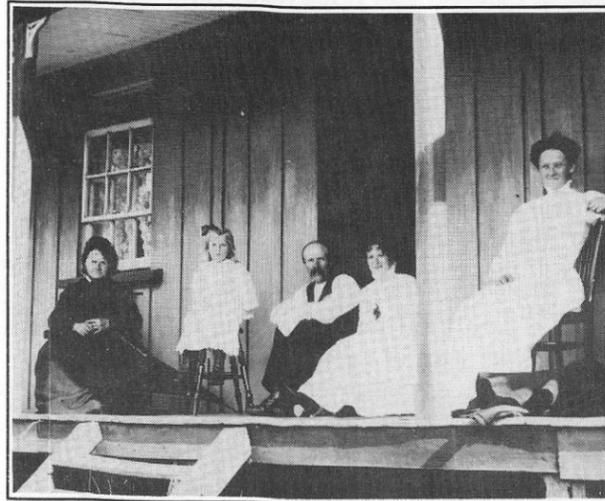


In May, 1878, the Reverend P Walsh on behalf of the settlers of Tikorangi at a public meeting claimed 60 pounds for the old building appropriated by the Board for a school. This building, it was claimed, had been given to the settlers by the Superintendent of the Province for the purpose of Public Worship and instruction, and the settlers had expended that sum on it.



The West Family

In July, 1878, the Inspector drew the Board's attention to the smallness of the building for the growing attendance, and suggested "the boys and girls be separated, and a male teacher appointed." Tenders were called for a new building and that of Matthew Jones was accepted. By October, 1879, the new building was ready for occupation.

The attendance had risen in the meantime to 53, and Miss Emily George resigned and married Mr Stockman. Mr R. Morgan accepted the position of head teacher, subject to a house being provided, and the school suitably equipped. Miss Mace was appointed his assistant.

The Board reported to the Hon. Minister for the year ending 31st December, 1879:

"A new schoolhouse has been erected at Tikorangi to accommodate 100 pupils at the total cost of 460 pounds 17shillings and 6 pence and the old schoolhouse has been resited and converted into a teacher's residence at the cost of 98 pounds."

This new school building consisted of one long room, 45 feet by 20 feet, with a small porch at either end. Heating was provided by an open fireplace, with a tall brick chimney on the north-easterly wall. Windows were set high, in the



Tikorangi School photograph, 8th January, 1918.

Teachers - (on right) Mr I. M. West, (on left) Miss Gladys Williams.

Left to right - back row: Will Alexander, Roy Griffiths, Darcy Foreman, Arthur Foreman, Ern Foreman, Roy Jury, Arthur Foreman, Bert Foreman, Ron Foreman, Winnie Carrick, Lilian Faull, Kath O'Carroll, Beryl West, Kathleen Faull, Nina West.

Middle Row: Alf Furze, Tom Jury, Oscar Foreman, Cliff Rae, Howard Furze, Eileen O'Carroll, Keith Vickery, Norene Loveridge, Vincent Symes, Jack Corbett, Una Whitehead, Reg Furze, Gladys Diffey, Ethel Sarten, Mildred Alleman, Freda Cleaver, Hilda Carrick, Nora Jury, Rita Griffiths, Hilda Foreman, Alice Paul, Francys Andrews, Gladys Wills.

Front row: Edgar Jury, John Riddle, A. R. (Bill) Hicks, Wilfred Faull, Ila Soffe, Laurie Symes (at back), Felix Jury, Thelma Rae, Hazel Marsh, Irene Foreman, Esther Jury, Freda Furze, Daisy Paul, Nina Furze.

fashion of the day. The floor rose in tiers to the back of the room.

Mr Morgan taught in this school for almost ten years during which time he was assisted by Miss Mace, Miss McGonagle, Mrs E. Stockman (Miss George) and then Miss Alice Faull.

In 1888 Mr Fred W. Young followed Mr Morgan and this well-loved gentleman taught the children of the district for the next ten years, followed by Hubert Hine, and A.S. Hicks, and then Miss Alice Faull once again.

During subsequent years, there were constant requests for improvements, adjustments and repairs to the school and residence. Extensions were made to the porches, and two wood burning stoves replaced the old open smoky fireplace. Lavatories and water supply, too, were a source of complaint and worry; in fact Tikorangi School had three diphtheria epidemics.

Following Mr Young, the position of head teacher was held by Miss Tuck, Messrs C. Patrick, R. Thomas and E. Clarke, until 1904 when Mr Isaac Moody West was appointed as head teacher, and he remained in that position for almost 20 years.

One of the first papers on the Department files records an application signed by Mr P.S. Whitcombe, Secretary of the Taranaki Education Board, dated 1st May, 1908, for a grant of £425 to build a new school residence to replace the one provided in 1880 when the second school was erected. This building had been condemned by the board's architect and the application was endorsed by the Inspector of Schools of that day, Mr W.A. Ballantyne. The number of children at the school then was 52. Mr Henry Faull, a member of the Board, also wrote in support of the application, His letter states:

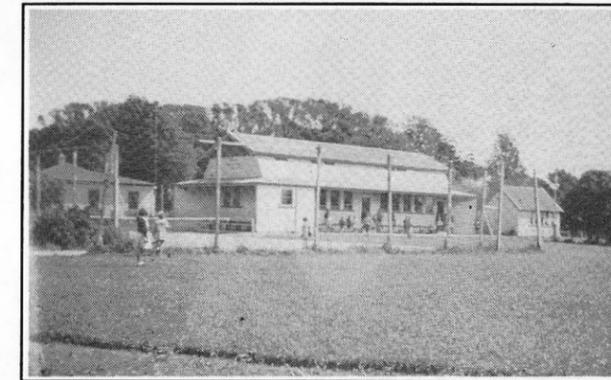
"This residence was built in the year 1862 as a refuge for the settlers of New Plymouth during the trouble with the Maoris. In the year 1867 it was given to the settlers of Tikorangi on condition that it was re-erected on the chosen site and used as a school.

These conditions were complied with. It was later used as a redoubt by the forces after the White Cliffs affair and then again as a schoolroom. It was later moved to its present site and used at first as a school house and then in 1880 as the teacher's residence. In that year it was fitted up by the Board as a residence and since that time the Board has made additions and expensive repairs. This building is therefore 45-46 years of age and so very expensive, and extensive repairs are so necessary that it would be better to erect a new residence, than to spend money on an old decayed, worm-eaten building thereby necessitating continuous repairs and expense."

A grant of 400 pounds for a new house was approved and in December, 1908, the Board advised that the work was completed and the teacher in residence. In 1912 when the number of pupils

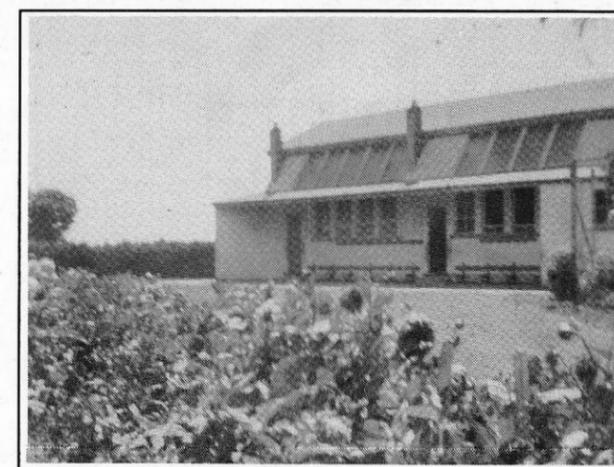
had increased to 75, alterations to the one classroom school were carried out at a cost of 75 pounds. The old 45ft by 20ft classroom was divided into two, the tiers removed, and the lighting improved.

In 1923 Mr West resigned and was followed in turn by Mr James Jack, Miss Annabelle Date, Mr Arthur Palmer and Mr William Metcalf.



School lying east-west, 1946.

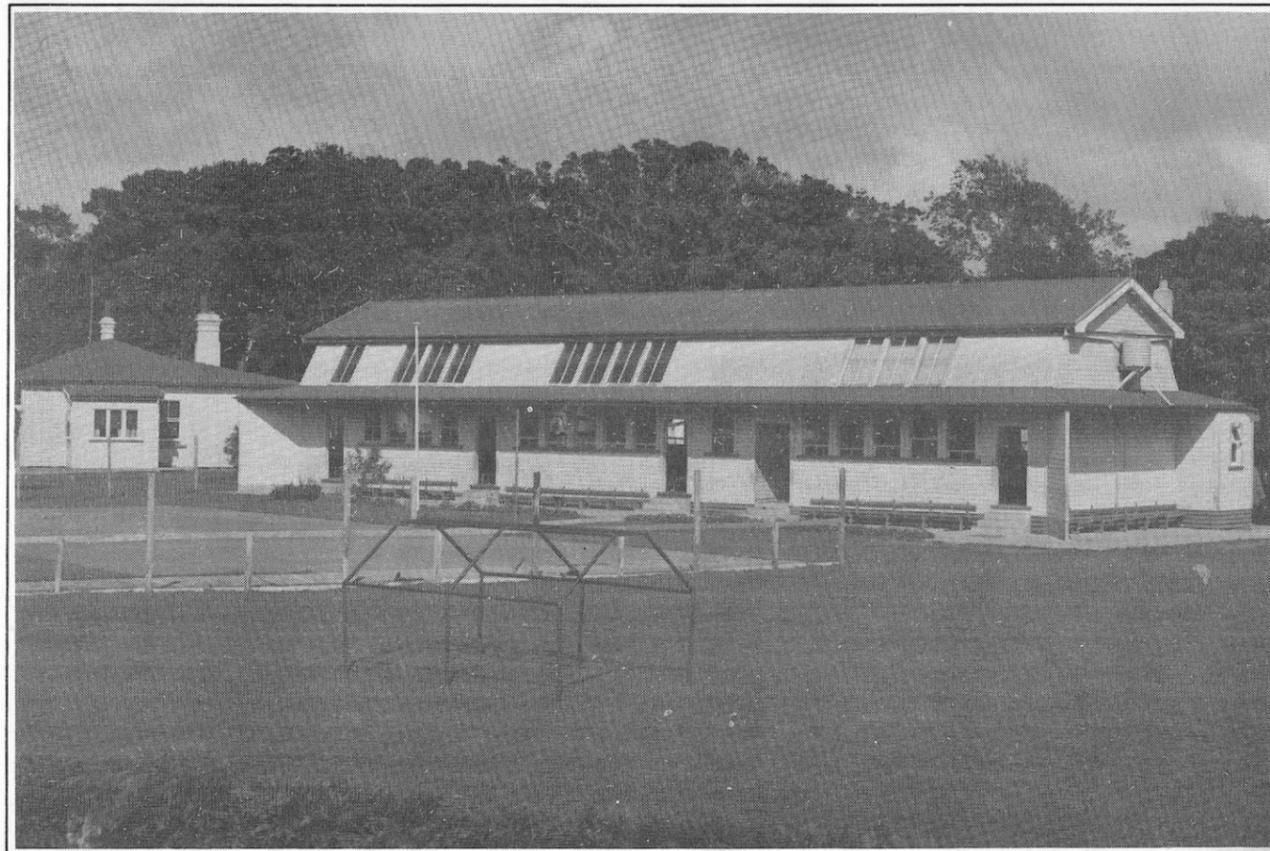
During the year 1928 the Minister of Education, the Hon. R.A. Wright, approved a grant of 80 pounds to extend the site of one acre by purchasing an acre of adjoining land from Mrs A. Lye. In 1928, too, the School committee wrote to the Board, pointing out that the school building was one the oldest two roomed buildings in Taranaki, and was in fact quite obsolete as a school. Mr W Faull, Secretary at that time, made out a very good case in appealing to the board to provide a more modern building. Consequently in March, 1929, the Minister, the Hon. Harry At more, received a deputation from the Tikorangi School Committee led by the late Mr J.H. Allen as Chairman. They urged that a new school be provided as quickly as possible. The old school was declared to be in such a dilapidated condition that it was not worth remodelling. This proposal was held up through lack of funds, but in October, 1929, Cabinet approved a grant of 1075 pounds to enable a new two-roomed fresh air type school to be built. Work on the new building commenced at once, and the new school was opened in February, 1930.



Back of the school, 1946

1934 saw the arrival of Mr W. Anderson as head teacher, and his stay at the school was noteworthy in that the Boys' and Girls' Club began to play an active part in the life of the school. In 1930 the attendance rose to 85 and the new school became badly overcrowded. A movable classroom was brought in from Newall Road to relieve the congestion. This room proved inadequate, and when the Waiiau School closed several of the Waiiau children found their way to Tikorangi and made the accommodation burden heavier. In order to provide the accommodation for this increasing roll it became necessary in 1936 to rent a room at the Tikorangi Hall at a cost of 10/- per week. This room proved to be an unsatisfactory schoolroom and a rent of 60 pounds was therefore authorised to cover the cost estimated to shift an unused classroom from Albert Road (where it was no longer required) to Tikorangi. This room later became known as the G.P. room, was resited at the rear of the school grounds and used as a projector room, a storage room, and in the early 1980's as a home for the playgroup and now, in its remodelled form, as a playcentre.

