

TEACHERS

Perhaps more than anything else a school's reputation is judged by its teachers. In this connection West End has been very fortunate, for sterling service has been rendered by dedicated men and women for the past century. Among outstanding staff members in recent years are:

RAY FORDYCE, who began as deputy principal in September 1965 and who currently holds the same position. During that time he was acting principal for eight terms at various periods when Ray Jackson and Bryce Smith were acting inspectors. In Ray's opinion one of the major strengths of the school has been the staff relationships developed by many long-serving members. He says: "During my time major upheavals have occurred with the rebuilding of the school. Today there are few schools which could equal the West End teaching environment."

IAN BARNES. The Barnes family have had a long association with West End School. Ian was at West End for his first year practical training after college in 1946. In 1968 he came from Westown and was at West End until his retirement in 1982 after completing 40 years government service. Ian's Uncle Mr. A. C. Barnes, was principal for four years and his younger brother Don was a pupil. Ian's particular interest was reading instruction and the school is grateful to him for the organization of the library.

JAN CONLIN. In 1966 Jan Conlin was appointed senior teacher to West End. During the following years she taught classes from Junior 2 to Standard 4 and acted as deputy principal for a total period of six terms. At the beginning of 1982 she was "borrowed" by the Education Department to be an itinerant teacher of Maori Studies for two years. Jan served on the School Committee for two years 1981 and 1982.

The Late NANCY CONN, recommenced teaching at West End in 1962 after a break to raise a family. She was very musical and her talents were always in demand. For many years she and Sally Jackson, speech therapist, coached a school choir which each year entertained old people in the hospital and old people's homes. She also helped to produce operettas. She resigned in 1972 through illness and her cheerfulness was missed around the school. She recovered in 1973 and then resigned to teach a special class at Central School. She was later seconded to the Psychological Service. Her health deteriorated and she became permanently disabled until her death in 1982.

AVA MCGREGOR (Senior Teacher Junior Classes) began at West End in 1967 and left in May 1977 to become deputy principal of an Auckland school. Now she is principal of Sylvia Park School, Auckland.



Left: The staff in 1920. Back Row, Miss Thomas, Miss Gibson, Mr. Hancock, Mrs. Russell, Misses I. Anthony, Olsen, Hodge and Lindopp. Front row: Mr. Rowntree, Miss K. Anthony, Mr. D. P. Evans (headmaster), Miss Sharp, Mr. King, Miss Jones.

The pupils they taught: Back row: Dora Hodge, Nell Smart, Winnie Lobb, ———, Joyce Main, Nellie Carter, Josie Evans, Delia Hoskin, Avis Murphy.
 Second row: Marion Scott, Emily Hoyle, Doris Morris, Nora Gilbert, Lucy Carr, ———, ———.
 Third row: Camelia Badley, Josephine Stone, Mavis Jenkins, Barbara Stone, Nellie Rous, Winnie McLean, Elvie Aitken, Jean Charters.
 Front row: Olga Christoffel, Alice Hawkes, Elise Mullen, Evelyn Julion, Maggie ———, Kath Daily, Dorothy Geddes, ———.





Judy and John Murtagh (right) receive gifts acknowledging their long service in school affairs when they retired in 1980. They are seen here with the new chairman of the School Committee, Mr. Ross Smith.

THE PASSING OF AN ERA

By John Murtagh

a Member and past Chairman of the School Committee from 1967 to 1980.

THE confessions of a committee member must seem tame in comparison with those of a window cleaner; however both have their moments. There is probably no better place to start but at the beginning. On October 7, 1945, I entered the sacred portals of the infant classes at West End School. The next seven years there had many ups and downs — mostly downs, as the average boy of the day tended to take rather than give. Who needed education when there was a football to kick about or a cricket ball to bowl? Time has not changed much in this field but modern society demands far higher levels of academic achievement than perhaps it did back in the old days.

This was the era of George Bracegirdle the school's caretaker, George Davey the headmaster, Miss Papp and Miss Burton to mention a few. The old Special Class — the house of horrors (the dental clinic

both still standing); the memorial gates, the flats, the old oak stump . . . and so the memories of the old school flood back.

Unfortunately time stands still for no man and so my association with West End flew by and so did a further 11 years. Then living in Belt Road opposite Davies Lane with a four-year-old son, very soon to become the second generation to attend West End School.

It was about that time the then chairman of the committee Mr Kai Thomson approached me to accept nomination for the committee. Kai had that happy knack of making one feel guilty. How do you take all and give nothing back to those who provided your primary learning? And so I found myself elected at the biennial meeting and so started a new association with the school which was to last for 14 years, and see my three children complete their primary education at West End. Having served on a number of committees I still regard my term on the West End School Committee as being the most enlightening, and rewarding I have had the pleasure to experience.

Today we gaze at the totally rebuilt school. Gone is the East Wing, the West Wing, the headmaster's office and staff room; gone also are the old caretaker's hideout, the School Hall, bike stand, milk shed, the old oak stump and even the walnut tree from the dell. The only buildings to remain are the old special class and the dental clinic. That being one building which unfortunately has stood the test of time.

And so as the wheels of change turned so the memorial gates and flag pole came down to be re-erected and re-dedicated in their new position.

Ex pupils who are now seeing these changes for the first time must stand in awe and ask themselves just where has the old school gone. But the re-building programme has brought us a new school set in park-like grounds which would be hard to equal anywhere in the world. This dramatic change did not take place overnight. In fact, from the start of stage 1 to the completion of stage 5 took from 1969 to August 1982. The number of meetings and the amount of correspondence between the committee and education board over that period of time makes one dizzy just remembering them. The liaison between both parties was tremendous and knowing full well the financial problems that the board members are forced to work under I can only speak with admiration for the thoughtfulness shown to us by the board over that rather difficult period of time.

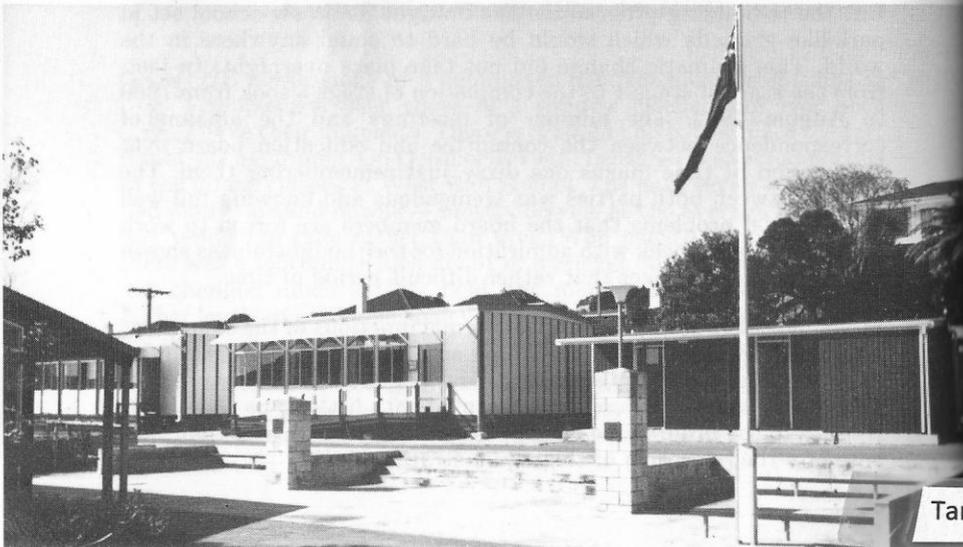
Whilst all this was in progress the normal functions of the committee still had to continue. The hardships and privations experienced by Principal, staff and pupils whilst this was going on speaks volumes for the way in which these were accepted with little or no complaint. Hitches to the programme were constant but none greater than that posed by the relocation of the administration block.

The old School hall was on its last legs being declared unsafe by a council updated building code also the Fire Service put restrictions on numbers for safety reasons. A decision had to be made and so it was. The hall was to go but what then? To replace was going to prove to be an extremely expensive operation, so how could we still get what we wanted but at a cost that could be feasibly raised. An idea from Mr Graeme McGregor a then committee member, to incorporate the administration block with a new hall being called a multi-purpose block on the old site, was adopted. The board agreed to these proposals and so the stage was set with new plans being drawn and a million and one things to do. However the job was done.

