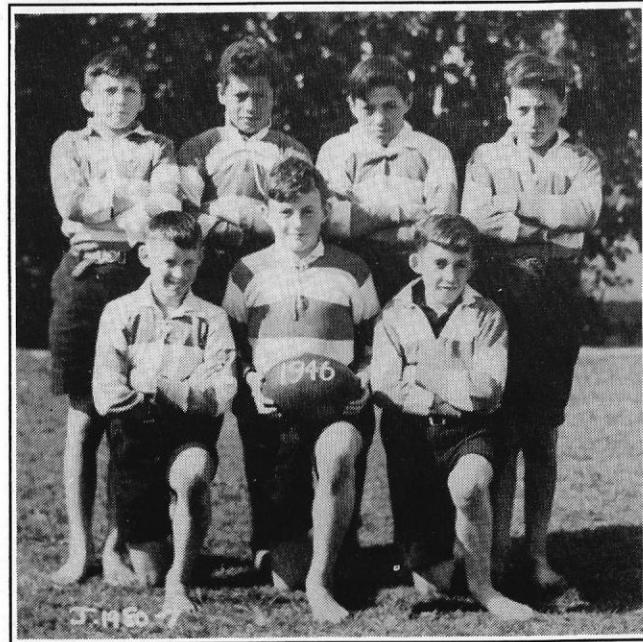


recalls a personal experience. I had to take the part of Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol." Dressed in a navy blue suit, and plastered with make-up, I looked like a highly techni-coloured doll, and felt hot and thoroughly uncomfortable. I was looking forward to changing into cool, flowing glamorous robes for the next item "Rendez Vous." To my disappointment, I found there was no time for me to change, and I missed the eagerly anticipated number, which was in progress whilst I struggled out of my unbecoming costume. Then I sulked in the wings, determined, in my annoyance, not even to help with the singing!



*A Tikorangi School Rugby Team from 1946*

*Back Row (left to right): Donald Sarten, John O'Carroll, Nelson O'Carroll, Joe O' Carroll. Front Row: Malcolm Vickery, Graham Mac, Alistair McKenzie.*

Thinking of play-times, I remember the lawsoniana hedge, which divided the pony paddock from the school grounds, as a good place to play. It made a first rate slide, most exciting because you never knew when you were going to leave the branches and take to the air, or when you were going to hit a weak spot, and crash through. Whilst the girls were playing there, the boys would "take to the bush" for karakaberry fights, and various other types of warfare.

In the school of that period there was no staff room, but the cloak room had been divided by a curtain so that one half could serve that purpose, and of course, morning tea duty was popular as a means of escaping school work.

I remember hot summer afternoons in the small class room which now serves as a G.P. room, concentration on lessons being almost impossible. As a teacher myself, I now realise that the teacher's work in that room could have been by no

means easy.

A few years later, I returned to the school as a teacher. I spent two enjoyable years in the remodelled building, which with every modern aid, was a pleasure to work in.

## Miss Pauline King

1948-57

This decade saw the farewelling of "Robbie 1st" and the welcoming of "Robbie 2nd" as Headmasters. The other two rooms had Miss Duxfield, our Primer teacher, Miss Foster, our Standard 1, 2 and 3 teacher, and later again Misses Grant and Sanderson.

In 1948 we all had to troop down to the hall for lessons while the school was turned round, so that we could have more sun in the classrooms. Also around this time the present G.P. room was used as a classroom with Mrs Alexander as relieving teacher.

Our second Robbie will always be remembered for his love of music which he tried to instil into his somewhat unwilling pupils. How we hated singing solos at exam time!

In 1956, after our time, another Head arrived, Mr Keen. (No, not Robbie, but Willie this time). He brought a change of staff and surroundings, and we think he lived up to his name very well. Remembering a much-talked-of early teacher, we suggest a suitable motto for the school - YOUNG and KEEN

*Written for the present magazine.*

## Ross Heppell

(Pupil)

July 1953 to December 1961

Recollections or Remember When:

The school bus driven by old Mr Neal had a horn operated by a foot button and the horn would be sounded on virtually every corner on the Otaraoa Road.

The Otaraoa Road then was very narrow (on some cuttings, the fern would touch both sides of the bus), very winding, very dusty when dry, potholed and to small children going home, very long.

On some very wet mornings I wore gumboots and left them in the rear of the bus. Once, nameless people filled them with milk and water.

During my early days at school, the lawns were mowed by the Standard Six boys using a large, orange, reel mower. But, it was long gone before I was old enough to be allowed near it.

When the new playground area was developed from Lyes' bush, all classes went out and helped to clear the ground of sticks, roots and stones. As we



were quite small, we stood up close to the rubbish pile and the 'big boys' stood further out, throwing in their collection, which I think they had been told they were not to do. One large root got tangled up in a tree above me, fell and laid me out. I can remember a blinding flash. When I woke up, I had a splitting headache and a lot of pupils watching me. Mum cannot remember ever being officially notified by the school, so we were probably too scared to tell Mr Keen.

Mr Heaslip, a real enthusiast, would drag us out to play football at lunch hour (if the grass was wet, so what!!). Everyone played, grading for size had not reached us yet. A young Paul Cole tackled Lloyd Engelhardt, head on. Lloyd was a big boy, Paul was very small. Paul got a bleeding nose, a grazed chin and a cut lip. We all stood aghast and Mr Heaslip patted Paul on the shoulder and said "Good Boy". Few of our group had much enthusiasm for rugby after that.

## Pets

Once a year we have calf day, most of us bring one of our pets. A man holds your pet on one side of the tennis court and you go over the other side and call it. Your pet should come to you. Its embarrassing to be in front of all these people with your lamb. At calf day they sell things like chips, Coke, Fanta, Lift, sausage sizzle, toffee, lollies, we have cake stalls, someone spins the wheel and they say \$5, \$7 and it is fundraising. We have motorbike rides and turns with the gun. Mrs King comes and sell strawberries sometimes and then we have cups given out for the best pets.

ANONYMOUS

This series of recollections is from the Raper family:  
 Carol Hawksworth (Ruawai, Northland), Sharon Moala (York, UK),  
 Jill Kirkland (Naenae, Lower Hutt), Annette Raper (Palmerston North).

1966 - 1979

What can I remember of my school days? I remember the big old trees by the gate in front of the staffroom when they had grass under them. We could climb in them, hide behind them, run around and sit under them. For some reason the favoured game there was cowboys and Indians. This was brought to a halt, in the name of progress, when a shrubbery garden was put in around them. We missed a nice shady place to play.

What else can I remember? The big old macrocarpa hedge at the back of the playing field behind the classrooms. I can still see the more adventurous kids climbing up high onto the top of it and them walking on it - I was awed!

When I was in Standard Four, Mr Kerrison was headmaster and taught Standard Four, Form One and Two all in the same room. I remember the fascination of seeing a Form One mathematics

problem being demonstrated on the board while, I, as a lowly Standard Four, was supposed to be working on something else. Their work looked so much more interesting and I couldn't wait till it was my turn to learn it. Why do I remember this incident? Because I got told off for "day-dreaming" instead of working.

Mr Kerrison may have told me off that day, but another day he showed us one of his pencil drawings of a bush landscape with Mount Egmont in the background. It was wonderful, so detailed, and I felt inspired. That was real art! I also felt a bit depressed - wishing I could draw like that and despairing of ever coming close to doing so.

My memories may be sparse and fuzzy due to the 20 years that have passed (gulp, is it really that long ago?!), but the impression remains, that a small country school is what I want for my kids,



1971

Back Row (left to right): Kevin Fleming, Steven Lye, Peter Widmer, Tony Smart, Lloyd Sarten, Mike Gall, Paul Fairhurst, Ian Kerrison (teacher).  
 Third Row: Wainui O'Carroll, Alison Webber, Debbie Kerrison, Serena Bailey, Jenny Hight, Gillian Ekdahl.  
 Second Row: Lyall Smart, Trevor Jupp, Robert Hine, Murray Thorby, Graham Foreman, Neil Whitehead.  
 Front Row: Debbie Engelhardt, Jenni Cole, Kathleen Megaw, Kaye Soffe, Carol Raper.

although it's not Tikorangi, I'm glad that's what they are experiencing.

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I remember my school days clearly ... being sent by Miss Dymond to get strapped at five; ruler across the knuckles from Mrs Thompson at six; lines from Mrs Hastie at seven; detentions from Mr Wheeler at eight and nine and then being sent off to Manukorihi Intermediate at ten.

In between the discipline we did get time to play. Calf days were good. The pressure went off the kids and onto the parents. Every farmers stock breeding abilities and farmer's wife's sponge-making credibility was on the line. Rumour had it that some farmers even took to using the vacuum cleaner about that time of year (very quickly got out the loose hair from a calves coat) and Mr Faull made huge profits from increased sales in baking powder. Us kids enjoyed it too, making vegetable animals, decorating sand saucers and having the day out of the classroom.

The annual school picnic with the lollie scramble and the parents running race was a highlight too. It was nerve racking though having to watch mother run while desperately hoping she didn't come last - she never let us down, phew!

Playtimes were the daily highlight. Most of the school would go out on the field together. Bullrush was best until it was banned because boys were ripping the shirts off each others backs. Stop rounders and long-rope skipping soon took its place. Knuckle bones, elastics, hop scotch and four-square came and went in crazes.

There was much whispering and excitement amongst the primers, when half the senior room were caught smoking behind the G.P room. Mr Kerrison, who never dealt in half measures, rounded them into the staffroom, six of the best for all, and a chance to do it properly. One cigar for each villain was handed out and had to be smoked to the bitter end.

Important changes happened over the years: playing I-acky was never quite the same after the hedge went when the new tennis court was laid; the school stopped singing, "Do go magic bell", when the big new one arrived and Cowboys and Indians was banned in the trees when the grounds were landscaped.

The biggest change of all was losing the Form One and Two classes. Standard Four had to leave with Form Two. After all those years of waiting to be prefects we were deprived! We never got to tell primers off for running around corners while doing it ourselves, ring the new bell, turn the long skipping rope, weed the rose garden or be in Mr Kerrison's room. What a shock it was to end up at Manukorihi with noisy town kids, no school swimming pool and no school picnic!

Four years ago I went back to do a day's relief teaching. I mentioned to one of my ex-classmates kids I used to go to this school. She commented thoughtfully, "Gee you must be old!" I loved my day of relieving at Tikorangi School.

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Mrs Thompson - my primers teacher. Such a lovely lady to us little five and six year olds. Answering questions like "Why do the worms live in the ground?" We spent many hours singing songs around the piano and walking through the bush. A highlight for me was going to stay at her place and going up with Mr Thompson in his plane. What a treat!