In June 1948, Cabinet approved a rent of £3077 to enable the existing building to be turned around so as to improve the lighting - and to increase the amount of sunlight in the rooms. The subsidiary accommodation was improved at the same time, and a third classroom was added so as to provide a suitable separate room for each of the three teachers.



Early 1950's after turning school — 1948 addition shows in paintwork.

1954 saw an attempt to once again extend the playing area of the school. A further area of slightly more than an acre was purchased from Mr Ken Lye. This area was in standing bush and was a well-known spot in the Waitara area. It was with no small amount of regret that the decision was made to sacrifice this native bush to playground extension. In the year 1956 a concerted effort was made by the residents under the guidance of the School Committee, and the area was cleared of bush and brought in as a very welcome extension of the grassed area. The playing fields of the school have now reached adequate proportion and should cater for the needs of the children for many years to come. For the first time in the life of the school, the children had sufficient room for active out-of-doors occupations.

In January of 1957 the Department granted a sum of £3900 for the erection of a new teacher's residence to replace the old one which needed extensive repairs and which, because of the position it was placed in with the extension of the new ground, had to be moved to another site. The new building was erected at the end of the new area and was completed and occupied in October, 1957. The old residence was then sold for removal and was purchased by an ex-pupil who had it removed to his farm as a worker's cottage. Within a week of its being sold it was moved en masse and the area cleaned up ready for grassing.

While the contractors were on the job removing the old residence the opportunity was grasped,



School, 1957

with the Board's approval, to resite the remaining buildings which had surrounded the old residence. The bicycle shed was moved to a handier position near the main gate, the G.P. room placed out of the way in a corner and the tool shed positioned beside it. These removals opened up the school grounds in to one large unencumbered playing field.

Also during 1957 a decision was made to erect the school learner's swimming pool. The district rose to the occasion with money and labour and the project was completed in December. The

baths have been sited on the sunny side of the school, and were officially opened during the 1958 Jubilee celebrations. The cost of the baths was in the vicinity of £1250.

Quite a considerable sum of money has been donated or collected from time to time to cover the cost of additional amenities to bring the school up to modern standards, and, in all these ventures, the school has never lacked sympathetic and encouraging support from the district.

Further school history can be found in the school log and extracts from the school minutes.

# FROM THE SCHOOL LOG

1920- May 3rd — School closed for Prince for Prince of Wales' visit to New Plymouth.

1921- February 1st — School has been scrubbed, but it is not done as well as it used to be although the same person is doing it. August 10th: Boys went to Waitara today to manual classes. This is the second time that they have found no class was to be held.

1924- February 18th — Dr. E. Gunn visited the school today. Many absent. Dr. Gunn's visit was responsible for this poor attendance. The parents are evidently not in sympathy with the medical inspection of schools and many of them keep their children home on the day of the doctor's visit.

1925- April 20th — Infantile Paralysis restrictions lifted and school is opened for the first time this year.

June 12th — Spent two pound ten shillings - and started a school library.

1928- June 15th — Doris Jupp and Gilbert Beaven obtained the Championship in Long Red and Prizewinner Mangold roots at the Winter Show.

1931- November 2nd — Mr. D. Mackey, Agricultural Instructor, spent the afternoon at the school discussing garden plots and calf rearing. The Chairman of the School Committee (Mr. T. Hine) and the local supervisor (Mr. C. H. Allen) also attended and supported the movement. Daily Press reported that Tikorangi (53.5 points) came second to Egmont Village (54 points) in the Henry Lane Shield for Agriculture.

December 4th — Victor Foreman selected as Captain of North Taranaki's School Cricket team. Sent a working party of senior boys to T. Tamiti's plot. Tim has not yet begun to dig and the seeds should have been sown by now.

December 16th: Final Calf Judging at Waiwakaiho. First Friesian Condition, Sydney Soffe; First Friesian Type, Victor Foreman; First Grade Jersey Condition, Roy Hicks. Probably a record for these competitions.

1932- June 22nd — Douglas Hills and Roy Hicks selected to play for North Taranaki Primary Rugby representatives.

November 28th — Bring and Buy lunch today

raised one guinea for the Junior Red Cross.

1933- March 12 — School closed for sports. Tikorangi won both shield and cup. A unique performance. Rex Dowding, Senior Champ; Jack Alexander, Junior Champ.

September 8th — School opened after holidays to find much work done on school grounds. Grounds ploughed, tennis courts fenced, flower beds dug, a rockery made and trees planted along the road frontage.

1934- April 9th — Mr. A. Soffe, Mr. T. Hine and Mr. L. Lye worked on potato patch with disc and chain harrows. Mr Soffe put 25lb. seed into area so as to form a good playing area.

August 10th — Tikorangi won the Country Schools' Football Shield.

September 28th — Tikorangi presented with the Trimble Shield for excellence in agriculture work.

November 5th — Power installed in school and residence. Electric pump and bicycle shed erected.

December 7th — Boyd Beaven selected to paly in North Taranaki Schoolboys' cricket team against South Taranaki.

1935- December 3rd: — Field Day held. Cow Judging winner was Myra Bennetts with Dorothy Hine and Sylvia Bennetts equal second. Laurice Jury won the Allen Cup for the best reared calf.

December 18th — Attended Field Day at New Plymouth. Tikorangi was presented with the Henry Lane Shield. The School was quite successful in the competitions.

1936- November 11th — Mr. Geo. Buckeridge, of Hawera, founder of the Boys' and Girls' Club movement in Taranaki, visited the School and gave an address.

1937- May 12th — Coronation Day. Mr. Hine addressed the children on the significance of the occasion. He then planted an oak tree assisted by Doris Lye and J... Ritchie, senior pupils.

1938- December 2nd — Mr Valentine, Chairman of the Taranaki Education Board, opened the A.

and P. Show organised entirely by the children. An excellent event.

1939- April 3rd — The Boys' and Girls' Club voted five pound towards a film strip projector.

1942- February 24th — Boys' and Girls' Club voted ten pound towards cost of motor mower. A poker-work machine also bought.

1943- April 30th — Leaving for Wellington tomorrow with a party of nineteen children who are to make a broadcast on Club work from 2YA and also to have a week's educational tour.

December 4th — Party of 18 children from Wellington visited the school for a week. Minister of Education, Hon. H. G. R. Mason, arrived to open the school show.

1945- February 5th — Conveyance service to Otoraoa Road commenced. Eight pupils carried.

May 3rd — School closed early for the holidays on account of the surrender of the Germans, in Italy.

August 14th — V-J Day. School closed.

1950- June 22nd — A sound film projector purchased by school. Also a Jungle Gym was purchased.

December 5th — J. Magee won boys' singles and J. Magee and D. Jury won boys' doubles at Primary Schools' Tennis Tournament.

1951- May 2nd — Pressure pump water supply system installed.

1952- February 11th — Listened to Proclamation of Accession of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II.

1953- April 29th — Coronation Ceremony conducted and souvenir folders issued to all children. A church service was held in St. Luke's Church after which a New Zealand cedar was planted by Bruce Andrews, Jim Holmes, Betty Andrews and Ruth King in the church grounds.

1955- May 13th — Mr. Roy Griffiths commenced removing trees from new area purchased from Mr. Ken Lye.

1956- June 14th — New radio amplifier and sound system installed throughout school. Fifty pound spent on library improvements.

September 20th — Large working bee held to clear bush and bring in new area as a playground.

1957- February 22nd — Bob Hills, an old boy of the school, started building new teacher's residence.

June 18th — Baths and filter scheme put into operation.

July 23rd — Twelve Tikorangi girls selected to play Waitara Primary Schools' Basketball Reps. The school team met with outstanding success during the season. Semi-finalists in Knuckey Shield Competition, Senior grade. Winners of Waitara Primary Schools' winter tournament. Winners of Inter-Primary Schools' Competition, Waitara zone. Winners of Waitara Division Junior competition. Alison Jupp, Leonce Foreman and Shirley Bunyan selected for North Taranaki Representatives. Alison Jupp and Leonce Foreman selected for Taranaki Primary School Basketball Reps. to play against Wanganui.

5/4/58 — Jubilee Celebrations commence. Roll Call and official welcome 1,000 present including 460 ex-pupils. Two trees planted.

6/4/58 — Church Service held in school grounds. Attended by 400.

7/4/58 — The gala parade of ex-pupils followed by 35 floats and viewed by 2,500 people. Ball held in evening.

April 1958 — Anzac service in school grounds.

May 1958 — Roll 93. Polio injections. All school pupils had received vaccinations. Mr Keen selected to spend one year in Great Britain to "make a review of the method of teaching English and to study the modern text books in use there".

June 1958 — Two school basketball teams travel to Hawera to compete in the Knuckey Shield competitions. Tikorangi won the Knuckey Shield.

August 1958 — Leonce Foreman and Vivienne Jupp selected to play for North Taranaki Primary School Basketball Representatives. Mr Keen is accepted for exchange in Britain and leaves 24/10/58. Mr Heaslip takes up duties as relieving head teacher, Mrs Heaslip as relieving assistant.

June 1958 — Mr T. Surrey has completed and donated a film record set to the school. Three films include the Jubilee, Baths and buildings. The senior basketball (netball) team returned home from the inter-primary tournament in Hawera with the Knuckey Shield.

July 1958 — Sydney Lyes severely injured his knee on a partly exposed brick while playing on the new grounds. He was hospitalised.

August 1958 — An increase from six pence to one shilling per day to the boy's who light the school fires was granted. 30 pounds granted for new library books.



Lynne Julian and Michael O'Carroll plant a Miro tree.



September 1958—Decided to purchase activity bars for playground use. The committee could not grant permission for the pupils to be carried on trucks (to school sports fixtures etc.)

October 1958—Mr Keen leaves for Britain.

November 1958—Schools memorial gates close to completion - opening date 14 December 1958.

December 1958 —Archdeacon Gavin dedicated and unveiled the schools memorial gates. End



Tikorangi Basketball Team, 1957

of year concert - standing room only!. Half the programme by Home and School Association and half organised by pupils.

February 1959—STAFF Mr Ridgeway, Mr P and Mrs Heaslip. With Mr Keen away it was necessary to install a telephone in the school.

March 1959—A letter from Home and School Association was stabled complaining about bus stopping places and timetable. A meeting ensued. Frontage pipes laid and area graded.

April 1959—Application for pedestrian crossing was declined by Transport Department. Anzac service held at memorial gates. New school committee: JD Alexander, KA Bint, JR Davidson, N F Jupp and T N Watson.

June 1959—Overloading of school bus resulted in children attending Catholic schools only being able to travel by bus from Tikorangi to Waitara.



July 1959—Boys and Girls Club organised Fancy Dress Ball to raise funds to purchase a Giant Strides playground equipment.

August 1959—Committee decided that all the records belonging to the school be kept at the Bank of New Zealand and the photo album be kept at the school. Committee sells old wooden gate to Church committee for ten shillings.

December 1959—Mr and Mrs Heaslip resigned for overseas travel. The playing area was closed for hay - to be sold to assist with payment of mowing scheme. Subsequently sold to N O Heppell. One and a half tonnes @ eight pounds per tonnes. Mr Ridgeway thanked for his interest in school and its affairs.

February 1960—Mr Keen returns. Roll 101. Mr and Mrs Domney junior room teachers. Mr E. Gall asked for school bus to be re-routed.

March 1960—Special meeting concluded "that this meeting is of the opinion to favour the religious teaching in this school."

April 1960—25 pounds was requested by Junior teachers for the purchase of remedial readers.

July 1960—Home and School Association suggested that school Committee build pipe seats and tables for children to sit at to have their lunches. Tables were ordered from Mr Roy Griffiths. One donated by the Home and School Association and the other by Mr Griffiths. Potability of well water was cleared for drinking by Health Inspector. 100% pure.

September 1960—Arrangements were made to clean the septic tank and bury the refuse. The workmen engaged to clear the tank, pump the refuse through the hedge in a direct line of the well. Result: water heavily polluted.

November 1960—Water cleared for swimming but not for drinking.

March 1961—85% of pupils able to swim.

April 1961—Biennial meeting of householders. It was noted that the previous three years had seen: baths built, jubilee organised and run, bush cleared, new school house and playing fields provided. Also noted that there was 12-13 pupils passing school gates to attend school in Waitara and if they were to attend Tikorangi the school would be eligible to a fourth teacher.

