural that the land between the Skeet Road and the Mountain Reserve should receive the attention of would-be settlers, and it is recorded that the first store, owned by Davy and Faulkner was opened on the Manaia Road about half a mile North of the present Post Office. Kaponga was noted for the very large Rata stump almost in the intersection of the Manaia and Eltham Roads, and which was largely used by settlers as a depot for food provisions and parcels.

With gradual settlement taking place, representations were made to the Government and Education authorities for a school to be erected on the School Reserve. About 1890 and shortly afterwards the Wanganui Education Board appointed Mr Charles McLean to the position of first head teacher at the Kaponga School which opened on June 22nd, 1891 - and if we give thought to the date and time of the year, we can understand the trial of the early pupils and their parents.

The early rolls of the school were destroyed by fire, but the Log-book is our only written link with those

early days, and Mr McLean did not waste words for the first record is as follows:- "June 22, 1891. School opened. Number on Roll at the end of the first week - Boys 14; Girls 11. Total 25. Norman Hollard in Standard IV passed the third standard two years ago and since then has not attended any school. William McCutcheon (S3) did not attend any school for 1 year previous to attending this one. Chas McCutcheon did not attend school for four years - passed Standard 1. George Anderson, Rees Anderson, and Colista Anderson attended no school for four years. Passed no standard.

Maggie Gibson	attended no school for 1/ years
Ada Melville	attended no school for 1 year
Thomas Hayes	attended no school for 1/ years
James Hayes	attended no school for 1/ years
Wm. Ure	attended no school for 5 years
James Ure	attended no school for 5 years

Robert Exley	)
Nelly Exley	) attended no school for 6 months
Alice Exley	)
Charlotte White	)
Ada White	)
Lizzie Kappely	) attended no school for 12 months
Ernest Kappely	)
Jenny Kappely	)

None of the rest even attended school.

## "And so they began"

School broke up for the mid-winter holidays on June 26th and reopened on July 13th, 1891, and the first visit was paid by the inspector on July 16th, 1891.

The teacher reports on November 1st, 1891: "Now that fine weather has set in nearly all the children in the district, who are somewhat advanced, have already begun to attend, and that soon this difficulty will be overcome."

The writer has been informed by one member of a family living on the Upper Manaia Road - that she had to stay at home because their one horse could only carry three children during the bad weather, and that on tracks which were virtually only mud tracks. As we motor today along these same roads, let us give thought to the tenacity and endurance of the early settlers of this district.

By December, 1891 the roll number was 46 and on wet days it was common for more than half the pupils to be absent.

The recording of the school on February 1st 1892, is very illuminating and gives an insight into a growing industry."

School reopened after midsummer holidays - a weeks extension of holidays was approved by the Board as many of the children were kept home cutting grass seed." Soon the fame of cocks foot seed grown in the district was to spread, and many thousands of sacks of seed were sent to destinations all over the North Island.

It is about this time that a well known boy of that time was chastised for "scratching his slate with a pin." Boys will be boys.

The Winter of 1892 is recorded as being very wet and stormy and log-book records on July 29th: "Bad roads prevent many children from attending school even on fine days."

September 2nd, 1892: "Raining steadily from Monday to Friday - attendance for the week (15.2) - lower that it has been since the school was opened."

The pioneers and their womenfolk and children showed the same spirit that has always prevailed where fresh lands were opened - the spirit of courage, endurance and sacrifice.

The following were pupils at the First Examination May 1892:- Robert Exley, Eliza Coxhead, James Hayes, George Gibson, Rheese Anderson, Louie Hollard, John Vincent, George Anderson, Lizzie Kappely, Nelly Exley, Chas. McCutcheon, Maggie Gibson, William McCutcheon, Ernest Bulmer, Arthur Coxhead, Calista Anderson, Ethel Coxhead, Norman Hollard, Olaf McCutcheon, Ernest Kappely, Fred Robinson, Willie Robinson, Fred Kappely, George Bulmer, James Fitzgerald, George Vincent, Daniel Vincent, Pearl Anderson, Ivy McCutcheon, Velma Buist, Charlotte white, Alice Exley, Maggie Bates, Jenny Kappely, Emily Robinson, Ada White, Lily Exley, Mary Fitzgerald, Barbara Gibson, Alma Bulmer.

The year drew to its close, but it is reported that the opening of the school for 1893 was postponed for a week on account of grass-seeding "by the Committee."

The Inspector's report of April 8th, 1893, contains the following: "When addressed by the teacher, pupils should look him straight in the eye - if eyes wander, minds will wander also." Mr. W. Spencer.

The roll number by this time was 56 and a cadet teacher was applied for. The first recorded photograph of the school was taken on November 8th 1893 - 41 children were present.

At about this time the dairying industry started to take shape in Taranaki, and the first dairy factory was built by the Loan and Mercantile where the present Maire Factory stands. For some reason or other there was quite a change of people in the district and some of the larger families left Kaponga, so that at the end of the year there were only about 40 pupils, but early in 1894 the roll numbers increased again and continued to do so for some years.

November 24th, 1893: "Punished little A—B—to the effusion of tears for telling a lie."

The inverted commas are Mr McLean's and tell of a teachers admiration for a small boy now grown to be a very respected citizen of our land.

School opened in January, 1894, with an attendance of 31, but soon the roll was up to 68, and 56 pupils present was a common occurrence. This meant over crowding of the classrooms, and as a result parents kept some of their children at home, whilst it is also recorded that other boys have played truant for as long as a week at a time and received four strokes.

May 3rd, 1894: Standard 1 and the Primer class were transferred to the Methodist Church and taught by Miss J. King.

On June 6th and 7th Mr Bindon inspected the school and 74 pupils were present, 47 in the standards. October 15th saw the roll reach 82 with an average attendance of 65.9 - the highest since the school opened. The examination results are recorded in the Log Book for the first time on December 19th and make interesting reading.

1895: The Log Book records that Miss Anita Cassidy (Mrs Fred Frethey), a pupil of the school, was appointed a cadet teacher on January 28th, and it is also about this time that the head teacher records individual merit or otherwise of various pupils and makes comment on aspects of school work.

Also it is possible to trace the arrival of many families in the district and events of some importance in school life — and example being: "Std 2 - All doing well with the exception of W—R—, who has been absent from school for 10 months." The end of the year examination results are shown to the detriment of W—R—.

1896: February 14th. The roll recorded 97 with an average attendance of 78. The district was now

progressing and with dairying increasing - timber milling was now at its height - roading was beginning, and so it meant greater numbers of children in what was now an overcrowded building.

On February 28th, 1896, a school holiday was granted to observe the opening on the Mountain house at Dawson Falls. Kaponga School has always honoured events of National Importance.

Examination results for 1896 are recorded in the Log Book - the hand writing is beautiful and is a great contrast to our present day writing.

Wet weather characterised the opening of the school in February, 1897 - a record roll of 105, but on February 12th only 12 children attended on account of bad weather.

Mr Milne is mentioned as the Inspector, and many old pupils will remember him for his great kindness shown to younger children.

School life seemed to carry on a normal course for two or three years, but the Boer War took place and many of the stirring events of that time got special mention. The turn of the century saw attendance affected with wide outbreaks of whooping cough, measles and diphtheria.

On March 19th, 1900, as a result of heavy rains only five children attended - "R. Mackie, H. Mackie, Fred Mackie, Aeneas O'Sullivan and Willie MacClure." School was not opened.

1902: The unfurling of the Flag Celebrations took place on Monday, February—, Mr F. McGuire, M.P. for the district, Mr B. Robbins, member of the Education Board, the School Committee and a number of settlers were present.

1902: February 28th, "The attendance for this week has been very good, better than I have known it since I came to Kaponga - nearly 11 years - attendance 70 out of 78."

A pupil, Bertha MacClure, is mentioned on many occasions as having assisted during the last two years.

1903: May 30th, School life went on its normal course, but during August, 1903, a very bad outbreak of measles affected many children, some very severely, and it was well on into the summer before the attendance reached normal proportions again.

On June 17th, 1904 - 13 years less four days - this entry appears: I am leaving the school after having been in charge 13 years - C. Maclean.

Any ex-pupils of the 1904 - 1913 era would remember two crowded rooms - a roll of 118 and an attendance of over 100 and only 2 teachers - Mr Matheson and Miss Henn, who found time not only to teach the three R's but also to encourage the outdoor sports of the school. This could be called the "Golden Era" of sports in the district - school cricket, football, soccer and hockey- Mr Matheson encouraged them all - we remember how he constantly came to play with us at playtime and after lunch - his cork-handled cricket bat - the ball just glided away from it - His cork-handled hockey stick - what a contrast to our bush and willow hockey sticks - and the results. Kaponga boasted

men's and ladies hockey matches on Wednesday - two soccer teams on Thursday - three football teams on Saturday - how the grounds ever stood up to the gruelling, goodness only knows - and believe it or not many of the players were senior pupils of the school who also before very long gained places in the Taranaki Representative teams. It may be claimed that Mr Matheson laid the foundations of the phenomenal successes enjoyed by Kaponga teams - both ladies and men. In 1907 a third teacher was appointed and the roll reached 122. It was not until February, 1908, that extensions to the school were provided, but desks did not arrive until March - the Gallery was removed in the primer's room - what memories are stirred by that word "Gallery."

School went along very well, but an extensive epidemic of measles in 1908 caused a closure for some time but as spring weather improved so did the attendance.

It is recorded here that the experimental work with various manures and the effect on crops of mangolds and carrots, were commenced - the first start of an agricultural bias in education. Mr R. Browne was the supervisor and his report of April 29th, 1909, contains this tribute: "It is indeed a great pleasure to see grounds laid out as at Kaponga. I should suggest that photographs of the same be circulated to show the districts what it is possible to accomplish." The plots of mangolds and carrots were dug and weighed during June, but the results were not conclusive.

On the 21st October, the grass tennis courts were opened with a garden party.

On February 18th, 1910, the Honourable Mr Fowlds paid a visit to the school to see for himself the overcrowded state of the class rooms.

During the early months of 1910, the senior pupils visited some of the dairy herds and many saw milking machines for the first time - Mr Tait's herd in particular, being mentioned.

The year went normally along, but soon more additions were to be made, and by the opening of the year 1911 a third room had been added which, with some internal reconstruction, gave increased space required for an average attendance of about 120. The Hon. T. McKenzie paid a visit to the school on April 4th and a holiday was given for the occasion - most scholars thought visits from Cabinet Ministers were too sparingly made.

It is about this time that events which were to have far reaching results, took place in the Eltham County. I refer to the remetalling and tar sealing of the roads - and we will never forget the state of the roads during this work - in the town of Kaponga during the reconstruction - water and sewerage was laid on and the large drains excavated for this work, caused many boys to play pranks on more sedate citizens.

During some weeks after closing of 1911, on account of no relieving teacher being sent, Mr Matheson had to take all seven standards - a herculean task even for a strong man. It is about this time that we find reports of the truant inspector and no doubt the presence of this officer was improving the attendance.

During the remainder of Mr Matheson's period as headteacher the school continued to progress and the number of children attending increased. Mr Matheson retired on November 7th, 1913, and a relieving teacher, Mr Davie carried on until the end of the year.

Mr Geo Lyall took charge of the school on February 16th, 1914, and his term lasted until July 28th, 1922. One of the first innovations tried by Mr Lyall was the locking of the school doors at 9a.m. in an endeavour to have the children in school by that time, as late comers were continually interrupting work. Some parents objected but before long it was reported late arrivals were few and far between. Mr Lyall reports in the Log Book, the results of many, if not all, of the hockey and football matches with neighbouring schools- his interest in Rugby football soon produced results both in the school and in the football club circles as well.

August saw the outbreak of World War I and efforts by pupils to augment patriotic funds are reported - the collection of prizes at the end of the year being voted by the children to the Belgian Relief Fund.

In February, 1915, the Committee applied to the Education Board to have the electric light installed at the school residence.

On February 28th, 1915, the children assembled and the flag hoisted and a farewell made to volunteers who left that morning for Trentham. The School Cantata "Fun of the Fair" was repeated on behalf of the Hospital Ship Fund and realised over £30, and many other efforts of the senior children were reported.

The first observance of Anzac Day is recorded on April 25th, 1916, when addresses were given to the children, among the speakers being Private Burgess (a returned Anzac).

In August, 1916, the Kaponga school passed from the Wanganui Education Board to the Taranaki Education Board. And in September the roll recorded 142 - a record. The electric light was installed in the school in November, 1916. In the early part of 1917 an epidemic of diphtheria affected many children, there being as many as 17 cases at one time.

School life went on its accustomed way for the next year or so, except for recordings of overcrowded rooms and classes having to be taken outside during the very hot weather - but it is recorded that on March 19th, 1918 a record storm was experienced and the attendance on that day was only 56. On March 25th a letter was received by the headteacher from the Board, suggesting that some of the more distant pupils be sent to neighbouring schools. Mr Lyall reports that he sent "a letter of protest that the proposal was both unfair and impractical."

On June 6th, 1918, a stove was installed in the girl's shelter shed, which was being used as a classroom. On October 8th, 1918, the Committee authorised the head teacher to offer, on its behalf the sum of £100 towards the cost of a new open air room.

On the afternoon of August 29th, 1919, the new Okaiawa School was opened and Mr Lyall attended and interviewed the Board, re additions to the Kaponga

School and very shortly afterwards carpenters started enlarging two of the rooms which, with new windows, were made quite attractive and "quite a contrast to the dreary dungeons the used to be." School did not open until March 1st, 1920 on account of influenza following an outbreak of diphtheria.

School life was interrupted by epidemics causing Mr Lyall to record of them that they seem a permanent feature and make progress extremely difficult.

A School Queen Carnival was held in August and September, 1920 to raise funds for improvements to the grounds and the fund benefited to the extent of £248.

The Kaponga Convent School opened in February, 1921, and affected the school attendance to the extent of about 20 pupils. Some of the improvements to the grounds and gardens were put in hand in the first term of 1921 and during the following Spring, the gardens were gay with bulbs and tulips.

Mr Lyall has not recorded any special happening in the school during the remainder of his stay at the school and he was farewelled by pupils and parents at a gathering in the school on July 28th, 1922.

Mr Metcalf acted as head teacher until Mr L.O. Baigent arrived on September 12th. Mr Baigent remained at Kaponga until March 30th, 1923, and Mr Huse acted head until June 1st, 1923, to be followed by Mr James Bailie, who was to be head teacher until October 31st, 1930. Mr Bailie reports in the Log Book an average attendance of 90 - 100 of a roll of 120, and of the results of various inter-school games. Two visits were paid during the year by members of the Education Board and renovations were promised in regard to the school residence.

For the next two or three years the school carried on with very little change in the number of school children, but a visit by the Director of Education, Dr Marsden, was made to the school in the last school week of December, 1924.

Mr Bailie was granted 12 months leave of absence and on October 30th, 1925, left on a trip to England. Mr John Craig acted as head teacher for one year and during his term, the school carried on with very little change.

Mr Bailie returned at the beginning of November, 1926, and the first calf rearing competitions are recorded on Friday, November 26th, 1926, with five children parading calves - the group judging took place at Kaponga on December 9th, and 12 calves paraded. This was the beginning of the Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs which have grown to be such an inspiration in the life of the boys and girls at the various schools at present. A word of praise to Mr Stan Hollard, an ex-pupil of Kaponga school, is not out of place for he has been president of the movement for many years.

During 1927 the roll number receded somewhat and the average attendance for the year was 82, and this was the average until well into the year 1930, when the numbers started to rise again.

Miss C. McGregor took up duty at Kaponga on September 29th, 1930.

Miss McGregor has the honour of having the longest period of teaching at the Kaponga School.

Mr Bailie retired and Mr W.J.A. Farnell took over the head teacher's position on November 1st, 1930, and carried on until August 18, 1933. The school during Mr Farnell's term, did not vary very much in regard to numbers and average attendances, and the various activities of the school continued. Mr Farnell brought to the children an added interest in music, drama and art, the finer things of life, and it is safe to say that many of the scholars of that time appreciate Mr Farnell's interests in those directions.

Mr Honore succeeded Mr Farnell and took up his duties on September 4th, 1933, and remained at Kaponga until August 18th, 1944, and it is during these years that we saw great improvement to the school grounds - also a new residence - and swimming baths. A new school built on most modern lines and the consolidation of Rowan school on Kaponga - and almost immediately an additional classroom was added to the new school.

Mr Honore records in the log during the spring of 1934, that great interest was being taken by the children in the garden, and it is worth while saying here that Mr Honore brought to the school the ability to pass on to the children the knowledge of outdoor work, and the native plantations which were established during his term are practical examples of that work. To obtain funds for outdoor work the children under the head teacher's direction and with his great help grew many varieties of trees - native and particularly pines, eucalypts and *Macrocarpas* - which were sold to the farmers of the district and now provide shelter and shade on many farms around Kaponga. Might I quote the record for the log book of October 26th, 1934:-

"Interest in the school garden is growing and may in time interpret itself as an enthusiasm for plants and flowers. This I believe to be the true aim of agriculture as a primary school subject. If a child leaves school with a strong bias towards gardening the examination aspect of the work simply doesn't signify. For my part, I cannot understand why the examination should be made as much of, especially as it works chiefly in opposition to the aim rather than in sympathy with it."

During the winter of 1935 the first mention is made of the senior girls playing basketball and many games were recorded between the various schools as well as the boys' football matches. The group scheme of football was now in vogue and proving very popular. During September the attendances were very good, and it is reported that the average for the week ending September 27th was 93.3 out of a roll of 94.

Mr Honore reports on opening day, February 4th, 1936: "The children are eager and as full of life as one could wish. They tackled the garden in the afternoon and did a great deal of work". It was on March 13th, 1936 that Kaponga first took part in the Eltham District Primary School Sports.

An innovation during this winter was the provision of hot cocoa for the children who had lunch at school. For the examinations at the end of the year 13 passed for proficiency out of 14. Just before school was to

break up for the holidays all schools throughout New Zealand were closed on account of an epidemic of infantile paralysis and did not reopen until March, 1937. Later the school was again closed and school work was done by correspondence until the reopening on May 26th, 1937.

On November 29th, 1938, the Honourable Mr Semple, Minister for Public Works, visited the school and advised that a grant had been made for a new residence and school. The Minister was particularly impressed with the tidy grounds and well kept gardens and the work and preparation of the school grounds for resowing. The work was in the hands of Mr J.P. Gibson and Mr J. Taylforth, and the school is indebted to these gentlemen for the good playing area which now prevails.

The new school was commenced during the summer holidays and the residence during March, 1938. The first movement for the dental clinic was made in May 1938 and in June, 1938, the Education Board called tenders for the transport of Rowan children to Kaponga. The Dental Clinic was started on July 9th 1939, and the children started to move into the new school during the last week in July, and the new heating apparatus available was very favourably commented on. The new Dental Clinic was opened in the last week of September, Miss Jackson being the first Dental Nurse in charge.

The new school was officially opened on October 1st, 1938 by Mr C.A. Wilkinson, M.P. for the District, and so school life entered on a new era and the old building, which had with extensions and alterations served for 47 years, was demolished.

The Rowan pupils first attended Kaponga on February 6th, 1939, and Mr Honore reports that after the first week, congestion was very bad, and desks had to be procured from the old school at Rowan, also the Rowan School clock, but a few days after the clock had been installed, Mr Honore was informed that it was the private property of a Rowan resident.

A movable class room was installed in April, the capacity was only 15 pupils, and it was not long before extensions had to be made.

The year 1940 opened with bad weather conditions which lasted for two or three weeks. An excursion trip for 20 boys and girls went to the Wellington Exhibition in charge of Mr Taylforth and Miss Dunlop, and later three boys, C. West, W Barleyman and J. Dunlop were picked for the schoolboy hockey representatives to go to Auckland during the holidays.

On September 27th 1940, the Centennial Celebrations were observed in Kaponga and children took part in planting trees in the old Domain - the Kaponga school provided 100 native trees and the names of the children are inscribed in the log book:- Jean Boyle, Colinette Libeau, David Jackson, May Sherwood, Gloria Bockock, and Dorothy Fasham all in Standard 6. Len Brown, Heather Watt, Margaret Dawson, Arthur Godge, Hamilton Mulcock all from Standard 5, and Bill Snowden, Leo Patterson, Charlie West and Murray Meads from Standard 4.

The year of 1941 opened with a roll of 118 and

good attendances are reported. The shadow of the war was over the whole country and evacuation directions in case of need, were issued to the school authorities.