I mentioned earlier the memorial gates. It was a sad day when it was realised that they had to go from their existing site because they were too narrow to allow access for the transportable classroom units. Many of you donated your hard earned pennies to the cost of building those memorial pillars in remembrance to ex school pupils who served their country during the war years. Many will remember, as I do, the dedication ceremony so many years ago. It was certainly a unique experience to be present for the rededication of those memorial pillars and plaques so many years later.

Many things happened over that period of time, some humorous, some not so humorous, but every one with a purpose. The raising of finance needed so desperately for the necessary extras in school requires gala days, raffles etc, the working bees, painting and pruning, all a very small price to pay for the satisfaction one receives in having sat in on the passing of an era.

The "new" War Memorial sited by the library in the heart of the school where the original office stood.



A bulldozer crashes through the remains of the old assembly hall, to make way for the new two-storey structure in 1979.

JUDY MURTAGH TAKES UP THE STORY

SATURDAY November 11, 1978, was the night that would mark the end of an old and the beginning of a new school hall. It was the night that the roof of the old school hall nearly did come down. Not through the age of the old building but applause from those who attended the final night of two months' fundraising for a new hall.

This mighty venture all came about with permission given to the school committee to rebuild the administration block with a hall as the basement. Unfortunately a hall did not come under government rebuilding funds but a subsidy of \$13,000 would be granted.

With this project in mind the Chairman of the school committee called a public meeting to discuss plans for raising the extra money which at that point of time would be approx. \$14,000. A mammoth task for a school of about 200 parents.

At this meeting a fundraising committee was formed. A convener of this committee was found and from then it was all go to raise \$14,000 in 2 months. It was decided to run an old-time "Queen Carnival" with the four school houses, being the individual committees. These were Marsden, Hobson, Wakefield and Grey, under the leadership of Lucy Matheson, Alison Brown, Christine Poole and the late David Sutton.

From here the competition started. It certainly proved a real race for the top as each committee tried to raise more than the other. A barometer at the gate of the school provided everyone with how the funds were coming in. Of course there was a bit of cunning on each one's part as they withheld true amounts until the last minute, so nobody had an idea who was really in the lead.

Many activities were shared. They ranged from the usual, cakes stalls, fashion shows, raffles, etc., to selling blocks for the new hall. Las Vegas nights, fun days, spring swim, discos, and even a TV. take-off of the "Generation Game". It was just go, go, go, day and night. At no time did their convener let them relax as she personally had a goal. That was not to raise \$14,000 but to exceed this, as at the time her husband was chairman of the School Committee and somehow conned her into the position she held.

The co-operation of business houses, parents, staff, ex pupils, present pupils and the community was absolutely fantastic. The news media and local radio station both gave tremendous support to the cause and it was talked about all over New Plymouth.

After a month things didn't really look brilliant but all were determined and so we all plugged on.

Then came the night all had waited for. The school hall was decorated for the occasion and the comment was — "who needs a new hall?" as many gathered at a social function to mark the end of 2 month's strenuous efforts.

What a fantastic thrill to get up that night and announce and present to the school committee a cheque for just on \$19,000. What an effort — what a climax to 2 months of fundraising. Is it any wonder it would go down in history.

The sound of music in the new hall.



West End Home and School Association Committee: Back row: Mesdames Jeanette Jolly, Phyllis Eaddy, June Dalton, Colleen Parkes, Carol Dawson, Pam Lobb.
Front row: Liz Winters, Pam Smith, Jenny Watson (secretary), Elaine Lamb (President), Hugh Hughes (Principal), Mesdames Mary Marshall, Junelle King-Turner.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S VALUABLE WORK

The West End Home and School Association was formed in 1956 and over the years has done great work in bringing parents more closely into contact with the staff and school activities. Here Gordon Mitchell, who is chairman of the Centennial Publication Committee, outlines some of the Association's achievements.

I had the privilege of being chairman of the Home and School Association during 1976 and 1977. It was with some apprehension that I surveyed the committee, which was all female, apart from the Principal, and I thought "How am I going to keep this lot in order?"

I need not have worried, whether it was the fact I was a "new boy" or an unknown quantity, I will never know, for as it turned out I had a

stalwart committee with me, including Dot Wills who was secretary, and Shirley Gower, ladies' convener. We trod new ground with confidence and started new ventures.

My first concern was to try and bring closer relationships between parents, staff and the school by getting the parents involved in activities and running of the school.

We started off by having social evenings, welcoming new parents and staff to the district and inviting all staff and school committee members along to meet all the parents, and getting to know each other, which benefited all. I also commenced writing a newsletter once a month outlining our forthcoming plans, and decided to make all our meetings open to any parent or teacher who cared to come and discuss anything that they wished to bring up, thereby enabling all concerned to feel part of the school. We also had other film and discussion evenings, ran mini market days and revived the Home and School calendar which was issued outlining all our yearly activities and used in conjunction with the monthly newsletters. One of our most memorable family nights was the participation of the children in a show called "In The Bag" which proved very popular, at times hilarious.

One highlight in my first year, was achieving a pedestrian crossing for the children at the Devon Street/Belt Road intersection, as it was, but more so now, a busy stretch of road, and very hazardous to try and cross. I must pay tribute to the previous committees who had started negotiations some two years before but had become stalled with "red tape", as it was considered at that time by some authorities not to be a high priority, but we applied more arguments and pressure, especially after nearly having a couple of fatalities, and our efforts finally won out.

Another highlight was rejoining the Taranaki Federation of Home and School Associations in which we benefited by receiving their own magazine and receiving an overall picture of the Province's problems, as well as being able to submit remits to the New Zealand Federation of Home and School who would present them to the Government for consideration and action.

The committee also introduced a new venture which proved very successful so consequently, we managed to repeat it at other times during the year. This was a Little Theatre evening, which involved the Home and School selling all the tickets for the play, at the committee's set price, and included refreshments.

In conclusion, my whole six years on the committees proved very worthwhile and educational, it brought the running and administration of the school more closely into view, and I cannot praise the committees enough for all the hard work that was involved.

50 YEARS AGO

ON Sunday March 3, 1935, an afternoon church service was held in the grounds to celebrate the fiftieth year of the school's foundation. Beneath a leafy walnut tree on the first flat the choir sat in gradually ascending tiers. Mr. Aked did splendid work when he coached the choir in the hymns. At the Agricultural Hall His Worship the Mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, conducted the Jubilee Official Opening on the following day. Perhaps the most interesting to the ex-pupils of the school was the signing of the roll. The names before them awakened memories of old friends, impositions and mischievous pranks. . .

(From "The Annual Cheerio", a yearly magazine published for the West End School Magazine by Felix James Brown. It ceased publication during World War II).

From the same magazine: "We were gratified this year to know that Ian Kerr, winner of the Berg Cup for 1934, again distinguished himself by winning the Bayly Memorial Scholarship for 1935 . . . Doug Gayton, who left us at Christmas 1933, succeeded in winning the Flanagan Cup against all comers in 1934 . . . Elva De Forges one of our old girls won the Intermediate Championships at the Girls' High School for 1934 and she may be Senior Champion next year. . ."

SYMBOL OF EXCELLENCE

MR. C. O. Berg ("Genial Chas" as he was widely known) was a school committee man for 20 years from 1919. A keen supporter of all functions designed to benefit the school, he was interested in all forms of sport and will be remembered by many cricketers for his efficient displays of umpiring. In 1931 he presented to the school the silver Berg Cup. It was awarded annually, not for top scholastic ability, or top sporting prowess, but a happy mixture of both — a sort of general excellence award. It ceased being awarded in 1957 when the school lost its standards 5 and 6 to the new Devon Intermediate School.

The trophy was "lost" until last year when it was recovered in a somewhat battered condition from the school store room.