Inter-School Cross Country where we joined with other country schools was one of the big days in the school calendar. We were always curious to know what the other schools and classrooms were like. Some of the courses were hard going but having the large number of parents on the sideline always kept you going. Usually an ice cream was bought en route back to school. Was that why I enjoyed it so much? Who knows!

Thinking of food, a special treat in our family was to have a pie and a doughnut (25 cents in all) for lunch once a term or so. Two senior children would go over to Faull's Store and get it and you'd wait patiently down at the bar gate to get the goodies. Mr and Mrs Faull were lovely people. Once in a while when we arrived late in the day to buy something, Mr Faull would sometimes give us the left-over doughnuts - yum!

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I remember the hours we spent learning to write when I was in the primers. Mrs Loader was my teacher during the time. She would walk around checking that we were holding our pens correctly, the right space between words (only a gap that a little finger would fit) and that the slant on our letter were okay. I could never write neatly and I always held my pen wrong. When Mrs Loader wasn't looking I would change the way I held my pen to the way I wanted rather than how I should. Mr Titter, who was my teacher in the Standards, was also very fussy about writing. Despite the hours we spent at primary school practising, my writing is still illegible.

Mr Titter was a keen sports enthusiast and his enthusiasm rubbed off on his students.

Some of the most enjoyable memories I have of my time at primary school was of the inter-school sports days. It was great to have the opportunity to meet other children from small country schools. The friendships I made then continued onto Manukorihi Intermediate and Waitara High School.

## FLASH BACKS

Many ex-pupils have dug deep in their memories to furnish these scraps of reminiscence for our enjoyment. We hope that someone in each case will be able to say, "Yes! of course I remember!"

Do you remember ...

— how the pupils of the '80's and '90's used to sharpen their slate pencils on the school's brick chimney?

—when Mr Young's pupils staged a mock Parliament and one small boy convulsed the audience by leaping to his feet and opening his speech with the words, "Sir, I am a man of facts...?"

—the old black-board in Mr West's classroom with the words MOODY IKE punched into it with a sharp instrument?"

—how the peacocks used to fly over from Mr Lye's garden to be fed by the children at lunch time, and what a beautiful sight they made in flight, with the bush as a background?

—what it was like to hop from the top rail of the fence onto a horse's back, while a cold, blustery, westerly wind was doing its best to blow your oilskin and sou'wester to glory.

—the family of children who used to come four miles to school in a gig, and how poor old Darky's sides heaved after she was unharnessed?

—how folks laughed when Gus Hicks built sheds with timber sawn from pine trees that had been grown on his property?

—the wonderful darts we used to make with "404" nibs? The Delta wing planes of today have very little on the flight of those darts to the old school ceiling.

—the first old school house being shifted by Mr Charlie Johnson with his traction engine. The tracks that resulted in the playground, plus a few buckets of water, made grand mud slides.

—the time when Miss Williams, in history lesson, asked the class to name a great man, and little Wilf piped up "Mr Gus Hicks", and wondered why the class laughed?

—Doctor Gunn's visits on medical inspection, and how the boys used to dash off into the bush in the hope of evading examination?

—the Head, who, calling the class to order, would say "Situp, shut up, and fold your arms?"

— how we used to spin out making the cocoa in the old shelter-shed, and how good a mixture of cocoa and sugar tasted? the day a big boy produced the teacher's supplejack from his pocket, a neat bundle of 4-inch lengths?

—the song we used to sing, around 1916-17? When in Tikorangi, stranger pause awhile, Close beside the highway, mark that noble pile, Note its walls extensive, chimneys, doors as well, That is where we children are condemned to dwell.

—the girl who, emptying her glass of water with a mighty heave, found the headmaster had walked into the line of fire and got the lot? He took it in good part, merely saying "Thank you Hilda."

—when two boys, left at school whilst the others had concert practice at the hall, prowled around seeking mischief? Result: A number of the headmaster's fowls had their necks wrung!

—the eerie feeling you had, when, returning home late at night, you saw a shabby figure emerge from the old Post Office and peer intently at you through a round match-box held to one eye? You heaved a sigh of relief on realising it was just "old Nipper" on his nightly prowl.

—the days when the senior boys went swimming in the farmer's ponds (no swimming baths then)? They were always very careful to take Georgie with them. He was teacher's pet, and saved them from reprimand, should they be late for afternoon lessons.

—how reluctant the pupils were to leave the school grounds on master's town day, Friday, especially when the guavas were ripe?

—Mr Young's favourite lines, so often quoted to his pupils : "So here hath been dawning another blue day, Think! Wilt thou let it slip useless away?"

—the lawsoniana hedge which sheltered the tennis court, thus making a strip of concrete into an excellent skating rink on frosty mornings, good for neither seats nor soles?

—when the headmaster's son stopped an air gun slug in his open mouth from a very irate brother. Terry unfortunately had peered around the old library to check on his pursuer!

—'Wars' held in Lye's bush between rival armies. These followed on from the paper-chases of early years.

—making and baking 'mud bombs' and storing

Karaka berries ready for the next lunch hour encounter - toasting sandwiches over a fire in the big brick fire place of the old corrugated iron shelter shed.

—the headmaster warming himself in front of the wood burning heater - fly open and no one brave enough to tell him.

—how excited pupils raced down to Foreman's paddock, early in the Second World War to see a Tiger Moth aircraft that had crashed. It had hit a fence while 'hedge hopping'!

—journeys in winter especially, in open sided buses to woodwork and cooking classes in Waitara. The journey via the 'swing bridge' was an adventure

—on cold days canvas sides were rolled down and we rode in the storm.

—even earlier tales tell of journeys in St. George's bus and fire crackers being set-off to frighten the girls - unfortunately a dress was ruined and punishment meted out!

—In the 1920's children riding ponies to school called at the factory where the men were doing winter maintenance and painting. Tom Surrey painted circles around the horses eyes and every after the horses kept clear of the stage.

—Tom Surrey explaining to school children that he had not been away on holiday but in Australia working in a treacle mine.

—the explosive charges of the earlier oil explorations shaking up the farm houses.

—From a letter to the 1958 Jubilee Committee Mr H Hine speaks of the 1880's when there were several magnificent cherry graves mainly in Takapu Road and frequented then as now by children! There was also a pound site down the Takapu Road but was never used. Among the ferns and gorse were raspberry plants with, he says white berries!

—1958 Jubilee. The short log book records that approximately 1000 people attended roll call, 406 of this crowd being ex-pupils. The church service numbered 400 and the Gala parade - 35 floats and 2,500 people.

—June 1963 Visit of Sir Bernard and Lady Ferguson.

—October 1969 Vice Regal Visit.

—June 1971 Visited Motunui School for the Vice

Regal Visit from Sir Arthur and Lady Porritt.

—February 1970 School closed to allow parents and children to visit New Plymouth for a royal visit - Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip.

—March 1976 Parents and children visit New Plymouth to see the arrival of Queen Elizabeth II.

—December 1958 The Memorial Gates were dedicated by Archdeacon Gavin.

—October 1968 Classes in the hall - school remodelling. How many times did this happen?

—Over the years many children attended camps - some of the biggest gatherings must have been the combined camps at Te Wera with Huirangi and Mimi Schools.

—Perusing log and minute books we must admire the beautiful copper plate hand writing of the late Mr I Kerrison - ex Head Teacher.

—1963 The School Committee and principal were busy trying to capture an elusive and annoying cat! This besides course the usual large member of meetings, working bees, fundraising events etc. which have gone on since the school opened!

—One committee minute records that "a car had crashed into the Akeake hedge and made a ruddy great hole in it!"

—The first postal service started in 1887. Mr A Faull collected mail twice weekly and the school children took it home. In the 1920's and 30's post boxes were housed in a tin shed near the school. Rural delivery as we know it began 1938.

—The first party line started in 1919.

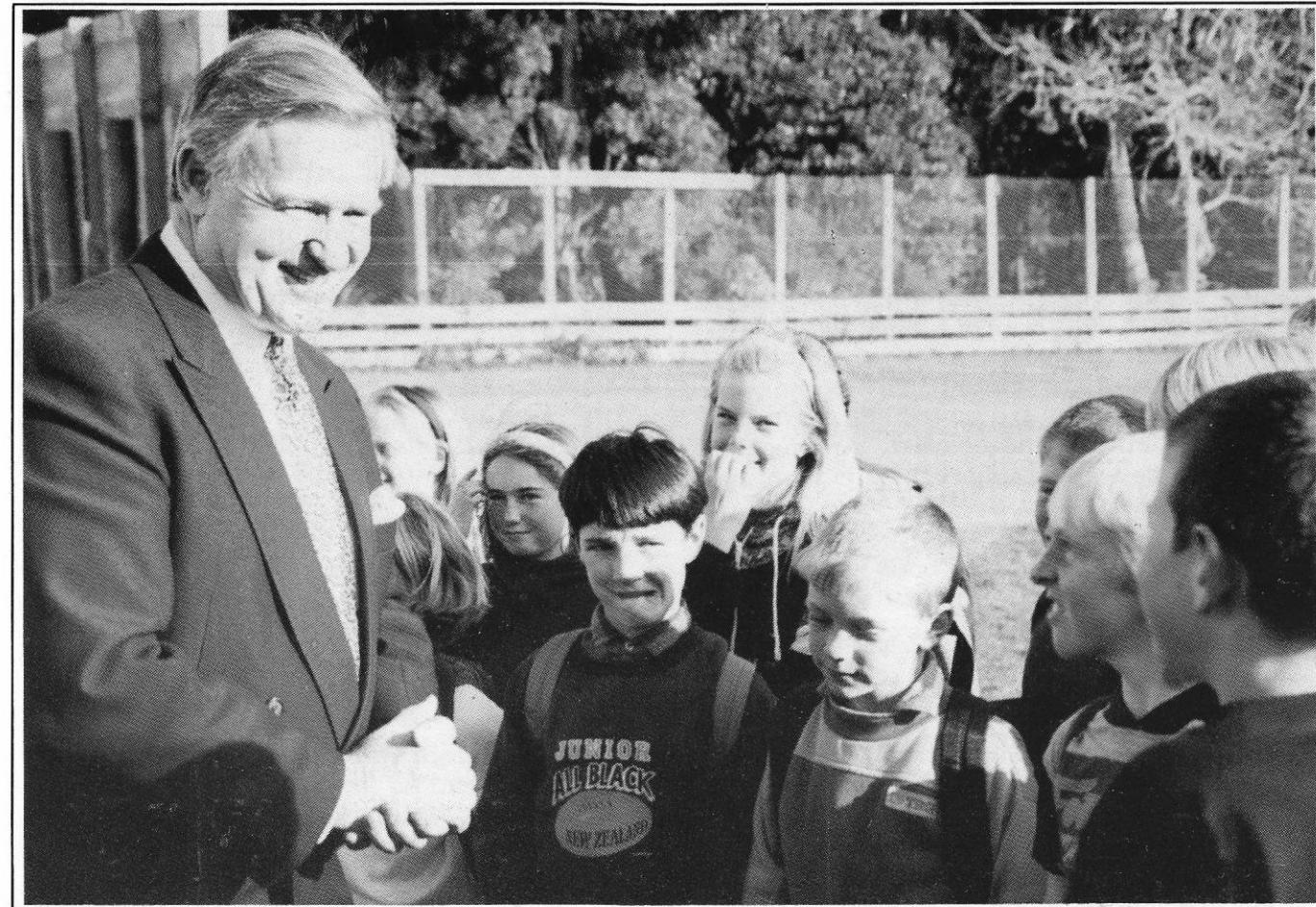
# PRESENT PUPILS RECORD LIFE AT SCHOOL

## A Visit from Mr Bolger

by Ryan Lawlor

On the 17th of July, the Prime Minister, Jim Bolger, visited Tikorangi Primary School. Room 1 were out with Mrs Warner having some relays when the noise suddenly rose.