It is reported that on July 18th, that the glass was the highest reported at the school - 30.8. On this day excavation work for the baths was started and during the next few months by voluntary labour and donations, the work was carried on under the direction of Mr J.P. Gibson. During November the roll increased to 131 - 54 pupils were carried on the Rowan bus and 43 on the Palmer road bus.

The year 1942 saw the opening of the baths in March, and these proved a boon during the warm weather being experienced. Good progress by the children is reported during the year and examination results are satisfactory. In February 1943, a visit was made by the Minister of Justice, Mr Mason, and members of the Education Board, and matters relating to bus services and extensions to the class rooms were discussed - the result being that a fourth class room was added to the school and the temporary class room closed.

A Civic welcome was extended to visiting American Marine and Naval forces on the school grounds and our visitors were favourably impressed with the facilities available to country children in comparison with their own country. Roll numbers were reasonably satisfactory and the year finished with 131 on the roll.

The year 1944 did not see much variation in school activities and in August Mr Honore resigned. During his 11 years of service we had seen big changes and much of the organisation required was in Mr Honore's hands and the school has much thank him for.

School reopened in September, 1944 with Mr W.A. McKenzie as head teacher and Mrs McKenzie as relieving infant mistress. During the early part of Mr McKenzie's period as head teacher, a school fair and street day was organised to provide funds for a sewing machine, a film strip projector and other requirements in the school. The surrender of Germany and Japan are recorded and suitable functions were held in the school to observe the occasion.

The school show was a very successful function and various outdoor activities were organised and sports day was expanded with the new events being provided, so that the children were fully occupied in various ways.

An appeal was launched for donations for extension to the asphalt playing area and as a result nearly £80 was received, and this was passed on to the Education Board. A large area was laid down, sufficient for two tennis courts in summertime, basketball area in winter and a general assembly area. This was completed in 1946. Mr McKenzie coached the boys and girls assiduously for the district sports at Eltham and the school won the A grade championship for the first time - a very meritorious performance when numbers are taken into account.

The school fancy dress this year was the most successful held and the door proceeds were £42, an indication of the interest of parents and friends. Mr McKenzie's short term at the school ended at the end of the second term and he proved during his stay here

to be very capable indeed and inspired the children to better things - his work will not readily be forgotten.

We welcomed Mr Amadio to Kaponga in October, 1946 and I think that this teacher's work is known so widely that there is very little I can say, but nevertheless it is correct for future purposes that any item of interest should be put on record.

The calf rearing day was very good and 31 calves were on parade - what an improvement from opening day of November 1926 20 years before - when 5 calves were paraded. The day was extended to all children with classes for flowers, cooking, sewing, woodwork and decorative - a great day for all pupils.

Mention has not been made, but although belated now - it is recorded that the A.A. Patrolmen have given many lectures and picture programmes at the school during the past years in a campaign for road safety. School did not reopen until March 1st, 1948, on account of infantile paralysis, and some correspondence work was carried on. On account of sickness in the staff, work was somewhat disorganised during the year, and Mrs A.R. Barker gave very welcome assistance during the year.

Early in 1949 a start was made by contractors with the erection of a lunch and assembly room, a much needed improvement and which would be of great value in bad weather. The room was completed in September, 1949, and the old barberry hedge on the road side between the residence gate, and the school gate was removed, and a new fence and *Lonicera* hedge planted. Mr Amadio finished his term with the school in May 1950, and the children were very much indebted to him for the great interest he took in all their work, both inside and outside the school and for the very practical example he set them in the sporting field. He rendered very good service to the district in many ways and we were sorry to lose him.

Mr H. Burr took up his appointment in May, 1950, with the roll at 140. Extensions have been made to the Dental Clinic, which is now whole time and serves several of the smaller surrounding schools.

During the period that Mr Burr was headmaster, the School Library Service was extensively enlarged and the log books show that many interesting books and periodicals were added to the service.

In 1957 Standards 5 and 6 occupied the new rooms.

A 16mm projector was purchased, also a new wireless set and Chime bars.

The school roll rose slowly to 184.

In 1957 Miss C.A. McGregor retired after serving as Infant Mistress for 27 years in the Kaponga school. Her kindness to her pupils will always be remembered.

In November 1958, Mr Burr was farewelled after eight years of great work and in March 1959, Mr R.J. Simpson took up the position of head. During the next year there was a keen revival on the tennis courts, both at school and the club. The senior boys at school gave much assistance in preparing Victoria Park for resowing grass.

About this time the District Choral Festival was

inaugurated and is now one of the events of the year.

During the time Mr Simpson was headmaster, trips to Christchurch took place, and the committee ladies gave their services to help in the supervision on these trips.

During 1961 a visit by officers and men of the H.M.N.Z.S. Taranaki was made to the school and a party of senior scholars visited the ship in New Plymouth.

The Kaponga School boys beat the Waitara Convent in the final of the McLeod Football Shield.

New classrooms were finished early in 1962 and the school football ground was extended to full size.

In October, 1962, another party of 41 children and 2 adults visited Christchurch for a social study trip.

Mr and Mrs Simpson retired after four years of

wonderful service in December 1962.

In 1963 Mr J.H. Salt commenced duties a headmaster, and at the end of the year the Committee farewelled Miss J. Robinson and Mr R. Edwards.

In 1964 a tractor mower was purchased for the upkeep of the school grounds.

Miss Grindlay left at the end of 1964.

Mr Salt left in May, 1965, after two years of good service.

Mr Charteris commenced duties in May, 1965, with a roll of 173.

Another point of interest concerns Mr Rod Syme, of Hawera, who has been visiting the school for many years, His first visit as recorded in the Log Book was on July 27th, 1923. His work in connection with the Boys and Girls' Clubs will be long remembered.

bright and cheerful over their work and eager to do their best.

- August 18. Today was very stormy. The rain was coming through the roof and driving through the walls by the windows. I did not open school.

- August 25. I held a Test examination this week; taking the work as a whole, the quality is very poor. Not a single pupil can do really good work in all subjects. S.VI pupils in this class, five were present, and not one was fit to pass the standard. S.III: 16 pupils in this class, 15 were present. This class is hampered by three idlers, Sidney Mellow, Charles White and David Thoumine.

- November 8. I received the results and the annual examination. Only two pupils, Thomas Roots and George Roots, out of seven candidates managed to obtain certificate of proficiency. The school was classed as fair. No subject was done satisfactorily. Arithmetic and writing were inferior.

1906 - March 7. There are now 107 pupils on the roll and the average attendance since Christmas vacation is over 88. This we find too much for two teachers. We cannot do justice to our scholars when we are overworked.

1907 - January 28. Miss Synott, as Assistant Mistress, and Miss Graham as Pupil Teacher commenced duty today.

1908 - January 27. I received the results of the candidates examination in S.VI. Eight obtained proficiency; three competency, and two failed. Proficiency- George Melville, Leo O'Sullivan, Noel O'Sullivan, Harry Faull, George Scott, Winifred Dawson, Thora Moller, Florrie Signal. Competency: Grace Bates, Annie Law Irene Frethey.

1909 - December 16. Received word that Roy Grace, Violet Baird and Maitland Gwynne obtained Proficiency Certificates; Ernest Scott and Gladys Faull obtain Competency Certificates.

1910 - May 10. Received at 10a.m. word that today was appointed as a day of national mourning owing to the death of King Edward VII.

- October 26. The work of the school is being hampered by irregular attendance of certain pupils, also unpunctuality on the part of a few. The chief offenders are: Irregularity, Kaspers, Rae, Swadling (Ivy), Melville (W), Schuler, Caghey, Hutchinsons and J. Melvilles girls. Those who are unpunctual are: Briggs, Rae, Waite, Schuler, Sargeson's, Phillips, Swadling, Scott.

- December 1. Three pupils, Mary Moller, Minnie Kime and Charles Adlam, are sitting for Junior Scholarship examination today.

1911 - December 15. I received word of the results of the Proficiency examination. Out of the seven presented three got Proficiency, Leo Abbott,

Alma Faull and Olive Swadling, and four got competency, Harold Grace, Ralph King, Sylvia Black and Alva Kasper.

1912 - July 22. Today I administered a severe punishment to H—W— for leaving school on Friday afternoon during singing lesson to escape doing work set for the afternoon.

1913 - October 26. I received the report from the inspectors. That which could be reported on adversely was reported on; but all work of good quality was not mentioned. This is most disheartening and unsatisfactory to a teacher, while it cannot fail to give all who read it the impression that the school is in an extremely unsatisfactory state. I maintain that all things taken into consideration the school is in as good a state of efficiency as reasonable men could desire. I know that I have put in a strenuous year and have done the work of two teachers; I should like to get a little credit for some of the work I have done and the energy I have expended.

1913 - November 7. Today I have finished duty here as head master of the school. I have covered for the year to date all the work in the Scheme Book which I shall hand to my successor. signed P. Matheson.

- December 12. Today I have received notice by wire that another Proficiency Examination must be held. There seems to have been wholesale copying, and use was apparently made of the school Journals.... The general tone of conduct amongst the bigger pupils is not all that could be desired - deceitfulness of a very cunning kind seems a big failing.

1914 - February 16. Took charge of this school today. - Geo. A. Lyall.

- March 20. W—C— found altering spelling while marking, punished him (6)

- May 29. Truancy list this week: Lyall Gapper, Geo. Biggar, Olive Biggar, Ada Briggs, Audrey Knuckey, and Claude Litchwark.

- August 14. School concert which took the form of a Cantata, "The Fun of the Fair," was held tonight. The entertainment proved a great success.

1916 - July 31. Received notice from the Secretary, Wanganui Education Board, that from tomorrow, Kaponga passes automatically into the Taranaki Board.

- November 30. A electric light is being installed in the school; fittings put up today.

1917 - March 26. Punished Eric Buist for playing in a motor car left standing beside the footpath.

- June 13. Farewell to Miss King. Head teacher spoke of good work done by Miss King and presented her with a nice travelling bag.

- February 28. School picnic at Te Ngutu Park. A great success - attendance estimated at 400. Inaugurated Championship events.

## FROM THE SCHOOL LOG BOOK

1892 - February 4. Ernest Kappely received four strokes of the cane for scratching his slate with a pin and refusing to stand when told to do so.

1897 - August 20. Arthur Mellow received a sound caning after having been repeatedly warned for causing repeated disturbances in the school.

1900 - February 28. Received telegram from Hon. Mr Seddon conveying news of Cronje's surrender to Lord Roberts, and suggesting a holiday for the children. Wire was received at 10.15a.m. Holiday was granted, and school was considered as not having been opened.

- March 19. Raining steadily this morning - R Mackie, H. Mackie, Fred Mackie, Aeneas O' Sullivan and Willie MacClure, the latter very wet. Thought it better not to open school.

- May 21. Relief of Mafeking. Telegram received from Hon. J.G. Ward, suggesting a school holiday.

1901 - May 3. Horace Mellow returned this week after an absence of five weeks - always irregular. - September 6. School visited by Truant Inspector, Mr Easther. Fine day. Attendance better. 1902 - February 14. The unfurling of the flag Celebrations took place on Monday afternoon. Mr McGuire, M.H.R. Robbins, member of the Education Board, the School Committee and a number of the settlers were present.

- May 30. Thomas and George Roots have been absent for nearly three weeks. I have not heard from them but I understand the road they have to travel over is very bad.

- June 2. At 1.10p.m. the news reached us that peace was proclaimed. (Boer War ended). The flag was at once hoisted. At 1.40p.m. a message was received from Mr Robertson, Chairman of the school, that a holiday be given to the children for the remainder of the day.

- August 1. School was closed in commemoration of the Coronation of the King, which event took place on the 9th inst.

1903 - August 24. James Law, John Law and Annie Law will be unable to attend school for some time owing to measles in the family. -December 1. Miss Henn - Assistant Mistress - commenced her duties today.

1904 - June 17. I am leaving the school after having been in charge for 13 years - C. Maclean.

- July 4. I opened the school here this morning after a fortnight's holiday. - P. Matheson.

- July 8. I find the children here very slow and unresponsive. They do not move about in a bright and smart manner, but loll on desks and lean against walls and waste a great deal of time by their slow movements at change of lessons and while entering or leaving a room. I find all work is done carelessly, no child ever exerting itself to do its best in any subject.

- July 15. S. IV are working in Practice. On the whole their work is satisfactory. Grace Bates, Martin Power and Ernest Curran work slowly but accurately.

- July 29. Drawing and writing have both been carelessly treated in this school. There is not a single good writer in any of the upper three classes.

With from 30 to 40 pupils each drawing ( or trying to produce a likeness) something much too difficult, teaching drawing is impossible. Some of the objects are sorry sights. Laziness, lying and copying are the most prominent features of this school. Discipline is almost totally unknown. Pupils are slow, dull and unresponsive, and always seem to endeavour to do the smallest possible amount of work in the time at their disposal, instead of being quick,

- 1918 - August 9. Sent circular to parents asking in the name of the Committee for 1/- per month towards caretaking expenses.
- November 12. News of Armistice having been signed. Instructed to close school. Special service in Park; procession in the evening.
- 1919 - February 4. The following Std VI pupils received certificates: Proficiency: Edward Foreman, Justin Mills, Lefevre Waugh, Henry Williams, Allen Bradford, Clarice Bartlett, Beatrice Bennie, Mabel Fawcett, Karen Severne. Competency: Don Guy.
- May 25. Don Guy taken to Hawera Hospital - Diphtheria.
- June 17. Laurence Des Forges - Diphtheria.
- 1920 - May 17. Discovered that some of the younger boys are using bad language in the playground. Though this is to be deplored, it is not to be wondered at. The street corner language is often far from choice. Punished the boys (12).
- November 30. Proficiency results: Bradely Benton, Willie Hayward, Willie King, Isabel Guy, Beatrice Williams obtained certificates.
- April 24. Holiday for Kaponga sports. The school Championships were won by C. Kehely, whose name will be recorded on the Honours Board.
- April 29. Punished Walter Hayward for inattention and disobedience. As a result he has been sent to the Convent School. Such is discipline.
- 1921 - July 29. Said "goodbye" with many regrets to Miss Mason. She has done good work during her term at this school. Presented her on behalf of her little pupils with a silver backed hairbrush.
- August 12. Henry Fawcett, while running on the playground, bit his tongue nearly through. It had to be stitched by the doctor. This boy has always been in the habit of running with his tongue out like a spaniel.
- November 11. Constable Anderson called at the school to enquire about some chickens missing from Mr Davies. The suspected boy had nothing to do with disappearance.
- 1922 - February 1. Mr Laurence Des Forges, an old pupil of the school, commenced work as a probationer.
- May 26. Jen King refused to come into school when ordered to do so by Mr Des Forges - Punished him - 3 strokes. Jen King sent by his father to Convent School.
- July 4. Having accepted a transfer to the Inglewood school, I forwarded my resignation today to the local school committee. Geo. A. Lyall.
- July 28. I said "Goodbye" this afternoon to pupils and a gathering of parents after having

- charge of this school for 8/ years. I leave my old pupils with regret. I should like to wish my successor a continuance of the happy days I have spent in the Kaponga School. Geo. A. Lyall
- September 12. Commenced duties as Head, Kaponga School - O Baigent.
- 1923 - October 17. H—C— Extremely unruly, gave him a few strokes with the strap on hands and legs - got into a fighting attitude, told him to remain in school during lunch time, but went out. Since his admission has always been sulky.
- July 23. I had great cause to punish CP today, I gave him two strokes with the strap around the legs. I fancy I left a mark. This boy is always at any part of the day laughing and trying to cause disturbances in the school. KM is another unruly boy.
- 1924 - November 21. Proficiency passes: Stanley Betts, Stanley Blackwell, Reginald Hill, Raymond McCarthy, Jean Severne, Maud Guy.
- November 28. Average weekly attendance 101.2 Senior pupils attended the funeral of Edmond Albon, drowned on 24th November. Several wreaths were sent from School.
- Diphtheria has broken out in the Davies family.
- 1925 - May 15. The Rt Hon. W.F.Massey Premier of New Zealand Passed away on 10th May. Great Imperialist Statesman.
- June 11. Roll 94. Average attendance for the week 64.5. Whooping cough epidemic prevalent.
- June 12. Miss Rowlinson is ill. Doctors Certificate states 14 days absence. Mr Pascall, Truant Officer visited the school.
- June 19. Weekly attendance 100.2. Miss Cotterell was appointed relieving teacher, but failed to attend. Miss P. Surgenor acted in her place.
- July 2. School roll 94. School closed for Hawera Show.
- July 24. Miss Olsen has been absent from Duty 23/24 July. No leave granted as far as I know.
- October 29. Mr John Craig, Relieving Headmaster terminated his duties.
- November 25. School closed for Hawera A & P Show. 1926
- November 26. Calf judging competition. Kenneth Ham 125 points, John Harding 122, Jean Sutherland 89, R. Sutherland 75.
- 1927 - February 11. K.H. has been very rude and impertinent- got smack on legs and ran out. An apology is absolutely necessary.
- March 4. School closed 3rd March to commemorate visit of Duke and Duchess of York to New Zealand.

- April 22. Average roll for week 88.5. I find pupil J.H. a boy that is most difficult to manage.
- June 24. Average roll 82.6. Perpetual rains during all week. RAIN - RAIN - RAIN.
- July 29. Average roll 70. Weather very wet and cold. Mumps & Chicken Pox is doing great harm to attendance.
- August 26. This month exceptionally wet and cold. Coughs, colds, mumps and chicken pox. Sheets of rain everyday for last 2 months.
- 1928 - February 16. School Picnic held at Opunake Beach.
- March 23. Roll 91. A rough woodshed was erected on Saturday.
- November 30. Average roll 88.5. Calf judging day. Boys with Calves- R. Ham 1st, N. Mellow 2nd, T. Tattersal 3rd.
- 1929 - October 4. The Sattler Family are a roving people. Came here, remained about a couple of months, went to Convent, remained there about three months. Back here.
- 1930 - September 9. Miss McGregor commenced duties.
- 1933 - October 6. A.T. Honore Headmaster. Roll 96. Better work is being done in the Senior room, but it will be impossible to get it to a high standard this year.
- October 13. I have been working under considerable disabilities in the garden. The mower did not work and in the finish had to borrow one. The committee have promised the assistance of the unemployed but so far nothing has happened.
- November 3. Work improves but spelling and dictation are disappointing.
- November 10. The attention of the Committee must be called to the unsatisfactory sweeping of the school.
- November 20. Played a football match with Riverlea School !!!!!
- December 22. School closes for Summer Holidays. A very successful concert was held on Friday night. Door takings £16.4.0.
- 1934 - February 9. Roll 99. The school was thoroughly scrubbed during the holidays. The Caretakers appointed for the vacation have allowed the lawns to get out of hand. When they are put in order the pupils will undertake the mowing. The new Std 6 is doing well, better than the second year Std 6 pupils who are a rather weak lot.
- April 3. This week's work in composition shows improvement. There are still some very weak pupils.
- April 13. Improved spelling throughout the school. Standards 3 & 4 showing some promising pupils.

- April 20. A stove has been installed in Miss Pickets room.
- June 15. Two boys W.G. & R.M to be examined for proficiency today.
- July 6. The boys commenced digging the garden plot today and continued with the compost heap. Examined in dictation this week. Weakest spellers are Std 5: G.D. P.B. R.N. T.A. D.R. I.B. Std 4: C.N. M.G. T.F. I.B. These pupils made low marks, but were marked according to the proficiency standard. This is against my better judgement, but conditions seem to make it necessary.
- August 10. Standard 5 work is distinctly low, 5 out of 9 failing in composition. The standard of intelligence is very low. Indeed it has 3 cases usually termed chronic. There are two distinctly good pupils, the rest are not very good. Three will plainly never reach Std 6.
- November 2. Murray Hollard a candidate for the Bank Scholarship - sat for exam.
- December 20. Weather very hot and dry and a good deal of sickness through the School. School closes for Summer vacation.
- 1935 - February 5. School re-opens Roll 84. The Board seems to favour early closing of schools during the hot weather and the Committee have decided to adopt the short day School will run from 9a.m. to 12.30p.m. with a few minutes break at 10.45.
- February 15. Roll 86. School to resume normal hours on the 20th February.
- March 1. The harvesting of Potatoes has been continued this week and should be completed by next week.
- March 8. A garden party was held at the school in aid of funds for the school. A good gathering of local parents, especially mothers.
- March 20. The Dickson Banner Sports were held today and about 30 children attended.
- March 29. Barberry hedge removed from behind the lavatories and cleared for shrubs. Committee to remove heap of stones - The potatoes were sold for £2.0.0. The next crop to be sold will be pumpkins.
- May 27. New stove used for the first time - considerable heating power but will be rather hard on fuel as it smokes badly when the damper is closed.
- June 14. Have added 19 new books to the library at a cost of £2.0.0.
- July 4. Roll 91. Skipping ropes purchased for girls out of gardening funds.
- November 27. Proficiency exams. Five proficiencies, one competency and one failure out of seven candidates. G.D. and P.B. were not expected to pass being "chronic" spellers and not strong in general subjects .