The following 32 names are engraved on it:

1931: J. Gunson.	1945: D. Ramsbottom.
1932: J. Coppen.	1946: D. Venables.
1933: F. Duncan.	1947: A. Poole.
1934: I. Kerr.	1948: G. Tuck.
1935: W. Rose, J. May.	1949: H. Jones, J. Sturmeay.
1936: A. Cliff, M. Duffin.	1950: S. Woodhead.
1937: A. Quickfall.	1951: S. Thomas.
1938: B. Ingles, E. Meuli.	1952: J. Chapman.
1939: F. Irving.	1953: M. Smith.
1940: J. Brown.	1954: D. Harrison.
1941: N. Potaka.	1955: G. Elliot.
1942: J. Dodd.	1956: A. Elliot, A. Rutherford.
1943: L. Jones.	1957: S. Beck.
1944: R. Simpson.	



42 YEARS OF DENTAL SERVICE

By Malcolm Cunninghame

Principal Dental Officer, Taranaki.

WHEN the West End School Dental Clinic was officially opened, on May 1st, 1941, it was designated 'New Plymouth Number Two', the only other clinic in the city at the time being 'New Plymouth Number One' which was located at Fitzroy School.

As far as can be ascertained, the first nurse to be appointed to the clinic at West End was a Miss Foggin, who apparently remained there until about October 1942, when Miss C. C. MacFarlane took over. With a rapidly growing school roll, it became necessary, in 1943, to appoint a second nurse to the clinic and it has remained a two-nurse clinic until the present day.

Since its opening some 50 dental nurses have given service at the West End School Dental Clinic, some for quite lengthy periods. Among these were H. J. McWilliams, M. A. Perry, J. M. Raskin and C. A. Green (nee Whiting), all of whom remained for over five years.

In the early days, the New Plymouth area was included in the very large Wellington Dental District, one of only six such districts throughout the country. As further subdivision took place and more districts were created, New Plymouth became, successively, part of the Taranaki/Hawkes Bay District (1948), the Palmerston North District (1956) and finally, in 1962 was included in the newly formed New Plymouth Dental District which now includes an area from Taumarunui in the north to Wanganui in the south.

As would be expected, many changes have taken place over the years, both in equipment, which has advanced from the almost mediaeval foot-operated treadle engines, to the present day high speed air turbine drills, and in techniques.

Such have been the improvements in dental health, that the roll of the school dental nurse has changed from that of an operator trying somewhat desperately to cope with the enormous treatment needs of a child population ravaged by gross dental disease, to that of a health educator. Whilst there is still dental disease present, it has been reduced to a controllable level and the dental nurse's work is now strongly orientated towards prevention by education. Indeed, the present nurse, Mrs. D. M. Flavell, carries her education programme very effectively into the community by addressing such outside groups as expectant mothers, parent-teacher groups and others.

Perhaps finally, it might be of interest to note the changes in the field of salaries for school dental nurses. In 1943 a new graduate's commencing salary was \$390 per year! In 1953 this had increased to \$880, while today the new graduate starts in the field on an annual salary of \$13,411.



Dental nurse Diane Flavell, at work.

GOOD OLD WEST END

During the run-up to the centennial celebrations, West End children were asked to write essays on their impressions of a century of education. Here are a few unabridged samples:

ITS been a hundred years now and the good old school is still going strong. The teachers can be scritchers, but they are the best teachers even tho they do ramble on a lot. Well for our headmaster, Mr Hughes, he does acageily blow his fues. But he is kind and nearly half blind. Us kids useially tells fibs and when it's time for sports we have to wear bibs. Our gardens and playgrounds look very very nice, because the caretakers take care of the gardens at a very resnable price. Well, heres to the whole school, past, future and presant. This school is very very pleasant. Good old west End.

— Tracey Hinde.

Bells. I wonder how meany diffrent bells there are and i wonder how meany people that have rung them because there are big bells and small bells and bells that you ruing by pulling a rope. I wonder how meany diffrent bells West End School has used over the years.

— Cindy Shute.

The Bell. The bell in the olden days the bell was a hand bell you pulled a rope or wire the bell was in a sort of room out Side made of brick it was for the schools they rang it for lunch play time and for the fire alarm earth quake alarm to go to the school The end.

— Unsigned.

I wonder how many times the bell as been mended and how many times people have made mistakes by ringing it to early or to late. Or long ago did the teacher ring the bell. Or did the have a hand bell and how many times did they have to ring the firebell.

— Dilip Patel.

Strap. out comes the strap in the middle room. he says get set, wak, what a bang I say that hert I am never going to like that teacher againe I say.

— Unsigned.

Desks. Their desks were two seated they used ink pens they dipped them in the ink and pulled them out again. So on the story tells us the boys were very naughty they dipped our pony tails in the ink and would come out blue with ink.

— Unsigned.

The hall 50 years ago. The hall 50 years ago might have had a little stage like a curtain like in opera houses. It would have probably had been made out of wood.

— Paulette Schicker.

FIRE DRILL

By Hugh Hughes

FIRE drill is an important aspect of school life, but one that is difficult to set the scene correctly so that children can experience what it is really like. That is, unless we have the assistance of our caretaker and a staff member.

The morning it happened was one fine day just before Easter. Anna Tkaczyk, teaching in the infants, wanted some boiled eggs, so she enlisted the aid of Leo Russell. He put the eggs in a pot on the rangette in his room and they were soon boiling. While waiting he carried on working outside but was soon engaged in a conversation with our neighbour, Ross, at the Davies Lane entrance.

Meanwhile the rangette had really warmed up the oven shelves which had been made by Leo himself, and they started to smoulder. The smoke was noticed by the children in Room 5, who rushed over to the office.

The fire brigade was called; the alarm sounded and the excited kids evacuated and checked off as the engine arrived. While all this was going on Leo, with his back to the scene, was still engaged in conversation with Ross, oblivious to the excitement he had caused. But he found out later, of course.

Overleaf: West End School pupils, November 1983. (This picture may compensate those obscured by the title of the cover page.)

A TEACHER REMEMBERS

*By Mrs Joan Sander, a teacher at West End School,
who retired on December 6, 1978.*

MY first association with West End was in 1949 when I was on the staff for about a year. Mr Davies was headmaster, Miss Kurta senior teacher junior classes, Miss Todd special class in the speech clinic, and Ralph Wall a member of the staff.

Memories. . . Teaching up to 40 children in cramped cloak rooms . . . beautiful flower gardens along by Parker's wall . . . the staff room in the sick bay in the old administration block . . . The whole school going by special train to Eltham for a school picnic.

I joined the staff again in 1961 when Harry Thomas was headmaster. Taught in the old prefab down by the speech clinic . . . The teacher in the next room was Ava Coxhead, who left soon afterwards to get married . . . Mr Thomas knew nearly every child in the school by name and liked nothing better than taking over the class for an hour or two. Every child went to his office each term for a reading test. Many pupils will remember the "Red Squirrel" when a spelling test from the "100 demons" was conducted over the radio system and the class with the highest results claimed the "Squirrel" for a week.