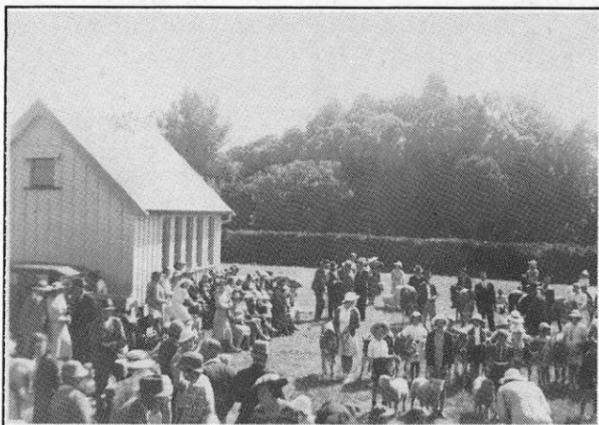
June 1961—A tape recorder was purchased from donated funds from Mr T Surrey and subsidy from Taranaki Education Board. Library resources added to with £50 subsidy from Board for Books and shelving from school committee.

August 1961—Mountain trip. School boy cricket initiated by Frank Jupp and Sid Soffe.

September 1961—Moves by committee to cut payment to boys for lighting fires as it is considered a duty that can be done without any payment. Percy Cole donated native trees to be planted in bush.

October 1961—Milk stand moved inside school

hedge and out of sun because milk deteriorated from sunrise to 10:30. Night lighting inadequate.



**November 1961**—Calf day judges asked to explain reasons for placings (first, second and third) in categories: Type, Condition and Leading.

**December 1961**—Pear's Cyclopaedia given to Form Two pupils on leaving for high school. One committee member said that he doesn't know how the school bus passed the Government inspection. He said he personally wouldn't ride on the bus and that the bus was not good enough for the carriage of children.

**February 1962**—Acting Headmaster L W Domney. Roll 85. STAFF Mrs S Bourke and Mrs N Domney.

**March 1962**—The tabloid sports was held at Tikorangi with the school winning the Tikorangi School Jubilee Shield in the mixed relay. Mrs Ruth Sarten relieving.

**April 1962**—Mr Ian Kerrison commenced on 30 March. STAFF Mr and Mrs Domney.

**June 1962**—Lack of classroom space lead to moves to sell the piano.

**August 1962**—Mr and Mrs Domney appointed to Whangamomona.

**September 1962**—Mr and Mrs G Gallagher appointed. Mr G Scholes, Road Traffic Instructor, showed films to all classes.

**February 1963**—STAFF Mr I B Kerrison, G Gallagher, Miss R F Parsons.



*Victorious 1962 interschool relay team: Penny Cole, Denise Ekdahl, Margaret Alexander, Paul Cole, Murray Soffe, Terry Heppell*

**March 1963**—Tikorangi retains inter-school relay shield.

**June 1963**—Visit of Sir Bernard Fergusson. His excellency was presented to Head Teachers of

Tikorangi and Motunui and their respective School Committee Chairmen. Sir Bernard addressed the children of both schools and started two short races between senior boys and girls of both schools. Two manuscripts were signed.

**February 1964**—STAFF Mr I B Kerrison, G Gallagher, Miss R F Parsons.

**June 1964**—Basketball teams return from Knuckey Shield Competition with a basketball as a prize.

**August 1964**—School play festival held in hall - packed to capacity with people standing. Primer room - one play involving all pupils, middle room - four plays, senior room - four plays.

**September 1964**—Home and School Association, Annual General Meeting elections. President Mrs H Meyer, Vice-President M J Vickery, Secretary Mrs I Rolfe. Committee Mesdames P Faull, P Bailey and Messrs C Peters, E Thorby and M Sarten.

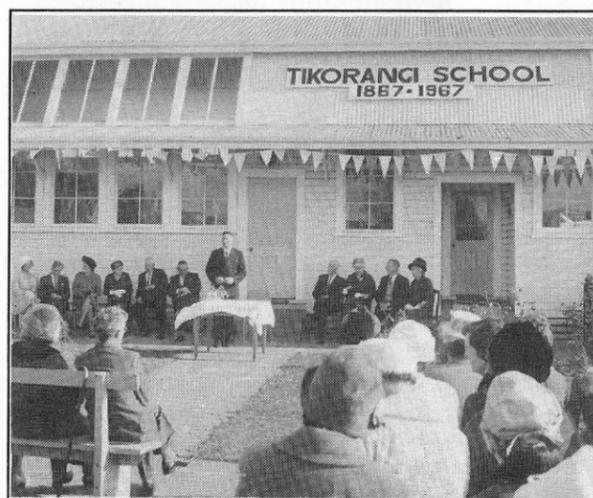
**December 1964**—Miss Parsons farewelled by parents and school committee. February 1965 Miss E Dymond takes up position as infant mistress.

**February 1966**—New toilet block construction underway at considerable inconvenience to operation of school.

**May 1966**—Mr I MacDonald visited school to examine candidates for gymnastic inventive awards, Bronze and Iron Medal Awards.

**July 1966**—Toilets opened for use. Whole building being painted.

**September 1966**—Roll 107. Toilets near completion.

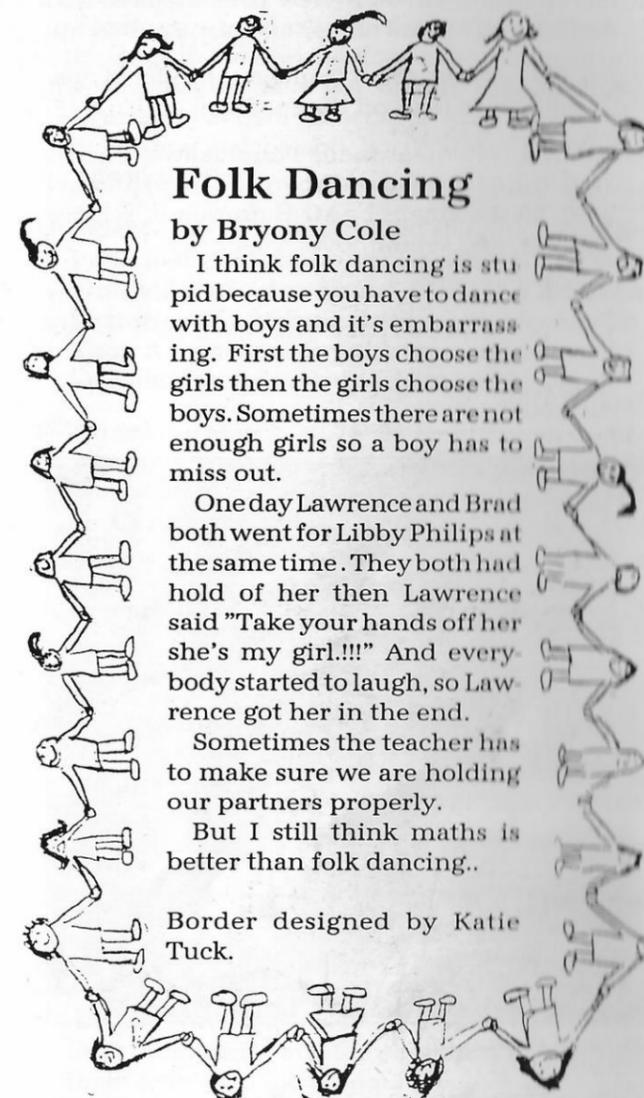


*Centenary Celebrations*

**May 1967**—Celebration of centenary of Tikorangi School.

**June 1967**—Mr Gallagher relinquishes position to become Head of Okoki School.

**September 1968**—Contractors for the remodeling of the school arrived today. Senior pupils received schooling in Tikorangi Hall.



## Folk Dancing

by Bryony Cole

I think folk dancing is stupid because you have to dance with boys and it's embarrassing. First the boys choose the girls then the girls choose the boys. Sometimes there are not enough girls so a boy has to miss out.

One day Lawrence and Brad both went for Libby Philips at the same time. They both had hold of her then Lawrence said "Take your hands off her she's my girl!!!!" And everybody started to laugh, so Lawrence got her in the end.

Sometimes the teacher has to make sure we are holding our partners properly.

But I still think maths is better than folk dancing..

Border designed by Katie Tuck.

**December 1968**—14 pupils (seven girls, seven boys) gave a display of folk dancing at the December meeting of Tikorangi Country Women's Institute. As a result four girls gained their Girl Guides Folk Dancing Badges.

**February 1969**—STAFF Mrs B Thompson, Mrs V Hastie and Mr I B Kerrison.

**May 1969**—Mrs I Vickery of Taupo donated a second piano.

**December 1969**—School provides choir and readers for carol service at St Lukes.

**February 1970**—Roll 81.

March 1970—School closed to allow parents and children to attend, at Brown Road Airport, the arrival of HM Queen Elizabeth and HRH Prince Philip.

July 1970—Rubella vaccination of all pupils.

Xmas Holidays 1970-71—New concrete area laid behind school and old tennis courts pulled up.

April 1971—New school frontage completed enabling cars to park off the roadway.

October 1971—Area under Pohutakawa, Purriri and Rimu between staffroom and road planted with 65 specimens by Mr Hammonds, science advisor, and senior boys.

April 1972—Roll 77. An open day for parents was held with at least one parent from each family in attendance, visiting classrooms. A normal timetable was carried out with audience participation.



Michael Gall

August 1972—Michael Gall selected as a primary school Taranaki Football representative. In the same year Lyall Smart makes the Taranaki Primary Soccer Rep. side.

February 1973—Roll 70.

March 1973—School swimming sports held in cold, inclement weather.

November 1973—Mrs K Shewry and junior room made education trip on the Blue Streak Railcar to Inglewood and then visited the Moa Dairy Factory. School regraded Grade Three - two teachers. Mr Kerrison goes onto dominion transfer list.

December 1973—Visit by Mr G Fryer Principal Manukorihi Intermediate to interview pupils and in evening talk to parents.

February 1974—Roll 52.

June 1974—Mr Kerrison transfers to Mangatoki School. Mr K Holmes relieves for four months. Comments "July wettest in fifty years."

## Wet, Wet Weather

by Marcus Sheerin

On Monday the 17th of August after school it was a wet day and there was puddles all over the place. That day Mrs Wills, one of the parents, came to talk to one of the teachers.

She managed to get half way up the front ramp but then she seemed to have slipped on a banana skin but she had slipped in a puddle so she went around the back because she had failed the first time.

It wasn't her day because she tripped on the ring around the fountain drain. She went up the ramp with a frustrated looking face about twenty minutes later she came still frustrated looking and she went and hopped in her car and raced down the road, went through the big puddle outside the gate and a tremendous tidal wave went smashing down on me and Tim and we got absolutely soaked.

August 1974—Sports versus Lepperton at Tikorangi.

Results: A Rugby Tikorangi 19 Lepperton 4  
B Rugby Tikorangi 16 Lepperton 4  
Netball Tikorangi 16 Lepperton 9

September 1974—Mr I Titter commences as Principal. Roll 56. Home and School Association meeting. President B Knofflock, Vice-President D Shreiber, Secretary Mrs Foreman, Committee Mrs Watson, Mrs Mahy, Mrs Jury, Mrs O'Carroll, Mrs Crofskey and Mr Webber.

November 1974—Form Two pupils interviewed by Mr Kivell, Principal of Waitara High School and Mr Court.

February 1975—Roll 37. Six children were stung by wasps while on a Science lesson about grasses. School well dry.

March 1975—Swimming sports a most successful afternoon. The Home and School Association Cups were won by: Girls-Catherine Hight, Boys-Richard Hight. Tanker load of water arrived to fill school tank.

April 1975—Home and School Association has commenced categorising the library books. Lex Jury offers to organise boys into 10-aside Saturday morning rugby with Clifton midgets.

May 1975—Mrs Sarten and Mrs O'Carroll gave netball instruction during sports time.



Back row (left to right): N. Whitehead, M. Osborne, R. Hight, K. Andrews, M. Foreman, I. Megaw, B. Konzett, B. Lye (I. Titter, Principal).  
2nd row: H. Mahy, C. Hight, G. Andrews, M. Setiner, D. Jury, D. O'Carroll, M. McKenzie, J. O'Carroll.  
3rd row: P. McKenzie, D. Watson, K. Schreiber, M. Crofskey, W. Hoskin, G. Jury.  
Front row: B. Crofskey, R. Osborne, P. Blanchard, S. Hoskin, M. Jupp, A. Knofflock.

June 1975—An open morning was held.

September 1975—Home and School Association Annual General Meeting. Chairperson Sue Mahy, Deputy Brian Knofflock, Secretary Alison Hunter, Committee: L Sarten, S Raper, P O'Carroll, J Watson, M Crofskey and C Jury. Major planting exercise in front grounds of school under guidance of Mr Hammonds, Science advisor.

October 1975—Changing sheds vandalised. Mr Collins, Art advisor visited to instruct pupils on how to build a pottery kiln and fire it.

November and December 1975—Whole school visits Epiha Beach studying total beach environment.

February 1976—School year begins with a roll of 46.

March 1976—School library used for Home and School painting classes.

July 1976—Shrubs planted behind bike shed and in western corner.

October 1976—Selena Reid 1st, Greg Jury 3rd placed in schools cross-country.