I turned my head to see a flash car turn into the school grounds. A lot of people stared as a man dressed in a stylish suit stepped out of the car. The teachers, Board of Trustees and some parents shook hands with the Prime Minister and they had a talk. After about 10 minutes Mr Bolger started to walk towards us. We all bunched up so he could ask us questions without talking too loud. First of all James Bourke asked if the Government would put a bounty on possums. Mr Bolger replied that they were a great pest but he doesn't think they would. Then he asked me who would win the rugby. I answered by saying New Zealand of course! Mr Bolger asked where the school bell came from. Not many of the pupils knew, so Mr Cole said it was an old church bell. Most of us were surprised to hear that except for the people that knew.



Mr Bolger fields the questions.

Mr Collinson gave Mr Bolger a guided tour of Tikorangi School and told him what they needed for the school.

## No Sick Room

by Wiremu O'Carroll

The day the Prime Minister came through the school gates in his limousine the noise level started to rise. The Prime Minister hopped out of his car and shook the hands of the parents, teachers and the Board of Trustees.

Slowly he walks over to us. "Hi kids" he says in a cheerful voice. We start to ask the Prime Minister questions like: "What model is your car?" to "Will you put a ban on possums?"

The proper reason for the Prime Minister to come to our school is because we didn't have a sickroom at the time. When the Prime Minister saw what we had for a sickroom, a couch, a pillow, and a blanket in the staffroom, he was astonished.

So Mr Bolger is a very kind man for giving us money to buy a sickroom.

## What We Do At School

by Katie Tuck

At school in the morning we do personal writing then do Maths and then the bell goes at 10:30 am. Then we go out to play and have our play lunch.

We come in at 11:00 am. We come in and sit on the mat and Mr Collinson tells us what we will do. We usually do language and then we do handwriting. At 12:00 pm we go out for lunch. After lunch we come back inside and then we put our chairs up. Then go outside for a game at 2:00 pm. Then we come back inside and tidy up the room.

## At School We . . .

by Nicola Brown

When the bell rings at 9.00 we all sit down on the mat. Mr Collinson, our teacher, comes in, if he's not already in. Mr Collinson then sits on his chair in front of us, he explains the mornings work and anything else he wants to tell us. We all go to our desk and do personal writing, after that we start Maths. Mr Collinson gets one group at a time to

come down and sit on the mat, he explains our maths, then lets us go back to our desk and begin. Group One has hard maths, group three has easy maths, and group two has hard and easy maths. At 10.30 we go out to play. At playtime I sometimes play soccer or I play with the hoops. The little kids are normally running around the school playing their games. Some Standard 1 and 2's play soccer as well. For play I eat a roll-up or some biscuits. I'm normally much more hungry at playtime than at lunchtime.

At 11.00 the bell ringer rings the bell then we all go in and sit on the mat. Mr Collinson tells us what to do, we usually do Language Activities then Handwriting. Then at 12.00 the bell rings again and we all pack up our work and put it in our desks and go out to lunch. After we've eaten our lunch we have to wait for the little bell to ring. When it rings at 12.10 we put our hands up and we are allowed to go when your space is tidy. At lunchtime I just muck around normally.

At 1.00 we come back into the class and do silent reading, and any other work that needs finishing. At 3.00 we go home and sometimes I go on the bus too.

## Possum... An Ecological Nightmare

by James Bourke.

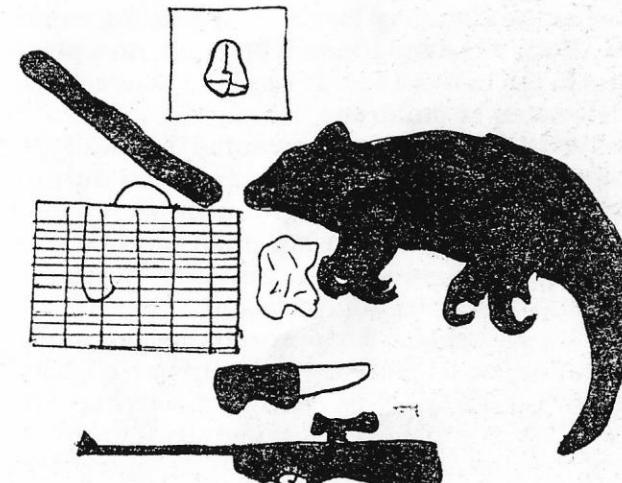
A furry invasion is sweeping over New Zealand spreading disease, eating all vegetation in their path, killing trees and causing havoc on tin roofs.

Possums were released in 1911 for the fur trade. The first batch was unsuccessful so more releases were made to boost population. They were protected for 42 years and then it was found that they were pests. Many trappers caught possums and released the off-spring.

Gardeners, Orchardists and Maize growers already consider possums as pests.

One day at school I had a confrontation with a possum. It was in a small evergreen tree. The sky was overcast and I was on the roundabout when Lawrence yelled "possum". He grabbed a cricket bat, I borrowed Pauls crutch and we clobbered it. Sean came and poked it out a bit then I pulled it out and gave it the hiding of its life.

Lawrence went to scare the girls and tell the teacher. I stood around the site and looked in the tree. We had broken heaps of branches and there was blood on the fence. There was a little hollow which the possum had made as protection from the rain. We spent the rest of the day talking about what happened. Since then I've caught 59 of the furry invaders using traps, the dog and other



methods. When the Prime Minister came to school I asked if he was going to put a bounty on possums. He said "They're a problem, but I don't think so?" More people should be aware of the invaders. Possums spread T.B. which can block dairy and meat exports.

## TIKORANGI PLAYCENTRE



The main part of the Tikorangi Playcentre building was originally the Albert Road School, built at the turn of the century. It was moved to its present site in the early 1940's.

Two of the Tikorangi Playcentre founding members, Shona Cole and Erica Heppell, began a playgroup in the hall in 1920. It was held once a week with a roll of 10 children.

In 1980 the playgroup was granted the use of the old building at the rear of the school and during 1986 Mr E.R.Lye granted the group the use of some land as a playground. In 1983 a small addition and verandah were added to the building, funds for this came mainly from fundraising.

In 1987 we decided to approach the Playcentre Association to become a Playcentre as parents were asking for a better quality of activities for their children, and two parents had already started Playcentre training via Waitara Playcentre. In

1988 we were provisionally recognised as a Playcentre.

In 1990 renovation and extension of the building began to bring it up to the current standard required for a licensed early childhood centre catering for up to 25 children per session. Money for this came from fundraising, including a significant donation from Petrocorp, and from the Ministry of Education discretionary grants scheme.

We now have a quality licensed pre-school in our district with a current roll of 20 children. There are two sessions per week, one supervised by parents who have done Playcentre training, the other by a paid Playcentre Supervisor. Parent involvement is a key part of the playcentre philosophy but parents are able to leave their older pre-schoolers at the sessions if they wish. We have a close harmonious relationship with the school allowing a natural progression for families.

## THE SCHOOL BATHS

"Class move quietly to the baths and prepare for a swimming lesson." A tingle of excited enjoyment passes through the healthy active youth of a modern school today at the sound of this direction! Swimming instruction in their own school baths has been the dream of generations of Tikorangi children and the forlorn hope of a long succession of teachers. In the year 1932, 18 children were transported to Waitara for instruction under Miss P. Beaven and Roy St. George. A later entry in the school log states that after the new head teacher had met his committee for the first meeting, the subject of a school swimming pool was raised and the outcome at that stage was "hopeful." Each teacher in turn, cast envious eyes on other more favoured schools with these facilities, and each committee in turn made exhaustive investigations for a suitable water supply, which was the key to the whole position. Committee men tramped here, there and everywhere in search of this essential. Springs, creeks and wells were investigated, samples were tested, but no sufficient supply could apparently be discovered. Teachers continued in desperation to convey their classes to the baths at Waitara, and one went so far as to take his class to the swing Bridge on the Waitara River, until a near accident put a halt to swimming instruction of this type.

In 1956 Mr Malcolm Sarten very generously offered the school the full use of his private swimming pool for lessons. This offer was eagerly accepted and as a direct result of the progress shown by all pupils who participated, a wave of enthusiasm swept the district and the quest for water for a pool was revived. The present school

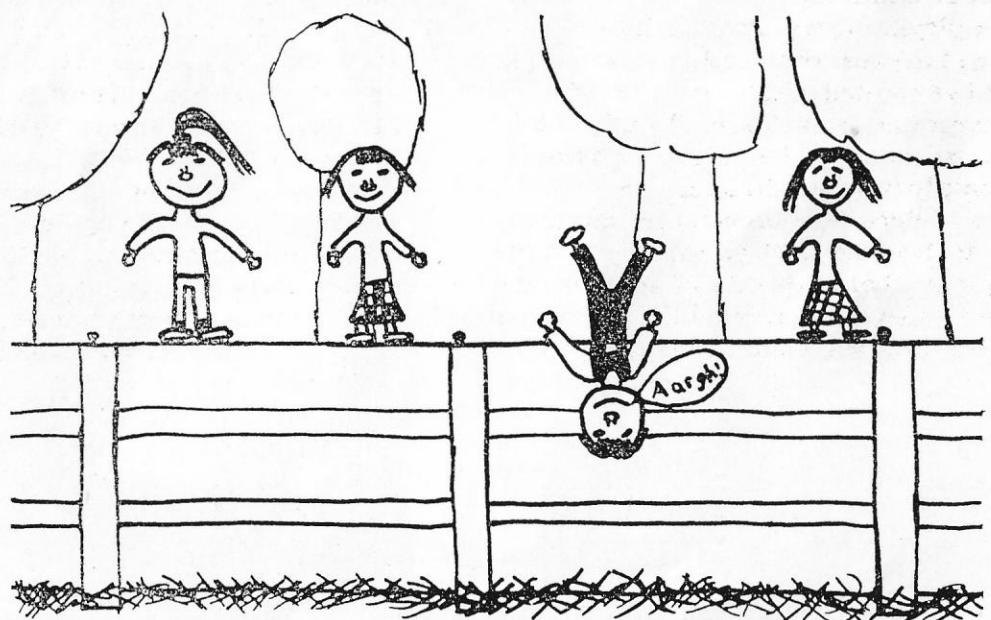
committee then explored the existing school well, had the water tested by the Health Department, and tested the flow of the spring. These tests showed that the water was suitable for a swimming pool but the flow was insufficient to maintain regular cleaning. It was seen that a system of filtration was needed and active inquiries for such a filter were set afoot. When this problem was solved and the findings were fully outlined to a meeting of the parents, the project of erecting our own baths met with unanimous approval, and within three days the required amount was over-subscribed. In the ensuing building operations every household in the district gave money or labour, or both, to carry the work to a successful conclusion.