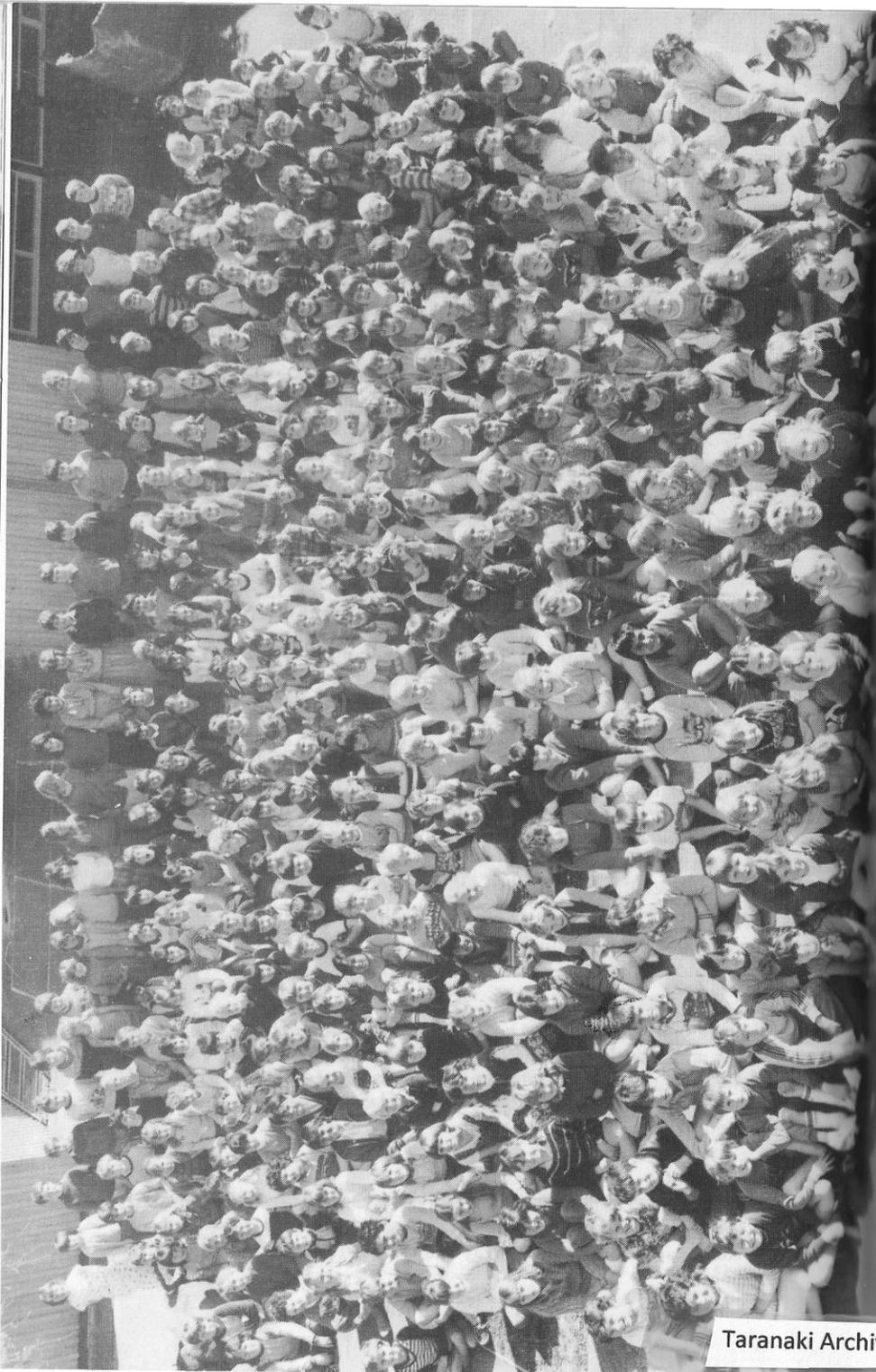
During this period Nancy Conn used to come to my room for Tuesday afternoon and helped with the sewing class. The whole school (Standard One up) changed rooms with the girls taking sewing and the boys gardening or science. Shortly after Nancy joined the staff and taught for many years in the infant department. She was a great asset, taking many classes for singing and playing the piano for assemblies and fancy dress balls, and training the school choir.

When Ray Jackson came as headmaster the rebuilding of the new school began. It was a great day to move into the first new room — my reward for many years in the prefab.

I remember the wonderful caretakers during my time at the school, always helpful and co-operative; cleaning up after sick children; keeping the fire going in the old prefabs; even taking the odd lesson . . . Trevor, who hated weeding the gardens and did so by using a shovel and turning over the whole lot. His little room under the old building was set up with an armchair, radio etc. Whatever you wanted he could always get for you. . .

Bill, who worked hard improving the school grounds was always friendly and helpful.

I remember Fred Parker for his interest in and shaping of the grounds; for his Arbor Day talks and for his prize for the best essay about his talk, and for his invitations to the staff to view his beautiful garden. Through Fred I gained my first special interest in horticulture.



There was John McKenzie (Mac). His job was to unfurl the flag (which often wouldn't!) on Anzac Day. His help was freely given in an unobtrusive way. After he left we realised just how much we took him for granted.

Ian Barnes . . . for many years we taught side by side. I can never remember Ian not ever refusing help asked from him. He was always friendly and helpful.

And the friendly co-operative staff-celebrations of any special occasions . . . the children, friendly, eager and willing. I often meet former pupils; it's a big thrill to see them as adults.

My memories of West End are all good ones — especially the fine colleagues I worked with during my stay.

WEST END SCHOOL STAFF 1983. Back row: Mesdames Diane Flavell (Dental Nurse), Julianne Taylor (Speech Therapist), Miss Lynette Hepworth, Mr. Scott Laurence, Miss Yolanda Scholten, Mrs Mary McNair (Part-Time Teacher). Mr. Leo Russell (Caretaker).

Middle row: Mrs. Gladys Holmes, Miss Tui Schmidt (Hospital Teacher), Miss Anna Tkaczyk, Mesdames Mareea Simpson, Marlene Ellis (Dental Nurse), Tricia Williams (Teacher Aide), Judy Hoyle (Museum Education Officer).

Front row: Mrs. Jan Conlin (Itinerent Teacher of Maori), Mr. Ray Fordyce (Deputy Principal), Mrs. May Tullett (Clerical Assistant), Mr. Hugh Hughes (Principal), Mrs. Peggy Ball (Senior Teacher Junior Classes), Mr. Lloyd McDell (Senior Teacher).

Absent: Mrs. Betty Mills



FIVE GENERATIONS

An association with West End School which spans 98 years can be claimed by the Knott and Smart families of New Plymouth. Mrs Barbara Smart, secretary of the School Centennial Committee, writes:

MIRIAM REED was enrolled at West End in 1886. She married William Knott and their children (now Miriam Kelk, Marjorie Clarke, Thelma Honeyfield, Bob and Fred Knott) all went to West End.

Miriam Reed and her son Bob who was enrolled in 1913 were both taught by Miss Mynott.

Bob Knott married Lottie Fletcher and their girls, (now June Earby, Elaine Larkin, myself and Maree Leach), all went to West End.

Bob Knott and his daughters Elaine, myself and Maree were all taught by Miss Flo Evans.

Elaine Knott married John Larkin who was at West End in 1942.

Maree Knott spent her P.A. Teacher year at West End.

Leslie Smart was enrolled at West End in 1909, also his brother Laurie, sisters, now Marjorie Collier, Jean Ferrier and Nell Moor, attended West End. Leslie's son Graeme started at West End in 1937.

I married Graeme Smart in 1958 and our children, Warren and Karen, both attended West End, making them the fourth generation of the Knott family and third generation of the Smart family to attend West End.

Mr Ian Barnes taught both myself and our son Warren.

Graeme Smart, his father Leslie and grandfather Mr. A. K. Smart, all served on West End School Committees, as well as Lottie Knott.

Elaine and John Larkin have a daughter, Christine, who lives close to West End and it is expected that her son, Rhys Sutton, will attend West End in September 1984 making him the fifth generation of the Knott family.

GREAT SPORTSMEN

West End School is proud of its record in the sporting sphere. Many former pupils have made their names locally, nationally and some internationally, in their individual disciplines. Here Kai Thomson, the youngest of a family of five, all of whom were educated at the school, looks back:

I doubt whether there was much emphasis on sport at West End until the arrival as 1st Assistant of Mr "Ernie" Rowntree. After all, the grounds did not lend themselves to organised sport.

He was a very fine teacher, loved, admired and greatly respected by his pupils, both male and female. He became a member of the staff about 1919 and set about to organising cricket and rugby. Practices took place at Western Park. To teach boys to bowl the correct length (no "bodyline" or "bouncers" in those days!), he used to put a 2/- piece at the correct length. The bowler who hit it twice during the practice became the rightful owner.

The captain of the Rugby team (page 63) is Richard Ashley Petty, who is living in New Plymouth and became a prominent bowler at the Paritutu Club. He had a long and distinguished career in Rugby and must have gone close to All Black selection. He played in the trials to select the team to tour South Africa in 1928.

His Brother Laurie was also a great sportsman. I write about my days at the school because we were in the same class.