April 1977—Senior pupils go on eeling expedition to Waitara river.

July 1977—Working bee in progress on adventure playground.

May 1978—Miss K Steiner commences duties as teacher aid.

June 1978—Mr H Gosnel visits school to instruct children on how to play soccer. Duncan and Davies donate five magnolia trees to the school. Standards Two and Four plant four trees in school grounds and one in church grounds.

September 1978—Whole school went to L G Foremans property to see Bruce Aitken's topdressing plane in action. A most interesting aerial display was put on for the children. Home and School Association Annual General Meeting. Chairperson Jan Watson, Secretary Alison Hunter.

October 1978—Tikorangi hosted 700 children who participated in cross-country through school grounds and Lyes farm. Our children performed particularly well. Winners Selena Reid, Sharyn Hoskins, Greg Jury. Second Anne Dowdle, Paula Blanchard, Clive Jury.

February and March—1979 The Senior room spent a whole week camping at Keritihiri Lodge. Flower show and swimming sports were held. The school committees working bee was rather unsuccessful in that only two men appeared to do the work. A further day will be held later on.

June 1979—Boys competed in Tukapa 7-aside tournament for one win and one loss.

August 1979—Senior pupils went to Waitara to present several of their concert items for the Waitara Old Folks.

November 1979—The whole school visited the oil rig on Bill and Jan Watsons property. A burglar entered the school and stole \$9.25 of book club money. The police were called. Mrs Sampson visited the school and inspected the childrens hair for lice. Members of the playgroup committee visited the school to discuss aspects of their programme and the possibility of moving their activity to the school.

December 1979—Mrs H Loader farewelled. The children cooked billy stew for the parents and pancakes were cooked by the infants and served as pudding.

January 1980—School opens with roll of 41. The log records: visits by Speech Therapist, Audio Vision Specialist, Mrs S Sarten Religious Instruction, Health Nurse and Rural Advisor.

April 1980—Due to playgroup moving into GP room the Board met with committee and principal to discuss building of a new Storage shed. Committee is to lay a concrete floor.

The log book for the period 1980-1989 cannot be located and the committee minutes 1977-1986 are also missing.

## From the Committee Minutes

April 1986—Dave Hooper Chairman, Paul Cole Secretary, Mike Tapp Principal, Members Kathy Hickman, Pam Jury and Dennis Robins. Ramps built onto school house and back of school to enable disabled access. Teachers Mrs Ruth Sarten, Mr John Mansfield. School attends a Maori concert by Kahurangi Trust "Myths and Legends" told in song and dance. Mrs Bower assists with netball coaching. Mr Tapp starts rebuilding the library resources. There is a push to involve the wider community in fundraising. Steven Whittaker represents Waitara area at Taranaki Cross-Country Championships. Mrs Alison Fitzsimons is potting with Standard Three and Four pupils as part of a craft unit. Roster drawn up for the mowing of the peripheries of the grounds.

February 1987—Roll 60. Dutch auction evening held to raise funds for the photocopier. The school changes from Bank of New Zealand to Taranaki Savings Bank. Calculators and dictionaries are purchased for classroom use.

### Lambs

by Bonnie Turner

When it was calf day two years ago Sam was going to have a lamb. When he got the lamb he called it Tom. After a while Sam was scared of Tom so he gave him to me. I woke up early every morning and gave Tom a warm bottle of milk. Tom would run up to me whenever he saw me. I would lead Tom just about every day. When calf day came Dad put Tom into the van while Jade and I walked to the school. I was sitting down with Bryony and Kate Baker waiting for Dad to drop Tom off. When he came I ran up to the van and put Tom's lead on. I tied Tom up with the other lambs. He wasn't scared. When it was time to judge the lambs I took Tom to the netball court. It was my turn. They took the lead off Tom and he ran straight up to me. I got second prize after I gave Tom a bottle of cold milk and he went back home for the rest of the day. When I got back I was playing with Tom and Bryony. We had good fun.

October 1987—Calf day includes judging of 20 calves, 12 lambs and five goats. Pre-schoolers are invited. The Tikorangi Playgroup becomes a playcentre.

December 1987—A showering unit is installed in the school to cope with the needs of the dis-

abled. Mrs R Sarten departs for Inglewood Primary. Mr Tapp makes mention of the meagre hours allocated for reading recovery and the teachers aid scheme. The Home and School Association is asked to takeover the fundraising in its entirety. The smoking at the bus stop by high school pupils was deemed to have an influence on primary pupils and so was stopped.

April 1988—University challenge involving a team from Radio Taranaki was organised by Messers Mansfield and Tapp to raise funds.

May 1988—Principal and Secretary write to Taranaki Education Board in an attempt to improve the sick room/staffroom/office area. Norm Fleet is asked by the committee to fill the role as Ward member to Taranaki Education Board until the new Picot system is adopted. The calf and lamb section of calf and gala day is condensed to reflect the changing roll structure of the school. Saturday seen as best day for fundraising. Aftermath of calf day: that the abolition of the category "type" will do away with the considerable acrimony evident this year.



David Walsh and Brian Lawlor explain horse racing

Standard Three and Four visit Bob Sharrocks and later the New Plymouth Racecourse as part of a study unit. Home and School Association cheque for \$2,500 spent on library books and "Sunshine" and "Story Box" books for our younger readers. The schools third computer is almost a reality as the Home and School Association already has \$700 that can be put to this cause.

March 1989—Roll 77. Mrs Heather Smith joins staff.

May 1989—The new prefab classroom is in use behind the school. School loses John Mansfield when the Board shift him to Waitoriki to fill in a Headmasters vacancy. After a postal ballot the original Board of Trustees is elected and holds its first meeting. Chairman M Whittaker,

Secretary J. Baker, Treasurer M. Webster. Committee: I. Fankhauser, P. Cole, P. Corboy, M. Tapp and observer B. Bint (H&S). Sharron Jupp, Carol Lopusiewicz and Brian Lawlor are asked to join the Board as co-opted Trustees and Mike Tapp approaches local Maori elders Mr Pat O'Carroll and Mrs Bailey regarding their feelings on having Maori representation on the Board. Community consultation on the writing of the schools charter was initiated at this meeting also.

June 1989—Gavin Faull and the Hyatt Chain donate hotel accommodation to be used for fundraising efforts. Trustees attend training days. Parents will be asked to raise lambs and calves and donate proceeds to school.

July 1989—Jim O'Carroll joins Board as Maori Community Representative.

August 1989—Committee, Principal and staff all attend various meetings and workshops to do with school management. The Waitara school mowing scheme is no longer available and School assesses several options before settling Mr D. Jury's contract.

### Calf Day

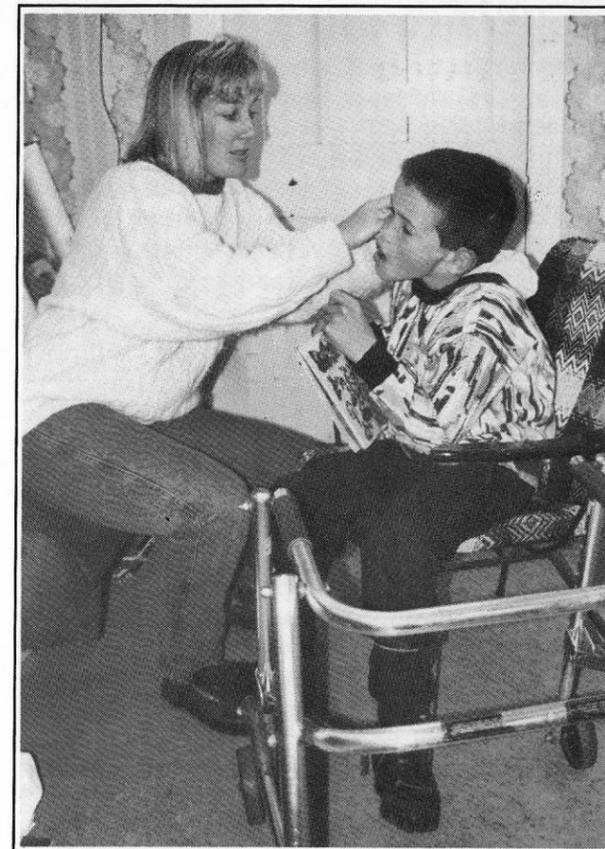
by Shannon Jupp

The first calf I had was named Minta. But the reason why I'm writing this story is because Minta won the Bint cup. The Bint cup is the best thing you can win on calf day. I am very proud of Minta. There are other competitions that you can enter, last year I entered a miniature farm making contest.

September 1989—The category "type" is reinstated at calf day. School fundraises a television and video for easy and quick instruction. Playcentre and Board enter agreement on use of building and grounds facilities.

October 1989—Miss Jane Chadwick joins staff. Draft school charter is sent out to parents for comment. Home and School Association raises \$500 at the cross-country hosted by Tikorangi and expects the donated weaner calf scheme to bring another \$1200.

November 1989—Taranaki Electric Power Board remove power wires entering school from over pool and re-route underground. Special needs teacher is now catering for our special needs children in school hours.



Special Needs teacher Jane Chadwick assists Ben Wilmshurst

January 1990—The school joins the Motunui water scheme at 25 cents per cubic metre. The Okoki camp in conjunction with Huirangi declared a success. Ministry of Works replaces baths filtration system. List of duties to be completed by the new board by end of 1990 is extensive. Mrs P. Corboy takes maternity leave.

March 1990—Home and School Association purchase a school barbeque unit and have \$2000 to donate to the school for another BBC computer.

April 1990—Heather Smith rejoins staff as long-term reliever. May 1990 Lyn Newton becomes staff representative on the Board. Playcentre extensions are planned.

#### STAFFING AS AT JUNE 1990—

M W Tapp - Principal STD 2,3,4 Teacher  
Miss J Chadwick - STD 2,3,4 Teacher  
Mrs L Newton - J2, STD 1 Teacher  
Mrs H Smith - NE/J1 Teacher Long-term reliever  
Miss K Steiner - Teacher Aide 13 hours  
Mrs H Rogers - Teacher Aide 10 hours  
Mrs A Stoddart - Teacher for deaf 10 hours  
Mrs A Dee - Part-time teacher 10 hours  
Mrs L Cox - Cleaner

The children were accommodated in four rooms. Roll 77. The principal's report noted "the shoddy

buildings and severe lack of space remains a big disappointment." Discussions with Education Service Centre Architects result in plans drawn up and submitted to Ministry of Education on August 14th 1990. Plans include principals office, teacher aide space, staffroom, casualty room and toilets, extensions to library, more storage and also upgrading of existing classrooms. This work has been deferred over a number of years.

February 1991—Yvonne King and Jan Turner appointed to the Board. M Tapp (Principal) and P Corboy (on maternity leave), both resign Mike taking up a job with Newspapers in Education. Mr Harvey Hingston accepts relieving principals job for remainder of term. Jane Chadwick moves into role as teachers representative on the Board of Trustees.

April 1991—An appointments subcommittee of the Board is involved in appraising and selecting the next principal. Mr Mark Collinson accepts position as Principal. It was recognised that 1992 will be the schools 125th year and preparations were started for celebrations at Labour Weekend 1992.

June 1991—USSR rugby team unexpectedly visits school to the delight of pupils, staff and parents alike. Mrs Newton on maternity leave. Policy writing continues for the Board and principal. This process takes time but needs to be in place to avoid embarrassment to the school Board and principal. The July roll return barely makes 76. Individual development programmes are working with children of varying ability. The toilet block for special needs children is completed.

August 1991—Twenty applicants for Scale A Teachers position confirms schools reputation. Mrs Carol Cunningham updates library with other parents assisting. Mrs Yvonne King elected Treasurer, Board of Trustees.

September 1991—Helen Wiseman appointed Scale A Teacher. Mrs Raper approached to take pupils for music (recorder) lessons.

October 1991—Roll 85.

January 1992—Fifteen new enrolments before school opens. Mrs Newton resigns and a Scale A Teacher is required and again many talented teachers apply for the job. Deborah Titchener eventually appointed. Jane Chadwick applies for leave to work with Special Education Service. The Board investigates putting a ceiling on the school roll.

March 1992—Helen Colson (Wiseman) now teacher representative on Board of Trustees. Helen Colson and Heather Smith attend a meeting with Playcentre parents to discuss concerns with readiness for school and expectations. A positive step in the right direction.

April 1992—Roll 96 and rising. With an increasing roll, extra teachers in the classroom associated with special needs, the lack of a casualty room, poor office space and no interview room the teachers and Board are pressuring all avenues for some action on this much needed extra space. By use of site plans, the Education Review Office Report, supporting letters from Crippled Children's Society. Principal and Board try all reasonable avenues of approach to get some action from the Ministry of Education. The school adopts an assertive discipline programme.

July 1992—The Education Review Office report reflects favourably on teachers and Board. Mr Collinson intends building on the major curriculum areas, language, maths and science and technology in line with new Government initiatives. At the invitation of Margaret Webster Mr Bolger visits the school and the Board is able to take its case for space to the top. Planned work for the staffroom/sickroom/office developments will occur late in 1992 and early 1993. A fifth teacher, Yolanda Scholten, appointed as a school roll tops 101.