Mr Mort Squires, of Empire Bowling fame, was appointed contractor, and working parties, splendidly organised by Mr A.H. Foreman and the committee, soon changed the dream to a reality.

Over the years since that opening the pool has been made more attractive with plantings and a fence to keep the "chill factor" down. The filtration plant has been replaced twice, most recently in 1991 by the Works Dept. This new system replaced a huge sand filter system with big brass taps that saw 30 years of service.

The security fence topping the iron was gifted by Petrocorp after a problem one year when non-keyholders were found washing and barbecuing in the pool.

In recent years the School Committees have priced means of raising the temperature of the water to improve children's comfort and extend the season to get full benefit from the pool.



This is my friends and I playing on the fence.

# OTARAOA SCHOOL 1922 - 1942

Pressure from parents living on the hill country section of the Otaraoa Road saw the Taranaki Education Board establishing a school on land gifted by Percy Cole. The site is defined by a ring of lawsoniana and pine opposite the present home of Gordon and Heather Jupp. A one-roomed school was erected from pre-fabricated sections brought on to site.

## A Pupils View

Gill Lycette, formerly Mahy, takes up the story:

I began as a pupil at Otaraoa when I was six, riding a pony the 3-4 kilometres along the narrow, winding metalled road. Often this was done in the frost, without shoes, and sometimes the shading on the road meant that there was still a frost on the way home. At one stage there were three girls all with Shetland ponies and Marjorie Watson was an amusing sight with her legs almost touching the ground. It was normal for the trip home to be three times the speed of the morning trip as the pony returned home to graze after a day in the bare school paddock. I remember collecting ergot

off the ryegrass during the war years; it was used in the making of drug used on the front lines. We also collected fungus for sale.

When I began, the roll was around 15 and Pat Power was the teacher, but she left to marry Keith Watson and was replaced by Mrs. Humphries. Mr. Humphries was overseas during the war in the Middle East and it was my job to bring the vital mail to school in the mornings. The school day ran from 9:30 to 3:30.

Families attending during my years at Otaraoa were Jupp, Kaingaru, Watson, Nuku, Patu, Cole, and Bailey. The buildings were simple: the schoolhouse with two rows of double desks, an outside shelter that appears in the accompanying photo and was subsequently used as a bus shelter, and toilets of the earthen hole type. Electricity did not reach the Otaraoa area until the late 40's. The teachers boarded, generally with the Watson's, in the early years until there was a school residence. This was modelled on the same lines as the school room.

Very little formal P.E. was done in those days but we did go down to the Mangahewa Stream to swim on hot summerdays. Marbles, hopscotch



Otaraoa Road School Pupils:  
Gladys Bailey, Tom Watson, Rex Cole, Gill Mahy, Mary Watson, Nancy Jupp.

and skipping were, of course commonplace.

On days when it was really wet the attendance dropped and if numbers were small enough "Humma" would hold school in her house where it was warmer.

During these war years petrol rationing had quite an effect, isolating families somewhat, but that didn't stop the Salvation Army man, Mr. Buick, visiting the school. He travelled in a soft-top car, was notable for his long beard, and had us singing "Sally" songs such as "I'm a little candle shining in the night."

The School became the focal point for the district, during these years, with some large Xmas parties held, to which the whole road was invited.

The roll at Otaraoa had dwindled to eight by the time that I was enrolled at Tikorangi at the age of ten in 1941. My younger sister Diana started her education by correspondence before beginning at Tikorangi at age eight. While boys often left primary to go to NPBHS, the girls of the district were more likely to return to the farm. (In 1920, the school leaving age was raised to 15)

My Father taught me to smoke; a natural step after being taught to roll Dad's cigarette. I must admit that this practice must sound rather detrimental to one's children's health, but smoking just was not discouraged then.

The school closed in 1942 and pupils were reliant on the Tikorangi headmaster, Mr. Gordon Robertson, coming to collect them. One day he ran off the road and into the ditch, we didn't mind... it was exam day !!. It was two years before a bus service was put on the route. With the closure, the buildings were removed, Mr. Cole purchased the land from the Board and the area's focal point reverted to the Cole's woolshed on Mangahewa Road.

## A Teacher's Perspective

Mrs. Pat Watson Recalls:

The little Otaraoa Road School must have been established in the early to middle twenties. It was a one roomed, sunny building with plenty of windows and a Hot Dog Stove. The children arrived on horseback, or walked, up to three or four miles in all weather, something the bus kids of today could scarcely imagine. I know pupils used to get certificates, stamped yearly, for not missing a day at school over the year!

In my short time at the school, I remember the cooperation and friendliness of the children, beautiful handwriting and drawing, and enjoyment of reading and music, and the many kindnesses of the parents.

There were Patu, Peri, Watson, Jupp, Teika, Mahy and Cole and Bailey children, and my happy association with them, and good wishes for them all continues to this day — over 53 years later.

Following the trend, the Otaraoa Road School was amalgamated with the Tikorangi School.

## FROM EPIHA TO WAIAU

Mrs Agnes Whitehead recalls life early this century.

My parents farmed in the early 1900's on Epia Road opposite where David Jury now lives. There were no milking machines and we would all milk. As an eight year old I had a cow I would hand milk in the paddock. Yes, if you couldn't milk a cow by seven or eight there was something wrong with you. We would cut a load of maize for the cows before we walked to school and when I got home from school I would chop the wood, feed the fowls and get the tea, Mum being in the cowshed.

I attended Tikorangi School from here. I recall the classroom being tiered with two desks between the aisles and about six rows up.

I travelled often by pony - in the winter the mud was often up to the pony's knees. There were no formed roads as we know them - no shingle. I recall water sometimes coming in the tail of the cart. In those days there were no gumboots, we all had lace up boots to keep warm.

The new Motuni School was built about 1912 and while we were quite close to Motuni, Dad wouldn't let us attend initially. The reason was the teacher was often somewhat under the weather and the children would put the clock forward and were often seen heading home at 2.00 in the afternoon.

In later years I attended Motuni School where I had the dubious honour of collecting the teacher's lunch from his house where the Motuni School is now and taking it across the road to where our old school was. By the time I had had my lunch I had missed out on play.

To attend music lessons I would walk from Motunui School along the main road and down Turangi Road and home once a week. I'm afraid my enthusiasm for Sunday School waned markedly after my pony, Friday, slumped down dead at the Tikorangi Church yard gate.

The 'flu epidemic of 1918 closed schools and some were used as hospitals. We never went out to town; the grocers would leave your goods on the gate post rather than deliver them to the door. People could be here today and you would read their death notice within a week. That plague claimed more lives than the war itself.

I married in 1922, living with my husband on Ohanga Road. We milked cows, taking the whole milk to Tikorangi Factory. My children attended Waiau School.

## WAIAU SCHOOL



Waiau School from the west

Opening in 1914 with 12 pupils this school was situated some 400 metres inland from the corner of the Waiau and Inland North Roads the first teacher being Miss Mary Fleming. The roll grew to a peak of 54 when there were two teachers and a pre-fab. Through lack of pupils, this school was consolidated on Urenui at the end of October 1940. The Urenui School also gained a piano which the parents generously presented with the six children making the transfer. The rest of the children went to Tikorangi School.

### Ex-pupil Allen Cole takes up the story

There was a fire place in the school but it was of little consequence because in the big old buildings of those days you could feel the wind coming through the cracks. No, the fire was there to make the cocoa.

Health Nurse visits to check head-lice were an event to behold. The visiting nurse would lay down newspaper and bend us over and search and brush our hair, the nasties dropping onto the paper.

It paid to be scarce after school as the teacher would want her horse saddled. The horse would 'blow' when the girth was applied and the poor pupil, that saddled the horse, would get an ear-bashing the next day because the city girl teacher hadn't checked the tightness of the girth.

Girl friends - we never had such things when I

went to school, we were too busy playing games, rounders, blind man's buff, hopscotch, knuckle bones etc. In such a small school interest in the opposite sex extended to sporting ability only when picking teams. Swimming lessons were conducted in the Onaero river and this meant a three mile walk. Each week we had a garden half day and the girls had a sewing half day. School picnics were a treat, often to Ngamotu Beach.

A Mrs Gilliver came from Onaero to teach Sunday School at the Waiau School.

The Whiteheads had a piano and several pupils were taught by Mrs Dorothy Newton, later Lange, who travelled the district on horse back.

There was a heavily bearded violin teacher who came to the district by bicycle. Fortunately he passed on before my lessons started.

After leaving school in the war years, many of the girls would bike to Tikorangi for netball practise and on Saturday would bike to Waitara for games - a twenty mile round trip. A south wind made the homeward gradient to Tikorangi hard work.

Roading was terrible and a section of road by the point to point venue on Ohanga Road was notoriously wet and soft. If you got through that then you were past the worst of it. Vehicles would take to the fern on the side of the road to skirt the deep water-filled tracks.

In about 1948-49, several years after the school closed a school bus was put on the route to take pupils to Urenui.

## SPORT, RECREATION AND SERVICE CLUBS

### Sports Clubs

*The story of Tikorangi's development would not be complete without some account of its various Sports Clubs.*

*There can be little doubt that the lessons learnt in school games go a long way towards shaping the sportsmen of adult life. So this may be a good place to say "Thank you" to past and present teachers who have coached and encouraged their school teams.*

*Down the years our local clubs have done much to enrich community life in promoting good fellowship and in creating a pride in local achievement. Many residents have contributed their time and effort towards building the excellent facilities here today and towards coaching in a range of activities.*

*Written records of some of the older clubs not being in existence, it has been necessary to rely on memory for many of these brief notes, which have been made as correct as possible in such circumstances.*

### Cricket

By Lyn Hotter

Among the numerous sports which have flourished to a greater or lesser degree in Tikorangi through the years, it is safe to say that, true to British tradition, the first and foremost is cricket. This grand old game has been played continuously since the settlement of the district, except for brief periods during the two World Wars.