Both were great—great grandsons of "Dickie" Barrett, justifiably very proud of the fact. Hence the reason for his first name Richard. Throughout his sporting career he was called "Dump". Few would know the names bestowed upon him by his parents. He left West End in 1921 and the following year became a member of the 1st fifteen at the Boys' High School, as a full-back. He occupied that position in 1923 and 1924 when the School won and retained the Moascas Cup in some epic battles between the secondary schools of those days — Auckland Grammar (from whom they won the Cup), Mount Albert Grammar, Te Aute, and Palmerston Boys' High School come readily to mind.

The 1st Fifteen were returning by train to New Plymouth in 1924 after having played Nelson College. At Hawera three of the team were taken off the train to join the Taranaki representative team — Les Loveridge, Ernie Jeffries, and "Dump". Incidentally all three later played for the Tukapa Club. "Dump" was a regular member of the Taranaki Representative Team until 1930. He also excelled in cricket. He told me recently that he played for Taranaki against an M. C. C. Team which he thinks was captained by Jardine.

SWIMMING

FIRST mention of the need for school baths came in committee reports in 1943 when it was pointed out that in spite of classes being conducted in the municipal baths there were more than 74 pupils classed as being unable to swim.

A fund was opened and by the end of the year the baths had been built. Concrete paths, plastering and construction of dressing sheds were completed by several enthusiastic school committee members, parents, teachers and "a good team of boys." The baths were officially opened by Mr. E. P. Aderman, M.P. at a "grand gala day" on October 28th, 1944, and Jennifer Gardiner (now Jennifer Mack) and Frank Albrechtsen were chosen to be the first pupils to officially swim a length, because of their involvement in swimming (Jennifer Mack has competed with success in national and international swimming competitions and is active in many other sporting spheres).

In March 1945 the headmaster reported that learn-to-swim classes are still held daily and large numbers of children from P1 to F2 are making good progress. Certificates are not being issued unless swimmers cover the distance in reasonably correct style. And later: "Instruction is aimed at thoroughness in the various stages rather than in encouraging pupils to swim poorly in a short time." By the end of the season in 1945, 113 children had been taught to swim.

In December 1956 the school committee was informed that children were using the baths at the weekends and it was resolved to call for estimates to erect a fence round the baths with a padlock door. Much discussion ensued at subsequent meetings and a fence was built in 1958 at a cost of \$199. A filtration plant was installed in 1961.



The opening of the school baths, 1944.

CRICKET

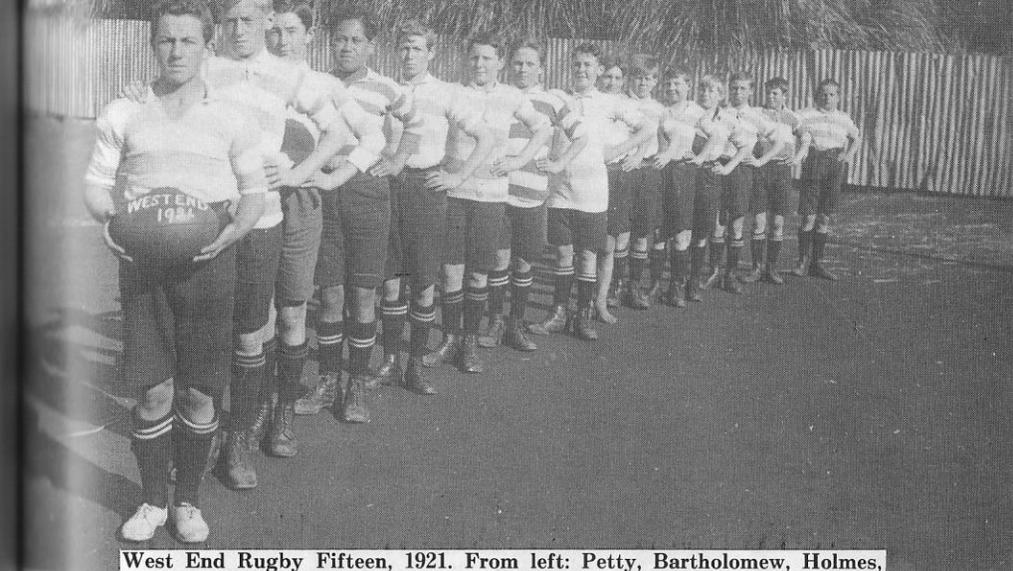
THE early 1970s saw West End School cricket team flourish under the watchful eye of Bryce Smith. The annual fixture with Vogeltown showed the skills the team had developed when in 1970 they scored 81 to the opposition's 14, and again in 1972 scored 86 with a mere 11 being Vogeltown's effort. About this time clubs began organising junior boys' cricket and West End boys were looked after by the New Plymouth Club at Lynmouth Park on Saturday mornings, and school fixtures lapsed. Lunchtime tip-and-run games continued, with one of its features being frantic dashes by fieldsmen to save the ball disappearing in the Mangaotuku Stream.

Each year fewer boys played on Saturday mornings, and with the revival of the school identity as a West End team formed in 1980, it was evident that much effort was needed to regain the status of the early 1970s. The New Plymouth Old Boys' Cricket Club is now responsible for the team and with regular coaching and practice the game has once again gained many young enthusiasts who proudly play for their school in the Junior competition.

WEST END SCHOOL First Eleven 1949: Back row: R. Prentice, R. Adams, B. Snowden, P. Elliot, D. Simpson, W. Wood, B. Samson, J. Parkinson.
Middle row: M. Harvey, B. Goodchap, C. Barclay, Mr. Snell (coach), G. Faigan, J. Maskery, B. Ellis.
Front row: N. Readen. (Picture loaned by Mrs. Patsy Hewer).