October 1992 — Roll 110.

## Surprise Visit

by David Sheerin

Last year in 1991 the Russian rugby team came to Tikorangi School. People in wheel chairs got some Russian money and badges and some other people got badges too.



First they said their names and they needed a translator because most of them couldn't speak English. The captain of the team tried to speak English. They came in a very big and flash bus. Lucas got the bus drivers autograph. I got 24 autographs and a picture of a cat, flower and stick-man. I got the coaches too. Some of the players put their number down with their autograph.

## SCHOOL CALF DAY

The house is in an uproar,  
Dad's temper far from happy,  
The kids are all excited,  
And hard worked Mum is snappy.  
Now why we're in this flurry I'm sure  
you'd like to know,  
The reason is not far to seek -  
Today is our school show.

Big brother yells: "Do hurry  
And get the lorry out,  
You know my calf is ready."  
Then Dad begins to shout:  
"If you darn kids don't do your bit  
To help your Mum and me,  
I'll jolly well just leave you home!  
No show calf next year, see!"

Well, after much excitement,  
At last we're on our way  
With calf and lamb and yearling too,  
And lunches packed away.  
At school, soon we're unloading,  
We do our part with zest,  
And then the judges come along  
To say which calf is best.

With lunch and judging over,  
We turn our full attention  
To games and competitions,  
Too many here to mention.  
Then with his movie camera  
Along comes Mr Surrey,  
He's going to take our photos, so  
To find our pets we hurry.

Of course, the big attraction  
Comes last, the Grand Parade.  
We march around so proudly  
With ribbons well displayed.  
At last it all is over,  
And as we homeward go,  
We all, including Dad, agree  
It was a grand School Show.

—Anon, 1958.

You tear we'll repair from carseats to grandma's chairs

*Congratulations Tikorangi School & District for 125 years*

I have been servicing the Tikorangi/Waitara area for the last 12 years, doing everything from complete car interiors, boat umbrellas and covers, car soft tops, tarpaulin making, furniture upholstery, calf and cow covers and all heavy sewing and repairs.

CALL & SEE THE "GOOD GUYS" AT

## REUMERS' TRIM AND UPHOLSTERY

92 Mould St Extn Waitara  
Phone 754 7668

# SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Tikorangi has always been fortunate in those who have guided school affairs. Thanks to their work, great improvements have come about in environment and teaching conditions. Typical of the men who served on the School Committees was Mr J.H. Allen, Chairman for 19 years from the 1920's. On his retirement it was agreed to place on record the district's appreciation of his fine work in the interests of the School.

Personnel who thus served are as follows -

1870-1879 First Decade members of School District Committees include:

J.H. Armstrong	J. Foreman	S. Whitehead
E. Lye	J. Hickey	P. McKoy
H. Jury	W. Black	H. Faull

1880-1889 Second Decade members include many of the above, and also:

J. Hine	Levi Sarten	T. Joll S.
Knuckey	J.M. West	F. Baker
R. Hicks	James Sarten	

1900-1909:	R.F. Lye	J. Armstrong
F. Morgan	G. Foreman	C.H. Jury
J. Hine (Junr)	A. Catchpole	
J.P. Smart		

1910-1919:	C. Foreman	L. Faull J.
H.A. Foreman	J. Paulger	
Kilpatrick		

1920-1929:	R. Rolfe	F. Blyde J.
H. Hills		
H. Allen		

1930-1940:	F.R. Vickery	J.W. Garner
T.R. Hine	A. Soffe	V.S. Mooney
E.L. Lye		

1941-1949:	P.G. Sarten	J. Widmer
K. Lye	R.C. Jury	W. Faull
N. McDonald	J. Jupp	A.H. Foreman
C.P. Mahy		
A.J. Foreman		

1950-1958:	J.D. Alexander	R.F. Rolfe
V.G. Foreman	C. Hoyle	K.A. Bint
G.G. Beaven		



The School Committee at the time of the 1958 Celebrations was: V. G. Foreman (Chair.), A. H. Foreman (Sec.), J. D. Alexander, K. A. Bint, R. F. Rolfe.

1959-61:	N.F. Jupp	K. Bint
J. Alexander	T. Watson	
R. Davidson		
1961-62:	K. Bint	T. Watson
N.F. Jupp	S. Soffe	
R. Davidson		
1963-64:	S. Soffe	V. Sarten
N.F. Jupp	F. Julian	
M. Vickery		
1964-65:	N.F. Jupp	V. Sarten
S. Soffe	P. O'Carroll	
M. Vickery		
1966-68:	S. Soffe	E. Lye
M. Sarten	M. Vickery	D. Raper
D. Whitehead		
J. Ekdahl		
1969-71:	E. Lye	D. Whitehead
G. Jupp	D. Raper	
S. Soffe		
1971-73:	E. Lye	D. Whitehead
G. Jupp	D. Raper	
J. Megaw		

1973-75:	D. Whitehead	R. Mahy
J. Megaw	C. Smart	
B. Andrews		

1975-77:	B. Andrews	J. Megaw
R. Mahy	W. Watson	
D. Schreiber		

(in 1976, J. Blanchard was appointed on the resignation of D. Schreiber)

1977-79:	J. Blanchard	J. Dowdle
B. Andrews	B. Watson	
R. Mahy		

1979-1981	B. Andrews	I. Dowdle
W. Watson	D. Watkins	J. Daniels
K. Hunter		

1981-1983	D. Watkins	A. Kennedy
W. Watson	*****	
K. Hunter		

1983-1985	D. Watkins	P. Cole
D. Hooper	D. Robins	
P. Lye		



Original Board of Trustees – Back Row (left to right): Ian Fankhauser, Jim O'Carroll, Brian Lawlor  
Front Row: Mike Tapp, Margaret Webster, Merv Whittaker, Trish Corboy, Paul Cole.

1985-1987  
 D. Hooper P. Cole K. Hickman  
 P. Jury D. Robins

1987-1989  
 M. Whittaker P. Cole D. Bourke  
 I. Fankhauser J. Webster J. Coneglan

1989-1992— The first Board of Trustees  
 M. Whittaker J. Baker M. Webster  
 (Chair) (Sec) (Tr)  
 P. Cole I. Fankhauser M. Tapp  
 (principal)  
 C. Lopusiewicz J. O'Carroll B. Lawlor

Others to serve in this period were: Yvonne King (finances) Jan Turner (property) and Ross Soffe as chairman on Mr. Whittaker's resignation.

1992-  
 R. Soffe L. Sarten J. Turner  
 (Chair) (Sec)  
 C. Ingram J. O'Carroll R. Fankhauser  
 H. Colson M. Collinson



Present Board of Trustees— Jim O'Carroll, Leone Sarten, Ross Soffe, Clare Ingram and Jan Turner (absent, Mark Collinson and Helen Colson).

## TEACHING DAYS IN RETROSPECT

### Canon F.W. Young 1888-98

I am glad to have the opportunity of sending a few reminiscences of my time at Tikorangi. When I came to your school in 1888, I had just left a large school of 550 pupils, where discipline had to be strict. I naturally continued in that habit, and evidently made a change in the discipline to which the Tikorangi School had been accustomed. One small girl, Alice, said to her mother on arrival home after my first day's teaching: "Mother, I am dying for a talk! The new master sees and hears everything!" However, the parents must have approved of such discipline, because two sixteen-year-old boys who had left school some time previously, were sent back to finish their education, one of them being the brother to the Alice who had found she must not talk in school! Being only 23 years old myself at that time, I felt some dismay when I saw the two sixteen-year-olds sitting together - but all went well as they were lambs in school! A funny incident happened on the occasion of a school concert, when I shaved off my beard between school time and entertainment time. That evening at the hall, one pupil was heard to exclaim: "Who is that man? He is ordering us about just as if he were Mr Young."

I was in charge of the only Sunday School in the district, and as the attendance was very small, I asked permission of the committee to teach Scripture in school each day for ten minutes after 3 p.m., to which the committee readily agreed. One father called himself an atheist, so I thought it wise to ask him if he would prefer me to send his children home at 3 p.m. His reply was "Oh! no, I would like my children to learn the legends of a bygone age." This was how he regarded the gospels of Jesus Christ.

### Mr Hubert Hine 1893-94

Writing for the celebrations in 1958 -

Sixty-five years have slipped by since my teaching days, and one's memory in that time becomes dim, and reminiscences difficult to resurrect.

Children of both sexes, of course, were under my care. Shakespeare's "whining school-boy with his satchel and shining morning face creeping like snail unwillingly to school" was there. Little girls, clean and tidy in their home-made frocks were there, a credit to their mothers who reared them.

Many of them very pretty, and I remember, in particular, two sisters who, in looks and features and perfect complexions, could easily have been the envy and admiration of the most glamorous and sophisticated film stars. One of these sisters married in latter years a farmer in the district, and he told me on the only occasion I ever met him since our school days, that his married life was one of unalloyed happiness. I can understand it for they were lovable, capable and kind girls. But it would be invidious, I think, to mention names. I leave it for those still living to hazard a guess.

### Mrs A.M. Pettigrew

(Miss Alice Faull)

### 1885-87 and 1895-1902

My memories of Tikorangi School date back to 1876, when I began my school days in the school at Takapu, the teacher being Miss Emily George. Chiefly I remember big girls who taught me to knit, big boys who teased, and a long hot road to walk each day. A larger school soon being required, the site was changed to the present, more central one, and I remember Mr Morgan, a young Englishman, being appointed as teacher in this new school. He was proud of his school, and a kind and encouraging master. His pride knew no bounds when one of his pupils, Richard Faull, won Sir Julius Vogel's prize for the best essay on Taranaki, open to all children in the province. Later I remember three local pupils, Edgar Hine, Alfred Faull and Jack Vickery, riding to New Plymouth to compete in a writing competition, open to all Taranaki schools. All were good writers in the Vere Foster style and once more Tikorangi School led the way when Jack Vickery proved the winner.

The assistant at this time was Miss Mace, who was my ideal in every way. Inspectors W. Crompton and W. Murray, both of whom did wonderful work for Education, visited the school at various times, and were of great help, although Mr Murray's Scottish accent puzzled the children very much! After passing the sixth standard, I stayed to assist Mr Morgan with the juniors, continuing the following year under Mr F.W. Young, who proved very helpful in my pupil teacher studies, as he himself had recently qualified at college. I spent several happy years then as pupil teacher, and when I relinquished that position, I continued as sewing mistress. After so many years' contact with the school, my interest in it remained keen until I left the district in 1906.

## Mrs S.F. Coatsworth

(Miss Shirley Slater)

1943-45

When I arrived in Tikorangi one wet windy night during the war years, a warm welcome into a cheerful kitchen made a good beginning to my stay. I was made to feel one of the family, and this happy association went a long way towards making my time at the Tikorangi School a pleasant one. During my teaching period, there was an exchange of visits between our pupils and those of the Kelburn School in Wellington. This was an excellent idea, as both country and town children benefited from new experiences. One city child amused us all when he inquired when the pig eggs were hatched! A highlight of the Kelburn children's visit was a trip to Mt Egmont, made possible by their host's careful saving of petrol coupons in those days of rationing.

Two school events which I thoroughly enjoyed coaching the children were the school ball and concert. Such evenings are most valuable in helping the children's social life. Hectic days I remember were those of the School Show when the day would start at 5.30 a.m. with preparations for the luncheon always served to visitors, a case of lettuces to be cut up and scores of pikelets to be baked. Later in the day, we two lady teachers were kept busy at the ice cream stall, always a popular part of the programme.

During these war years, "Flag 500" evenings, held to raise funds for parcels for the boys overseas, were our chief entertainment.

## Mr G.T. Robertson

Headteacher

1944-48

"Go the the Headmaster's study! You have a mistake! the 'i' should be before the 'e', not after it!" The scene was Stratford Primary School. The date was 1908. And I was only six. In spite of such episodes, I became a teacher.

That was fifty years ago, and since then I have seen and experienced many educational adventures, some humorous, some tragic, but all part and parcel of the evolution of education in our country.

In those days of half a century ago, schools were not exactly friendly places, times were hard, and discipline severe. Teachers had to contend with formidable inspectors and unruly pupils, as well as difficult parents. I recall that, when at the first sole charge school I was proud to control, I had reason to punish a child for gross misbehaviour. The parents decided to 'get' me. Knowing that I was in the habit of making for the nearest township every Friday afternoon on my motor-cycle,

they thought they would teach me a lesson. They stretched a rope across the road at a strategic point, a few minutes before I was due. Everything went according to plan, but for one thing. As I roared round the corner which concealed the rope, I was forced to brake and stop, because a mob of heifers was crossing the road..... Thank you, heifers!