The Tikorangi Cricket Club is the oldest club in the North Island, first formed in 1872 and is the second oldest club in New Zealand.

A very early match took place in Captain Armstrong's paddock in 1872, between local players and constabulary from Pukearuhe. Another old cricketing date is fixed for us by the Jupp diary, the entry for 30/11/1875 reading: "Willy a t cricket match at Tom Elliot's." The names of George Cunningham, Jim Sarten, Harry George, Ern Sarten and Peter Scrimgeour are part of early cricket history. Friendly matches ("the best of all" an old-timer says), filled the programme in those early days, and turn-of-the-century players will remember travelling to such games in Mr Teddy Coulter's four-wheeler.

During World War 1, Tikorangi and Urenui combined to form a team, and kept the interest alive under adverse conditions.

Moving on to the 1920's, cricket entered its golden age. Older men were still interested, middle-agers participated keenly, whilst the younger generation simply became cricketers as a matter of course. Two teams were fielded, and made a brave showing in immaculate "creams," blue and white blazers, and caps with the club monogram. Early in this decade, too, the game received a great impetus from the presentation of a shield, by the Taranaki Daily News, for competition among coun-

try clubs. High festivity at the hall marked Tikorangi's success in winning this shield at the end of the '22-23 season, and it has been won on five subsequent occasions by our local men. Also, in 1947, a junior eleven won the Andrews' Shield.

Through the years, C. Foreman, O. Foreman, E.J. Sarten, P.G. Sarten and V. Sarten, have represented Taranaki.

In 1956, the Country Cricket Association made a presentation to one of Tikorangi's cricketing stalwarts, the late Mr Allan Soffe, in recognition of his services over a long period, and the Tikorangi Club, too, recognised his merit by making him the Club's first Life Member.

In recess during the second world war, the Club resumed activities in 1944. Since then, cricketers have carried on through various changes of fortune, and today they are still following the best traditions of Tikorangi cricket. Many more members have gained representative honours in the lower grades.

The Club in the last 20 odd years has played in the lower grades competitions. The success rate from this small club has been surprisingly good with quite a number of Taranaki Championships to its credit with the latest Taranaki Championship coming in 1990.

The Tikorangi Cricket Club is now situated and combined with the Tikorangi Rugby Club who own their own grounds and have facilities second to none.

Over the years the Club has honoured five of its members for their outstanding contributions for and on behalf of the Club. Those honoured since the days of Allan Soffe, are Maurice Smart, Albie Smart, Ian Jury and Lynton Hotter.



*Back Row (left to right); R. McAsey, C. Furze, S. George, M. Smart, A. Soffe.  
Front Row: L. Silby, E. Smart, W. Soffe, H. Fruze.*

## Taranaki Complete Martial Arts

This Korean-based martial art was formed when the Taranaki section of Woo's Combined Martial Arts broke away from other schools in 1989 because of the Grand Master's shift back to Korea.

The present art involves movements and routines from several of the Korean arts. (Tae kwon do, The art has been designed by Mr. Stuart Leaf (who was trained by a Korean Grandmaster) "to suit New Zealanders in the 1990's but still retains the traditional qualities which looks for a student to gain a sense of order, self-discipline, humility and good physical fitness eventually learning leadership and integrity."

Respect also forms a major part of this code for living. The original Art arrived in Taranaki in 1987 and a demonstration at the Tikorangi Hall in 1988 led to the formation of the Tikorangi School of Woo's Combined Martial Arts. This involved, at its peak, about 40 students from a large area from Urenui to Lepperton and Waitara.

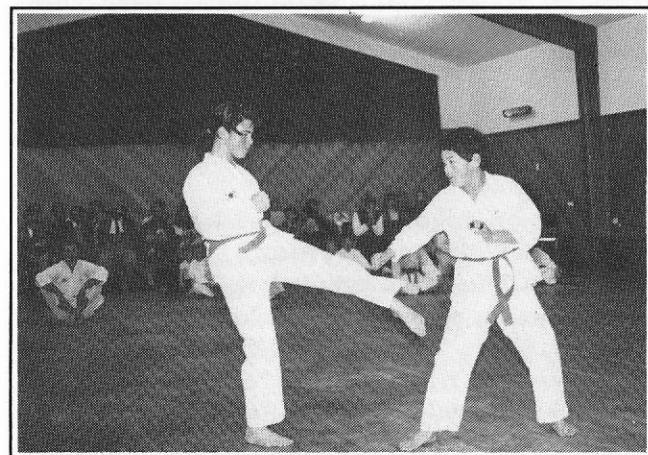
TCMA began with the Tikorangi and Fitzroy Schools and new schools were opened in Waitara, Puketapu and Kaimata.

Gradings are held every three months with great pomp and ceremony.

August 1991 saw the first black belt students of the new school graded. They were: Eric McIver, Brian Baker, Felix O'Carroll and Toni-anne Brotherson.

In November 1991 the second lot of black belt hopefuls graded and passed. They were: Wayne Hickford and Alicia Cole.

Although the Tikorangi School is currently in recess, the success of the art in North Taranaki has in no small way been influenced by the interest and dedication of a number of Tikorangi families. The McIver family, Alicia Cole, Dylan Higgison, the Waiwai family and the O'Carroll family have all been responsible for the enthusiasm that has been a part of TCMA. Felix O'Carroll is currently the head instructor of all the schools, and also has his own school in Kaimata.



*Tania O'Carroll and Lawrence Wai Wai freestyle fighting.*



*Football in Tikorangi (about 1883)*

## Rugby

Rugby kicked off in the district about 75 years ago. The playing field was George Jupp's front paddock, pine trees the shelter, and gorse hedges (so carefully planted by our grand-fathers) the dressing rooms. Some players rode down the Otaraoa Road over stumps blackened by fire to participate in friendly matches, sorting themselves according to ability or enthusiasm. Red jerseys denoted the better players, whilst amber and black ones were donned by the "not-so-goods."

Photos of those early days (1888-90) show us fifteen stalwart bearded fellows, grouped in very serious pose around a banner inscribed "Good Luck to the Tikorangi Football Team." (We have to guess the last word which is hidden for all time behind C. Oliver's brawny frame.)

Later, Waitara players formed the Clifton Club, and keen footballers from Tikorangi joined it. Among many who excelled were Jack Lye and Tom Hine who represented Taranaki.

In 1938, enthusiasts formed a Rugby League Club and played in Faull's paddock, and that year these boys were runners-up for the Lile Shield. In 1941, W. Faull, D. Hills and B. Soffe were chosen as Taranaki Reps. The following year, many members being overseas on active service, the Club went into recess, but for several years social activities carried on to raise funds for soldier's parcels.

A giant Welcome Home Dinner in May '46 was a memorable occasion.

Planning a "married versus single" match, a member, in humorous mood, brought along a horse's leg bone as a trophy. This has been mounted impressively, and the resulting work of art is competed for annually, providing the district with an afternoon's amusement.

The Tikorangi Rugby Club was formed at a meeting on 3 February 1953, chaired by A.J. Armstrong. It was decided to enter a team in the junior grade.

1957 - A shower room was built onto the end of the Tikorangi Hall which served the Club for many years. One flood light was also installed.

1964 - As the Club grew a house was purchased from the Dairy Factory and this was moved to a site next to the Hall and converted into Clubrooms. The Club progressed, the facilities became too small so in 1976 the house was removed and a new 2 storey building was erected on the site with changing rooms, showers, bar and social lounge.

1980 - Eight acres were purchased from Chang Bros. (formerly Baker's farm). This enabled the club to develop two playing fields and later a synthetic cricket wicket was laid. The Cricket Club amalgamated with the Rugby Club to become "The Tikorangi Rugby and Sports Club".

1987 - In March our present clubrooms were built. This building contains office, storerooms, toilets, kitchen, lounge and bar facilities. The Club has progressed from that first team in 1953 to fielding Senior 2nds, Senior 3rds, Under 19s, 10.00 - 11.00am morning grades as well as 5 midget teams. There are 180 honorary members.

1991-92 - The Club celebrated its 40th reunion at Queen's birthday weekend in conjunction with the 10th annual "Pig Hunt".

A new gymnasium completed in late 1991 complements outdoor training and is available for use by Tikorangi and surrounding district residents.

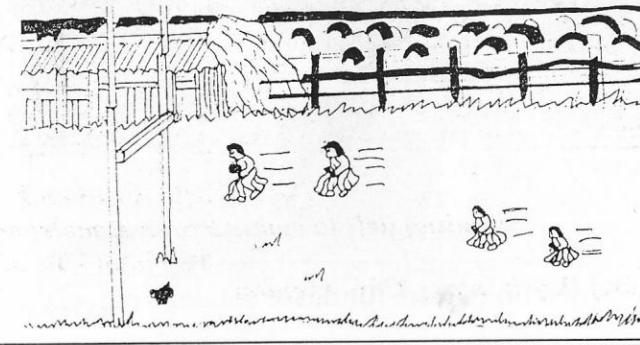
These community assets have been achieved through hours of voluntary labour, fundraising efforts and community assistance. \$40,000.00 was donated from the Clifton County council's Development Levy.

Now that the gymnasium is completed, overall assets amount to over \$850,000.00. The Club is going from strength to strength thanks to the efforts of many members.

Life Members are: R. Baker, Ken Lye, W.L. Faull, T.F. Lye, M. Vickery, N. Fleet, Des Whitehead, J. Maiden, W. Fairhurst, G. Baker, E. Gall.



Tikorangi Rugby and Sports Club.



## Rugby by Tim Carrington

On Saturday we played New Plymouth Old Boys and we won 78-0. I played half-back for half a game. On Sunday Dad and I went to the rugby, the game was Clifton vs Inglewood. One man had a noise-maker, he was cheering for Eltham. We were sitting on the ground where the scoreboard is. It was cool! Clifton won 8-6.



## Rowing

Ask any old-timer about sport in the good old days, and more likely than not his reply will be: "Well, there was the rowing, of course...." This sport had its heyday in the 'eighties and 'nineties when both men and women were keen members of the Club. Rowing practices took place on the Waitara River, from just below the Swing Bridge to Duck Island which provided approximately a half-mile straight.

The two boats, "Dauntless" and "Spray" were a contrast to the light craft used by rowers today, for both were whaleboats, heavy and sturdy, requiring strong and powerful crews. The "Spray" cost 40 pounds (a lot of money in those days) and required six men to carry it. This boat was later accidentally burnt, leaving only "Dauntless" the practice boat.