- December 20. School closes for Summer vacation and according to official information re-opens on 3rd February 1936.
- 1936 - February 4. School re-opened. Roll 102.
- February 7. School closed for annual picnic at Opunake beach. Part of the day was wet.
- May 29. Cocoa is being made for the children having lunch at school and is very much appreciated.
- June 19. Whooping cough is becoming troublesome. School will close Tuesday 23rd for Kings Birthday.
- July 3. Attendance does not improve. The weather is very cold and boisterous. Exams must wait until better conditions prevail.
- August 14. Arbor Day observed. Town Council planted a number of native trees in the domain. Senior Pupils were present. Two Eucalyptus Trees raised in the School nursery were planted.
- October 9. Sold 200 Macrocarpa, 340 Euc. Macarthur. Planted in nursery 600 macrocarpa, 60 Pinus insignis, 45 Betharni, 20 Kowhai.
- October 23. Today a mishap occurred in the playground. Billy Barleyman fell and broke his leg. The occurrence seems to have been purely accidental. Took him to Dr Griffiths.
- December 15. The evening broadcast brought the announcement of an outbreak of infantile paralysis in Dunedin. All schools throughout the Dominion were to close as from today. Schools to re-open 1st February 1937 unless directed otherwise.
- 1937 - March 18. Memo from Health Dept. informing a pupil from Std 1 was suffering from Diphtheria.
- November 24. Calf Judging today Results were: 1st Ken Thorne, 2nd Maurice Gorge 3rd Colin Gorge.
- 1938 - March 4. Dixon Banner competed for. Kaponga was 2nd to Matapu. For the information of succeeding Teachers, I should like to place on record my very sincere appreciation of the splendid work rendered by Mr J.P. Gibson and Mr Taylforth in the matter of ploughing, levelling cultivating and sowing the playing area.
- April 1. The committee has purchased a 7 valve all wave radio set for the school. Arrangements were to be made to have it installed.
- May 27. A movement is being made towards establishing a dental clinic in connection with the school.
- July 9. The Dental Clinic is being built and should be completed next week.
- September 23. The Dental Nurse Miss Jackson commenced duties today.
- October 21. Commenced Savings bank

- proceedings today banked £22.0.
- October 28. Sold 450 Eucalyptus trees from the school nursery for six shillings per 100.
- 1939 - February 6. School re-opened today when the Rowan pupils made their first attendance. 114 pupils present, but more are to come. The Rowan pupils are a mixed lot. Some of the pupils are prepossessing but several of the lower classes appear to have a limited mentality. Free milk began today.
- March 3. Last Saturday the Rowan school clock was installed in the Senior room. Since then have heard that the clock really belongs to a local resident.
- December 8. Two newly admitted pupils in Std 4 will make trouble next year. They are very backward in arithmetic. Both are fairly old and have been advanced on that account.
- December 15. School closed today with the usual celebrations prepared by the children.
- 1940 - February 23. Roll 114. I very much regret to record that Keith Olsen died on Tuesday after a sudden attack of appendicitis. He was a bright promising little boy, and it is much regretted by his classmates.
- March 27. The Prime Minister M.J. Savage died this morning. The flag is at half-mast and the school will remain closed until Monday 1st April.
- May 2. For Insurance purposes the following were listed to the Board:

435 Library Books at 1/- each	£21.15.0
1 Zealandia Piano	£10. 0.0
23 Reference books at 5/- each	£ 5.15.0
2 Gramophones at £2 each	£ 4. 0.0
48 records at 1/- each	£ 2. 8.0
20 framed pictures at 5/- each	£ 5. 0.0
1 Gulbransen Radio at £20	£20. 0.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>£68.18.0</u>
- November 15. Calf Day. William Snowden won the Dempsey Cup for Cow Judging.
- December 20. Bottle drive held and more than 130 dozen collected. This should represent a gain of funds to the school of £6.10.0. School closes for holidays.
- 1941 - February 14. The weather this week has been heavy and trying. The children were taken to the river for swimming everyday except Friday.
- June 13. Dr Dawson the school Medical Officer visited and examined the children. A case of Spinal curvature was noticed (Q.C.) I think it is only a small matter.
- 1942 - March 5. Today the baths were officially opened by Mr Wilkinson M.P.
- April 24. Mr R.L. Davies donated a medal to be competed for as the Dux Prize. This to be a yearly event.
- May 1. Slit Trenches are to be dug.

- Arrangement are being made to hold a working bee for this purpose on 13th May.
- November 1. Calf Day -Judges were Messrs Jas Gibson and Con Crowley. Cow Judging was judged by Mr R Dempsey and won by Pat Bennie.
- 1943 - March 3. A civic welcome for the visiting American Soldiers and Sailors. The reception was held on the school grounds.
- November 24. Calf Judging today. 15 calves entered. Cow Judging won by Derek Law, Std 6.
- December 16. The school Sports were held today. The cups awarded as follows:

Field events	- N. Watts.
Boys Champ.	- Gordon Andrew
Girls Champ.	- Doreen Schwartzfeger
Open Champ.	- Doreen Schwartzfeger
- 1944 - August 18. Mr A.T. Honore's last day teaching at Kaponga.
- 1945 - June 1. Children held street stall to raise funds for a sewing machine. £20.2.10 was raised and handed to the Committee.
- 1946 - April 12. School Ball held to raise funds for pictures and film strips. Amount raised £42.17.6.
- October 1. Headmaster M.C. Amadio took over school today. Children seem reasonably intelligent. Storeroom in an untidy state.
- November 7. Calf day held today. Each competitor with a calf received 1/6d Lambs 1/- and pets 6d. The indoor show points were won by Doreen Belsham and Shirley Campbell.
- 1947 - December 1. School closed owing to Infantile Paralysis. Staff present doing returns.
- 1948 - November 1. For failing to attend school and playing about the township during school hours and also telling lies gave a boy (No 463) six strokes on the hands and forbade him to leave the school grounds at any time before the Rowan Bus leaves.
- November 5. The above mentioned boy (No 463) in direct defiance of instructions, left the school grounds before the bus left, and after purposely missing the bus played about the town and elsewhere and reaching home at about 10.15pm. After consulting his mother on the telephone, I punished him with the strap across the buttocks.
- 1949 - February 1. School re-opened Roll 139.
- May 25. Mr Cotton absent today as a result of a fall from a motor cycle.
- September 5. Luncheon Room and new front fence completed.
- 1950 - May 22. Roll 140. Mr H. Burr Commenced duties as Headmaster.

- 1951 - May 5. School closed for May Holidays. During the holidays the Diamond Jubilee was celebrated.
- June 18. E. Boccock Std 1 had been appointed monitor to take chips to the classrooms. These are usually cut by bigger children. Today this boy had his hand severely cut by another pupil.
- 1952 - March 7. Eltham School Sports held. Kaponga School won banner.
- 1953 - May 29. Coronation celebration held at school Mr L. Lines Chairman of School Committee addressed the children.
- 1955 - September 14. Volley Board erected. Timber donated by Mr Kirkus. Permission refused for Mr Royston to exhibit at school.
- September 15. New Wireless set purchased for school.
- October 10. Rosalind Mattock, while on the Horizontal Bars fractured and dislocated her elbow. I have arranged to dismantle them.
- 1957 - February 4. School resumed today. Mr H. Burr Headmaster. At short notice Miss C. McGregor retired on Superannuation, after serving 26 years as an assistant and infant mistress.
- 1958 - November 18. Farewelled Mr H. Burr. School closed for Xmas Vacations. 1959
- March 2. Mr R.J.G. Simpson commenced duties as H.M.
- 1960 - March 4. Ninety children competed at Eltham district sports. Beverley Eliason and Rena Martin broke the records for the long jump and High jump respectively.
- October 2. Calf day a record for the school for the number of calves, 27 Senior and 9 Junior. Gaylyn Hollard won the cow judging.
- 1961 - August 8. The first fifteen defeated Waitara Convent 6 points to 3 to win the McLeod Shield.
- October 30. School provided a guard of honour for the officers from H.M.N.Z.S "Taranaki" who visited Kaponga. Senior pupils later visited the warship at New Plymouth.
- 1962 - March 15. 100 children from the school competed at the District Athletics. Kaponga Black Team won the Tristram Banner. Faye Melville created records in the High and Long Jumps.
- May 2. A new sound system was installed today at a cost of £118.18.9.
- October 29. School entered a float in the Fire Brigade Jubilee procession.
- December 20. Mr Simpson was quoted as saying " We will always have a warm spot in our hearts for Kaponga School". R.G. Simpson Headmaster.

- 1963 - February 28. Mr J. Salt commenced duties as Headmaster. Relieving Headmaster Mr Edwards has done fine work as acting Headmaster.
- August 22. Fancy Dress Ball held, the first for 5 years.
- 1964 - February 10. Roll 174. Kaponga School Swimming held at Rawhitiroa Baths. Fine warm weather 73 degrees at 10am. Lois Davies - Girl's Champion, Garry Blinkhorne Boys Champion.
- June 1. School Committee purchased a new mower to attach to a tractor at a cost of £125.
- 1965 - February 1. Opening Roll 173. Swimming Sports at Rawhitiroa Baths. Boy's Champion - G. Blinkhorne, Girl's Champion - A. Waitere.
- May 7. Mr J. Salt leaving after 2 years service. A large gathering of parents farewelled Mr and Mrs Salt at an afternoon tea function.
  - May 24 Mr J. Charteris commenced duties as Headmaster.
  - September 29. Kaponga Fire Brigade visited school to talk about Fire Prevention.
- 1966 - April 9. Board workmen began building new woodshed and toolshed in concrete blocks.
- April 14. Macracarpa trees removed from in front of Dental Clinic to let more light into Dental Clinic. Mrs Tiplady- Dental Nurse very grateful.
  - May 6. School closed for May holidays. Jubilee committee moved in and decorated the main entrance in preparations for the 75th Jubilee.
  - May 14, 15, 16. Jubilee Celebrations held at the school. Large crowd attended. Large parade of floats. Committee pleased with the way the organisation went.
  - June 8. Bell erected in school playground during Jubilee. This bell was given to the school by the Kaponga Fire Brigade. If ever required by the Brigade it would be there for the asking.
  - August 3. Mr B. Hollard donated three rhododendrons and were planted near the new Dental Clinic. Mr Hollard spoke about Arbor Day.
- 1967 - December 15. Last day of term. Mr Harwood farewelled after 4 years loyal service.
- 1968 - May 3. Mr Charteris finished his duties at the school and wished Mr Rutledge every success in his stay.
- May 20. Mr J. Rutledge commenced duties as Headmaster, Roll 192.
  - September 3. Paper hand towels used at the school for the first time.
  - October 1. M.O.W. Officer visited the school to inspect the condition of the heating devices.
  - October 31. Gala and calf day. 21 calves entered. There is scope for improvement in the number of entries.
- November 5. 28 Forms 1 & 2 pupils and 14 Convent pupils left for an educational tour of the West Coast of the South Island.
- 1969 - October 2. District Schools Choirs festival held. 618 children took part over 2 nights.
- December 18. End of Year breakup held at memorial Hall. Mr L. Lines made presentations and addressed departing Form 2 pupils.
- 1970 - July 16. Visit to the establishment of P.H. Harding and Sons at the invitation of Mr Harding. The contribution of the firm to Education week.
- September 25. New School residence complete.
  - October 22. Fluorescent lighting was installed in classrooms.
  - December 15. Annual Prize giving and breakup. At 2p.m. the Kaponga Automatic telephone exchange came into operation.
- 1971 - April 19. Biennial elections held. Very poor attendance of parents, but a ballot was necessary for the election of the Committee.
- May 28. Received 2 new electric heaters as temporary replacements for the Beeston stove.
  - August 6. A Rugby ball autographed by the touring Lions Rugby Team was raffled with a profit of \$400.00.
- 1972 - February 14. Mr Harris the District Senior Inspector visited the school today. Mr Harris expressed interest in the possibility of the cloakroom at the West end of the building being adapted to serve as a Library.
- February 22. The task of removing all the macrocapa trees on the Northern Boundary began by the Committee and Parents.
  - September 28. Jamieson Motors commenced the school bus service.
- 1973 - February 14. A change of venue for the annual school picnic which was usually held at the Opunake Beach. The Opunake venue could hardly be regarded to have been what the majority wanted.
- March 15. Principal complained of the excessive and seemingly unreasonable noise coming from the Dairy factory across the road. The Committee Chairman conferred with the factory manager and received a cooperative hearing, which resulted in a marked improvement in noise level.
  - October 31. Annual School Gala and Calf day. \$189.92 was raised. A record for a school Gala day.
  - December 18. Annual Prize giving was held. Mr D. Richards, Manager of Newton King Ltd, presented the prizes before a large gathering of parents.
- 1974 - May 7. School Library was officially opened by Ward member Mr J. F. Wards.
- May 30. New space heaters in rooms 1,2,3 and 4. They are more efficient than the old water circulator heaters previously used.
  - August 23. On the 10th August three men from this community were drowned at sea off Ohawe Beach. The children at the school organised a fund raising venture and made a valuable donation of \$296.00 to a trust fund set up for the widows and children of the men who lost their lives.
- 1975 - February 4. School re opened with a roll of 172.
- August 22. Mr Brian Rowe resigned. A special morning tea was held to farewell Mr & Mrs Rowe who had given sterling service to the school.
- 1976 - April 10. A sponsored walk to raise funds for the school was organised by Mr Tom Thompson. The walk brought in \$723.00 for the school funds.
- May 31. Roll 183. A questionnaire was sent to all parents re Bournvita scheme during the winter months. It can be taken as a for gone conclusion that because of the high increase in costs the scheme will be discontinued for this year.
  - November 2. Annual Gala day. Prior to the calf judging a tree planting ceremony was held at the school. David Abbott was the tree planter. Earlier in the year, David had won a second prize in a national essay competition. The prize was a voucher for \$60.00 for the purchase of trees for the school.
- 1977 - February 25. School closed to enable children to see the Queen in New Plymouth.
- August 8. Arbor day tree planting was held. An oak tree donated by Mr D. Law was planted on the North Boundary at the school.
  - August 22. School Choir success at Hawera Competitions. Under the direction of Mrs M. Watts the Choir won two first Certificates, one second and two Banners.
  - December 3. School Choir was invited as guest artists, to take part in a presentation by the New Plymouth City Choir in the Memorial Theatre, New Plymouth.
- 1978 - August 18. The hockey Team from this school was awarded the Pennington Cup, as the Best School Hockey Team in Taranaki.
- 1979 - January 26. During the holidays, there was a burglary at the school. The incident was reported to the Police and Board, Three teenage culprits were apprehended and charged by the court. Compensation of \$90 by culprits was made for the damage.
- May 2. Mr S Hawkins agreed to make a
- Catalogue filing Cabinet for the School at a cost of \$60.
- October 27. School Gala and Calf day held on a Saturday for the first time in many years. It proved a great success with a total of \$700 being raised for the school funds.
  - November 6. A trip to Taumarunui on the railcar for the two Junior Classes. The classes were under the control of Mrs J. Thompson and one other teacher. The children were, for a short time, guests at the Maori Marae.
- 1980 - January 29. School opened for the New Year with a full compliment of teachers and a roll of 124.
- February 11. 36 children left for camp at the Presbyterian Camp sight in Eltham under the guidance of Miss R. Peppereil, Teacher in Charge.
  - April 8. Gymnastics Club was revived. The club went into recess at the end of 1977 when Mrs Mollie Nicholas, a physical education teacher was no longer available to give instructions. Instruction is now being given by Miss Andrea Harrison. A former pupil of this school. Miss Harrison gained awards under the instruction of Mrs M. Nicholas.
  - April 14. Thirtyfour F1 and F2 children left on the Biennial trip to Auckland. The cost was set at \$30 per person making the trip. \$526 of the cost was raised by community efforts.
  - May 2. Saturday Netball has been organised for the girls of the school. The enthusiastic women who have made this possible are deserving of support.
  - May 17. A Taranaki frame, purchased by the P.T.A. at the cost of \$230. was cemented into the ground today, by the School Committee. The frame was made by Hollard Engineering Ltd.
  - July 2. A drama Festival was held at Opunake High School. The children from Room 5 presented their play "A Tale of Good Faith". It was well presented by Tania Eliason, Andrew Doolan, Neville Harding, Adrienne Yateman, and Janine Spring.
  - August 19. Kaponga School Rugby Team combined with Matapu today and defeated Waitara Convent 14 points to 12. It was a gruelling game played in very wet conditions. At stake was the McLeod Shield. Kaponga has only once before won this shield and that was in 1961.
  - December 9. End of year Prize Giving. A feature of the evening was the presentation of the Musical production "Joseph and his amazing Technicolour Coat". Every child in the school was involved in the production. There was a large attendance of parents who gave the production a standing ovation.
- 1981 - October. Five children qualified to run in the

Taranaki Primary School Cross Country races at New Plymouth. The places we gained were: Mark Goodwin 4th, Lynda Padrutt 8th, Craig Wilson 45th, Kim Leeman 15th and Grant Robinson 14th.

Country was this year held at Mahoe School. Personally, I think that the management of this sporting fixture left a lot to be desired. Senior children had to complete several circuits of the same track. There did not appear to be any accurate check kept on the number of circuits each child completed, because one boy from this school was given a placing in the top ten for this event, when he had only completed one circuit short of the required distance.

- November 14. Our school was the host for the Group 5 Area Calf Club day. The weather was very wet, but it was decided to carry on with the day. The trophy was won by Matapu School. I have always regarded the Area Calf Club day as beyond the intentions of the Calf Club days in schools. It has been a difficult task to convince the local School Committee of this fact, but I do feel that this year I have achieved some success in this direction. Dairy Type has been dropped from our own Calf Club day and the School Committee has agreed that this school should not be involved in the Area Group Calf Club day in the future. It has been my view that with the restricted entry procedures, the Area Calf Club days achieve far more to display the stock of Dairy breeders than they ever do to teach the children about caring for, and rearing of animals.

- November 14. Under the direction of their teacher Mrs M. Watts, the School Choir Group were to be guest artists at the Eltham County Council Dinner held in the Memorial Hall, the local press published a very favourable report on the quality of their singing ability.

- October 13. Relief Fundraising for Opunake High School. We were well supported by the community in our venture which we extended over several weeks. In mid November, the Principal, Chairman of the School Committee, and a small deputation of children went to Opunake and presented the Principal of the High School a cheque for \$920.06. We were very warmly received by the Staff on this occasion.

- December 14. Mr J. Rutledge retired after 14 years of loyal service to this school.

1983 - February 5. Mr R.M. Hunt commenced duties as Principal at the school. The roll 101. "I have 157 keys for which I cannot find the padlocks to use them on. I had to crow bar open the door into the hall art room". The Staff appear to be ready for a change in direction of the school.

- February 16. Today was the last day for production of cheese at the local dairy factory. From now on until the end of May, the staff will be employed closing down the factory. Today is the end of an era for Kaponga.

- February 17. School Committee meeting this evening with Staff in attendance. It was a heated meeting with two committee members taking a negative attitude towards all business.

- March 4. David Loveridge, N.Z. All Black half back, visited the school and spoke to the children, then answered their questions and signed many autographs when he had finished.

- March 29. Alan Muggeridge, a noted musician from Rowan Road, worked with the children today. A most successful and worthwhile experience for the children.

- April 7. School took delivery of a new Minolta E.P. 300 plain paper copier at a cost of \$2500.00.

- April 16. A Las Vegas evening was held and raised \$1200.00 towards the photocopier.

- May 5. Kim Hunt was placed 3rd in the eleven and over age group and Sonya Taylor was First in the under eleven age group in the Taranaki Hard Of Hearing Association Poster competition.