Teachers, and inspectors too, were unorthodox in those good old days. I remember one inspector who always jumped his horse over the school fences, not deigning to use a gate. Then there was the inspector who arrived at a small school one morning to find the teacher missing. "Bush telegraph" soon brought the culprit galloping from the "pub" twelve miles distant, but he was so drunk he could hardly sit in the saddle.

Unwittingly, I too was the object of inspectorial wrath and at Tikorangi too! The inspector and I were walking across the playground in one of those bitter mountain winds, when suddenly the visitor's hat went bowling towards a pool of water. I took off after it, and stopped its mad career by putting my foot on it. "That was my best hat," was the (I thought) ungracious remark, as I returned it to the great man! My grading suffered that year.

Teaching reforms have changed the face of education. No longer do we have classes of 80 or 90, taught by two teachers in one room, nor have we



those big ne'er-do-well pupils who so often set disciplinary problems. Truant officers are no longer a power in the land, and ponies have given way to school buses. But we do have those who see no good in modern education! And I still sometimes spell "believe" with the "i" and the "e" reversed, but now in the Headmaster's study.

## Mr M. J. Robertson

1949-55

To compress one's recollections of a locality where one was stationed for seven years into a few words is no mean task, and some strict selection will be necessary. Where is one to begin? Perhaps the most outstanding memory of Tikorangi is that of its evergreen fertility and abounding yield of primary produce from its bountiful fields. To a teacher who has lived in many other less-favoured districts this was a most striking characteristic of the locality. The people and their children were in many ways like their home - that is, generous, open-hearted, co-operative, and friendly, and always ready and willing to lend a hand to any project that promised advancement to their village or school.

During my term at Tikorangi much was accomplished by the residents to make the school and its environment something the district could well be proud of, and of course much had been done before then. I can mention here the reorganisation of the playground after rebuilding operations in 1949, the purchase of much badly-needed equipment, and the acquiring of additional land to extend the area available for children's play. It is good to hear that progress continues at a school that occupies a very fond place in my memory.

## Miss Shirley Waterson

1953

(Miss Waterson writing from the Solomon Islands, where she taught at St Mary's Girls' School in Pamua, under the control of the Melanesian Mission).

Our school is for girls only, and their ages range from seven or eight to twenty-two. When the children come to school they usually stay for two years before going home for their first holiday, and then return for a further three years. If, after that, they wish to do Teacher Training, they come back after another short holiday for a year. If they decide to be nurses, they go either to the Mission hospital on Malaita, or to the Government hospital in Honiara.

School subjects here are the same as at any school in New Zealand and the majority of children do very well indeed. All oral work is stressed

throughout the school, regardless of class, and for the first six months the children do mainly oral English, most of it out-of-doors.

Attached to the school are our gardens, which are most important as we have to grow enough food to keep ourselves if possible. We try to give the children a varied diet: kumara, tapioca, beans, pumpkins, panna, bananas, pawpaws, pineapples are all in our garden. When the ducks are laying, the girls have eggs in their soup and we have goats now, so milk is added to the daily diet. So far there are two female goats and three kids. The girls think they are wonderful because they are the first pets they have ever had.

## Mr Ian Kerrison

(Principal)

1962 - 1974

Ian Kerrison was the appointed principal to the Tikorangi School on Bill Keen's leaving. This Englishman with the accent and the unfamiliar car promised something different. He was committed to education and sought to provide books materials and facilities to help children to achieve their full potential. He persuaded and cajoled his school committee to provide the wherewithal to help him achieve his goals.

Mr. Kerrison's strength was his rapport with the children.. he seemed to be able to motivate them to give of their best. He expected neatness in writing and placed great emphasis on correct spelling. He set a good example for his italic writing was a model for all. Children were encouraged in the use of language and creative writing.

New maths and decimal currency were introduced during his time at Tikorangi. To allay parents apprehension to the change he organised evening meetings where the mysteries of the new maths were unravelled.

Ian's ability with the pencil and the brush became manifest in many of the areas in which he was involved, from the Anglican Church to the evening painting classes he conducted at the School. The Taranaki Education Board recognised his ability in this field for he was asked to create a logo for the new Manukorihi Intermediate.

Under Mr. Kerrison's stewardship cricket flourished, hockey and soccer enjoyed a resurgence and gymnastics was introduced. He saw the roll over 100 in the mid 60's while still a 3-teacher school then drop to 2 teachers when Manukorihi Intermediate School opened. Ian, his wife Elspeth and their children Cris and Debbie moved to Mangatoki, a grade 3 school, in 1974. The heart problems that had dogged him in his time at Tikorangi claimed his life in 1976.

Ian Kerrison, a man respected and known affectionately by some of his pupils as "Pommie".

# Some Memories of Tikorangi

by Ian Titter – Principal  
1974-1985

Barbara and I drove to look at Tikorangi School in September 1974, but I had been there before when training for marathons and those trips seemed much much longer! Talking of running leads me into the cross country runs we organised over Sam Lye's farm for the local schools. It was a brilliant course, plenty of long grass and green cowpats which all helped to confuse the children from Waitara. One of the first years we used that course our standard 3 and 4 girls surprised themselves tremendously by coming in and filling the first 3 places. It all seemed a bit mysterious until we learnt that the early leaders had taken a wrong turn along the way, they came in later. After that year we always had farm bikes to lead each race around the course.

Barbara and I were woken one night in the early hours by a very fast clack, clack, clack .... sound. Next morning we discovered a car had left the road and hit the fence, the noise was all the fence battens being pushed together. This was not the only time the school fence caught a car, the Memorial Gates suffered serious punishment and the netting fence alongside fished a car that forgot to turn the corner. Local policeman Andy Kennedy, and his colleagues had the culprit in no time and arrangements were made for the repair of the gates.

Calf Day was a new experience for me. I had never in my life before been to, or even heard of, such a thing. "She'll be right," Des Whitehead told me, "Just do as we tell you and everything will go like clockwork." I did and it did. I can still see one of the Jury boys, Clive I think, when he was very small and the calf was very big, being dragged all over the field. No way was he going to let that animal get away from him! Calf days haven't changed much, everyone other than the judge judges best, mothers still feed the lambs, the calf that was caught two weeks ago wins the leading.

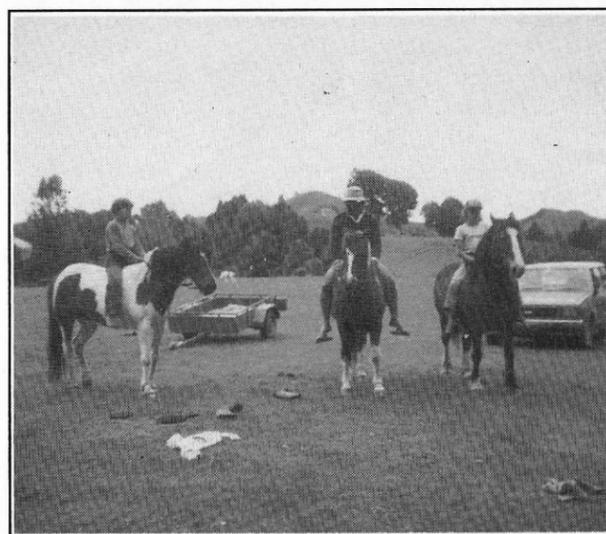
Swimming sports were always a great experience, the children swam really well and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, particularly on the day that one of the parents, who shall remain nameless arranged a surprise for everyone. Just as we were having the certificate presentation a top dressing plane started to make a low beeline for the school. Now, I knew that the pilot was a great friend of a friend of mine and, knowing just what kind of things might flow through that mind I chose to get out of the way pronto. It was the right thing to do because down came a sprinkling of

lime for us all. The kids all thought it was a great joke.

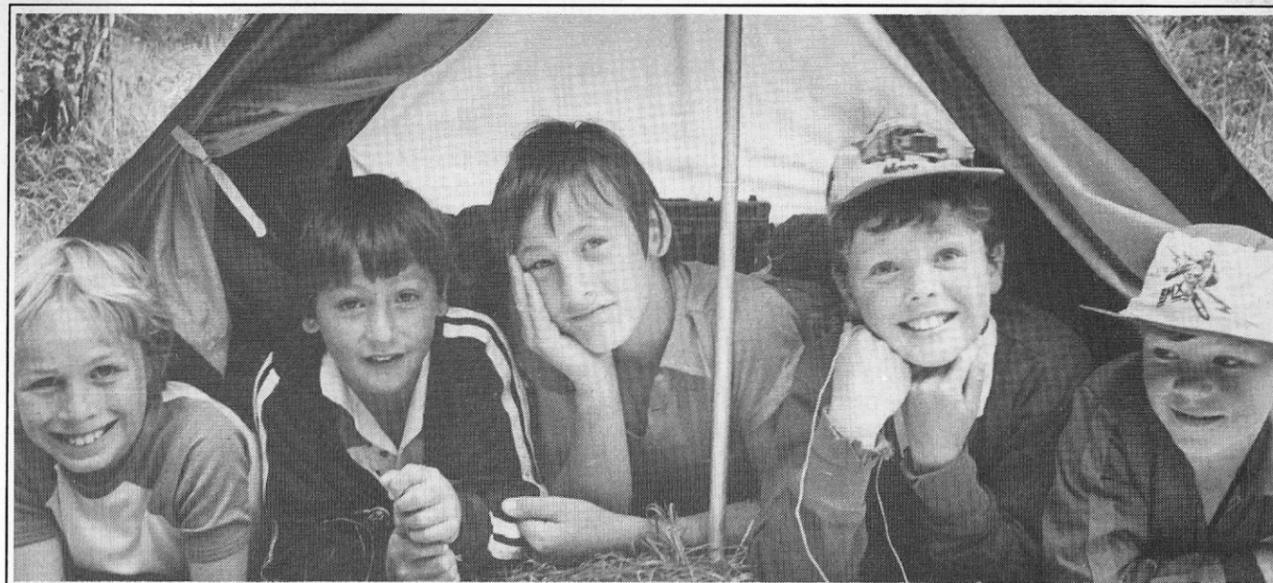
Water pumps were a mystery to me until we had the first year of drought at Tikorangi and then the learning curve was vertical. The alternative water system at Tikorangi involved taking a pipe from one of the toilet cisterns and one of the hand basin taps and linking the two with a piece of alkathene pipe. This allowed the drinking water tank and pump to serve the whole water system. It was great living in Tikorangi. Barbara and I made some fantastic friends. In many ways it was very difficult to leave and move over to Lepperton. My children didn't forgive me for many years. When we first came to Tikorangi one of the things I found interesting was the history of the settlement of the area. There are the Maori Pa sites along the Waitara and of course the later European settlement. Descendants of many of the original militia members to whom land was distributed still held a significant proportion of the Tikorangi land. There would be few places I can think of where that would have still been the case in the mid-seventies. This began to change though even in the latter years of our time at Tikorangi. The out-come of this land ownership was of course that in the classroom many of the children were related to each other, albeit distantly.

## Camping

Taking children camping creates a lot of extra work and stress for teachers but I used to enjoy the places we went to and the experiences we were able to give the children. Goodness knows what some of those kids got up to in their tents at night but I will guarantee that they went home from each of our tenting camps tired and smelly. There was only once that I seriously considered leaving a camp due to bad weather and that was the year we camped over the back of Bob and Sue Mahy's property. We had no sooner pitched our tents beside the river and finished lunch than it began



*Horseriding camp at McBrearty's Farm*



*Camping Waitara River – Jason Clement, Trenton Robins, Tony Jury Grant Foreman, Alec Bower*

to rain. It didn't stop raining till lunch time on the Wednesday. We stayed and sat things out, the track was only accessible by Land Rover or tractor, we couldn't have got out of the place without a major effort.

When the sun did come out it was a fantastic sheltered place to camp, we had a great second half to the week. Perhaps one of our more interesting camps was the horse camp we held at Tarata on Peter McBrearty's property. Jan gathered in a string of quiet horses for us and spent a great deal of time instructing the children on how to ride. At the start many of the boys were a bit anti horses but by the end of the camp everyone was on a horse as often as they could get a turn. At that and many other camps we often went eeling and usually we cooked an eel for the kids to try. At one camp, Huinga I think, one child was finally talked into tasting the eel, her nose was screwed up and the tiniest of morsels made it to the mouth. Then a bit more went in and a great smile came on the face and she said, "It tastes just like fish." Camping, particularly in tents, was something I enjoyed sharing with the children, I don't know how many still remember how to cook their meals over open fires or even still make use of the skills they learnt, but I assure you all I ate some great meals cooked by children over open fires.

When I first came to Tikorangi the school was in the process of being "decapitated". For my first term at the school it had 25 or so form 2 pupils all lording it over the much younger standard fours and below. This decapitation process took Tikorangi from a three teacher unit to that of a two teacher school. This was to change in the early eighties, more children came to the school from Waitara, the birth rate increased and the school went back to being a three teacher unit.