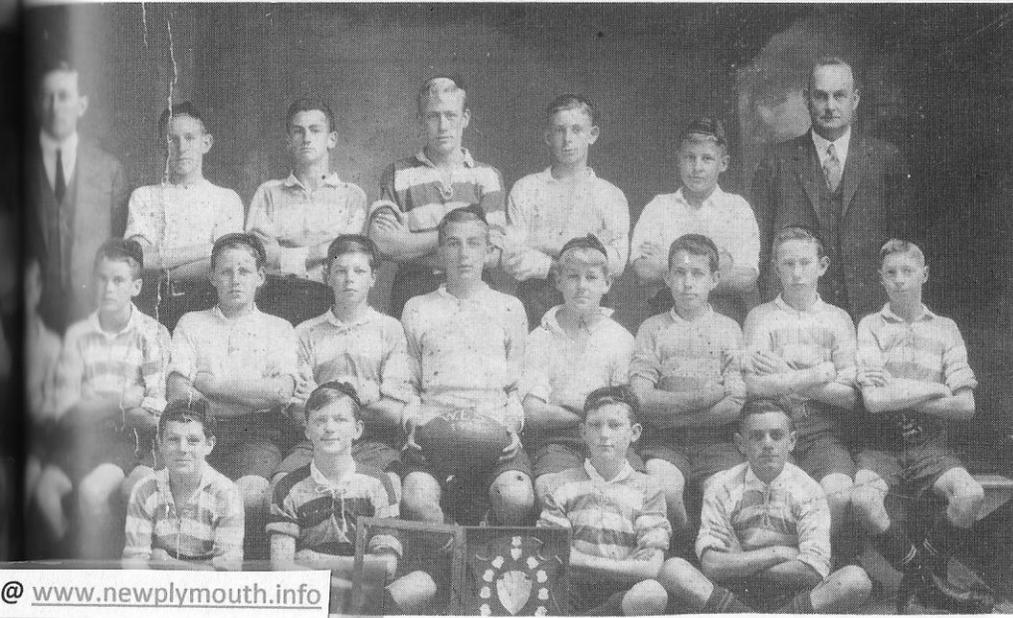


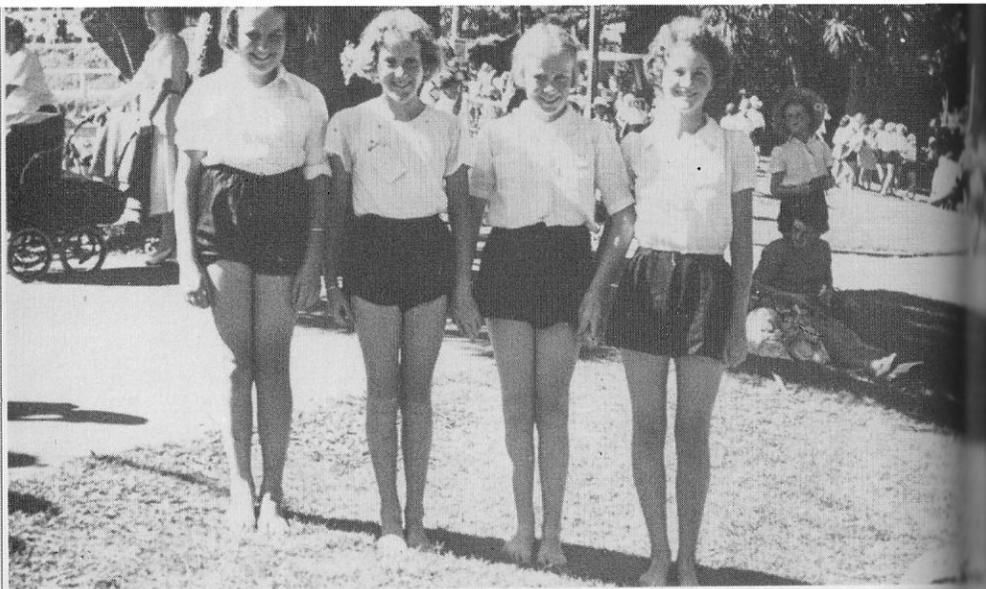
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West End Rugby Fifteen, 1921. From left: Petty, Bartholomew, Holmes, Rakau, Woodham, Harvey, Thomson (Jim), Murphy, Roper, Christiansen, Read, Trueman, Prior, McLean, and Knott.

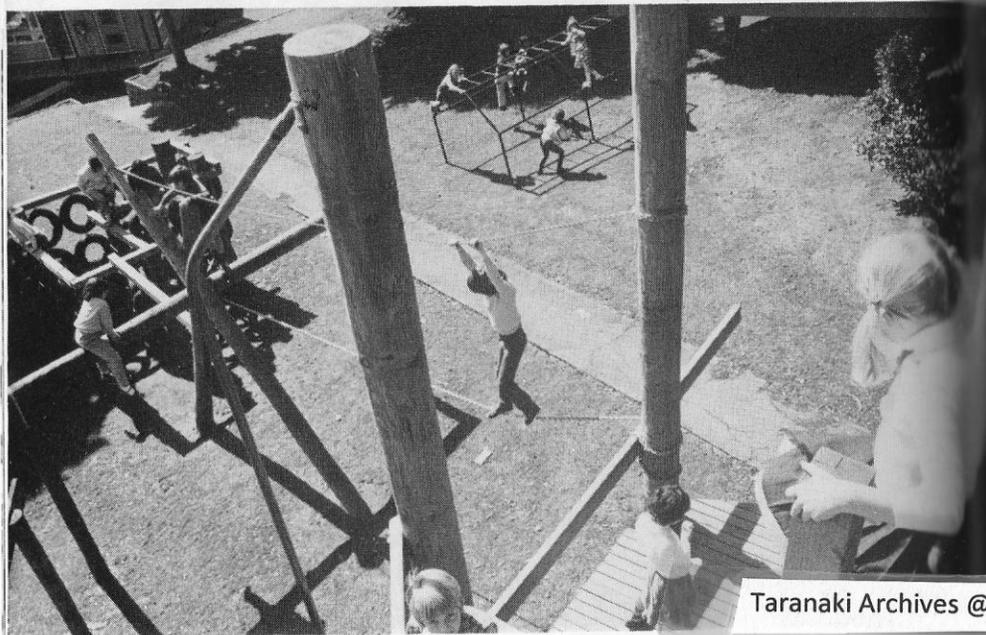
WEST END SCHOOL First Fifteen (Winners of Taranaki Primary Schools Rugby Championship, 1924). Back row: Mr. J. W. Thomas (Headmaster), R. Lister, C. Dingle, G. Gayton (vice-captain), C. Jeffries, P. Lowerby, Mr. A. D. Train (coach).
Middle row: A. Bell, H. Watkins, G. Harvey, K. Putt, L. Patty (captain), J. Scobie, C. Ellis, J. Thomas, M. Robb.
Front row: L. Holmes, L. Roberts, E. Nodder, D. Hoskin. (Picture loaned by J. Harvey.)





Above: 30 years ago: Interschool sports at Pukekura Park. West End's Valeria Campbell, Diane Gilbert, Pat Nolan and Pam Hassell.

Below: Today the Adventure Playground offers challenge and stimulation to play activities.



A HERO IN A WASTE-PAPER BASKET

by Avis Moulden (nee Avis May)

THE smell of wet raincoats hanging against hot water pipes . . . long seemingly never ending corridors where one crept on tip-toes when passing rooms where lessons were in progress, in trembling fear a TEACHER may appear. What awe and respect we had for teachers in the 1930s.

Double desks with names of past pupils carved and printed on them. Ink wells which always seemed to be stuffed with blotting paper, and pens with nibs which always seemed to be bent or crossed, – and if you were unlucky enough to have a neighbour who jolted or pushed you, how could you present your best work on a clean unblotted paper! But we wouldn't dare complain. Children were still considered best to be 'seen but not heard' unless spoken to. I remember one irrepressible lad in our class who seemed to spend half the year sitting in the waste paper basket as punishment for speaking out and disrupting the class. Most of us secretly thought of him as something of a martyr and a hero!

There were depression years too, and at the beginning of each year the Headmaster and representatives of the school committee would arrive in each class and ask all the pupils to stand up whose fathers were on "relief work", and they were issued with free second hand books.

Then there was the terrible time of suspicion when school lunches started disappearing and all looked accusingly at each other – until the culprit was caught and it was discovered she was from a large unemployed family who couldn't afford lunches for **everyone** every day. From then on we all vied to give them the best titbits from our lunches, and I suspect they were better fed than the rest of us.

What fun and excitement when it was time for the fancy dress ball. Suddenly we were all Cinderella or Prince Charming as we performed the well rehearsed dances. My sister and I felt especially important as our father was chairman of the School Committee and was the one to announce that school wouldn't start until 10 a.m. next day. We thought he must have had supreme power to be able to order the teachers around!

The memories of firm but kind and interested teachers, dedicated headmasters, the team spirit and warm friendships, the delight and satisfaction of learning and progressing – these are my recollections of West End School in the early 1930s.

A MAN OF THE TREES

ELSEWHERE in this publication references have been made to the sterling work of the late Mr. Fred Parker, who for more than 60 years landscaped and tended the school grounds, transforming a waterlogged wilderness into the magnificent feature they are today.

In 1933 he was presented with a stainless steel spade by the School Committee in recognition of his work to that stage. In 1972, when he was 82, he gave the spade back to the Committee, since when it has been used in Arbor Day tree-planting ceremonies. He said then that he couldn't remember how many trees he had planted, but he thought they could be numbered in thousands.

During the 1956 tour of the Springboks he helped Dr. Danie Craven, chairman of the South African Rugby Board to plant a kauri tree, but it was lucky to survive. A few days later it was cut down by a small boy's pocket knife. Mr. Parker spliced it together and today it stands about 11 metres high. Mr. Parker died in 1982.



Above: From left, Dr. Craven, Mr. S. D. Jury (chairman of the School Committee) and Mr. Fred Parker.

Dr. Craven's first "stick" is carefully placed on his sleeve by the Springbok, 1956, captain, T. A. Gentles.



During the 1937 Springbok tour of New Zealand, Dr. Danie Craven planted a Japanese oak tree in the grounds of the West End School, with the request that when the tree had grown he should be sent a walking stick from its branches. It wasn't till 1956 that his wish was granted during another visit to the school. A "stick" was taken from the tree and placed upon the sleeve of his blazer. It caused great amusement because it was a stick insect. A proper walking stick was presented at a later ceremony.