Each crew consisted of six, three port, two starboard and a coxswain. Regattas were held annually on the Waitara River below the Town bridge, when crews from Wellington, Mokau, Onehunga, Waitara and Tikorangi competed. The residents of Tikorangi always turned out in full force to barrack for their local team, parking their carts and buggies on Leslie Street, while the horses were tied to the fence. The story goes that the club coach, Mr Jim Sarten, used to ride his white horse up and down the river bank (where AFFCO Freezing Works now stand), shouting words of encouragement and admonition to his crew. For three years, 1893, 1896 and 1897 the Taranaki Senior Championship was won by Tikorangi. Suitably inscribed medals were presented to crew members and some of these are still retained by their descendants as proud possessions.



Tikorangi Rowers Fancy Dress 1890-1900

Standing (left to right): Frank Armstrong, George Wray, Sid Sarten, Charlie Jury.

Kneeling: Tom McKenzie, Alf Jupp

Sitting (Left): Denny Cunningham.

With cigarette (Right); Harry Sarten,  
In cap: Harry Cunningham.

## Hockey

"Hockey one, Shinney two, Curly three and away!" I wonder if these words were chanted in the good old days when hockey was considered a ladylike enough game for the local teenagers to play. In Tikorangi, under the organisation of the late Miss Elsie Andrews, who taught at the school, the Ngatimaru Ladies' Hockey Team was formed about 1910.

Imagine players tremendously keen and full of enthusiasm, dressed alike in voluminous ankle length skirts and high-necked, long-sleeved blouses, berets atop, holding together mops of long thick hair. The girls, fleet of foot, wielded their sticks with great gusto, and were keen for the fun of the game. Feeling the need of further practice, they invited the boys of the district to help them out, but the opponents had to be handicapped with long skirts to hamper their movements too, and were allowed no shin pads! The poor boys were out of their element and the girls won most times. No one records whether the practice was beneficial or not; only that there was one casualty - A. Alexander - one blackeye.

The hockey field was situated in Mr Lye's front paddock and many were the happy games held there. The late Mr Jack Allen was a keen supporter, who conveyed the team to their matches. His wagon was equipped with two forms, one on each side, on which the girls sat, singing all the way with Mattie Ridland (Mrs Rocke) to accompany them on the accordion.

Noel Sly



*Ngatimaru Ladies' Hockey Club, 1912*

*Back Row (left to right): V. Lye, G. Knuckley, K. Faull, E. West, I. Alexander, N. Foreman.  
Front Row: W. Foreman, K. Fuller, D. Whitehead, O. Lye, E. Lye, L. Book, A. Alexander.*

Mr Allen always took the girls to afternoon tea on the homeward trip, never accepting any remuneration for his time or generosity. He was always a very popular member of the party and every game out was considered an excursion which all members thoroughly enjoyed.

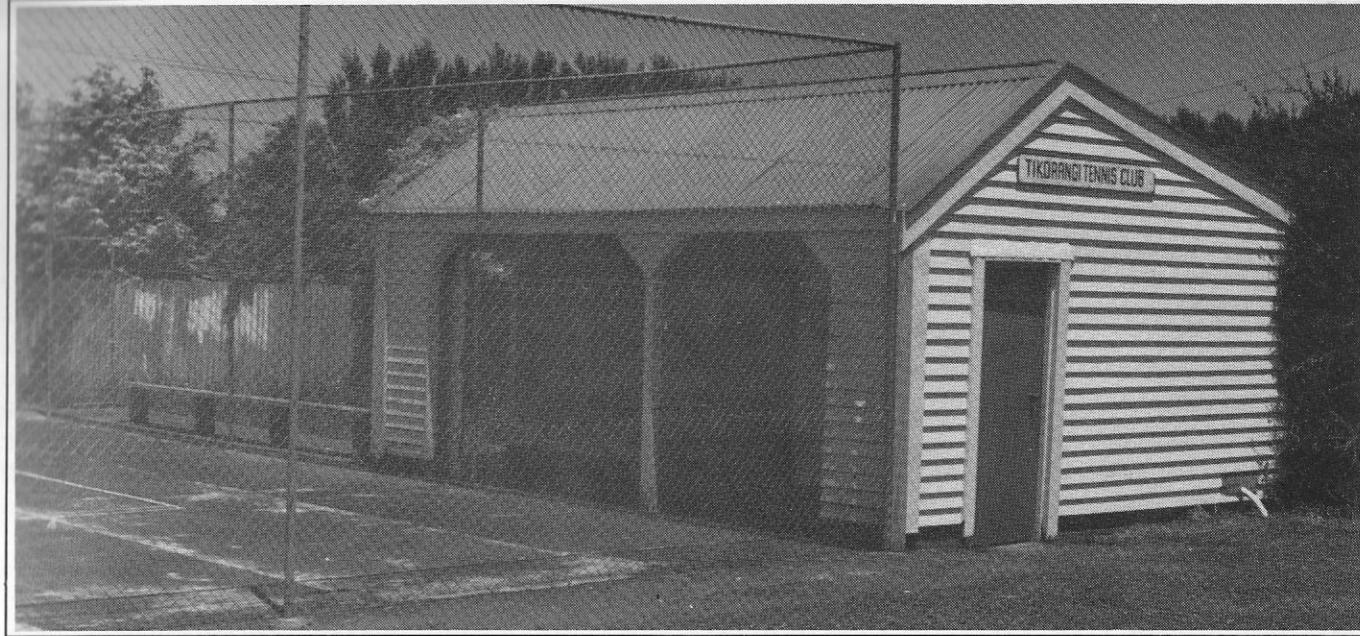
So well did some of the players perform that G. Knuckley (Mrs A. Jupp), V. Lye (Mrs Rolfe), N. Foreman (Mrs Todd) and O. Lye (Mrs Stewart) were chosen among representatives for Taranaki to play against Wellington.

The Club functioned for only three or four years, closing down at the outbreak of the first World War. The girls held a banquet in the hall to celebrate the happy days of the Club, but they did not invite the boys who were slightly affronted! After all they had contributed to the cause by supplying practice material!

Hockey enjoyed a brief revival at Tikorangi when Mr Noel Sly coached teams there. Mr Gary Gallagher a keen rugby man assisted. Two of the hockey players later became representative rugby players; Felix O'Carroll as a Maori All Black and of course Taranaki, and Terry Heppell for Taranaki.

The 'A' competition team for 1963 was: In goal - John Rolfe, Fullbacks - David Foreman and Fred Adams, Halves - Kevin Gall and Carey Lye and Felix O'Carroll, Forwards - Rodney Jupp, Larry Smart, Terry Heppell, Mark Jury, Terry Orchard, Warren Smith.

Noel Sly



*Tennis Club Building pre-1987*

## Tennis

Enthusiasm for the game of tennis usually develops in school days, and many of the district's keenest players hit their first "double faults" into the net on the old school court. This court was put down in the early '20's and for a time in the late '20's there was a small club in existence. The then Headmaster, Mr Arthur Palmer, was a keen player, and many a good game he and some of the local boys enjoyed on summer evenings. For some years after this, tennis was kept alive by play on private courts until the present Tennis Club was formed on 1 November 1935, again using the school court for Club play. After some years, one court was found to be inadequate, so in 1946 a single grass court, on the school grounds, was prepared. Until 1944, when the Club affiliated with the Taranaki Lawn Tennis Association (and so entered inter-club competitions) only friendly and social games were played.

A step forward was made in 1947, when the Club decided to launch out, and construct its own courts. Land was made available by Mr G.K. Foreman, and two hard courts were constructed and opened on 7 February '48. This large undertaking was only made possible by the wholehearted support of district residents and Club members. Chief among the stalwarts was the late Mr P.G. Sarten, whose untiring efforts and kindly counsel in Club affairs led to his being made a Life member in 1954. Another wonderful worker was the Headmaster at that time, Mr G.T. Robertson. Besides being a keen player himself, Mr Robertson, by constant encouragement of his pupils in the game, did the Club a wonderful service.

When the Club ventured to provide its own courts in 1947 membership was 33. Subscriptions being seniors P1, juniors 10 shillings.

During the early 1950's, fundraising consisted

of gala days and catering for the Annual Tikorangi motor cycle races. These were raced around the "Tikorangi Block". In 1950 Gala proceeds were £45 12s 2d. Patel Bros. were paid 1 pound 5 shillings for coconuts!

In 1978 the Club purchased the two concrete courts and pavilion from Mr Keith Foreman and at the same time land was purchased for a further two courts. These were laid in asphalt in 1980 and cost the Club \$3444.90.

In 1987 a major project was started - the new clubrooms. This took several years of fund raising consisting of selling firewood, folding Taranaki Newspaper inserts at night -usually from 1 a.m. through to 3 a.m. Sixteen members were needed twice a month. Quite a commitment. Raffles, cake stalls and finally canvassing the district for donations. As usual the district responded well. The clubroom was built by a carpenter with help from voluntary local labour and cost \$30,500.00 including the extra land.

It is a luxurious facility compared to the old shelter which had been used since 1946. No one regretted the passing of the old 'loo' at the back!

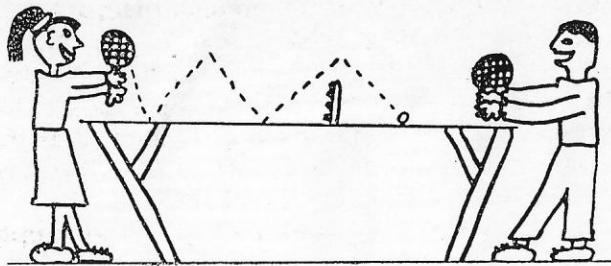
In the last two years Tikorangi has fielded an A grade team-a first for the Club, along with two B grade teams and a Ladies' day team.

Club trophies were donated by Mr and Mrs H. Leadbetter, Mr and Mrs G.K. Foreman, Mr and Mrs G.T. Robertson, and Mrs and the late Mr P. G. Sarten.

Two dates to be noted are 1947, when the Club won the North Taranaki C grade competition, and March 1948 when members had the honour of entertaining leading Australian tennis players at a function in the Tikorangi Hall.

Today the Club is in a sound position, but still looks to the school to foster, in the coming generation, an interest in this fine and worthwhile game.

## Tikorangi Badminton Club



The Badminton Club in Tikorangi began in the late 1930's and was played in conjunction with Table Tennis in the Tikorangi Hall.