The school bell is a feature, I have never seen such an imposing bell in any school anywhere. In

my first summer holidays at Tikorangi I saw this large black car parked alongside the bell so off I wandered to see what was going on. This was when I met Tom Surrey. Tom was the last manager of the dairy factory and had been instrumental in the acquisition of the bell for the school. Tom saw it as his job to maintain the bell as well, and once or maybe twice every year Tom's car would appear and he would chip rust, repair and care for the bell. Harvey Hingston, who was teaching at Huirangi at the time, told me that he could hear our bell in the right weather conditions.

One day we were over the old wire fence between the school and Sam Lye's bush undertaking a long grass study when one of the children walked across the entrance to a wasp nest. I have never seen anything like it. The wasps came out in a cloud, children screamed and took off straight across the fence, they cleared it as smoothly and easily as deer. What a job cleaning wasps from hair sorting out who was allergic to stings and so on. The wasps died that night.

The success achieved by children from Tikorangi in the academic area has been fantastic over the years. I believe that the grounding delivered at Tikorangi has stood our children in good stead for their future, the feed back from institutions further along the line has constantly supported this. The success of rural schools has been noted by people living in urban areas, as over many years now children have been transported up the Ngatimaru Road to enable them to access the opportunities opened by rural education. I think one of the very best things about rural schools is the way they are embedded in the community. To get the advantages, parents and the wider community need to be involved in the process of education and must constantly work to carry on the building of the school's prestige and performance.

# Mike Tapp

## Principal 1986-1991

I arrived at Tikorangi from Ratapiko School in August 1986. The kids seemed unusually tiny after the Form One and Two's of a full primary. (They really shoot up in those 'Intermediate years'.)

My first community function was a calf day. I had always run them on the first Tuesday of November to coincide with the Melbourne Cup. Sweepstakes are a good money raiser. But by November calves in Tikorangi are big. The results were spectacular. One little fellow was dragged the length of the footy field. He just missed out on the cup for leading.

Trish Corboy had joined the staff for my second calfday. On a sunny early October morning she



praised one of her juniors on the condition of their lamb. But the lamb was a goat (Tikorangi was Trish's first country school appointment.)

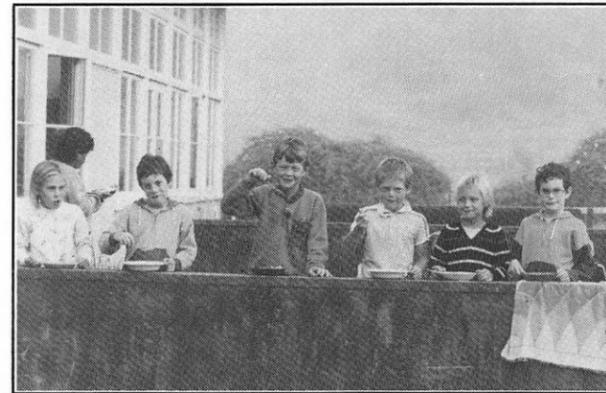
We introduced chickens for my second calf day. They were so popular we gave out a second batch three weeks after the first. By calf day half were the size of Moas while the second batch slipped through the bars of the cages. This was the year of the eel grab. Five large slimy eels squirming around in the bottom of a barrel had so many kids proving their man and womanhood we had to let the eels have a rest after half an hour.

We unearthed an old film in 1989 and saw the swimming pool being built. It should have been

built over a coal range. It's cold. The swimming sports came forward year by year but by late February bodies were blue - especially the skinny ones. The first season of our new filtration plant and water system was a little frustrating. The pool turned bright green every time we added chlorine. It first happened on the morning of the inter-school sports. But hundreds of juniors were happy to swim in our specially prepared Ninja-Turtle water.

When 'Tomorrows Schools' hit, committee meetings changed. One of the biggest decisions had been whether to buy three or four netballs. Now we had a budget of \$65,000, insurance and maintenance agreements to sign and a rural letter box which bulged with Ministry mail. A hectic time but a change for the better.

You remember something special about every school. The lost property box stood out at Tikorangi.



Over the term it grew, and grew and grew. I fully expected children to hop off the school bus naked. There were even underpants in the box. It didn't happen, but one day a mum will say ... 'enough is enough'.

Tikorangi School continues to grow. We brought in an extra classroom in 1989 and now it needs another. No doubt the kids are still a lot of fun to teach and the staff as enthusiastic as ever. This makes a school. Tikorangi is a good school.

# THE TEACHERS THROUGH THE YEARS

During the 125 years of life of the Tikorangi School the following teachers in some way or other played their part in the development of the children of the district.

During the first fifty years, notably long periods of service were given by R. Morgan, F.W. Young and I.M. West.

	Head Teachers	Assistants
1867-1872	W.H. Earl	
1872-1879	Miss Emily George	
1879-1880	Richard Morgan	Miss D.C. Mace
1881	Richard Morgan	Miss D.C. Mace
1882	Richard Morgan	Miss McGonagle
1883-1884	Richard Morgan	Mrs E. Stockman (George)
1885-1887	Richard Morgan	Miss Alice Faull
1888	Fred W. Young	Miss Alice Faull
1888-1893	Fred W. Young	Isaac M. West
1894	Fred W. Young	Hubert Hine
1895-1897	Fred W. Young	A.S. Hicks, Miss A Faull
1898	Edith M Tuck	A.S. Hicks, Miss A Faull
1899	Chas. J. Patrick	L. Hately, Miss A Faull
1900-1902	Richard Thomas	Miss Alice Faull
1903	Ernest Clarke	Jas. Cartwright
1904-1905	Isaac Moody West	
1906-1911	Isaac Moody West	Miss Mildred Cowles
1912-1915	Isaac Moody West	Miss Aileen Seccombe, Miss E. Andrews
1916-1917	Isaac Moody West	Miss Cecily Rowland
1918-1921	Isaac Moody West	Miss Gladys Williams
1922-1923	Isaac Moody West	Miss Phyllis Nichol
1923-1924	James Jack	Miss Phyllis Nichol
1925-1926	Miss Annabelle Dale	Miss Phyllis Nichol
1927-1929	Arthur F. Palmer	Miss Bertha G. Millar
1930	Arthur F. Palmer	Miss A.E. Wood
1931-1933	William J. Metcalf	Mrs Mansfield
1934	William Anderson	
1935	William Anderson	Miss Bannerman
1936-1937	William Anderson	Miss G. Anderson
1938-1939	William Anderson	Miss D. Briggs
1940	William Anderson	Miss A.C. Thompson, Miss B. Davies
1941	William Anderson	Mrs A. Smith
1942	William Anderson	Miss M.E. Smith, Miss A.K. Evans
1943	William Anderson	Miss S. Slater
1944-1945	Gordon T. Robertson	Miss E.M. Brown
1946	Gordon T. Robertson	Miss E.R. Duxfield
1947	Gordon T. Robertson	Miss J.W. Brabyn
1948	Godron T. Robertson	Miss E.R. Duxfield, Miss J.W. Brabyn
1949	Malcolm J. Robertson	Miss E.R. Duxfield, Miss J. W. Brabyn, Miss E.C. Vaughn, Miss M.A. Foster
1950	Malcolm J. Robertson	Miss E.C. Vaughn, Miss M.A. Foster, Miss I. Taylor, Mrs B.G. Foreman
1951-1952	Malcolm J. Robertson	Miss R.P. Sanderson, Miss R. Grant
1953	Malcolm J. Robertson	Miss M.A. Burgess, Miss S.M. Waterson
1954	Malcolm J. Robertson	Mr K. Piggot, Miss M. Dowman, Mrs F.C. Robertson
1955	Malcolm J. Robertson	Miss L.M. Harrison, Miss M.F. Dowman
1956	William H. Keen	Miss D.E. Simpson, Mrs M. Whitaker
1957-1958	William H. Keen	Miss L. Castle, Mr P.C. Heaslip
1959	Mr. Keen on exchange teaching in U.K. for the year	
	Mr. Heaslip Relieving H.T.	
	Mr. R. Ridgeway Relieving H.T.	

1960-1961	Mr. W. Keen returns from U.K.	Mr. & Mrs Domney
1962	Mr. L. Domney acting H.T.	Mrs Domney & Mrs S. Bourke
1963-1967	Mr. Ian. Kerrison	Mrs R Sarten, Mr. & Mrs G. Gallagher
1968-1970	Mr. Ian Kerrison	Mr G. Gallagher, Miss R. Parsons, Miss E. Dymond
1971-1973	Mr. I. Kerrison	Mrs. Heayes, Mrs. Reay Mrs. E. Kitney
1974	Mr. I. Kerrison	Miss E. Dymond, Miss V. Greiner, Mrs Hislop,
	Mr. K. Holmes Relieving H.T.	Mrs. A. Erb, Mrs. B. E. Thompson, Mrs. Kerrison
	Mr. Ian Titter commenced duties	Mrs. A. Wheeler, Mr. B. Wheeler, Mrs. K. Shewry.
1975-1980	Mr. Ian Titter	Mrs. H. Loader (School regraded from 3 to 2 teachers )
		Mr. T. Lambert, Mrs Honeyfield (relieving)
1980-1985	Mr. I Titter	Mrs. Loader, Mrs. B. Titter, Mrs Watson, Mrs Sarten,
		Mrs. Gay May
1986	Mr. I. Titter	Mrs. Sandra Pigott, Mrs. B. Richmond, Mrs. J. Barnes,
	Mr. Mike Tapp replaced Mr. Titter	Mrs. R. Sarten, Mr. J. Mansfield
1987	Mr. M. Tapp	Mr J. Mansfield, Mrs. Ruth Sarten,
1988	Mr. M. Tapp	Mrs L. Newton, Mrs. R. Sarten
1989	Mr. M. Tapp	Mrs. L. Newton, Miss P. Walsh
1990	Mr. M. Tapp	Mrs L. Newton, Mrs. P. Corboy
1991	Mr. M. W. Tapp	Miss. Jane Chadwick, Mrs. Heather Smith
	Mr. Mark Collinson replaced Mr. Tapp	Miss. J. Chadwick, Mrs H. Smith, and Helen Wiseman
1992	Mr. M. Collinson	Mrs. H. Colson (Wiseman), Mrs. H. Smith, Misses Debra
		Titchener and Yolanda Scholten

## LOOKING BACK . . .

In this section, ex pupils tell of their school days (from the 1958 Jubilee Magazine)

### Mrs I. Joll (Isabel Armstrong) 1868-77

I have been asked for some memories of Tikorangi district and School in the early days. To go back to the seventies is a long way, and the first thing that comes to my mind is the Block House, which was such a landmark. It had been very important in our parents' lives and they often talked to us about it. In childhood, we went there for walks or picnics, and played round the empty rooms which had seen anxious days in the fairly recent past. Important persons visiting New Plymouth were sometimes brought to see the Block House as a place of interest, and we children would run out to the road to see the cab go by. Indeed, one felt almost a personal loss when the Block House was later demolished.

And now to talk of the School - it was new in those days, one long room with a porch at either end. Our great amusement at playtime was a swing (the Giant's Stride, we called it), a tall centre pole, with several ropes attached to the top, knotted at intervals to keep our hands from slipping, and by clinging to these we could swing out to thrilling distances. When we had pennies to spend at Matchett's store (situated where the present store is), my sister Margaret and I and our friend, Edith Hine, would spend a long time deciding what to buy, perhaps butterscotch or brandy balls. As to teachers, I remember Mr Morgan as being a very kindly Headmaster. Then came Mr Young, a most conscientious man who, besides carrying out school duties, took a large part in other district affairs, and was well liked and highly respected.

Other childhood events which I clearly recall are Sunday School picnics in Vosper's (now Lye's) bush. What a treat to have baker's bread and buns as a change from home-made bread! Games in Faul's paddock (kiss-in-the-ring a favourite) and perhaps a dance in the hall for the older ones, we children being allowed to look on as a special treat, would finish the day. Other big events were Regatta days at Waitara; we all went to cheer our local whale boat crews to victory. New Year's day picnics, with all sorts of horse-drawn vehicles making their way down through Waihi to the beach, are clear in memory also. It was said jokingly that only two people, Mr George Jupp and Captain Armstrong, were left in Tikorangi on these occasions.

Our home (now Mr R. Griffiths) was one of the first to be built in the district, and when today I see the Norfolk pine tree towering aloft, I think of how my father brought it home in his pocket! Finally,

a word about our friendly Maori neighbours. One of our childhood treats was roasting potatoes in the small fires made by the Maoris when they were helping dig our potato crop.

### Mrs Snell (Kate Faulf) 1878-87

As one of the early pupils, I am pleased to send these reminiscences of Tikorangi School in the 'eighties. My first teacher was Mrs Stockman, and our school was one large long room, with dual desks, rising in tiers to the highest row at the back. I remember a very smoky open fireplace, and high windows, which gave no view of the road. Mr Morgan was the Headmaster, followed by Mr Young.