Dedication Day: "Fred Parker Dell unveiled. Speakers Chairman L. Allen, Mr. D. Sutherland ex-chairman; and principal. Plaque unveiled by Pauline Ward and Steven Sutherland. Mr. Parker replied briefly." Log Book 27/11/72.

Arbor Day: "Kauri planted down near the baths. Mr. Parker presented back to the school a spade given him by the School Committee in 1933 for the work he had done in planting the grounds since the school was shifted in 1926. The spade is now a historic item as it has been used over the years to plant most of the trees in the grounds." Log Book 5/9/72.

NO SINECURE



Caretaker, Leo Russell, at work in the garden, with the 'Fred Parker' spade.

Reference is made elsewhere to the services to West End School rendered by its many caretakers. The condition of the lovely grounds is a tribute to their efforts; but their work involves much more than mowing lawns and cleaning classrooms. Leo Russell, the present incumbent, was invited to submit his impressions.

AS caretaker of the West End School for the past four years I can say that I have enjoyed every moment, having every day contact with pupils, teachers, committee members and at times some parents. I am accepted as a member of the staff and as such feel that I also contribute to the education of the pupils by keeping the classrooms, buildings, gardens and grounds neat and tidy.

I receive great satisfaction when a child will come and ask me to fix a bike, or a broken doll, or glue a sole on a shoe, and I see this as a reflection of good relations with the children. The same relationship exists with the Principal and staff regarding any task I can do for them. This system works in reverse.

Caretaking is a job with many variances which requires a sense of humour and at times great patience. And as far as I am concerned it is a very rewarding experience.

THE WAR YEARS

By Deric Woodhead

AS a student at West End School during World War II years one can remember many disappointments because of items in short supply due to our efforts towards the war as a nation.

For instance using our precious pencil down to about the last inch; forgetting the margin column on paper and writing from one edge to the other and using both sides; and perhaps one very important item—the toilet roll: only four pieces per student per visit.

One event I can remember very well indeed because of the war was in the early 1940s when war was very close to our shores. We used to carry first aid kits and identification cards to school and I can remember one day when we had an air raid warning practice. All pupils had to leave their classrooms, run down to the lower field and head towards the river bank and hide under the willow trees. The drill was done to whistles from the Headmaster and we were told that if the whistle did blow when we were on the run then we had to drop to the ground face down wherever we were. I remember the whistle did blow when we were half way across the field and heading towards the river flat-stick. Several coppers and myself were determined we were not going to be shot, so just kept on running towards the river.

This was all wrong as we found out later and if I remember rightly the practice was made as near as real with a Tiger Moth being the enemy and flying overhead. The outcome, of course, was that those who kept running after the whistle blew were dead in real life and we were really reprimanded for not adhering to the correct procedures. I don't think we felt the strap on that occasion and it appeared fun at the time but thank the Lord we did not experience the horrors of war.

DIGGING FOR VICTORY

During the Second World War emphasis was placed on "Digging for Victory". A large plot of school grounds was placed at the children's disposal where cabbages, carrots, leeks and other vegetables were planted and tended, in spite of dry spells and occasional flooding by the Mangaotuku Stream.

In 1945 a garden club was reported to have "52 plots planted in vegetables" under the guidance of Mr Fred Parker. Revenue from these was used to buy fertiliser and seeds. In October the headmaster Mr G. H. Davey, reported that the school had been presented with a special "Compost Cup" won in competition with other schools.

During the war years garden produce was sold to complement food parcels which the school sent to "Old Plymouth" in England.

In subsequent reports to the committee little mention was made of the garden club's activities. No doubt "Digging for Victory" was no longer needed.

THE HOSPITAL CLASS

By Tui Schmidt, teacher

THE words "dedication to one's pupils" so aptly describe the work of the hospital class teachers with whom I have spoken during my research into the history of hospital class teaching in New Plymouth.

From February, 1934, when the Barrett Street Hospital Class was attached to West End School, 12 teachers have taught either permanently or as relieving teachers in Barrett Street or Taranaki Base Hospitals.

Two of these past teachers, Miss Jean Hurle and Mrs Ella Fleming, have each taught for 20 years in Barrett Street Hospital. A wonderful example of loyalty to we teachers who have followed them.

The school at Barrett Street was moved to the new hospital at Westown when it was opened on October 18th, 1972. From this time onwards it was to be known as the Taranaki Base Hospital Class.

As 50 years of hospital class teaching came to fruition in February, 1984, the aim still remains "to help children to become familiar and secure in their surroundings while developing their educational skills."

A hospital can be a frightening world to most children and activities help to keep them happily and usefully occupied as they recuperate.

THE DEAF UNIT

"The search for identity in a hearing world."

USING this as his title, Anthony Mackle, teacher of the deaf at West End between 1971 and 1974, has written a most informative and interesting article on the formation and history of the deaf unit. It was established as one of many such units to cope with the influx of children born with hearing impairment due to the fairly widespread outbreaks of maternal Rubella in 1946 and 1965.

Mr Mackle's article is too long to be accommodated in a publication of this size; and the committee feel that it would be a pity to abridge it in any way. It was therefore decided to display it prominently during the centennial celebrations, and thereafter to preserve it as a record of one of the most important and interesting periods in West End's history.



THE MUSEUM CLASS

— a “Hands-on” Experience

By Judy Hoyle, Education Officer.

*“Puritia nga taonga tuku iho i nga tupuna,
Hei tiki huia ma nga uri whakatupu o Aotearoa.”*

*“Keep the treasures handed down by the ancestors,
As an adornment for the descendants yet to be born in Aotearoa.”*

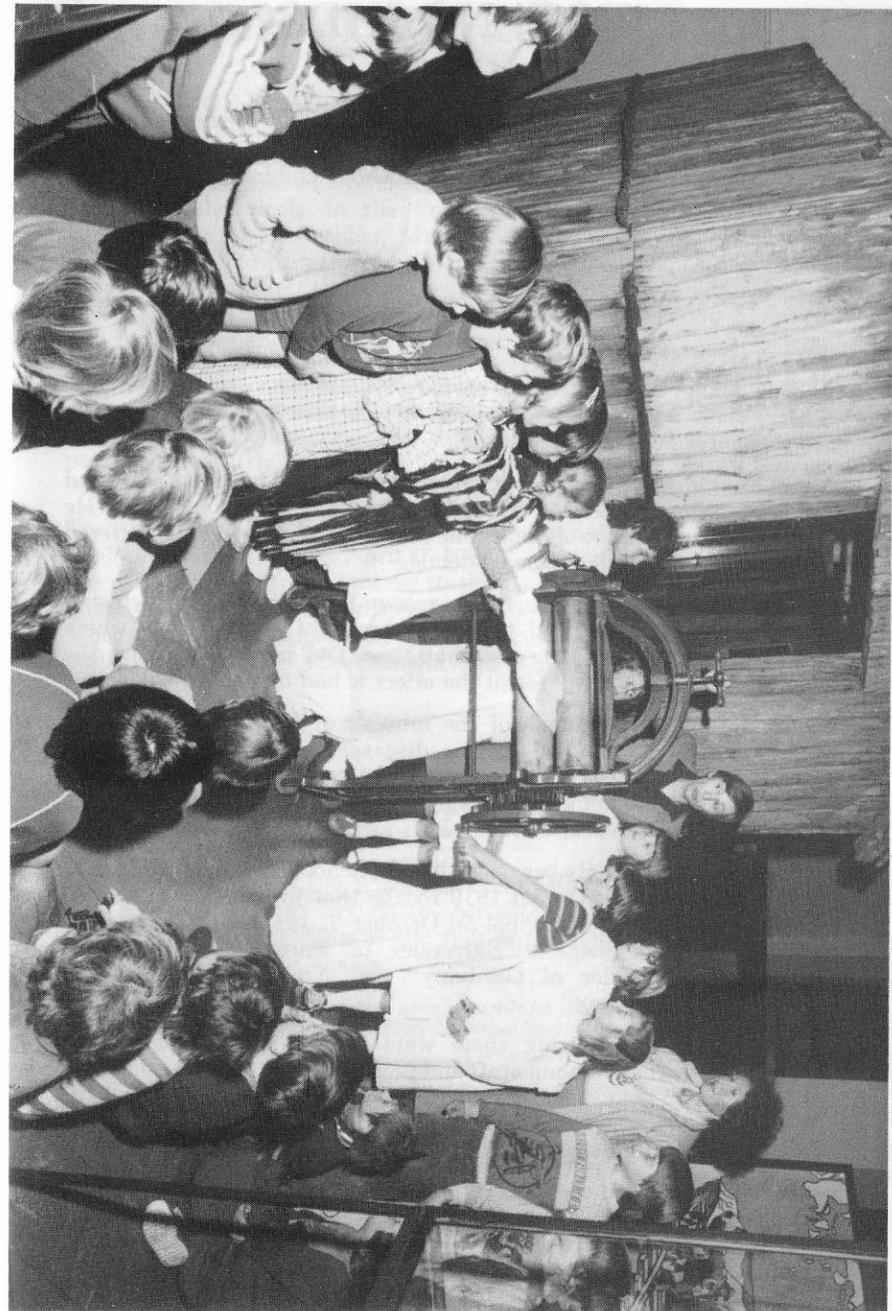
THE focal point of museum education is to make object-based experiences available to as many children as possible. At the Taranaki Museum our whole teaching programme is based on a “hands-on” teaching experience. We want children visiting the museum to have the opportunity to interact with authentic, three dimensional objects and artefacts — this experience is unique to museums. In the school situation two dimensional material is made freely available to children, but looking at a photograph of a sea bird and handling a real sea bird, even if it is stuffed, are quite different. There is emotional response that makes the experience memorable, stimulates the intellect and evokes visual, tactile and olfactory responses.