- July 20. Arbor Day planting. Each room planted a tree donated by D.Law.

- August 18. The School Rugby team won the McLeod Shield.

- October 17. The School Choir entertained the Old Folks Association in Hawera.

- October 19. Farm Safety Day held under the direction of Accident Compensation Commission. This was a very successful day. A poster competition was held in conjunction with the day. Winners were:- "Tractors" C. Hemara 1st, Rachael Eliason 2nd. "Chemicals" Tara Sandbrook 1st, Rosemary Law 2nd. "Firearms" Rachel Hughes 1st, Sharon Wisnewski 2nd. "Motor Bikes" Craig Wilson 1st, Angela Long 2nd. "Horses" Jackie Rogers 1st. Best overall poster Rachel Hughes.

1984 - July 3. School closed today - no water in school mains since 1 p.m. yesterday. Planned to re-open at 1 pm. but not possible as parents had decided to make a shopping day of it.

1985 - January 29. School re-opened. Roll 104.

- March 5. Swimming Sports held at Opunake. Virginia Long, Tara Sandbrook and Angela Long won their respective races. The day was not enjoyed by all children, and parents were upset over the number of disqualifications. I cannot see my way clear to support this day next year.

- September 16. Vicki Bennett, Standard 2, broke her leg in two places after falling off the swinging log in the adventure playground.

1986 - March 19. All but 6 children travelled on a train from Stratford to Hawera and return. For a large majority of children, this was the first time ever on a train.

- May 2. Parents farewelled Mr and Mrs Hunt at a special gathering in the school hall.

- May 8. Melanie Eynon, Kyla Harris, Levonne Schuler and Derryn Christensen won the Athletic Club "Chapman Challenge Relay Cup".

- May 9. I completed my term as principal of this school. I have been here 3 years and take pride in the present conditions and facilities of the school. R.M. Hunt.

- May 26. Mr K. Bland Principal commenced duties at the school. Roll 108.

- August 12. Children visited Old Folks Home in Hawera and provided musical entertainment to the residents.

1987 - December 4. Twilight Gala held. Very successful - raised \$2000.00.

1988 - February 4. School re-opens Roll 110. Parent Teachers Association meeting at lunchtime to discuss the wearing of bike helmets.

- March 8. School closed due to industrial action by teachers.

- April 14. Lions Club District speech competitions held. Competitors from this school were:- Gareth Morgan, Emmalie Wenn, Griffen Hope. Gareth Morgan was placed second in the competition.

- May 5. Room 5 trip to Wanganui helmet factory. Mr R Barnes and Mr K.Bland drove the bus. A very successful day.

- May 6. Leaving Kaponga School after 2 years. A very productive and positive 2 years. Roll 99. signed K.M. Bland Principal.

- May 23. Roll 102. Mr J.K. Bruce commenced duties as principal of Kaponga School.

- June 29. Initial meeting to form the Kaponga School Centennial Committee. Meeting attended by 30 people.

- July 28. School attended performance of N.Z. Dancers Co. at Memorial Hall.

- October 12. The following were selected for the Taranaki Cross Country Championships:- M Bria, D. Higglum, T. Hope, H. Smith, D. Wards, A. Hancock, M.J. Smith, K.Mack, S. Henderson, B. Robinson, A. Hope, R. Christensen, B. Schuler, L Charlett, A. Bollard, P. Morgan.

- November 4. Special assembly for Blair Robinson to receive the Alf Bayly Memorial Scholarship from the President of the Taranaki Rugby Union, Mr G. Whalen.

1989 - January 30. School opens for the new year. Roll 90.

- February 1. Principal ruptured achilles tendon - during fitness session.

- February 24. Another successful twilight Gala. \$1500 profit to the school funds.

- May 5. Ended term. Mrs M. Watts leaving after 18 years loyal service to the school.

- May 25. First meeting of Board of Trustees.

- May 31. P.T.A. meeting - decision made to disband and become a fundraising committee to the Board of Trustees.

- October 9. Visit to Yarrows Bakery in Manaia by children of Room 2 and 4.

- November 21. Standard 1,2 and 3 at Eltham Presbyterian Camp. Stayed overnight in tents but it rained heavily and were blown out, so they slept in hall.

- November 23. Planned hike around Lake Rotokare cancelled because of bad weather. Room 3 returned to school.

- December 14. Annual Prize giving held in School grounds in brilliant sunshine. In the evening the children presented the musical "Aladdin". Mr R. Barnes and Mrs J. Thompson leaving the school.

1990 - January 29. New term starts. Roll 105.

- February 16. Kaponga Fire Brigade visits School with the fire engine to demonstrate to rooms 3,4 & 5.

- March 5. Whirlings Circus on School grounds. Circus performance had to be cancelled owing

- to the high winds and ripping tent.
- March 7. Circus performance in evening. 300 attended. Left next day and gave the school a donation of \$150.
- April 6. Pick-a-bag evening - compere Roger Tonkin of Radio Taranaki. Centennial Committee raised \$1500 in a very successful evening.
- December 14. End of term. Roll 127. Form 2 attended morning tea with the Board of Trustees and Staff. School vandalized over holiday period. School Administration block burgled - entry gained through toilet louvres.
- 1991 - January 28. New Year started with a roll of 115.
- February 13. Greenpeace representatives talked to children.
- February 26. police investigate into theft from office.

- March 4. School burgled through Staff room and Principal's office louvres. Approximately \$200 stolen.
- April 19. Rooms 1 & 2 visit Pioneer Village for Centennial Studies.
- May 22. Lions Club speech competitions. School was represented by Aimee Muggeridge and Keryn Morgan - placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- May 27 Beginning of trial for 2.30p.m. closing. Half hour lunch break for Winter term.
- May 31. Centennial celebrations begin. School children and Staff being totally involved over the weekend.
- June 18. Linkage programme at Opunake High School for Form 2 pupils.
- June 22. SCHOOLS' 100TH BIRTHDAY. Roll on 22.6.1991 was 116.

- August 5. 4 strokes each to A.R. and J.D. for disobedience.
- November 5. A.M., H.T., E.E., J.D., D.J. given 2 strokes on hands for impudence to Mrs Stewart the visiting sewing teacher. G.T. refused to hold out his hand and made many impudent remarks, whereupon he was strapped around the legs until he put out his hand.
- 1938 - May 27. Meeting held at school this evening to discuss the closing of the school and consolidating with Kaponga. Taranaki Education Board Chairman and Secretary were in attendance. After discussion the proposal to consolidate was carried by 12 votes to 7.
- June 17. Children taken to Kaponga for reception to the Prime Minister and Party.
- June 28. Very wet with gale force winds. Only 11 children out of 24 were present.

- August 11. Only 18 children present - intervals curtailed and day shortened accordingly. B.E. and R.Mc. 2 strokes each for spitting in classroom.
- September 6. School opened after holidays - very wet - only 12 children present out of 34.
- December 16. The final school break up held in the hall before a large gathering of parents and friends. Rowan school closed today for the last time as children will be conveyed to Kaponga next year. I therefore, after 18 months pleasant stay in the district have the honour of signing the last entry of the log book. T.K. Stewart.

NOTE. The last page of the log book was torn and we cannot record the end of the Headmasters comments.

## ROWAN SCHOOL.

The following are excerpts taken from a Rowan School Log.

- 1930 - February 3. School reopened after Summer Vacation.
- April 7. Ground harrowed and disced and grass seed sown by Committee.
- August 1. L.P. was sent to school by his mother but instead, spent the day in Kaponga. On enquiry he told me that he had to go there to buy biscuits for his lunch. (Proved to be a lie). For both truancy and telling lies he received corporal punishment - Four strokes on each hand and four on his backside.
- 1931 - February 11. Doctors not stating that a pupil G.W. was unfit to attend school. Name removed from Roll.
- June 24. Medical Inspector Dr McCready protested strongly about the unhealthy condition of the Boys outbuilding.
- 1932 - October 26. M.C. received 4 strokes with the strap on each hand and also whilst touching his toes. He was sent with other children to attend Bible Class at the hall but failed to attend. When asked for a reason, he had none. Two other pupils were punished similarly.
- December 16. School closed for Summer Vacation. Mr M. Green Headmaster relinquished duties at the school after 6 years spent very happily with the children.
- 1933 - February 1. Commenced duties today. M. Bruce Headmaster. After examining the cupboards I found that the grading gazettes, scheme of work, Correspondence files etc. had been removed from the school.
- 1934 - June 20. An exceedingly wet day, 8 children

absent. Closing school early to enable children to reach home reasonably dry.

- June 27. Ten pupils away with chicken pox.
- 1935 - August 9. School opened at midday. Headmaster being delayed by train delay.
- November 27. School closed as Booth was in buildings for elections day.
- 1936 - February 4. School opened for the year Roll 29.
- December 15. School closed, no roll marked owing to outbreak of Infantile Paralysis.
- 1937 - February 22. Opening postponed owing to Paralysis Epidemic.
- April 26. Attendance poor, owing to paralysis cases breaking out in Kaponga. Homework sent to children at home.
- May 12. Closed school relinquishing duties after over 2 years with the children. M.M. Stone Headmaster.
- May 22. Corporal punishment given to E.S., after getting permission from her parents, for insolence and disobedience. Also to D.E., A.R., and G.W. for disobedience (Throwing ink).
- May 31. R.B. took 1 1/4 hours to reach home after school and told her father that I had kept her after school to do duties, which was entirely incorrect. He rang me up and was most abusive, stating that no child of his was going to do anything beyond actual lessons.
- August 4. Primer children commenced treatment at Manaia Dental Clinic.

## Early Days of Rowan School

The Rowan School began in 1892 with 16 pupils and teacher George Everiss. The school roll reached 42 in 1926 but it declined to 28 in 1938 when it was decided to send the pupils to Kaponga School.

On 15 March 1895 pupils from Rowan School joined with other schools from Central Taranaki on the first special train excursion from Stratford to New Plymouth. Such trips remained school highlights for many years.

Mrs Hooper, of Hawera, now in her 90's still remembers her days as Miss Cameron teacher at Rowan school between 1914 and 1917. To qualify as a teacher in those times she had completed four years at secondary school and then one probationary year at a school teaching different age groups.

When teaching at Rowan School she had sole charge and 28 pupils. The school day began at 9.30am and went till 3.30pm. The later start was to cope with the

difficulty of children getting to school in those days. It was not compulsory to start children at school until seven years of age but they were allowed to come when they were five. They usually came at seven because most came on horseback, and younger children could not balance on the horse with their older brothers and sisters.

Mrs Hooper said the children's behaviour was usually good. She made the boys keep a vegetable garden and the girls a flower garden. They had lots of singing and an annual picnic but no sports. She remembers well some of the names of the pupils she taught and of the families living in the district at that time. She boarded with the Dempsey family who farmed next to the school on the Opunake Road. She remembers names of families Waite, Doyle, Espiner, Willis and McCandish. She remembers Billy Mundy whose older brother was one of the very few who went on to secondary school at Stratford and rode daily on horseback from Rowan.

# Academic Achievers

Over the many years the school has produced a great number of achievers in all aspects of life. There have been quite a number who have gone on to Tertiary Education and amongst those we can name:-

- Sir Ronald Davidson - a former Chief Justice.
- Dr Jim Gray - specialist in Ear and Nose problems.
- Dr Peter Lay - special interests in Obstetrics.
- Betty Burrows - gained her Diploma in Home Science and was a secondary schools teacher.
- Molly Snowden - Diploma in Physical Education.
- Bernice Cleland (Mary) - Registered Nurse.
- Mary Gibson - Registered Nurse.
- Margaret Abbott - Registered Nurse.
- Helen Jensen - Registered Nurse.
- Ian Greenbank - B.A. Secondary School Teacher.
- Thoron Hollard - Ph.D. Teaching at Correspondence School in Wellington (mainly Secondary schools french).
- Milton Hollard - BA. at present is a clerk assistant in the House of Representatives Wellington.
- Steven Nicholas - B. Agriculture science.
- Bruce Rolls - B.Ag. Commerce.
- Julie Rolls - B.Arts.
- Grant Nicholas - B.Sc in Marine Biology.
- Susan Nicholas - B Regional Planning.
- Katherin Lay - B. Education.
- Judith Lay - B. Horticulture.
- David Abbott - B.A. Majoring in languages - French and German.
- Hilary Law - B.Ed. Primary School teacher.
- Barbara Law - B. Vet Science.
- Vivienne Law - Registered Nurse.
- Alison Law - Registered Nurse.
- Kennard Edgecombe - M.A.(Hon) in English also Dip. Ed..
- Vivienne Prestidge - a BA and MA in English before training as a Teacher.
- Adrienne Yateman - B. Education. L.T.C.L.
- Catherine Yateman - N.Z. Certificate of Science.
- Randal Prestidge - Scored 433 marks for 5 subjects in School Cert. Went to University of Canterbury and gained a

Lyllall Prestidge

Ross Prestidge

Gordon Glossop

B.E. (Hons) Mechanical Engineering and since then has worked with N.Z. Rail in various Managerial capacities at Christchurch and Wellington.

- B.Sc and Dip. Ed Trained as a teacher and is now teaching physics at Tawa College.

- In 1968 gained 365 highest marks for his 4 best subjects in School Certificate, Taranaki's highest for the year. Went to University and gained B.Sc (Hons) and Ph D. in Biochemistry. He did post-doctoral work at Otago Medical School and University of Alabama Birmingham. At the present time he is at the Auckland School of medicine, working on a leprosy and TB research project in the Department of Molecular Medicine. Associates of the family have reported that he is a Professor at the Auckland School of Medicine, however this has not been verified.

- Is a Senior Sergeant in the Police force and was a member of the United Nations Peace Keeping Team on Cyprus from 1965 to '67. At the time Gordon was the youngest member to be selected from the N.Z. Forces to serve with the U.N. forces.

Along with the Academic achievers we also have our achievers in their chosen careers. These people are no less important because they have no letters following their names. They are the manual workers in the community. This covers all those in trades right through to the business people including farmers. Many of these people have given voluntary, long service to many organisations in their respective communities, such as Local Body, Fire Service, Sports Administration, C.W.I., W.D.F.F., Lions, Rotary, Federated Farmers, Guides, Scouts, Churches, School Committees, and various Cultural Clubs. The latest of these achievers is Gareth Morgan, a 4th Form pupil at Stratford High School who, with another pupil won First prize in the Taranaki Science Fair for Intermediate and Secondary Schools. Their entry focused on the wind-powered water sprinkler.

# Down Memory Lane

Articles Submitted by Former Pupils

## MEMORIES OF KAPONGA SCHOOL DAYS FROM 1927 to 1935

Of all the events of life school days remain the most memorable and vivid. For a minimum of eight to nine years we shared experiences with those of our own age group, establishing a lifetime bond which will be relived in 1991.

We will reach back into the past recalling the events of our time. They who return, will each recall an era of their association as long forgotten escapades, personalities and special occasions are recalled to memory. To each era those times will be special to them but collectively they will form the Esprit de Corps which will cause us to return to our school.

For we, of the 1927-'35 that first day at school entering the three room building through that gloomy porch cluttered with coats and other apparel and from which the three rooms radiated, was a somewhat forbidding initiation. This was soon to be dispelled by the warmth of the welcome from an understanding Teacher who was to be our mentor for the next few months, or even a year or so.

Remember those two person wooden desks with two white inkwells, containing a powder and water mix meant for writing with nibbed pens but also useful when forming blotting paper missiles. Those windows high on the walls which ensured no outside distractions. The bare wooden floors and steps from back to front, down which we clomped to be reprimanded for some misdemeanour. This was the institution from which we progressed, albeit slowly for some of us, into the learning experience which would develop our personalities and academic abilities.

Our departure from these hallowed halls left behind a lifetime of memories. Do you remember? the corrugated iron tank near the horse paddock placed to store saddles and bridles of those who rode horses to school and where we boys would gather to tell those daring risqué yarns.

Remember when the playground rocked and swayed during the Murchison and Napier earthquakes? Of those hundreds of bottles stacked at the southern end of the playground to be sold for funds to assist the victims of the quakes.

Remember Miss Johnson of whom we were all very fond? As I recall she took us for Cubs and organised outings in her days off.

Remember Headmaster Jim Bailey, an expert at inflicting pain as he flicked his wooden ruler across your bare knuckles? Or dear Miss McGregor and her

baby Austin motor car parked in the south side recess near her room? Someone was always cleaning her car and suspects she was an expert at conning the volunteer. Remember Mr McFarlane with his beautiful head of flowing wavy hair? Mr Honore who always commanded respect and affection? These are a few of the personalities we will recall.

Remember Alex Melville, the man who appeared to be the town authority on almost everything? He was involved in school affairs, Fire Brigade, Local Council or as official announcer as he roared through that three foot long megaphone at sports events and the famed Kaponga seven aside rugby tournament.

Remember the swimming pool behind Berties property which was entered through Mr Bates section. For the more daring swimming in the top dam which appeared to have no bottom.

Remember the after school fights held on the verge South of the school? The challenge issued in the morning had lost it's significance by after school but of times a battle ensued with numerous spectators simply to satisfy an honour after which the previous friendships continued to remain firm.

Remember the occasional forbidden smokes down under the main road bridge?

Remember those home made trolleys upon which we would hurtle down Tait's or Marr's hill?

The annual picnics at Opunake Beach travelling on Free's lorry with a canopy over the top and old wooden forms as seats? The Bennett and Sutton Sheild Sports events when we pitted our skills at all varieties of sports against other schools within the area? The school rugby team which held its own with great credit. Even more so with the advent of the transfer of the Gardner twins from Riverlea to us? The girls sporting prowess was no less formidable and so we participated to best of our endeavours.

Remember Mr Rod Symes, the visiting Agricultural Tutor and his practical instructions? He appeared old to us then and he still lives on in Hawera, a greatly respected gentleman whose contributions in many fields have been considerable.

Remember the excitement upon arrival of McGregor and his Tiger Moth aeroplane landing in Laws paddock? we ran all the way from the town for our first sight and feel of a real aeroplane.

These are segments of our school days at Kaponga which can be recalled at this time. Many more will be added to as we attend the events of 1991. For many we will meet again for the first time since departing the school. It therefore becomes an occasion of anticipation and reunion to be treasured long after we have again scattered to our distant destinations.

Contributed by Leo Carrington

## EARLY SCHOOL DAYS

I began my education at the Kaponga school in the first term in 1921. The headmaster at that time was Mr Lyall. He was followed soon after by Mr James Bailey.

Mr Bailey was a bachelor. He was a dedicated headmaster. A man from Northern Ireland and an Orangeman. He was not involved in the affairs of the town, as I can remember, except that he was a devout anglican and supported his church accordingly.

Mr Lawrence Des Forges was the infant teacher when I started attending school. I think Mrs Rowlands followed him in this capacity.

I had all of my education at the Kaponga school and passed my 'Proficiency' examinations at the end of the sixth standard year. In fact I was one of the pupils to have had this accredited. I do not know if others had to sit for it at a later exam.

The economic conditions were such at that time that on gaining my proficiency certificate, at the tender age of thirteen at the end of the sixth standard, I was apprenticed to my father as a cabinetmaker and french polisher.

At the age of seventeen or eighteen years, therefore, and at an age when young people today are still pursuing their school studies, I had served my apprenticeship and was a fully qualified tradesman. The development and advancement of my education, had to be gained by experience and by assiduously reading and studying, after work, and at night, in order to be equipped for my business vocation.

Several rather unique circumstances come to my mind when I reflect on my days at the Kaponga Primary School, and particularly in the later classes.

Firstly, and of course, there were no school buses, or any form of public transport that was available to bring children to school. Some walked; and from as far as from the Upper and Lower Palmer Road off the Eltham Road; some rode bicycles and quite a number rode horses or ponies - mostly these latter, rode bareback, with no saddle, just a sack to sit on.. And these latter children came quite long distances.. The horses and ponies were kept in what was known as the 'Horse paddock' This was an area of land on the eastern end of the school grounds, fenced off, thus providing grazing for the animals, while the children were in school.

On the eastern boundary there was a line of very large trees, Pine and macrocarpa thus providing some shelter for these animals.

I well remember, in my standard three or four years, a family of boys who had to walk, barefoot from half way down the Palmer Road from the Eltham Road.

I can see one of these boys yet - and can remember his name. He would arrive at school late on occasions, on a cold winter morning. His feet and his hands would be blue with the cold. He had had to milk his number of cows before setting out for school.