Visits by Mr Murray, the Inspector, were important events. We girls were green with envy one day because one of our number was addressed by Mr Murray as "Little Miss" and we explained this honour by the fact that she was wearing a specially fetching new pinafore that day. At school concerts, which were held in the school room, recitations (some of which I still remember word for word) and songs to the harmonium's accompaniment were the usual programme. Once, I remember, Mr Young trained us in a scene from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." with the "Dead March" played on the harmonium by Isabel Armstrong, giving the proper tragic effect.

Every Friday afternoon we had religious instruction, which to my remembrance was always the Acts of the Apostles. I'm afraid such an overdose spoilt my liking for that book forever after.

At that time my brother Alfred rode to Waitara twice weekly for the settlers' mail, which was then distributed to the school children. In later years, I myself took charge of the Post Office at our house, until I left the district in 1920.

Other memories of the school are connected with the district's Library, which was started in the school in 1895. To provide funds, we held "Conversaciones" at which we had games and readings. We younger ones were highly amused when once the "reader" left his spectacles at home, but, not to be beaten, he climbed on a chair to be close to the hanging oil lamp, and someone held aloft a candle as an added help, and so he gave his reading. The late Mr J.W. Foreman was one of the keenest readers, but he would laugh so much at the funny parts that his audience often missed the joke.

May the school and district have many happy years.



*Proud to be associated with the Tikorangi School & District  
and congratulate them on 125 years.*

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## Mr Charles Foreman 1888-97

I started school at Tikorangi when I was six years old, the school being on the same site as it is at present. The grounds at that time were very small, about half an acre in all, I would think. In addition to this we were granted the use of a small piece of Mr Lye's ground at the back of the school and also Mr Faull's corner paddock to play football in.

Our teacher, Mr Young, was very strict as to our behaviour, especially as regards language. Although we boys very rarely broke the rule against bad language, it did happen occasionally, and then the whole class of boys would be taken outside and given a severe lecture by the Head.

I remember the small porches at either end of the school room, one for boys and the other for girls. It was all very different from the school my grandchildren attend today. Washing facilities were very simple, being just a bowl by the 400-gallon tank at the back of the school.

In those days the Headmaster was often assisted by one of the senior pupils as a pupil-teacher. The big boys sometimes resented being told what to do by one who recently had been a pupil himself, and sometimes even scuffles resulted.

One funny incident I recall happened when some of us were watching the men of the district building the Public Library on the corner opposite the school. One boy called out some cheeky remarks, and Mr Henry Faull promptly threw his mallet at him, which taught us all a lesson.

During the summer, we boys would be kept home to help on the farm, and then sent back to school in the winter. It was then difficult to catch up with the rest of the class, and when I was 13, I objected to returning in the winter and so finished my school days. By this time Mr Young had left and had been followed by Mr Patrick. Later he, too, moved on and Miss Tuck was Headmistress when I left school.

## Mr T.R. Hine 1898-1907

It has fallen on my lot to write some notes for the period '98 to '07. Looking ahead, fifty years seems to have slipped away very quickly. Perhaps my first memory is of my mother sending my brother and me off to school, very spruce and smart with stockings well pulled up, and boots polished. But, as soon as we were safely out of sight, off came boots and stockings, and into the fern by the roadside they went, to be picked up again on our homeward way.

The school, at this time under Mr West, had gone

up in the world to the extent of being divided into two rooms by a curtain, so although we could hear what was going on next door, we couldn't see, which was a mark when the noises were interesting. We all hated inspectors' visits, and I recall one burly inspector who wore glasses with such thick lenses that sometimes it was hard to know which pupil he was questioning. Of course, you sat tight, hoping it was the chap next to you, till at last the inspector would point a forefinger and bellow "You there, you!" and the unlucky one usually found his brain wouldn't act.

At one stage, a "Band of Hope" enthusiast called regularly to give us instruction, and we liked singing the old "Moody and Sankey" hymns. I dare say we yelled these with more gusto than tune, but anyway we enjoyed them.

Out of school, a popular event was the annual paperchase. Fortunately for us boys (but not for the farmers concerned), this took place during the fruit season, and "the hares" always made sure to lay the trail through the orchards, returning to the starting point with leather bags well filled.

Although by today's standards, our school would seem very primitive, we old-timers feel that our school days were pretty good, and I'm sure my schoolmates will join me in saying "Those were the days!"

## Mr F.R. (Ivan) Vickery 1908-17

The admission age was then 6-7 years, and transport was usually "shanks' pony" over metal and clay roads. We thought ourselves fortunate in the summer months if we got a ride on factory carts. Then again we sometimes got a lift from the rival grocers; one was Roy Pennington, a good scout, who drove a tip dray, and the other the late Mr Bill Joll, a real character, who operated a four-wheel express drawn by two horses.

As the district grew more prosperous, some children acquired bicycles or ponies. The length of the pony's back governed the number of passengers and sometimes spectacular races and spills resulted. Regarding cycles, one mother who had purchased a cycle (tyres and tubes guaranteed for 18 months) returned to the cycle dealer (Mr Geo. Knight, commonly known as Boney) in a very irate mood to complain that in a very few weeks the tyres were shockingly worn. Boney was just about to look up the date of sale when Cobbler Corbett, who was in the shop, spoke out of turn and said "Mr Knight, all the kids that couldn't ride learned on that one!" Needless to say, no free replacements. But back to school - my first teacher was Miss Cowles, whose good teaching enabled most of us to get an encouraging report from the dreaded

inspector. Our head teacher, the late Mr Isaac West, had his own method of dealing with those same inspectors. As soon as they had left the building, he would promptly throw into the flames of the "Unique" heater any written criticisms of his teaching resulting from the day's inspection - and on we went as before.

Like all boys, we were up to all kinds of tricks to dodge work. Our pet one was to partly unfasten the gate of the horse paddock, then discover later (in amazement) that all the horses had gone. About six or eight boys then had the rest of the morning off, to round up the strays.

I still remember making a name for myself in Standard 6 arithmetic class. It came about in this way. When in Standard 5 I heard Moody giving Standard 6 "the works" about a certain sum which, he said, no pupil had ever worked out unaided. I promptly copied it from the blackboard into my Geography book. The next year, the same good old problem cropped up once again, and I used my Geography book to good purpose under my desk. So I was the marvel of the class, though to this day, I don't know how that sum was worked out.

I am afraid that many of us did not realise that

school, which we considered a penance, was really the happiest time of our lives. It has taken the sweat and tears of modern adult life to bring that home to us.

In later years I was further associated with the school as Committee man and Chairman, and always enjoyed my work in that capacity.

## Mrs L. McNamara (Lavinia Newman) 1918-27

Although the school when we knew it was small and countrified, it yet saw enacted all the usual dramas of rivalries, friendships, tantrums and achievements common alike to large city, or small country centres of learning. The head teacher had to be extremely capable to contend with such varied classes, and the assistant mistress, usually young and pretty, was destined often for a brief



Tikorangi School 1931

Back row (Left to right): Mr Kydson, Frank Jupp, Les Hudson, Malcolm Sarten, Alex White, Roy Hicks, Vic Foreman, Paul Dowman, Noeline Dowman, Jean Fraser, Betty Sarten, Lucy Hunt, Bebe Faull, Mrs Mansfield. Third Row: Tipi Tamati, Faber Sarten, Nini O'Carroll, Sylvia Bennetts, Iris Sarten, Norma Sarten, Dorothy Hine, Myra Bennetts, Nola Allen, Dorris Lye, Fay Allen, Barbara Palmer, Meryl Sarten, Alma Tamati. Second Row: Tim Tamati, Gilbert Beaven, Syd Davis, Wally O'Carroll, Harry Fraser, Jim Garner, Reg Davis, Doug Hills, Martin Dowman, Les McCullough, Bill Hunt, Boyde Beaven, Bob Hills, Jean Garner. Front Row: Rowan Langley, Syd Soffe, Vernon Sarten, Russell Beaven, Jack Alexander, Clarry Hills, Sol O'Carroll, Herbert Hunt, Doug Yearbury, Brian Langly, Leo Soffe, George Dowman. Absent: Margaret Dowman.



#### Nursery Rhyme Concert (about 1933)

Back Row (left to right): Jean Garner, Iris Sarten, Winnie Paul, Mary Rolfe, Bebe Faull, Audrey Smith, Reg Davis, Jim Garner, Bob Hills, Syd Soffe, Vernon Sarten, ??? Soffe.

Middle Row: Beverly Lye, Alma Tamati, ??? ???, ??? O'Carroll, Velda Lye, Merle Sarten, Jack Alexander, Nini O'Carroll, ??? ???, Maire Lye, Ern Soffe, Mrs Mansfield.

Front Row (sitting): ??? ???, Tippy Tamati, ??? ???.

teaching career as a prelude to marriage, a state of affairs just as common then as now.

In those days, a staff room was an amenity undreamt of in a small country school, so the assistant mistress had perforce to powder her nose behind the cupboard door. Morning tea for the teachers was provided for several years by the Headmaster's generous wife as there were no facilities at school for making it.

The Proficiency Certificate was the goal of all Primary pupils, and one's last term in Standard 6 was a time off frenzied preparation for that dreaded exam. As with all difficulties overcome, one gained the thrill of achievement.

An array of quiet young lads grew up to be first-class farmers, and responsible members of their community, but some went farther afield and proved more than able to hold their own in varied spheres. Many of those who went to school in this decade later served their country in World War II and their names are on the Roll of Honour.

The girls mostly became capable wives and mothers. In many instances their children are now attending the modern bigger building which has taken the place of the old "home of the three R's."

"The country school in the quiet fields,  
Who knows the worth of the wealth it  
yields?"

#### Mr J. Garner 1928-37

Those of us who were at school in this decade saw the old school end its days in 1929, and the new fresh-air school take its place. It was considered the last word in modernity, though some years later, it was discovered that the fine new school had been built at the wrong angle. But in 1930 we were all happy with it and indeed it was a palace compared with the old one.

In those days growing boys had scope for their play-time energies which most present day children, with their organised sport, would envy. By tradition or instinct, a succession of timely lunch hour paper chases would be arranged and head westward to the historic Pinchgut, as they did for earlier generations of boys. We usually returned from these adventures with shirts bulging with fruit, the only contact with adult humanity having been the odd glimpse of "Nipper" peering from behind his matchbox at the receding runners.

Closer to the eye of the Headmaster were the odd overflows in hide-and-seek activity to Mr Pruden's domain, where heaps of fowl manure beneath the well-tended fruit trees proved a messy hazard for more than one unwary boy. Ken Lye's bush area is

probably still scarred by ramparts built by warring factions armed with karaka berry ammunition. On more than one occasion, lethal shanghais, surreptitiously smuggled to the battlefield, added a seriousness to the struggle.

Although outdoor experiences loom large, one must not forget the more work-a-day side of school life. The late Mr Metcalf, our firm but fair Headmaster, was a keen and effective teacher of tonic solfa music. He brought honour to the school when his four-part choir, with a tuning-fork start, presented a programme from the New Plymouth radio station, then in its infancy. A full measure of volume was added to the normal singing programme in the occasional visits of the late Mr Buick of the Salvation Army, whose lusty voice was well-known throughout the Province. It was by tradition the senior boys' prerogative to try to delay the departure of that grand old man, by pulling back on the heavily wired, doorless, Model T in which he travelled.

Those at school then will remember the weekly visit of Mr Bullot's lolly cart, which came the four miles from Waitara on metalled roads, to sell a few pennyworth of lollies. Pennies were scarce in those days of economic depression, but a good quantity of aniseed balls could be purchased for a penny.

As the 30's progressed and times improved, our old dusty roads gave way to tar sealing and modern cars and trucks arrived to

pension off the gigs and carts. The appearance of a sleek red V8, complete with ladder, heralded the arrival of electricity, which meant that we were no longer ushered to bed with candlelight.

Happy days they surely were.

#### Miss Mary Dowman (now Mrs Duncan N.P.) 1938-47

Perhaps because my school days are comparatively recent, I find it difficult to sort out my impressions. Here are a few of the things I remember. School show days stand out as days of excitement and wonderful fun, although their importance varied according to the teacher in charge. How we watched the weather, hoping for a fine day! Sports days at Waitara too were big events for which we practised hard for weeks before, and it was always a thrill when our school finished well up on the list.

We all liked school concerts also, for besides the excitement of the actual event we had much fun in the preparation. Practices at the hall were more interesting than the usual time-table, from our point of view anyway. One particular concert



#### Tikorangi School 1939

Back Row (left to right): E. Furze, K. Foreman, F. Ward, A. Hine, R. Dowman, D. O'Carroll, C. Smart.  
Third Row: P. George, D. Orchard, ??? ???, D. Lepper, N. Carmichael, ? Ward, J. Lepper, M. Carmichael.  
Second Row: A. O'Carroll, ??? ???, K. O'Carroll, L. Widmer, M. Vickery, B. Allen, C. Sarten, A. Foreman.  
Front Row: N. O'Carroll, A. McKenzie, M. Perrott, E. Lye, D. Sarten.