Our programme is planned well in advance to enable teachers in Taranaki to use topics available at the museum in their own planned classroom programmes. This museum programme includes natural and earth sciences, Pre-European Maori history, Polynesian and Melanesian history and Colonial history. From time to time material is borrowed from the National Museum in Wellington to enable us to present more variety in our programmes available to schools.

Approximately 20,000 children now visit the Taranaki Museum each year, which effectively means that the school population of Taranaki has had the advantage of a “museum experience” during their primary school education.

Hopefully, this museum experience will enable these children to feel “comfortable” in other similar institutions when as adults they are learning to use their new found leisure — the added leisure time that will have been made available by the “computer chip”.

Recreating the past in the Taranaki Museum, with Mrs. Judy Hoyle. History comes alive for these Room 7 children.



WOT! NO KIDS?

"The school has opened this year without children except in the Hospital Class."

THUS Mr G. H. Davey, headmaster, began his report to the School Committee on February 2, 1948. The rest of the report dealt with the assignments of teachers to duties with the correspondence school for pupils.

On March 16 Mr Davey reported that the school had been reopened and the roll stood at 410 and attendance had been very good. He added: "We will probably find that the year's work will have suffered very little as a result of the epidemic."

This is the only reference to the reason for the month-long closing of the school. It referred to the outbreak of poliomyelitis which affected the whole country at that time. Old pupils attending the centennial will probably recall the effect it had on them.

No figures are available of the number of New Plymouth West pupils who were effected by the disease, but the Department of Health records show that there were 125 victims in the Taranaki district, most of whom were primary school pupils. The school baths were closed for the rest of that year's swimming season.

This was not the only occasion that the school had been closed. The school logbook of 1918 and 1919 recalls that in addition to normal holidays, there was no school on October 7, 1918 — "Surrender of Bulgaria", November 1 "Surrender of Turkey"; November 8 "Reported surrender of Germany" and November 12 "Official surrender of Germany."

Amid all this rejoicing there were reports in the logbook of increasing sickness among staff and pupils, and on the same day that the official surrender of Germany (November 12) was celebrated the West End School was "closed by order of the Health Officer until further notice (Influenza)." It did not reopen until February 12, 1919.

It will be recalled that the influenza pandemic resulted in a death toll estimated at 21 million. New Plymouth's share of this grim total was more than 300 cases, 81 of which were fatal, out of a total population of about 9000. There is no record of deaths of children attending West End School.

ROAD PATROL FISHERMAN

GEORGE SCHOLES, well known for his educational services in the transport field in Taranaki, died at Wellington last year. Throughout the years when he made regular visits to West End, many pupils will remember his instruction. One was June Moulden, who wrote in the Form One Magazine of 1954: "On Wednesday 21st of October, Mr Scholes the Traffic Officer visited the school to show us the signals of the road. After speaking about the rules the class left the room to go outside to do some signal drill . . . The class then asked some questions after which Trevor thanked him for coming and hoped he will come again."

Mr Scholes did indeed come again. Ever since that time he and subsequent other traffic officers made periodic visits to the school to give road safety lectures, and to inspect cycles and to supervise patrolled pedestrian crossings. Undoubtedly this has helped reduce road accidents.

The value of the patrols are indicated in the following extract from the School Log Book, on April 26 1973: "A primer pupil dodged past the road patrol warden and on to the pedestrian crossing. Warden quickly 'fished' him back with stop sign from path of oncoming truck. Mother rang later apparently to complain about warden hitting her boy!! On explaining situation she said she had just rung to get the right story."

DEDICATION

MEMBERS of the West End committee have something of a reputation to live up to. An entry in an old minute book shows something of the flair with which past committees have faced stumbling blocks.

The minutes request the secretary to get a key made for the lock on the school building, "so that committee members may enter the school by the door instead of through a window".

They also ask the secretary to write to the Education Board suggesting that they supply a new door for the gymnasium or repair the old one, "which has to be nailed up in position every time after it is used."

"Finally, this being the whole of the business, the committee retired through the window whence they came," the minutes recorded.

What is not minuted but is recorded elsewhere, is additional proof of the dedication of the committee members. The chairman at the time, fondly described as "a portly gentleman", found the task of climbing through the window more strenuous than his slender comrades. He had to be content with sitting outside the building, "and presided over the meeting with much dignity from the path with his arms on the windowsill."

AN EXCITING FUTURE

By Hugh Hughes, Principal

WHERE is education going in the future? Since West End School was founded 100 years ago, dramatic changes have taken place, not only to the school — buildings, curriculum, discipline etc., but also in the wider community in aspects of work, families, transport and communication, honesty, attitudes to law and order etc.

Changes appear to be accelerating at an ever-increasing rate, and will continue to do so, and I doubt whether the education system has really prepared people to cope with them today, let alone help those who will be faced with changes in the future, in spite of the dedicated efforts of teachers. The system has not seen the need to help the young develop personal skills to enable them to cope with this, thus the ever increasing gap between how they are prepared for adulthood, (including the school's contribution) and what should be transmitted if our society is to cope in times of change, let alone prosper, means that a crisis is going to be reached.

I see that arising from this could come a recognition of the real needs of people and society, and a change of balance in schools. I hope, in the near future, will come the realisation that in order to live in communities in close relationship with others, we need to transmit somehow to the young, many skills to allow this to happen — such as childrearing, parenting, concern and consideration for others, rights of others, selflessness, honesty and sincerity, acceptance of

Principal Hugh Hughes 'office bound.'



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regulations. These are things that take us out of the realm of the law of the jungle to that of civilised man, where academic skills can be of benefit to all. They will unite communities through the stimulation, rewards and pleasures that come from harnessing the wisdom, concern and social involvement of all for the good of all.

So I see the school becoming a social laboratory of learning for the total community where all members have the chance to develop the complete range of latent talents they were born with — academic, social, cultural, craft, creative etc. Traditional subjects will be taken differently, and become more a part of the process of living, and teaching will be done by all who have skills to contribute.

It could be that the real rewards for tomorrow's people will arise from social interaction and sense of community through the personal development and expression of their skills, talents and abilities in any area of human endeavour, and from feelings of self worth coming with these.

It is obvious though, from the atmosphere within the West End community and responses of people, that the school has meant a great deal to all its pupils and parents, and has been doing much to prepare for this change of direction.

I am sure that with the tremendous advantages West End School has, due to its environment, the calibre of the pupils, parents and teachers and what has happened over the last 100 years, we can look forward with great confidence to an exciting, stimulating and rewarding future.



May Tullett, clerical assistant, taking another call — as she has done so well since 1966.