On arrival he was severely strapped, by Mr Bailey for being late - his excuses being of no avail. It seemed

to those of us, who were in better circumstances, to be so unjust. And, of course, he was expected to learn, after that. He would doubtless have to milk his cows, when he got back home again after school.

One highlight, I can remember, is the introducing 'Toothbrush Drill' into the schools. Long bins were attached to the outer walls on the north side of the school, in which pupils had to deposit a toothbrush and, I suppose, toothpaste and a container for water in a sort of pigeon hole. Every morning each class would assemble in turn and be put through the toothbrush drill, and so clean their teeth. A most hygienic procedure - the mind boggles.

Mr Bailey was very keen on rugby and to this end he encouraged his senior pupils.

He owned a Morris Oxley car - which was called in those days, a two seater. This comprised a bench seat for the driver and passenger only. The boot opened up from the front, thus providing a rear seat, and, of course, plenty of fresh air.

I have often wondered how he stacked a football team of us boys into that small vehicle.

But accommodate them, he did and we would journey to Mangatoki, Kapuni and Mahoe schools for our interschool games.

It was rumoured amongst us five and six standard youngsters - and particularly among the boys, that Mr Bailey was quite nervous at nights and that he slept with a revolver under his pillow. And living alone, as he did, the rumour gained some plausibility.

Much speculation circulated around the school about this, and as can well be imagined, ultimately one boy was dared to investigate. The idea was that he would slip into the bedroom through the window and investigate. And, so, the inevitable happened. Some of us were posted to vital posts to keep watch, while the elected boy made his entry and investigation. This was done during a mid morning or afternoon break.

And sure enough, much to our astonishment, he came back confirming our suspicions. I am quite sure, however, that had an occasion ever arisen, he would never have used that weapon.

Another thing I can remember, was the school museum - mostly of native birds. This was very fine collection, as I remember it. I have often wondered what has become of it.

Mr Bailey was headmaster for most of the period of my primary school education. He was still there when I left school. School was indeed a serious matter in my day. No frills - no school trips -no school choirs festivals, or music or drama classes. Just the basic three "R"s solid school work.

The school produced some very notable people - the Bennie boys in the field of Hockey - The Betts boys in cricket as well as hockey - a Queens Counsel in the person of Ron Davidson. His father was the local grocer in partnership with a Mr Keighley. Also a doctor or two Dr Alistair Buist and Dr Jim Gray.

Kaponga was a wonderful institution in my life and

it has continued to be a good school down through the years.

I am proud to have been educated in this school. It has produced some wonderful people and has served the community well.

*Contributed by J.P. Harding*

## Collected memories of KAPONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL...

### 1947 - 1957

Marching sessions out on the asphalt playground to the music from Miss McGregor's wind up gramophone.

Making the basic shapes for the Anzac day wreaths out of Bracken in Miss McGregor's room.

Compulsory milk which was freezing in Autumn and Spring.

Nice hot cocoa in our own mugs during the Winter months.

Being confined to shelter sheds on wet days.

Receiving mercury "fairies" and cotton wool "snowmen" from the dental nurse for having endured drilling with the foot-pedal type machine.

The fun involved in preparations for concerts and fancy dress balls, and the suppers in relays.

The day the new hurdles were produced and the sports outings.

The mad rush to secure a marble hole or hopscotch den at playtime.

School picnics at Opunake Beach with the choice of orange or raspberry cordial to drink. Lollie scramble as well as the gravenstein apples.

The day the big macrocarpa toppled over from Gibson's boundary and all the pupils began scrambling over it like a lot of monkeys.

Slides and films with the manual wind-on projector held in the cloakroom.

Visits from the Public Health Nurse especially around the time of the Polio epidemic when the school was closed and we all had to do correspondence lessons.

Nice warm stoves with coal fires in the classrooms in winter.

A nostalgic look into the past, which now seems like looking into a bubble of time, isolated by our present world of modern technology.

*From Janice M. Crofskey (nee Chong)*

## LIFE BEGAN AT KAPONGA

The School centenary was indeed the highlight of 1991 for me and I would imagine the majority of those who attended the celebrations on that wonderful Queen's Birthday weekend.

To walk once again through the school where we had been "educated" gave one a cosy, warm glow.

Many things had changed since we were pupils during the 1940s - 50s. An additional classroom - administration block and corridor had been added but the infamous shelter shed had gone, so too, the bike shed, the swimming pool and lawsonniana hedge. And where were the sycamore trees we used to play around on the embankment, watching the wind whirl the winged seeds about?

The classrooms seemed smaller than I remembered but memories of pupils and teachers from the years 1943 - 51 were vivid.

Who could ever forget Miss MacGregor. The fragrance of eucalyptus she used on her handkerchiefs linger still. Before class the customary march around the playground or the classroom if it was wet to Colonel Bogey, the Invercargill or El Capitan was her way of getting the circulation going and helping the learning process. I can still see the rows of black nigger boy cut outs above the wooden trim right around the classroom.

And in the senior room, the wooden clock with its pendulum and face with Roman numerals was no longer there. Nor were the water pipes around the walls of the classrooms which were heated by the coal and wood fires.

We were tiny tots while W.W.II raged in Europe and most of us were about seven when it ended. "While the fire station siren wailed the school bell was furiously rung as pupils rushed towards the gates. We knew something wonderful had happened and there was great rejoicing".

As my classmates and I progressed through the standards our education was in the hands of teachers Kate Holdem, Mr Cotton, and Miss Judy Griffiths whom we all adored.

In Forms one and two, Henry Burr was Principal and teacher who instilled in us the need to succeed and I believe, most of us owe much of our skills to the late Mr Burr. Older pupils in this decade would no doubt attribute their learning to Mr MacKenzie and Tom Amadio.

The dairy factory across the road where the centennial celebrations were held was a hive of industry then. Many a pupil came to school on the back of a milk cart or truck, others by bicycle, the rest by the bus driven by Mick Patterson and later George Gordge.

Weekly excursions by bus to manual training at Eltham took place on Tuesdays, the girls to cooking and the boys, woodwork.

Interschool sports were very much a highlight during the year and Kaponga always did well when it came

# A TEACHERS RECOLLECTION OF KAPONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

In my time 1963 - 65 we had pupils, staff and Committee who always gave 100% or more, as when the caretaker trimmed the front hedge top with the rotocut mower!

Pupils will remember the trips to Christchurch on the "USS Wahine" and young Smith "Calling all Cars" at midnight over the ship's ventilation system.

I often think of the Break up Concerts and the splendid items all classes produced. I still marvel at my F1 and II boys singing "Hello Mother". I guess they might not have sung a song since, but they bought the house down that night.

Every time I hear "Wheels" on the radio, I think of the Fancy Dress Ball Grand March.

Perhaps the Harrow School Song "Forty Years On" sums it all up."

"When we look back and forgetfully wonder  
What we were like in our work and play"

*J.H. Salt Principal 1963 - 1965.*

## "THE KAPONGA EXPERIENCE"

*John F. Rutledge.  
Principal May 1968 - December 1982."*

Teachers come and teachers go, But children go on forever."

One hundred years of history is a great achievement for any school. Very few people reach such a noble age. It is also true to say that there are few schools in our rural communities that have a history spanning as many years.

What do I regard as the most memorable characteristics of the school and community during the term of my service in the district?

Stability and security are the first two words that come to my mind. Most of the children came from homes where they had two parents who truly cared about them. They were healthy, well fed and well clothed. Parental concern for children was clearly shown in interaction with the school. There was good evidence of parental interest in their children's academic achievement as shown by high attendances at parent-teacher interviews. Parental supportiveness towards the school was strongly evidenced by the attendances and involvement in the sporting fixtures, gala days, our biennial form one and two trips to Auckland, local field trips, working bees at school and parent helpers for the cataloguing of Library books and the making of infant equipment.

Improvements to the school grounds and buildings and the provision of vastly improved teaching resources were numerous during my time in Kaponga.

The old ESSE - BURN central heating which had become very inefficient was one of the early victims of progress. This system of a by-gone era was replaced by wood and coal space heaters in each room.

When wood became scarce and coal became very expensive, the space heaters were replaced by natural gas heaters.

The oiled floors of the northern block played havoc with the outer and underclothing of the small children who spent periods of instruction on the mats. In time the mats became saturated with oil. There were always some children who seemed to use their posteriors as mops on the oily floors beyond the confines of the mats. The oiled floor surfaces were later covered with linoleum and rubber backed carpet squares were supplied to the infant rooms.

During my time at Kaponga the roll of the school rose to more than two hundred. Prior to my departure the roll had fallen to below one hundred and twenty and the staffing was accordingly reduced from six to five teachers. Teaching staff who came and went during my time were very dedicated people who showed a deep concern for the children in their classes.

Ron Reid and Brian Rowe were the Hockey enthusiasts on our staff. They introduced this sport to the children of the school. During Shay Noonan's time Soccer became a popular school and Saturday morning sport. Having grown up in a period when rugby was unrivalled as a winter sport for boys it was usually my task to accept responsibility for the rugby played by boys of the school.

Our crowning achievement in rugby came during my last year in Kaponga. Boys from our school together with some boys from the Convent won the McLeod Shield. All the small schools of Taranaki are eligible to play for this shield which if I remember correctly was first played for before World War I. Our success could be rated as a rare achievement because Kaponga had only once in the past ever won the McLeod Shield. Robin Hughes is very worthy of mention, for the important part he played in coaching our boys for their McLeod Shield success.

I think it was in 1971 that Margaret Watts joined our staff as a permanent teacher. Margaret showed real talent in preparing our children for Choirs Festival performances that were coordinated by a committee from the local Methodist Church, under the chairmanship of Mr John Harding.

Towards the end of my time in Kaponga teaching staff adopted the practice of involving all the children of the school in a musical performance presented in the Town Hall prior to the end of the year prize-giving ceremony. These performances were real team efforts that afforded scope for the application of wide ranging talents of staff members and children. Parents also became involved in these productions.

School Committees and the P.T.A's played a vital role during the period about which I am writing.

It is appropriate that I should pay tribute to the late

Mr Brian Abbott who was the Chairman of the School Committee when I arrived in Kaponga. Brian was gifted with a truly warm personality, good sense of humour and a very responsible attitude towards his role as a committee chairman.

Shortly after my arrival in Kaponga Mr Brian Abbott and his "demolition team" made short work of removing the old swimming baths at the south-east corner of the school property.

To the older generations of ex-pupils of the school one of the biggest environmental changes will surely be the absence of the big macrocarpa along the boundary of the School property with that of Mr Donald Gibson.

The removal of these trees was a mammoth task, but not too daunting for Brian Abbott. The school was fortunate to have such a good neighbour as Donald Gibson. Men and machines were recruited from all directions. It was a free and devoted service by a community which regarded its school as important. Another interesting feature of this work was the involvement of parents from the convent school. It was a pleasure to experience on many occasions the high degree of cooperation between the convent and the state school.

The felling of these huge macrocarpas was not the final chapter in this saga. Shortly after the trees became a chapter in the Kaponga history, David Abbott, Brian's youngest son won a National Essay competition on the subject "Conservation".

David was duly presented with his award by the Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon. The prize was a monetary reward for David and a sum of money for the purchase of trees for Davids school. The School Committee subsidised its share of David's award and a new shrubbery was planted along an extensive section of the school's northern boundary.

Because rental housing was not readily available in Kaponga the Education Board successfully negotiated with the Education Department to have two new houses for teachers erected in Kaponga. With three houses for teachers Kaponga enjoyed a favourable position for the attraction of stable staffing.

Changes in the Education Department building code enabled the Education Board to remodel the old cloak room, the cleaners store room, and the old staffroom at the west end of the main building as a library and resource room. Prior to my departure this space was fitted with black-out curtains so that it could be used as a film room. It was considered that this area would be an appropriate location in which to display school trophies and photographic records of distinguished past pupils of the school.

The last but by no means the least important people to whom I must refer in the course of recounting my reminiscences as a principal of Kaponga School were the members and staff of the Taranaki Education Board who gave understanding and efficient service to Kaponga school.

In referring to the Education Board, Mr Jim Wards must surely deserve the title of being a true patron of education in Kaponga and wider realms of Taranaki

to basketball (netball) and rugby. A summertime feature was the annual sports day at Eltham's Taumata Park where Primary Schools in the region vied for the Dixon and Stanners Banners. Who can remember Les Haycock standing on his soapbox calling the names of the competitors for their events through a megaphone?

The annual picnic excursion to Opunake beach was another special occasion enjoyed by pupils and teachers alike. Pupils could divide their time between swimming, exploring and playing around in the camp ground. Beach races were an integral part of the day's activities - three legged, sack, egg and spoon races and the traditional sprints - all part of the fun, like singing all the way home on the bus!

The fancy dress ball, and yes, I was one of those who led the senior grand march. These were great occasions for the school and the community, attracting parents and adults who also took part in the dancing.

During the Poliomyelitis epidemic of 1948 (49) the school was closed for 3 months. What a long hot summer that was.

Hastily prepared lessons were done by correspondence.

The school choir competed for the Doris Swadling Shield at the Methodist Church's spring flower festival in the Town Hall during that decade. Pupils entered in the floral art classes with their sand saucers and miniature gardens. The fragrance of spring flowers which wafted from that building was "wonderfully heady".

The choir competition developed into a much larger festival in the 1950s -60s with surrounding schools taking part.

The Calf Club day was another big springtime event for the school with the district's best jersey calves, lambs and pets presented for judging.

Milk was delivered to the school by a yellow truck which travelled from the treatment plant at Stratford every day. On cold winter days, the milk was icy cold, so it was tipped into an urn and heated for cocoa drinks at play time. Hot cocoa in enamel mugs was a real treat. The cardboard tops off the milk bottles were saved and made into novelties like pot stands.

Other treats were boxes of Cox's Orange apples which were presented to each classroom every year; bought lunches on a Monday when we could savour Vercoes' pies; films albeit a rarity - at the Town Hall and the unforgettable end-of-year concerts.

It is exactly 40 years since my classmates and I left Kaponga primary. The years dissipate as we stand, side by side gazing at class photographs on display in what used to be the cloakroom. Sadly there were many former pupils who did not attend the celebrations but those who did had an exhilaratingly wonderful time. Most of us, now grandparents, I believe have succeeded pretty well in life in this country and overseas.

No matter what our station in life, wherever we are, whatever we do from this day onwards, life began at the Kaponga Primary School.

*Contributed by Anne Glogowski (nee Izett). Paeroa.*

and our nation. I wish the community of Kaponga a very happy school celebration. I hope I am able to share this great occasion with you.

## I REMEMBER WHEN - DO YOU REMEMBER?

*BY D.J. GIBSON 1945 - 1953*

Miss McGregor arriving at School each morning. One of the tiny tots would open the gate and others would join the forces to follow her Ford 8 in to be parked under the sycamore trees at the northern end of the tarseal tennis courts.

The macrocarpas on the top boundary of the school have been mentioned at different times, and although I was very young at the time, I well remember the trenches that had been dug as a safety measure during those war years, between 1939 - 45. Whenever there was a war alert, the siren would sound at the factory, the whole school would end up in the trenches, in a very short period of time! The tiny tots would fall in and be lifted out.

In the summer time, we would look forward to the School Baths being filled, as we would only be able to swim in Sherwood's pool on the river at the back of the factory until that time. Many of our age group learned to swim in those Baths, and also found out that girls were different to boys, when we used to look through that gap under the partition wall in the dressing sheds.

**SPARE TIME** - In weekends and after school - In our childhood there was a group comprising of the Seemark boys, John Cran and myself to name a few, who spent much time making boats, out of scraps, left over from cheese crate making - from the factory - for the frame, covered with old galvanised iron. These we sailed either on the big or little dams on the river. These would inevitably sink and then we would have a mammoth salvage operation, only to start the process all over again.

The digging of great holes in the ground, to be used as huts, and the saving of timber or galvanised iron to build tree huts, was something I will always remember. Many man hours were spent in building these.

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*Derek McDonald Law, Born 11th August, 1930  
in Kaponga.*

I spent the first six years of my life in the big house on Riverside, or Law Crescent as it was once known.

The middle one of a three-child family, the eldest a girl, and youngest a very small boy, who needed special attention. I had to make my own entertainments.

I made friends with the baker's son, Rusty Vercoe and together we shot sparrows with bee-bee guns behind the bakehouse or down by the river.

In 1936 we went to live in the first farmhouse over the bridge on the left hand side on the Eltham Road - the original Law house, built in 1889.

I started school in 1935, walking either with my sister or my friend.

I played "Keney Seney" and Hide and Seek. Organised sport was not my thing.

In 1938 I spent one year living in the Cran household while my mother was bedridden for that time.

In 1939 my father bought the farm on Manaia Road, one and a half miles up from the town.

From there Brian and I walked, wet or fine, sometimes getting a ride on a farmers milk cart.

During my time in Form 1 & 2 Mr Tom Honore was Headmaster.

He helped further my interest in growing trees and learning their names and where they came from. Mr Honore grew several different kinds of trees and sold them to local farmers for shelter belts and gardens.

My time as a pupil of Kaponga school could be said to be enlightening. Later in life I have had my own children attend the school and I have attended as a School Committee member for many years, six of them as Chairman.

This time, school was an enjoyable experience, meeting parents and giving them assistance in anyway possible.

My wife Pat, and I have made lifetime friends of many teachers and I consider Kaponga School has done more for me than I perhaps ever imagined as a small boy.

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*1937 - 1944.*

*By Norman Watts*

It was a cold frosty morning in the first week of July 1937 that I set off behind my older brother on our chestnut pony for my first day at Kaponga School.

After letting our pony go in the "pony paddock" I can still remember vividly the large open fire in the classroom with a cocoa pot on the iron within the fireplace. Also the tiered floor rising to the back of the room.

The school was old and due for replacement.

It was quite an exciting time when the builders and tradesmen commenced levelling out the site after removing some trees where the present school stands.

In those days Boards employed their own tradesmen who lived on the job and travelling home at the weekend.

During 1938 with activities going on all the time around the school it made it difficult to concentrate on lessons with a new school, school house and dental clinic being constructed at the same time.

The new school was officially opened on the 1st October 1938 by the then local M.P. C. A. Wilkinson so the school and the pupils entered a new era.

The old school was then demolished and levelled out. The tennis courts were established and are still there today 53 years later.

When the school opened in February 1939, the Rowan pupils arrived.

The Education Board decided to consolidate Rowan School with Kaponga. I can still remember the bewildered looks on the pupil's faces, from the Rowan School, when arriving at a much larger school.

For many years they were known as the "Rowanites" and in more recent years were referred to as the 2nd bus pupils.

About 1940 or 42, after several delegations to the Education Board a deputation of Ernie Snowden, Harry Watts and (Bert Candy and Con Crowley for the Convent): we were informed that a bus would pick up children on the Palmer Road right to the old factory.

This was really appreciated by the families on the road as just over 40 children were on the first pick up so thus began another era as the ponies were put out to pastures.

This bus still continues today but with fewer pupils using it.

The construction of the school baths was a great occasion for the pupils. Situated on the south-east corner, when our allotted time arrived for our swimming lesson there was a mad sprint across the 'cow paddock', to see who could get into the water first.

Prior to this we had an occasional swim in the Kaipokonui River behind the factory. This was referred to as 'Sherwood's pool'.

With the entry of Japan into the war, causing some what panic amongst "South Pacific" countries, the School Committee held working bees with parents coming and digging 'slit trenches' under the large macrocarpa trees growing on the north boundary adjacent to Gibson's.

When the siren was sounded each senior pupil was responsible to see that 2 younger children were escorted across the field and placed securely in the trenches.

Around our necks we were required to wear a small bag containing cotton wool (for ears), a rubber to bite on, some sticking plaster and bandages and a couple of small bottles with ingredients that I can't remember.

This made us very aware of how close an attack or an invasion by Japan really was.

Petrol rationing came into force and no school sports and picnics were held during those dark days of the war.

I believe only 4 gallons a month was available to private cars.

Another highlight during those years was a visit by the American Servicemen, some were on Furlough while others were convalescing from war wounds. We couldn't help but be impressed by these men dressed in full U.S.A. uniforms.

I still have some autographs from these men in the back of an old exercise book.

I was extremely fortunate in having a teacher of Mr Honore's calibre. He seemed to be able to 'sum up' each child's strengths and weaknesses and lifting their attainment levels to a much higher standard. Consequently most pupils were well prepared before they went to High School.