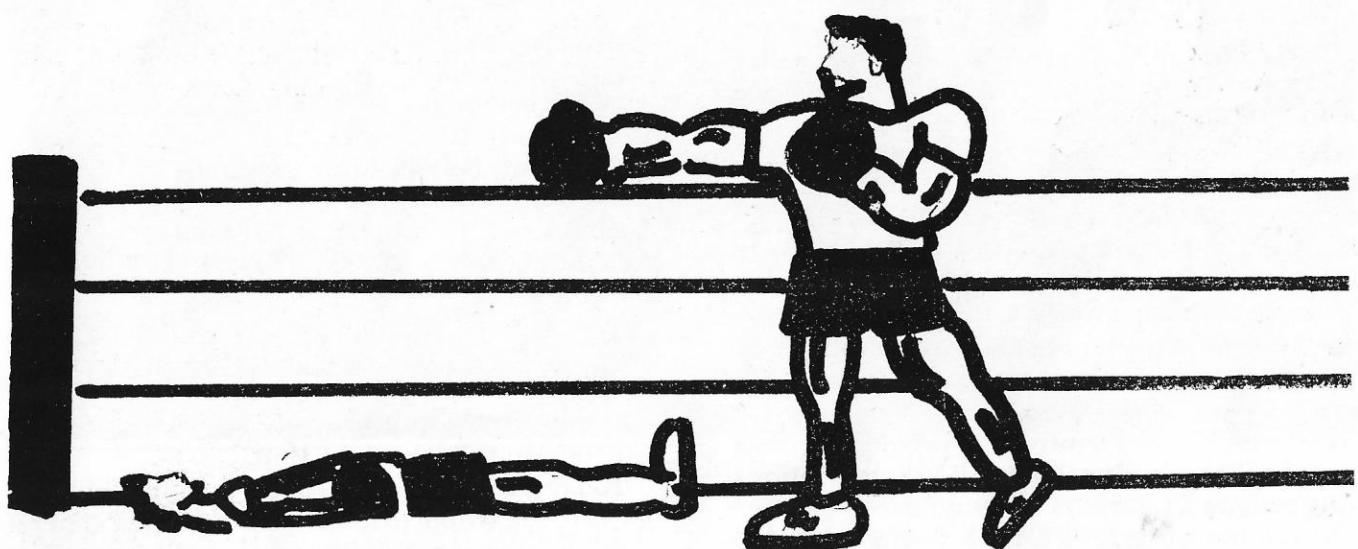
Efforts to revive both clubs following the war resulted in badminton taking over as the predominant sport and after one season the Table Tennis Club went into recess.

As badminton's popularity increased, the club membership rose and players had the choice of playing either "socially" at the Hall on club night, or participating in the provincial interclub competition.

## Boxing

For several years, from 1928 onwards, the Tikorangi boxing School was a very lively body with a membership of over fifty. This period was the heyday of Waitara's "Fighting Fireman," Tommy Donovan, who was a real friend to our boxing school. On numerous occasions the school exchanged visits with his training centre at the Waitara Drill Hall.

As interest grew, the Club met twice or three times weekly, members coming from Motunui and Huirangi also. Mrs B.E. Faull, Messrs Allan



In 1950 the Tikorangi Team was second in the Taranaki "C" Grade Championship and in 1951 defeated Eltham, to win the competition and gain promotion to "B" Grade.

Older members of this club will remember the rock like defence of Caleb Hoyle, the smashing drives of Ron Wilson, the "googlies" from George Jupp and the flashing backhand of Russell Beaven.

During the 1960's and 70's the club membership fluctuated and interclub teams were fielded when numbers permitted. Visiting teams often took some time coming to terms with "The Bars" just below the ceiling in the Old Hall. Many a rally had to be replayed after the shuttle ricocheted from one of them or had its flight disrupted.

Junior coaching saw an upsurge in interest from the younger age group and led to the introduction of a "Junior Club Night" on Friday nights in 1971. Table Tennis tables were often set up in the Super Room for players to use while waiting for their turn on the badminton court.

Over more recent years local enthusiasm for badminton has dwindled and unfortunately 1988 saw the club go into recess.

## Tikorangi Indoor Bowling Club

The Tikorangi Indoor Bowling Club was formed in April 1952 with 14 prospective members being present. The first President was Mr V.G Foreman and Secretary Mr C.R Baker.

This new sport quickly took on and became so popular that in 1956 the hall was altered to take the bowling mats crosswise.

At this stage Indoor Bowling was booming and inter-club fixtures were held regularly with local clubs, and especially yearly competitions with Brixton and Mangamahoe which are still keenly contested today. As well as the usual Club Championships three trophies are competed for annu-

ally, the Percy Sarten Shield, The Vickery Cup and the Rolfe Trophy.

Over the years several players have distinguished themselves by winning Northern Division Fours, Triples, Pairs and Singles and some have gone on and won at North Taranaki level. Like most clubs membership has been up and down and at the moment it is the largest club in the Northern Division with Forty-four members.

The Bowling Club presently has a good supply of mats and bowls and with facilities being excellent in the rebuilt hall the future is assured.

John Megaw

## Tikorangi Hunt

Unfortunately the early records were lost but the hunts started around 1905. The first kennels were near Lepperton and shifted later to Bel' Block at the back of the old aerodrome. With the depression and lack of funds, a move was needed to a smaller site at Waiau. Funds were so short there was even talk of having the hounds destroyed!

Some well known names associated with the hunt were: Sexton, Rook, McGreal, Glynn, Topless, Kamo, Cole, McGregor, Sarten, Foreman,

Honeyfield and Mabin.

Point to Points were often held at Motunui. Many hunts starting from Sampson, Parlis, Malcolm James or Roy Sartens and finishing wherever the scent took them!

The hunt scene was also a very social occasion with a Hunt Ball but many informal and 'hospitable' visits from and to Waverley and Pio Pio also occurred.

May the hunt and hospitality continue and as in the past many well known Tikorangi families are involved.

Ivan and Peter Cole

## Muzzle Loaders' Club

The North Taranaki Black Powder Arms Club was formed in 1920. with 15 members being present that day.

Later, in 1989, there was a name change to 'Taranaki Muzzle Loaders'.

The first two shots were held on a site that had been developed as a rifle range for the home guard during World War 2. A club house was built in 1980 with target facilities and approximately 100 people attending the opening.

At a later date a concrete trap house for clay bird

shooting was added. Membership has been as high as 30 but has now levelled off to about 12.

All shooting is done with antique or replica weapons charged with black powder. Only pure lead projectiles are used - no jacketed bullets or nitro powder allowed.

Members of the club have won numerous medals at N.Z. national shoots. Four members have been selected for the national team to shoot overseas.

George Jupp

## Basketball / Netball

Compared with the older clubs, basketball is quite youthful, having been formed in the early 30's by Tikorangi girls whose interest in the game had developed in their school days. Coached by Mrs G. George, members practised on various grounds adjacent to the "school corner." After the game they would enjoy afternoon tea on the verandah of Linda Pruden's home.

Transport to matches with neighbouring Clubs was either bicycles (to Huirangi and Waitara) or cars, with interested parents or friends as drivers, while Mr Ken Lye's truck was pressed into service on many occasions.

A popular event was the annual trip to Hawera to take part in King's Birthday tournaments, and members of those days will recall boarding the train at Waitara in the pitch dark of a winter's morning.

Dresses of bottle green and gold (skirts sedately long compared with today's abbreviated fashions) were the Club's first uniform, followed some years later by a new choice of black and gold frocks. More recently the teams turned out looking trim and smart in maroon gym frocks and cream blouses. Through the years the Club has given a good account of itself in Competition matches. Cup winners in '47 and '50, players continued their successes in the fairly recent past, when the Seniors won the B Grade Competition (Waitara Division) in both '56 and '57, and the Juniors also in '57.

As an extension of Club activities a team of Tikorangi School girls played Saturday matches in past seasons. This team was organised and coached by Mrs D. Smart, whose unflagging interest in the club contributed much to its success. (Doreen Smart also coached tennis.) In the 1960's Mrs Smart became President of the Waitara Division



and a member of the North Taranaki Management Committee. In 1958 a junior team comprising primary school players was entered in the divisional competition. This team proved its worth by winning the cup for junior division.

A married womens team got together socially and played regularly for 2 - 3 years in the 60's.

### FUNDRAISING

With a considerable contribution of fees required by the hierarchy of controlling authorities fundraising has played a major part in the netball season. Various activities have been employed to raise funds.

Dances. In 1959 the Tikorangi Orchestra ( Tup Sarten & Eric Gall ) was engaged at a cost of £5 10s 0d. In recent years the Rugby Club rooms have been the venue for discos.

"Goalathons". Not only did these raise funds, they also raised the scoring rate in sponsored matches.

Bike rides. Members will recall the sponsored bike ride to the Urenui pub in 1978. Some only made it to the cemetery before the tyres gave out.

### LIFE MEMBER

Mrs Pauline O'Carroll took over the coaching role from Mrs Smart and is a club stalwart to this day. She is the club's only life member.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership has fluctuated over the last 30 years with the team going into recess in 1964 and 1978, but being able at times to field 3 teams. In 1992 there is a 1st grade team, a third grade team and a social 5th grade team. The teams now play in maroon skirts and white shirts and practise at the Waitara courts at Clifton Park.

The Club is in good heart.

## Netball

by Emma-Jane Wills

We got a small team formed with Standard One, Three and Four girls. We started off with seven players then ended up with nine players.

At first one of the teachers said we could only play on school days or when another school came to our school to play us, but then my mum started to coach us for Saturdays and Mrs Edwards started to help. We have won 11 games on Saturdays. We won 18 games at school. When the season was over we had a break-up party and we all got a certificate and a pixie caramel bar each.

In the team we had Hine O'Carroll, Libby Phillips, Emma-Jane Wills, Samantha Hickman, Stacey Yandle, Angie Webster, Adele Thompson, Kate Tuck and Nicola Brown.

## Netball

by Samantha Hickman

Yesterday we had sports against Lepperton school. I played netball. We lost our first game and drew our second game. The Standard Three and Fours were behemoths. After we had played the first game we had a rest while our Standard Two's and Three's played. When we were back on again I played Centre and Goal Attack.

When we had finished we shook hands and said our cheers. After we had a team talk I went and had a drink. For the rest of the afternoon I contemplated the soccer then we went home.



Tikorangi Basketball Team, 1947

Left to right: Eileen Foreman, Diana Mahy, Pam Smith, Lesley McDonald, Maureen Smaller, Margaret Foreman, Peggy O'Carroll, Gabrielle Crawford, Jean Surrey.

## Waihi-Waitara Sheep Dog Trial Club

After a general meeting of local settlers held on 5 April 1926, it was decided that a Club be formed to be known as the Waihi Sheep Dog Trial Club.

Mr F. Sarten was made Patron of the Club, President was Mr H. Purdy, Vice-President Mr F.W. Mathews and Secretary/Treasurer Mr J.M. Purdy.

It was decided that the Club apply for permission to hold a trial on 3 May on Mr J. Edwin's property. (This property is now owned by the Honeyfield Bros). Also that the trial on this occasion be restricted to a one day event, Class II only. Prize money to be allotted 1st £10, 2nd £3, 3rd £2, 4th £1.

The following year in 1927 it was decided that the Club hold a two day trial to include Classes 1,2 and 3. A dance was held after the trials. This was to be an annual occurrence. The dance was held in Waihi Hall (now the Motunui Hall). At the annual meeting in 1929 it was decided by the committee that the name of the Club be altered to Waihi-Waitara Sheep Dog Trial Club.