Many will have fond memories of 'Old Tom' as he was affectionately known by his old pupils.

He retired in 1944 to live in Wanganui and lived well into his 90s.

Another teacher I have fond memories of was Miss Faye Dunlop who was at Kaponga for five years in the late thirties and early forties.

When I read her apology during the Centennial many of my contemporaries came to me and expressed their fond memories of her.

Miss Dunlop lives in a convent in Brisbane and well into her 80s and in good health remembering clearly her days in Kaponga School.

I am proud and consider it to have been a privilege to have attended Kaponga School where all the pupils appeared to come from stable homes with both parents prepared to willingly support the children and their teachers. When this happens, the pupils are well on the way to a successful education.

This I consider has made such a good school.

Looking to the future the first 100 years have been a great success and I hope the next 100 year is as great as the last.

## JUNIOR CLASS TEACHERS RECOLLECTIONS 1971 - 1989.

In 1970 I was approached by the Principal, Mr John Rutledge, asking if I would consider relieving for 1 year in 1971 as the Teachers Colleges had introduced a 3 year course of Teacher training thus no Probationary Assistant would be available for Kaponga School. (A P.A. taught for 1 year at the end of which they would be certificated).

After much consideration I returned to teaching for 1 year only, so in February 1971, I along with Mrs Joyce Thompson, (who was to teach at Kaponga for 9 years) a new Deputy Principal, Mr Ian Travers and three existing staff members Mrs Beverley Arbuckle, Mr David Laird and Mr John Rutledge (Principal) I began my one years teaching at Kaponga School.

During that year 1 staff member accepted a position at another school and because I enjoyed the stimulus and involvement with staff, pupils and parents I applied for the position and was duly appointed to the permanent staff. Little did I realise that I would still be there 18 years later.

When I began my term in 1971 the "old block" had "wood and coal" fire places with pipes around the walls carrying hot water, (great for drying children's wet socks and clothes) match lined walls with very little display space for children's work and oiled floors.

When it was decided that the classrooms were to be upgraded, 2 classes at a time were moved over to the hall. There we remained for approximately a month in a "shared" teaching situation.

How marvelous it was to re-enter the classrooms with their new blackboards, particle board on the back wall, the remaining walls relined and at a later date lino on the floor and gas heaters. Now children's work could be displayed to advantage.

Today it is even more pleasant with the hessian board making displays even easier.

During my period at Kaponga School I had the pleasure of working with 4 Principals each having their own strengths contributing greatly to the school.

Each principal and all staff members always had the children's interest and well being at heart.

The children of Kaponga School have always been a pleasure to teach. Coming from stable and happy homes with full parent support reflected in their behaviour and attitude to achieve a high standard.

Staff and pupils were always proud of the association with Kaponga School.

My involvement in music began in 1971 when I was asked to coach the children for the Kaponga Music festival.

Kaponga had always participated and has continued to do so.

Learning approximately 12 songs became rather an arduous and boring task to some pupils but after all the endless practises the final night eventuated and the thrill of singing with 200 - 300 children was an experience not to be forgotten. No doubt past pupils have various thoughts and memories of these festivals. As one young father was reputed to say as his daughter sang in the choir how great it was, that all these schools were together singing as one group. (The same young man as a lad at Kaponga School disliked the participation he had to endure each year.)

How our views change as we get older and childhood memories become important.

One of the highlights resulting from the Kaponga Music Festival was when Mr Menzies, the conductor of the massed choir, requested the Kaponga Children to sing a bracket of songs and join with the New Plymouth City Choir for the Christmas Programme. He considered them the best children's choir in Taranaki for some years. Certainly high praise for a small country school.

What a wonderful experience that was and how proud the pupils, parents, staff and myself were of those children that night.

Choirs for many years participated in the Hawera Competitions gaining many certificates and banners.

When Miss Raewyn Pepperell joined the staff as a Deputy Principal she suggested, that we produce a musical, involving the "whole school", for the end of the year.

The Musical chosen was "Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat".

With the help from the talented pianist Mrs Joy Eliason, co-producers Miss Pepperell and Mrs Lorraine Yateman (Choreographer, staging and Drama.) Musical Director - myself, Mr John Rutledge (with his class's help) an outstanding backdrop, staff members and parents it proved an outstanding success. A tremendous team effort, resulting in a standing ovation. A night I'm sure many will remember.

Following the outstanding success of "Joseph" "The Three Bells" and the "Wizard of Oz" were produced in the following 2 years.

Producing musicals did have some headaches and incidents but speaking to some ex-pupils years later I was asked if we were still producing musicals as they were "neat fun". Interesting to note that these comments were made from those that had to be encouraged and bulldozed into singing.

During the performance of the "Wizard of Oz" instead of cellophane strips (used at practises), water was placed in the buckey to throw over the wicked witch. The surprise on the witch's face (David Taylor) had to be seen to be believed.

Another incident relating to that same Musical during the final performance, some "bright spark" (I never found out who) substituted the raspberry drink to be used for the "courage drink" to be drunk by the lion (Caroline Stark) for red wine. Caroline took it in her stride and kept the show going, no one knowing till after curtain call.

These incidents made these productions light hearted and were appreciated by all who participated.

A "Trip Around the World" and end of year concerts were to follow, each one of a very high standard.

The Infant Department's role in these concerts, usually followed the format of an "Operetta" Cinderella, Winnie the Pooh, Peter Rabbit, Bobby Shafto, Happy days in Holland just to mention a few. These always delighted the audience.

I always felt that music played an important part in the children's balanced programme giving pleasure and relaxation and it is my hope that the musical activities at the Kaponga School will have very fond memories for those who passed through its classrooms.

Many thanks must be extended to Mrs Joy Eliason whose patience and expertise on the piano and the many hours she gave willingly. Also to Mrs Lorraine Yateman who gave much of her time to help with items that required actions, staging and choreography.

Without these two ladies much of the success in the music field would not have been possible.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers, pupils and parents from Kaponga School for 18 very rewarding and happy years and to wish all past and present pupils well in the future.

Margaret Watts  
Teacher 1971 - 1989

## QSM for elusive Jim

By PETA GOLDSWORTHY

Jim Wards may never have known he was to be awarded a Queen's Service Medal - had it not been for a phone call he got.

The Papatoetoe man has been given the award for his public service over the years, but he never received the letters which were sent to him, telling him of the medal.

The first registered letter went to Kaponga, where Mr Wards used to live. It was returned to Wellington, and a second letter was sent to Papatoetoe - but to the wrong address.

Someone from Government House then phoned Mr Wards to tell him he had been awarded a QSM, and a letter finally got to him.

The award was given for Mr Wards' work on several school committees, an education board, Federated Farmers, and the dairy section.

Born in Southland and then raised in south Taranaki, Mr Wards had five sisters and four brothers.

He attended Hawera High School and went farming after that until war broke out.

"I was away for 20 months with the war, then after the Greek campaign I was trained as a tank

gunner instructor and I returned to New Zealand."

Mr Wards was based at Waiouru until he was released from the service in April 1944.

He and his first wife Ruth bought a farm in Gordonton, near Hamilton and stayed there for seven years. Three of their five children went to the primary school there.

By this stage Mr Wards was on the school committee and when the family moved to Kaponga in 1951 where he was again involved in school committees.

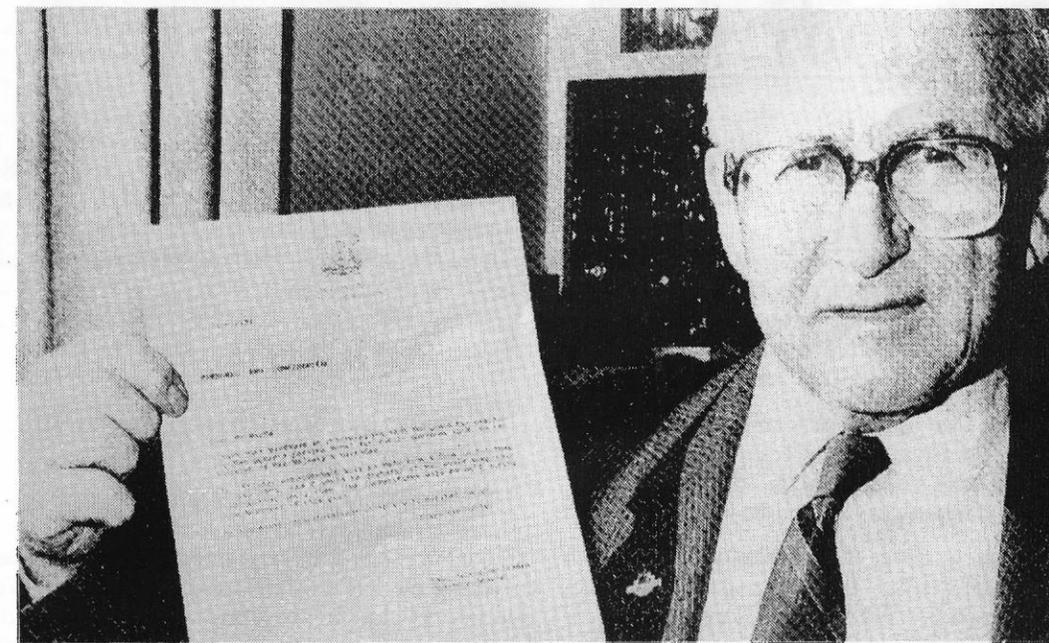
"I didn't have much spell from school committees from 1948 to 1965, and I couldn't have done the work without Ruth's help."

Mr Wards was also a member of the Taranaki Education Board from 1966 to 1989, and was chairman from 1978 to 1989.

As well as that he was on the board of the Kaponga Dairy Company, and has also been chairman of the Taranaki Dairy Section.

Last year, he and his second wife Elaine moved to Papatoetoe, and between them the couple have 24 grandchildren.

"We keep busy with gardening and visiting now."



Mr Wards was elected to the Kaponga School Committee in 1953. He was elected Chairman in 1957, and retired after eight years service.

In 1966 he was elected to the Taranaki Education Board and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1978, a position he held until the Taranaki Education Board was disbanded in 1989.

## WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER, MICHAEL SAVAGE, VISITED...

When the Prime Minister, Michael Savage, called at Kaponga a platform was setup outside the Post Office. The school children were lined up in front of it.

The Prime Minister spoke and said he would speak to a small child. He walked along the lines of children and stopped and spoke to me, taking me by the hand. He took me out in front of everyone and then lifted me up to sit on the edge of the platform. The Prime Minister asked me my name ... on telling him it was "Marie Webb", he then called out to one of his members of Parliament and said "Paddy Webb, come and meet your niece".

For days after people kept saying to my parents that they didn't know we were related to a M.P. My parents had to tell people we weren't related!

*from Marie Maunsell (nee Webb)*

## GETTING THE 'STRAP' ON MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 1937.

The first morning I started school the teacher sat me at a desk in front of her. Part way through the morning the teacher told one of the other children to go and tell

## 1991 PUPIL'S STORIES

### FIRST DAYS AT SCHOOL

1. One popular pastime was "Catch and Kiss" behind the Hall. This activity has come up again in our senior years, but in a far more mature way. It's funny how things go in circles.

2. Another game we used to play was "Doctors and Nurses". We would use all sorts of equipment in place of the real thing: Sofa - beds, Pencils - drills, Scissors - knives, Wool - dental floss. You name it, we used it!

3. We were lining up at the door and Herbie (of course) was making silly "farting" noises with his mouth. Mrs Waswo got fed up with Herbie and his noises and gave him a "hiding" in the doorway. She was not amused.

4. We can remember one incident very clearly. It took place on blue mat. We were listening to a story and we heard a hissing noise. We turned around a saw a wet patch on the mat. One of our class mates had done "You-know-what".

some of the class to "come in" from reading in a side room with an older pupil.

I called out "come in" loudly. The teacher said to me to come up to the desk and said "when in school you don't call out". and then she took out the leather strap and told me to hold out my hand. She gave me one of the best.

I cried until reaching my mother's shop at lunch-time and wouldn't go back to school that day.

The next day I was sent to school with my sister and brother; but dawdled behind and on reaching the church before the school I slipped into the churchyard. When I heard the school bell I waited for my sister and brother to pass and then run to catch up with them. This went on for a few days until my mother received a note from school asking where I was. My mother was talking about it to a woman in the shop at the time when another customer came in. This woman worked in the garage office across the road from the church. She told my mother she had seen a small child putting flowers on the graves and playing there.

Next day after I left for school my mother followed me and saw me go into the churchyard once again. She spoke to me and took me to school and then had to chase me to school for a few more days after that.

It took an understanding teacher in Std 2 to find out why I was so frightened to speak up in class.

So my first day at school wasn't a happy one and I can still remember that teacher today.

*Contributed by Marie Maunsell (nee Webb)*

5. On my first day of school I walked into Room 2 (now Room 4) holding Mum's hand. I looked at them and they looked at me, so I hid behind Mum's skirt. That's the only time Mum's skirt has come in handy.

### SCHOOL CAMPS

A perfect opportunity to get up to all sorts of mischief!

1. At Eltham camp we learnt all sorts of skills - however, not the skills our teachers thought we would learn. We became very good at sneaking out and visiting the girl's cabins (during the night). We went to a lot of trouble not to get caught. We would sneak behind the teacher's cabins, walk for ages along the river. We were never caught.

2. One member of our group experienced a strange thing. Her eyes were swollen and would not open. She could not see and ran into the toilets which happened to be beside the boy's cabins. The worst thing about this was, she was in such a hurry she forgot to put her

pants on and was seen stumbling back into the toilets at high speed.

3. 1990 Wellington Camp. The last night of the camp, one cabin decided to play a trick on one of the members. We got a glass of water and stuck her fingers in it - it was meant to make her wet the bed. It didn't work so we chucked the water in the bed and were laughing our heads off. She woke up, finding she was wet. She dashed off to the toilet. Our trick was pretty effective.

### NAUGHTY MOMENTS

There was a time when "fake" animal excretions were the rage. A dog "turd" was carefully put on Miss Best's (Mrs England) chair. As she took her place on her chair, a funny squeaking noise alerted her to something odd underneath her. She stood up quickly and found a nasty object on her seat. She was not amused.

It was the last day of a long year at school, and the Form 2 children were having water fights. They decided to get buckets of water and throw them at their teacher. He was also the principal, and was holding a meeting with the school Committee, which gave them time to get ready. They lined up by the hall entrance and waited. The door opened and the water was flung. Not only did it hit Mr Hunt, but also the people behind. It ended with all the children involved getting the strap and having to pay 50 cents each for drycleaning costs.

### 1991 NAUGHTY MOMENTS

The Library - a place of horror? Books line the shelves for us poor innocent kids to research and read. One day Raeleen and Keryn ventured to the place of horror and heard a squeak. They turned round and it stopped, then turned back around and it started again. This kept on going until they fled the place. We decided to get to the bottom of this mystery. Certain squealing excited females were convinced a ghost was haunting the library. To be realistic, two of them had found the problems; a window was haunting us. Contributed by :-Aimee Muggerridge Anna Hardcastle Danielle Mandy Erika Jackson John Beare Kerry Morgan Marllys Garrett Mathew Eliason Nina Bloeman Raeleen Denham Todd Benton.

## KAPONGA REVISITED

In a small country town called Kaponga,  
In heartland Taranaki so cool,  
We met for the centennial birthday.  
Of the local primary school  
Hundreds of ex-pupils gathered on Queen's Birthday '91.

To join in the celebrations.  
To share in the laughter and fun.  
To recall when we were young children  
In those halcyon days long ago,  
Remote from the rest of the world far away,  
And protected from war and from foe.  
To reminisce with classmates and buddies,  
To joke and say 'remember when'  
To reflect where destiny has lead - us  
Along various pathways since then.  
Most of us, children of farmers,  
Or people who worked in the town,  
We didn't have great expectations,  
To aspire to great realms of renown  
Though many have since reached distinction.  
In the fields they chose to pursue,  
Others didn't venture nearly so far  
But were happy with what they did do.

That's why we came back to Kaponga,  
That's why we returned to our school,  
A pilgrimage borne out of fondness of heart,  
And a mind of memories full.  
The first century was celebrated in true country style,  
An occasion we'll never forget,  
We won't be around for the next one for sure,  
But there's a few more reunions to come yet.  
In the meantime.....Farewell, dear classmates and buddies,  
We hope we'll meet once again,  
We'll dream of this day and times of the past,  
As it is now and how it was then.  
Farewell, your majesty Mount Egmont,  
Glimmering in the twilight haze,  
You watched as we grew to adulthood  
And went on our various ways.  
Farewell Taranaki and Kaponga,  
The province and town of my birth,  
You'll always have a fond place in my heart,  
As the most homliest place on this earth.

*Anne Glogowski (nee Izett)1991.*



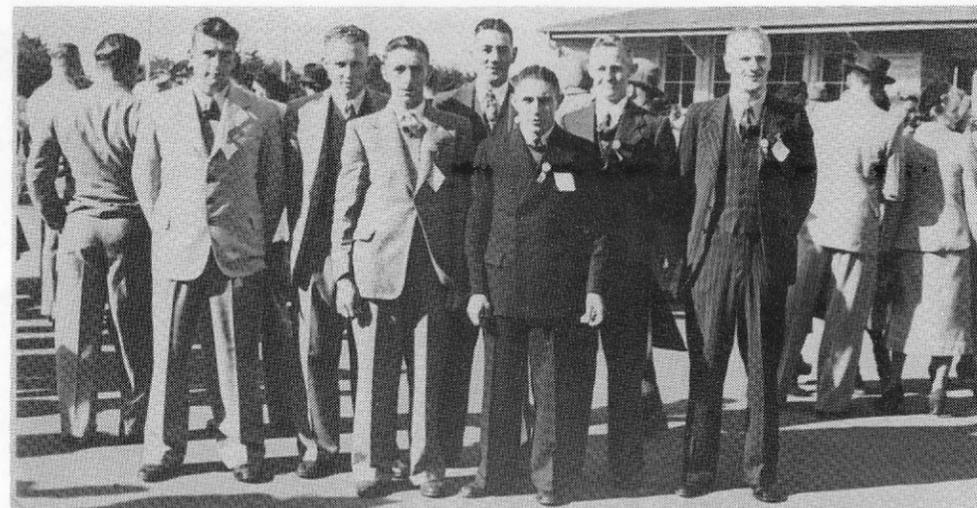
*Twins in junior department in 1977.*  
*Back Row: Rosemary and Rachel Law;*  
*Middle Row: Stephen and Kirsten Johns,*  
*Mario and Max Padrutt;*  
*Front Row: Jody and Kim Leeman.*



*The Whiting triplets. Joyce, Jack and June. The only set of triplets to have attended this school to date.*



*Kaponga School, 1929. Mr Bailey. Back Row: J. Brisco, C. Anderson, K. Harding, G. Hollard, G. Prestidge, Stanners, J. McCook, J. Mitchell, S. Harper, L. Haicher, M. Reesby, D. Burt, S. Bertie, J. Williams, Unknown, D. Gallagher, J. Maguiness; 4th Row: T. Thoumine, V. Evans, W. Gordge, R. Gilbert, L. Carrington, K. Cathpole, J. Harper, D. Harding, D. Evans, G. Dawson, C. Norgate, P. Norgate, J. Scott, F. Gardner, H. Brown, Unknown, G. Gilbert; 3rd Row: Bailey, J. Davies, D. McCook, P. Corder, G. Scott, A. Kemp, J. Brewer, J. Gallagher, P. Harding, A. Gardne Cran, C. Libeau, B. Candy, R. Dawson, Shaw, Gordge, Unknown, Unknown, I. Burt, M. Hollard, P. Bertie, Frost, J. West, J. Burrows, T. Brown, V. Fallows, L. Hessel; Front Row: D. Hatcher, D. Cook, B. Abbott, C. Haicher, J. Spurdle, L. McCook, J. Fraser, M. Prestige, J. Arnold, J. Law, D. Bennie, N. Sleeman, S. Reeby, I. Izett, E. Guy, F. Harding, L. Cren, J. Taylforth.*



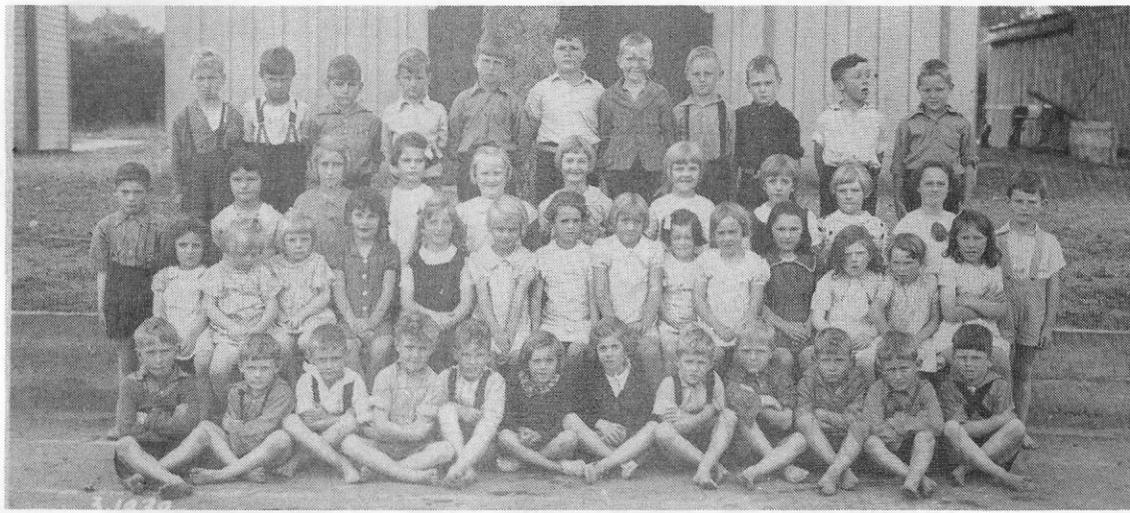
*Les Burrows, Derek Law, Bill Barleyman, Ian Brown, Murray Meads, Alf Bocock, Alan Vercoe.*



*1937 Primers. Back: Colin Thorne, Les Burrows, Norman Watts, Doug Patterson, Tommy Denham, Barry Barker, Ian Bennie; 2nd Row: Derek Law, Doreen Swartfager, Shirley Lyndon, Marion Tyack, Peggy Izett, Rene Norgate, Ted Toogood; 3rd Row: Mary Gibson, Margaret Thorne, Joy Fowler, Audrey Blake, Denham, Betty Lilly, Denham, Maureen Fowler; Front Row: Don Burrows, Arthur Swartfager, Cliff Libeau.*



*1939 Standard 4, 5 and 6. Mr A. T. Honore. Back Row: Don Meads, Arthur Gordge, Ernie Izett, Jim Oakes, Ian Brown, Noel Cran, Arthur Rowell, Unknown, Unknown, Len Brown, Brian McCook, Bill Barleyman, Ian Patterson, David Jackson; 2nd Row: Hamilto Mulcock, Dorothy Fasham, May Sherwood, Alyson Brisco, Enid Spurdle, Lorna Sutherland, Thompson, Hazel McKay, Betty Taylforth, Daphne Shirley, Jim Dunlop; Front Row: Maureen Bennie, Nettie Libeau, Jean Boyle, Betty Blake, Wilma Marr, Joy Rowell, Gloria Bocock, Gladys Divison, Evelyn Leslie, Margaret Dawson, Betty Ricketts.*



**1939 Infants.** **Back Row:** Peperell, Bertie Rowell, Don Burrows, Quinton Cleland, Ted Toogood, Trevor Webb, Norman Watts, Alf Boccock, Fred Seamark, Gordon Thoumine, Raymond; **2nd Row:** Cliff Libeau, Marie Webb, Elsie Cadman, Shirley Ellis, Mary Gibson, Pam West, May Mulcock, Mollie Snowdon, Iris Page, Val Hodge, Colin Campbell; **3rd Row:** Maureen Fowler, Joyce Whiting, June Whiting, Margaret Thorne, Cliff Oakes, June Busing, Betty Lilly, Val Ricketts, Unknown, Alma Espiner, Hazel Rye, Clara Dalgety, Unknown, Ruby Thoumine; **Front Row:** Jim Cadman, Brian Law, Alan Blake, Michael Maxwell, Jack Whiting, Maisie Rowell, Joy Fowler, Eric Lilly, Ambrose Fowler, Clive Burrows, Cadman, Bob Toogood.



**1940 Standard 1 and 2.** **Back Row:** Peter Lay, Cliff Libeau, Quinton Cleland, Ron Thompson, Norman Watts, Ted Toogood, Alf Boccock, Fred Seamark, Colin Campbell; **2nd Row:** Hazel Rye, Mollie Snowdon, Mary Gibson, Shirley Ellice, May Mulcock, Elsie Cadman, Iris Playle, Joy Fowler; **3rd Row:** Joy Bayly, Shirley Cuthbertson, June Busing, Pam West, Avis Riley, Valerie Hodge, Maureen Fowler; **Front Row:** Eric Lilly, Alan Blake, Clive Burrows.



**1948 Standard 5 and 6. Tom Amadio.** **Back Row:** Don Kidner, Rayce Dunlop, Valentine Adlam, Graham Dempsey, Donald Revell, Peter Milne, Ron MacFarlane, Bill Eliason, Ron Ingram, Barry Mathews; **Middle Row:** Colin Burrows, Jack Terry, Ian Calder, Anderson, Charlotte Jacobsen, Hazel Busing, Ray Nicholas, Warren Watson, Miles Barker; **Front Row:** Helen Sinclair, Barbara Stevenson, Rae Pearson, Marjorie Nicholson, Shirley Campbell, Hazel Espiner, Jean Andrew, Hannah Marshall, Mary Swartfager.



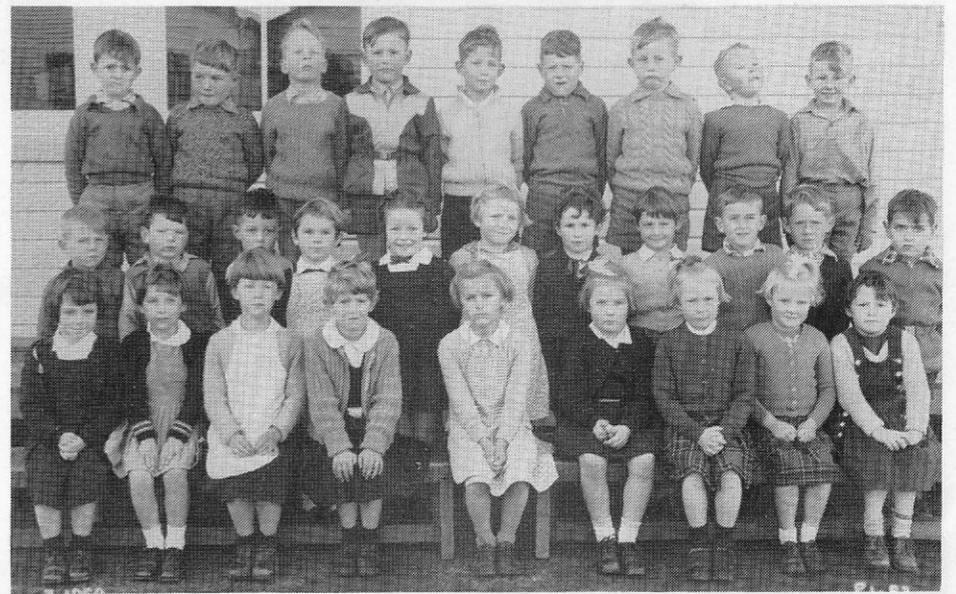
**1948 Standard 1 and 2.** **Back Row:** Lyall Mellow, Eric Pitcher, Lindsay Bloor, Colin Lines, John Taunt, Larry Lilley, David McGuire; **Middle Row:** Tom Taunt, Jim Robson, Joan Campbell, Bev Dempsey, Norah Pitcher, Sophie Marshall, Marie Dryden, Donald Gibson, Graeme Sinclair; **Front Row:** Margaret Taunt, June Eliason, Janet Ambury, Lorna Mulcock, Nancy Adlam, Dora Taunt, Jennifer Watson, Nola Phillips, Francis Hughes, Eila Hollard.



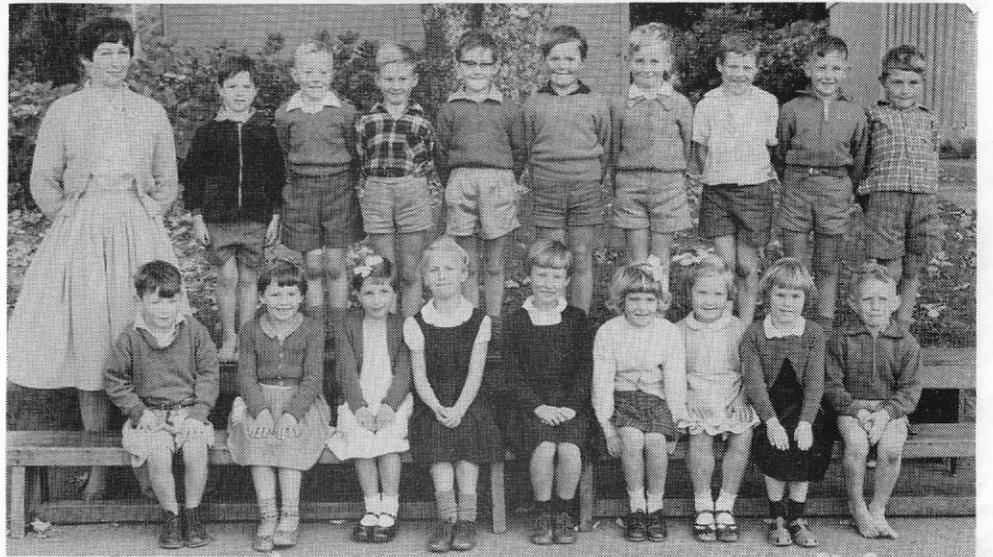
**1948 Primers.** **Back Row:** G. Lines, J. Phillips, C. Bruning, Unknown, E. Harrop, M. Glossop, G. Jury, J. Evershed, D. Mellow, Unknown, D. McGuire, W. Start; **Middle Row:** G. Williamson, G. Glossop, A. Ingram, N. Campbell, Unknown, J. Taunt, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown; **Front Row:** Unknown, J. Chong, N. Williamson, L. Burrows, P. Dempsey, H. Jensen, J. Roper, M. Harrop, R. Matthews, Unknown, J. Taunt, Unknown.



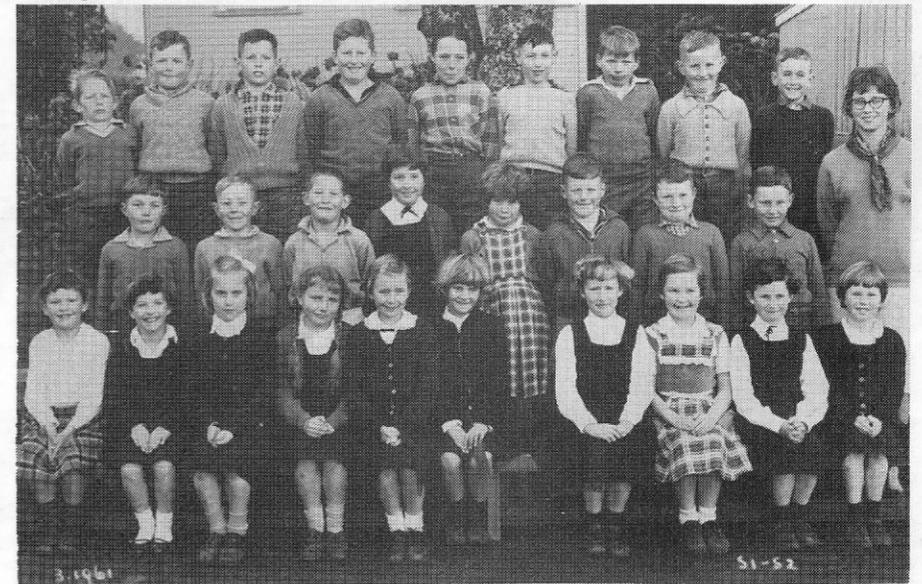
**1949 Standard 5 and 6. Mr T. Amadio.** **Back Row:** Alec Wright, Errol Watson, Frand Cook, Neil Ingram, Bob Calder, Ron Ingram, Rayce Dunlop, Ron Espiner, Stan Peters, Don Kidner, Barry Mathews, Unknown, Neil Patterson; **Middle Row:** Don Betts, Norman Andrews, Val Adlam, Bill Eliason, Graham Dempsey, Don Revell, Miles Barker, Warren Watson, Malcolm Campbell, Malcolm Cossey, Jeff McGuire, Warwick Seamark, Peter Milne; **Front Row:** Val Boccock, Betty Kidner, Josephine Trainer, Valerie Moore, Eunice Andrews, Jean Andrews, Joyce Moore, Hazel Busing, Nancy Lowe, Elvine Stevenson, Barbara Stevenson, Janice Free, leila Schwartfeger, Beverley Alsop.



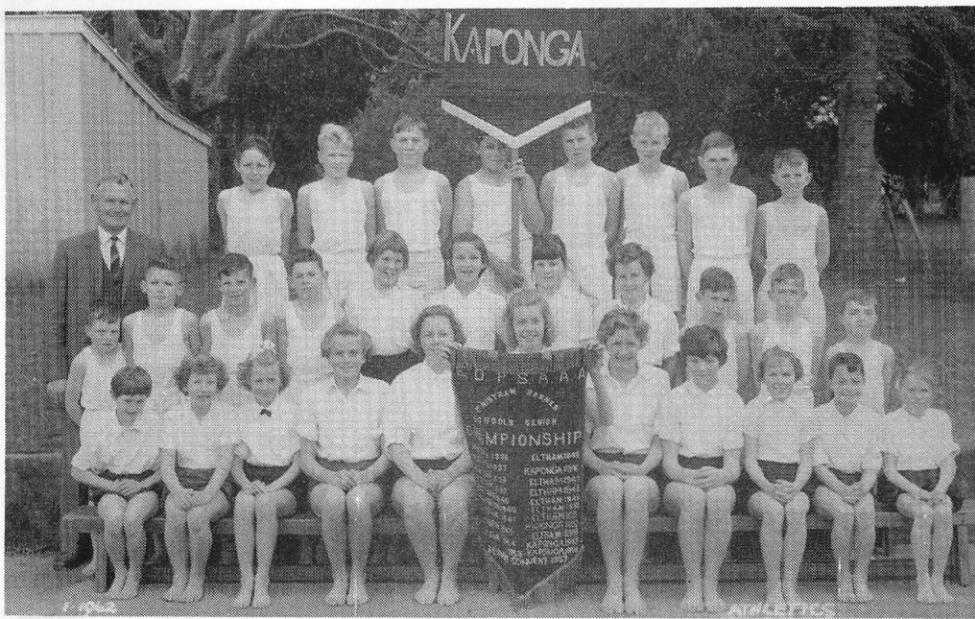
1959 Primer 1 & 2. Back Row: Gavin Worthington, Donald Glossop, Gregory Micheski, Max Espiner, John Young, Allan McAllum, Bruce Boccock, Mark Hollard, Colin Oakes; Middle Row: Unknown, Eric Marshall, Ronald Nichols, Annette Anderson, Karen Richards, Joan Goodin, Sharyn Thurston, Sherry Scott, Melvin Rowe, David Clarke, Robin Buckthought; Front Row: Marlene Codd, Dianne West, Carolyn Emeny, Dale Young, Lorraine Rowe, Vera Kemp, Lois Blake, Gail Pike, Gail Pullen.



1960 Primer 3 and 4. Miss J. McGuinness. Back Row: Mark Rusling, Mark Hollard, Colin Oakes, Calvin Worthington, Max Espiner, Bruce Boccock, Allan McAllum, John Young, Donald Glossop; Front Row: Eric Marshall, Gail Pullen, Dianne West, Heather Smiley, Carolyn Emeny, Dale Young, Vera Kemp, Maree Dunlop, David Clark.



1961 Standard 1 and 2. Back Row: D. Clark, M. Espiner, C. Dowell, M. Robinson, B. Denham, I. Shipley, M. Clark, B. Boccock, M. Rowe; Middle Row: D. Glossop, M. Hollard, J. Young, G. Campbell, H. McAllum, A. McAllum, S. Greenbank, C. Oakes, Miss F. Gordon; Front Row: G. Pullen, D. West, H. Smiley, S. Clarke, D. Parker, D. Young, C. Emeny, V. Kemp, S. Thurston, M. Dunlop.



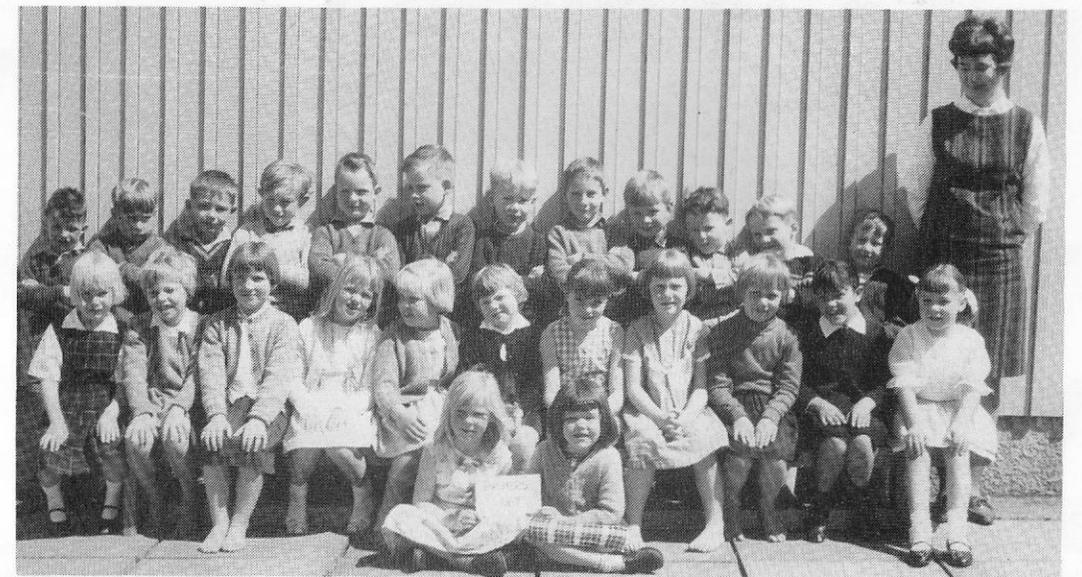
**1962 Athletics.** Back Row: Brian Denham, Phillip LeGrove, Bruce Ingram, Dennis Horsfall, Roger Lines, Kerry Blinkhorne, Malcolm Harding, Michael Oakes; Middle Row: Mr Gordon Simpson, Paul Mattock, Kevin Ingram, Clinton Wishnowsky, Ronald Harrison, Brenda McNamara, Judith Wards, Sheryl Thompson, Gloria Harrop, Michael Barron, Melvin Rowe, Peter Denham; Front Row: Sandra Oakes, Carolyn Emeny, Delwin Parker, Barbara Hollard, Marie Melville, Faye Melville, Jennifer Blinkhorne, Rosalyn Mattock, Pamela Roberts, Robyn Pentecost, Marie Dunlop.



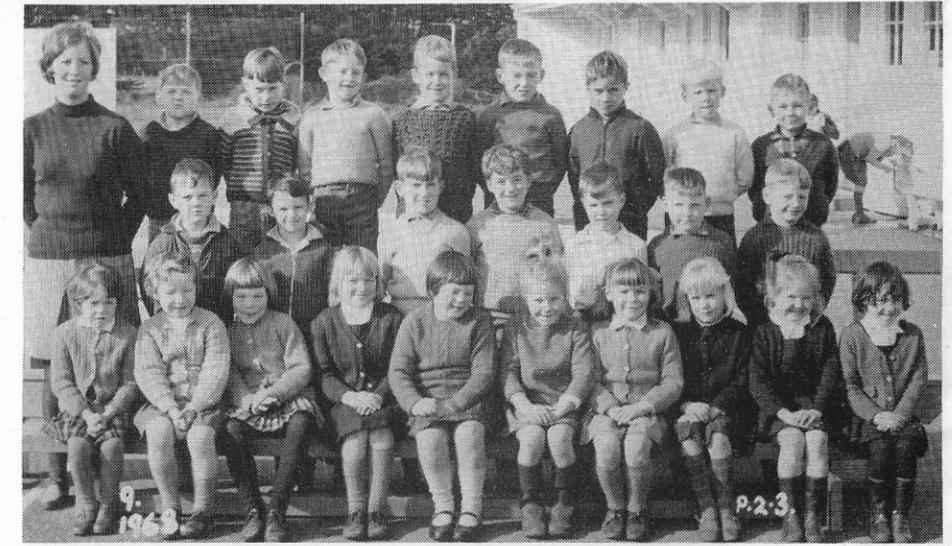
**1962 Standard 1 and 2.** Mrs Simpson. Back Row: Stephen Greenbank, Colin Oakes, Mervyn Clark, Peter Blinkhorne, Bobby Ingram, Brian Denham, Gary Blinkhorne, Kevin Madgwick, Allan McAllum, Jeffrey Kirkus, Mark Hollard; Middle Row: Graeme Codd, Maree Dunlop, Heather Smiley, Pamela McAllum, Gaye Campbell, Isla Dunlop, Carolyn Emeny, Robyn Pentecost, Lauren Mellow, Donald Glossop; Front Row: Nicola Peckham, Karen Richards, Delwyn Christenson, Delwyn Parker, Jillian Andrews, Brenda McNamara, Robin Gosling, Sandra Lines, Shelley Clark, Vera Kemp, Sharyn Thurston, Dianne West; In Front: Philip Wishnowski, Melvin Rowe.