In 1934 it was decided that next years trial would be held on Mr Fred Sarten's property, to involve Classes 1,2 and 4 and for the first time there would be open maiden prizemoney. Also that no raffles or sweeps to be allowed on the grounds.

At the annual meeting in 1936 it was decided that the Secretary price timber and iron to build a pavilion. The building was to be erected on Mr P. Scrimgeour's property (now owned by Mrs H. Wallace). From then on until 1983 the trials were held on these properties.

Materials to build the pavilion cost £41 10s 0d. In 1938 the Club purchased timber to build tables and seats for the pavilion. Also donated 1 pound 1 shilling towards distemper research for dogs.

In 1948 it was decided that the Club go into recess. However, the trials were held again in 1949. During the war years, profits from the trials

went towards parcels for the local boys overseas. In 1970 it was decided that the Club needed a second leader course. Mr F. Jupp was approached. The Club was given permission to use his property also sheep if required. Also in 1970 the Club decided to hold a social in the Tikorangi Hall. Past and present Dog Trialists were invited and a presentation was made to Mr C. Carmichael for his services to the Club. He had been the Club secretary for thirty three years.

In 1983 the Sarten property then owned by Mr Richard Sarten (being a grandson of Mr Fred Sarten) was sold. This could have meant the Waihi-Waitara Club having to go into recess. However, Mr Lawson Corlett a new member of the Club kindly offered the use of his property, sheep and woolshed situated on the Kohete Road, Kaimata.

The Club had extended the boundary in a previous year to the top of the Tarata Saddle so Mr Corlett's property was situated within the Club boundary.

At the annual meeting in 1983 the Club decided to accept Mr Corlett's generous offer and the coming Trials were held in Kaimata, Classes 1,3 and 4 on Mr Corlett's property and Class 2 on a neighbours property owned by Mr H. Wood. The trials were a success. A Show Ring event was also ran.

The members have since built permanent holding yards on all four courses and judging huts on the two huntaway courses. Since 1985 the club has also held a Shepherds Trial for maiden dogs only. The Club's pavilion at Tikorangi was sold to Mr M. Whittaker for removal for the sum of \$500.00. Mr Merv Whittaker was at the time President of the Club.

Moving the Trial from Tikorangi to Kaimata has proved in every aspect to have been to the Club's advantage.

A. Stewart

## "WELL DONE TIKORANGI!"

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## Tikorangi Country Women's Institute

Gay May

A meeting of the ladies of the district was called on 22 March 1930 in regard to forming a branch of the Women's Institute.

The first President was Mrs Morey, Secretary was Mrs Hine, Treasurer was Mrs H. Sarten. Tikorangi was the third institute formed in Taranaki starting with a membership of 30. At the end of 1931 the balance sheet was £1 10s 10d. In 1932 two pounds of butter were sent to a Women's Institute in Kent, England in an effort to advertise New Zealand products.

By 1936 membership had risen to 42; a 5 shilling donation was given towards a radiator for the Ladies Lounge at the New Plymouth Hospital.

During the war years the membership dropped. In 1943 a pair of knitted socks was sent with each soldier's parcel and a Christmas parcel was sent to each boy overseas from our district. During 1944, 98 parcels were sent.

Each year the C.W.I. has held interesting monthly meetings with guest speakers or demonstrations. This format still continues. In 1966 a parcel of linen was sent to a hospital in Vietnam. A new banner was designed by Mr I. Kerrison in 1967,

## C.W.I. Drama Group

The Tikorangi C.W.I. Drama group was re-formed on 27 February 1963 with Mrs Myra Whitehead elected as group leader, and Mrs Gracie Moratti as Secretary/Treasurer. The membership was 8 and the subs were 25 cents.

The group performed for its first time at the North Taranaki C.W.I. Arts Festival in May 1968 then again at Christmas with the fairy story "Sleeping Beauty" as a pantomime. A pantomime has been performed every year since.

Membership has increased and decreased from 15 to the current 8. During the years the group has gained pleasure from performing in one act plays, skits, memorised sketches, novelty groups, musical mimes and T.V. commercials. They have entertained for Aged Concern, charity groups, R.S.A. ladies, other fellow institutes and until recently held regular concerts at Tikorangi.

Children of the members have often been conned into appearing as robots, fairies and elves during pantomimes often with photographs appearing in the Daily News, Times Record and Photo News.

Members have written plays

embroidered by Mrs M. Sarten, incorporating the pink everlasting daisy, the branch's emblem.

Drama and choir groups restarted in 1968, the choir gaining first place in the Art's festival. The highlight of 1980 was the 50th Anniversary. Two foundation members, Mrs Sara Whitehead and Mrs Elsie Whitehead planted a golden yew tree in the St Luke's church grounds to commemorate the anniversary. Dinner was held in the Hall at a price of \$4.50 per head with Dominion Vice President and Federation President among those guests.

Celebrations were again among the highlights in 1990 as the branch celebrated 60 years. Although membership has now dropped to 25, the Tikorangi C.W.I. is still endeavouring to provide the ladies of the district with a worthwhile programme. The most recent large donation was \$600 towards hall curtains in 1989. A big advance on the 4 pounds raised towards the cemetery funds, by holding card parties in 1933.

Current President is Thelma Perrott, Secretary Gay May, Treasurer Celia Jury.

and pantomimes, sometimes trusting a regular plot to fit in with local humour and flavour. They have twice qualified in competitions with the Northern Area finals for C.W.I. Arts Festivals.

Members of the C.W.I. are frequently co-erced into helping out with extra parts and chorus work, the most recent being held in June 1992. We have 3 foundation members still performing: Myra Whitehead, Gay Whitehead and Gay May.

Father Christmas is a popular figure each year, and the same jolly character has had this role since 1975.



## Young Farmers Club

The Y.F.C. was formed in 1939. On the 15th February a meeting of all the local young men was held and it was decided unanimously to become a club.

Original Committee were :

Chairman - Mr Gordon Foreman.

Secretary - Mr George Jupp.

Treasurer - Vic Foreman.

They started by entering three teams in the cow and pig judging contest at N.P. Agricultural Show. Guest speakers ranged from pig rearing and fattening to travelling with stud rams from England by boat.

Cricket and Debating dominated their activities with one debate concluding that; "School children should not work on farms".

A framed picture was raffled off to raise some funds. 3d a ticket or 5 for a shilling.

War came and on the 8th May 1941 the Club went into recess.

War ended and on the 3rd August 1945 Tikorangi Y.F.C. was reborn.

New Chairman being Vern Sarten

Secretary-Treasurer E Soffe

Committee A (Bert) Jupp, E (Elvy) Smart, Archie Hine.

The Agenda stated! Cricket, Debating, Shooting, Cricket, South Island tours to Otago And Canterbury, Guest Speakers, fat lamb competition and of course Cricket. Items that I Noted Were that;

At one debate it was decided that "Barbed wire was better than electric fencing".

Radio talks were given on bee keeping, and on farming in the Tikorangi area.

Country Girls Club started in 1951 - They had meetings on the same night and quite conveniently laid out supper for both themselves and Y.F.C.

One raffle to note, was for a prize donated by some members who could have done with it themselves . . . hair tonic!

When a Guest speaker was not available, Impromptu Speaking was the order.

"Dead eye" John Megaw "Dick" took out the .303 and .22 rifle shooting in National Y.F.C. competitions.

In 1963 a guest speaker explained what a herringbone cow-shed was to a captivated audience.

In the 1960s the young men gave up their bicy-

cles and started driving their parents cars to meetings, and that's when Car Trials began. I hear that Faull's Store gravel carpark was always a favourite "turning" spot. But the old concrete steps in front of the hall took their toll. As the young men owned their own cars, slaloms on grass - wet or fine, were in vogue. Hill climbing on back-roads was finally out-lawed by the Police in the 80s.

Raising money was always a novelty. Raffling man hours of labour, growing pumpkins, potatoes and water melons, and sheriff sessions at meetings. But any excess of money was always donated to a worthy cause.

Tracks have been worn through freezing works and dairy factories, cemetery clean ups and farm visits by many feet over the years. We amalgamated with Country Girls Club in 1920.

A plough was erected as a monument to the Early Settlers of Tikorangi in the church grounds by us in 1971

One safety officer burned his tractor to the ground while in office.

Woodleigh Country Girls Club became very special to us for some reason around 1971 with the big dance "HAPPEN INN" that we put on. But within a month a motion was put that "We no longer supply liquor of any kind to Woodleigh C.G.C.. So I wonder what happened at the dance!"

In the late 70s membership bulged with 40 or more at meetings.

Activities to jog memories were:

Make and model, Skellerup Young Farmer, Shearing, Tenpin bowling, Mountain climbs, Flying, Overseas exchanges, Farm safety days, Farmarama, Golf, Hansells cooking, Tin cannings and house warmings, Firewood chops, Tractor backing, Shield challenges, White water rafting, In-calf heifer judging, Potluck teas, roller skating, Maize stubble motor X, Calf rearing, Pasture judging and the good Old-time Dances. In the late 80s membership dwindled with the upturn in modern communications and transport, and there were fewer suitable aged people.

On February 7th 1989 being very few members the Club went into recess. I'd like to thank especially those people that had tried so hard to keep it going. Remember that Y.F.C. is only in recess. Perhaps in years to come our children may . . .

Article by A Sarten.



*The 1992 Reunion Committee*

*Back Row (left to right): Ross Soffe, Jim Webster, Paul Lye.*

*Front Row: Artie Davidson, Rex Dowman, Paul Cole, Ann Hooper and Des Whitehead.*

### CREDITS

Paul Cole	-	Chairman of Magazine
Ann Hooper	-	Registrations and Souvenirs
Paul Lye	-	Venues and Photographs
Artie Davidson	-	Catering and Sound System
Jim Webster	-	Catering and Band
Des Whitehead	-	Addresses and Advertising
Rex Dowman	-	Magazine
Ross Soffe	-	Co-ordinator of School Labour weekend workers and Calf Day Functions
Mark Collinson	-	Principal, also assisted with overall organisation.

*This magazine has been put together from articles contained in the 1958 Jubilee Magazine and from current contributions and updates. Rex Dowman generated the impetus that got contributions rolling in and provided the magazine framework. The reunion committee searched all avenues for photographic material and advertising. The School and Community responded to our calls for articles, artwork and photos. Paul Cole collected and assembled the information and the typists Diana Mills, Clare Ingram, Natasha Lehmann, Lynley Jupp and Tania O'Carroll transferred the data to computer disc for printing.*

*To all those people who responded positively at short notice to demands on their time, and material we say . . .*

*A HUGE THANK YOU.*

*From the Reunion Committee.*



*Junior Room Concert, 1983*

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