**1963 Standard 2 and 3.** Back Row: R. Edwards, M. Rowe, M. Hollard, J. Kirkus, P. Blinkhorne, B. Henham, R. Ingram, K. Madgwick, A. McAllum, C. Oakes, D. Glossop, G. Codd, S. Greenbank; Middle Row: S. Thurston, H. McAllum, R. Gosling, L. Hartley, L. Mellow, R. White, V. Kemp, N. Peckham, H. Smiley, D. Christensen, R. Pentecost, D. West; Front Row: M. Dunlop, S. Clarke, D. Parker, G. Campbell, J. Andrews, I. Dunlop, S. Lines, C. Emeny, K. Richards, C. Tiplady.



**1967 Primers.** Back Row: C. Koch, P. Burrows, P. Mune, S. Gooch, W. Cowper, D. O'Farrow, J. Guy, P. Burrows, R. Gundeson, P. Murphy, B. Charteris, A. Pooch, Miss L. Behl; Front Row: M. Guy, R. Eliason, M. Brunold, M. Lehmann, S. Goodin, D. McDonald, D. Lashford, C. Dixon, W. Jones, M. Rangitonga, J. Trowbridge; In Front: W. Mellow, S. Mune.



**1968 Primer 2 and 3.** Back Row: Miss Judith Brown, Bruce Warren, Peter Burrows, Wayne Riddick, Steven Nicholas, David Kuriger, Leslie Rutledge, Richard Lay, Peter Burrows; Middle: Alan Cowper, Colin Koch, Unknown, Craig Nicholas, Alan Watts, Glenn Muir, Maxwell Murray; Front Row: Keitha Alsop, Sharron Buckthought, Lois Black, Michelle Leeman, Stephanie Cook, Catherine Law, Julie Trowbridge, Melanie Guy, Shona Rangitonga, Lani Rangitonga.



**1970 Standard 1.** Back Row: T. Bridgeman, P. Gilbanks, G. Muir, M. Murray, D. Kuriger, C. Nicholas, L. Rutledge, R. Lay; Middle Row: W. Wisniewski, S. Burrows, P. Large, P. Gilbanks, S. Blake, M. Taura, G. Eliason, G. Campbell, B. McDonald, Mrs B. Arbuckle; Front Row: S. Alsop, J. Lashford, K. White, S. Goodwin, S. Rangitonga, S. Buckthought, C. Spring, R. Rutledge, Y. Koch, J. Koch.



1970 Standard 2 and 3. Miss Donaldson. Back Row: Unknown, Robert Gut, Ross Gundeson, Alan Millin, Peter Burrows, Steven Nicholas; Row 2: Alec Nicholls, Colin Koch, Wayne Riddick, Alan Cowper, Unknown, Peter Burrows, Alan Watts, Kerry Coulton, Bruce Warren; Row 3: Unknown, Leonie Harrison, Raewyn Bills, Lynne Rowe, Stephanie Cook, Catherine Hartley, Marilyn Brunold, Catherine Law; Row 4: Keitha Alsop, Lyn Espiner, Gail Wells, Mellow, Michelle Leeman, Julie Trowbridge, Derryn McDonald, Wendy Mellow, Lani Rangitonga.



1970 Standard 3 and 4. Back Row: G. Tonks, J. Rutledge, G. Bills, R. Nicholas, B. Mangino, W. Cowper, D. Horn, N. Budkithought; Third Row: G. Shore, R. Gundesen, T. Stratton, M. Muir, N. Greenbank, A. Butler, P. Yarrows, G. Nicholas, M. Koch, G. Mackie; Secon Row: K. Burrows, S. Leeman, A. Campbell, A. Law, H. Harris, J. Eliason, E. Law, D. Gilbanks, V. Campbell, J. tonks, M. Coulton, Mr D. Laird; Front Row: D. Nicholas, E. West, D. Lashford, D. Rangitonga, M. Rangitonga, R. Eliason, J. Weel, K. Eliason, T. Blinkhorne, J. Lay.



1971 Primer 1 and 2. Mrs J. Thompson. Back Row: B. Koch, P. Grantham, G. Hughes, A. Padrutt, N. Warren, R. Stark, D. Lilly; Middle Row: D. Murray, M. Eliason, B. Lines, B. Goodwin, P. Gibson, R. Kirk, B. Nicholas; Front Row: S. McDonald, M. Gaby, J. Dixon, A. Wilson, L. Watts, Unknown, S. Alsop.



1975. Back Row: G. Watt, D. Hollard, G. Murray, Unknown, D. Eliason, J. Robinson, S. Cuthbert, C. Lines, J. Leeman, C. Nokes; Middle Row: Mrs J. Thompson, J. Weel, J. Gut, L. Poppe, L. Wharepapa, J. Coates, S. Long, K. Leeman, D. Taylor, J. Tait; Front Row: K. Holmes, T. Omunsden, W. Robinson, R. Hughes, T. Tanga, C. Stark, A. Stewart, C. Armstrong, R. Law, R. Law.



1977 Room 6. Back Row: A. Padrutt, M. Stewart, R. Rudduck, M. Martin, R. Kirk, B. Lines, R. Stark, G. Wisnewski; Third Row: J. Nicholson, P. Grantham, D. O'Connor, M. Goodwin, P. Gibson, B. Nicholas, R. Cleland, G. Armstrong; Second Row: G. Hughes, W. Tanga, M. Eliason, C. Davis, B. Holmes, D. Murray, A. Tokataua, B. Koch, Mr S. Noonan; Front Row: L. Armstrong, S. McDonald, G. Wharepapa, Unknown, L. Watts, J. Lines, H. Law, J. Gut.

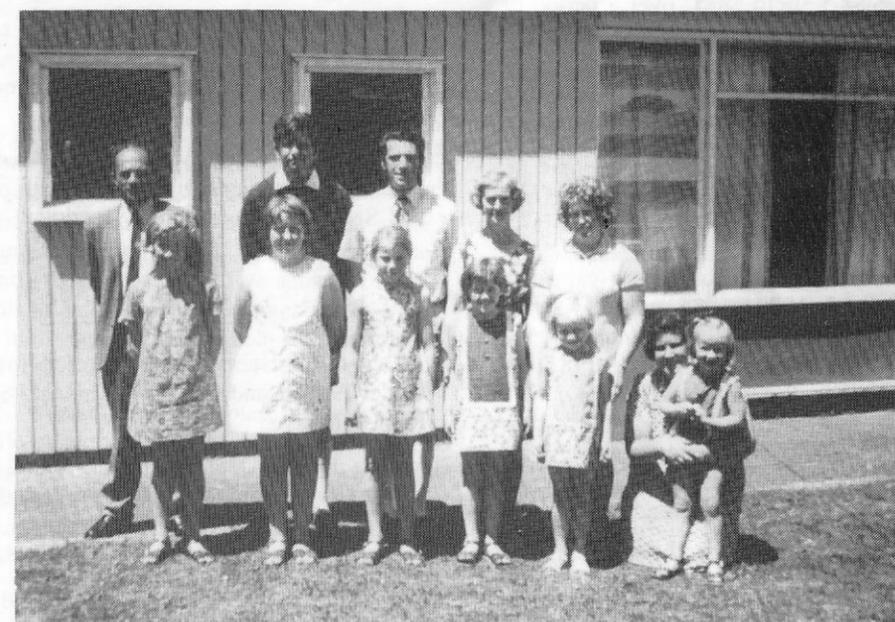


1980 Room 5. Back Row: A. Peters, B. Kirk, N. Harding, K. Lines; Middle Row: Mr J. Rutledge, B. Eliason, A. Doolan, D. Wharepapa, D. Bellve, B. Cowper, J. Spring; Front Row: T. Eliason, K. Bevins, C. Long, S. Hopkinson, A. Yateman.



Three sets of twins in the Junior Room – The Laws', the Leemans', and the Padrutts' with Mrs J. Thompson.

Junior Choir at Hawera Competitions.



A Roll Booster! A Law girl in each class – 1971.



Karen Oakes presenting a bouquet to Lady Fergusson, wife of the Governor General at Kaponga, July 1963.

# Sporting Achievements by Former and Present Pupils

## RUGBY

IAN ELIASON: On September 26, 1972, the town of Kaponga became alive with the announcement that their favourite son "Legs" Eliason had been selected to tour with the All Blacks to the British Isles. Born and bred in Kaponga, Ian has lived on the same home farm on the Palmer Road all his life. He brought honour to the Kaponga Primary School, when as a Taranaki primary representative he won the Alf Bayly Memorial Scholarship for most outstanding primary school player.

He first represented Taranaki in 1964 as a raw young 13½ stone 6'4" lock. Since then he has continuously represented his province, until 1981, over a period of 17 seasons and 223 matches for Taranaki to his credit. This is a New Zealand record for appearances by any player in New Zealand for the same province. During his long and distinguished career he has represented Taranaki against international teams from 10 countries. His entire representative career has been as lock forward, where he was the number one choice for the Taranaki representative team.

At 28 years of age he played his 100th game for Taranaki, in 1974, then in 1980 as a 35 year old veteran, played his 200th game for Taranaki, far and away the most by any player for this province. In 1981 the Taranaki Rugby Football Union gave him a life membership, the first person to receive this honour solely on the strength of his playing record. All of Taranaki's previous life members having been honoured because of their service to the Union as administrators.

In 1982 he commenced assisting the sport that he had enjoyed so much over the years, by coaching the Kaponga Senior club team in its Jubilee year.

Other Pupils to gain representative honours at various levels were:

Dennis Wards - Taranaki Half back from 1964 - 1974 playing 96 games for Taranaki.

Donald Oakes, Graeme Mackie, Grant Mackie, Kerry Eynon, Peter Blinkhorne all played Primary Representative grade. Philip Morgan was selected as a Junior Rugby Representative.

Peter Eliason played Secondary and Colts Rep. Rugby.

Mark Robinson, Primary & Secondary Rep.

Blair Robinson. Primary and Under 16 Rep.

Chris Robinson, Primary and Secondary Rep.

Grant Robinson, Under 16 Rep.

## NETBALL

Karen and Jenny Eliason were both Primary, Secondary, Taranaki and Manawatu Representatives. Karen is also a N.Z. Netball Umpire. Deanne Wards and Alena Hancock were Primary Reps.

## ATHLETICS

Karen and Jenny Eliason represented Taranaki and West Coast N.I. Jenny is a N.Z. Title Holder for Womens 200 metres.

Derryn Christiansen Taranaki Javelin Rep.

Karen Oakes - Taranaki, North Island and N.Z. Secondary Schools Rep. Karen also holds many titles and records to her credit over her athletic career. She is at present involved in the administration side of athletics in Taranaki.

## CRICKET

Peter Eliason was selected for Secondary, Taranaki and Central Districts Colts teams.

Mark Robinson also played Rep Cricket at various levels. Gregory and Paul Hughes both played Primary and Secondary Representative cricket.

## SOCCER

Derryn Christensen was selected for the Taranaki Under 19 team and was also a Taranaki Senior Womens Representative.

Also Joseph Denton, Griffen Hope, Corey Rielly, Regan Garrett, Brendon Johnston, Jarred Holmes, John Beare, Toby Hope, all played primary representative soccer for the Egmont Football Association.

## HOCKEY

S. H. (STAN) BETTS. Born in his family home, on Egmont Street Kaponga, Stan Betts must rate as one of Kaponga's most distinguished sportsmen, excelling in both Cricket and Hockey. Young Stan had cricket in his blood. His father, the late C.E. Betts who owned the grain store and later a cycle shop, was a former Taranaki Representative, playing for the province in 1897 - 99. His memory is perpetuated in the Betts Memorial Trophy - symbol of Taranaki Club supremacy. Stan, and his older brother Vern were encouraged to put bat to ball and spent many hours practising cricket and hockey in the upstairs section of the grain store.

In 1923 at the age of twelve, Stan played his first game of senior cricket for Kaponga, and as he grew up and employment opportunities changed, he played club cricket for Okaiawa. Power Board based in Hawera, Waitara and back to Kaponga. In 1927 he represented South Taranaki and then was a continuous member of the Taranaki team from 1929 to 1939 when he was called away on active service.

He again represented Taranaki on his return from the War, from 1946 to 1950. Before one game for Taranaki against Wanganui Stan's boss at the Kaponga Power Board, Arthur Anderson, took a bet with local doctor, Jim Gray, that young Stan would score a Century in the match. Stan scored 115 and as a souvenir, they gave him the B.N.Z. Kaponga Branch cheque for 2/-, dated 18 December, 1931.

He represented the country team, which was the predecessor of the now Central Districts team, in 1932, 33, 34, 34 and 1938.

His record with bat and ball speaks for itself, a right hand open force fulbat, he scored a total of 32 club centuries in his career, 18 of them not out, and 19 of them for the Kaponga Club. He also scored eight representative 100's.

In 1934 he opened with Bob Jefcoate for Kaponga against Patea scoring an opening partnership of 250 fornil declared. A record which still stands in Taranaki club cricket today.

In 1933 - 34 season he scored 1200 runs, in 1938 - 39, 1319 runs, including 1037 for Kaponga at an average of 74, involving six centuries.

Many times he got a bag of five wickets, on three occasions obtaining a hatrick. His club average in 1938 - 39 was 66 wickets at an average of 5.3 runs per wicket. Possibly his best match performances were 1934 for Taranaki versus Nelson, in a Hawke game where he scored 101 runs and took five wickets for 95, and 1949 versus Rangatikei where he captured five for 24 in the first innings and a remarkable seven wickets for 11 runs in the second innings.

OVERSEAS War service interrupted his provincial career but while on active service he represented N.Z. services against Australia at Maadi in Egypt where he got the top score for the N.Z. team, against an Australian team which included four internationals, and against Aldershot Command in England in 1940.

He tells of being called on to bowl by his skipper and after being despatched to the boundary for four off his first ball, turned to the Umpire and asked "Who is the chap at the other end?" "Hey lad, don't you know, yon is England open bat." A little later in the match he was dealt the same treatment by another Englishman, and again addressed the same remark to the umpire, the reply being, "Aye lad, yon be England Captain." Against this team which included three full internationals, Betts procured a match bag of six wickets for 59.

While serving in El Alamein, as Captain of a Transport Workshop Division, he was awarded the

"M.B.E.", his military citation states "For valour in recovery operations of disabled vehicles from minefield areas."

In 1950 he was selected as one of the three Taranaki summer sportsmen of the season, with a lady tennis player and Empire Games Wrestler. His club record of having played in the Taranaki club Championships' team on five occasions speaks for itself, they were Okaiawa 1926 - 27 as a young 17 year old, Kaponga 1934 - 35, Power Board 1938 - 39, Waitara 1946 - 47 and Kaponga 1949- 50. He was actively associated with the Taranaki cricket for 37 years.

He has involved himself with administration duties, at various times being North Taranaki Selector, South Taranaki selector, and Taranaki selector. He also served a term as Taranaki President and on the Taranaki executive.

## HOCKEY

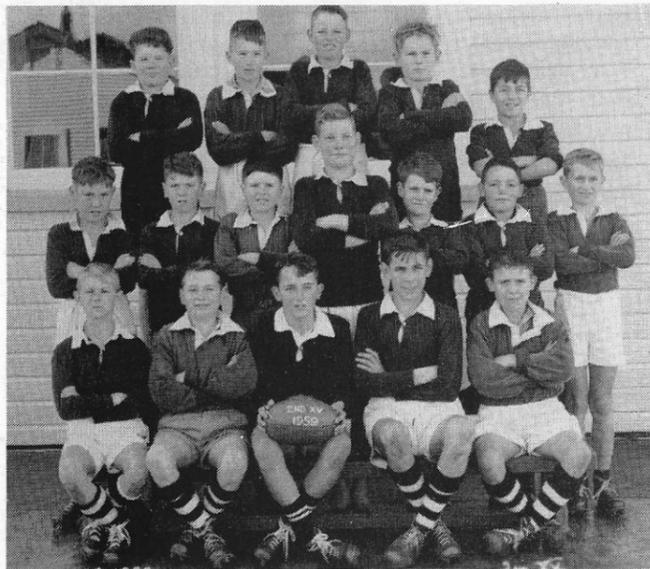
His hockey career, even more distinguished, started with the belting the ball to his brother Vern upstairs in the grain store. At the age of 14 years, he was playing senior hockey and as a 16 year old represented Taranaki at Senior level. He was a consistent member of the Taranaki team until he was called to active service overseas. He and his brother were keen members of the unbeaten Kaponga club of the early 1930's which won a string of Taranaki championships.

Other former pupils to gain representative honours at Provincial, Secondary and Primary School levels were: Vern Betts, Bill Barleyman, Ken Albon, Bennie Bros, Colin Campbell, James Dunlop, Clive, Don, and Colin Burrows, Alec Wright, Don and Maurice Betts, Geoff Harding, Terence and David Hollard, Brian and Melvin Rowe, Colin Koch, Peter Burrows, Darren and Andrew Murray, Graeme, Murray, Brent and David Eliason, Herbert and Robbie Ngaia, Brian Koch, Heni and Alistair Tokotaua. Michael, Glen and Graeme Armstrong.

Vern Betts was a North Island trialist, Geoff Harding a North Island Colt, Colin Koch was awarded Colt of the year in 1981, David Eliason a N.Z. Army Representative in 1988 -89 - 90 - 91. In 1991 David was also named in the Combined Services team, which is no mean feat. Graeme Armstrong also represented N.Z. Army in the early 1980's.

Women to gain representative honours were Eila Hollard who played for Taranaki Womens A team, later also played for Auckland Women. Elizabeth Law, Jennifer Burrows and Ruth Kirk.

**Sporting photographs are on**  
**Pages 48 and 56**



**1901-1920**  
*Back Row: William Bartlett, William Hayward, Muriel Cuff (Evans), Phyllis Small (Knight), Annie Bole (Prestidge), Myra Slater (Harding) Elsie Hollard (Harding), Hilda Talbot (Guy); Front Row: Bernard Hammersley, Edith Webby (Martin), Evelyn Dryden (Morns), Ivy Johnson (Pitcher), Myrtle Mirfin (McKay), Rita Ramsay (Robertson) Jean Betts (Guy), Stanley Betts, Herbert Harris.*

**1921-1930**  
*Back Row: Tom Abbott, Ian Brewer, John West, Leo Carrington, Charles Norgate, Maurice Thurston, Vern Evans, Archie White; 3rd Row: Ken Ham, Des Evans, Jim Burrows, Peter Norgate, Keith Scott, Peter Bertie, Graham Dawson, Donald Hatcher, James (Roe) Dawson; 2nd Row: Bertrand Cook, Gladys Kyle (Scott), Phyllis Austin (Harding), Florence Lauder, Joyce Cursons (Scott), Marjorie Diprose (Prestidge), June Mortland (Thurston), Joan Thurston (Betts) Gladys Spedding, Irene Walker (Brewer), Elsie Coull (Tattersall), Joan Parsons (Brewer), Vi Tait (Fever); Front Row: Marjorie Cheyne (Cook), Margaret Roebuck (Williams), Dawson Davey, Iris Hayman (Cossey) Rita Batten (Cossey), Joan Law, Norah Roberts (Jackson), Lucy Bonner (Hatcher), Ken Albion, John Harding, Jean Harvey (Bickford).*

