

**Ahiaruhe:** 1929-1938. 13 kilometres from Carterton, another school next to a dairy factory. This school struggled as the School Committee was unable to provide accommodation for the teachers. Just past Stonehenge Aoteoroa observatory.

In April 1929 nine parents with school aged or preschool aged children applied to the Wellington Education Board to establish a school at Ahiaruhe where a dairy factory was already operating. All the farmers in the group were on 33 year tenancy leases in a soldier's settlement.

The drive for a school came mainly from the dairy factory manager Mr N E Hannah. All the children lived further away from the Ponatahi School, which they attended than 3 ½ miles (5.6 Kilometres). The exception being Catherine Hannah who attended Clareville School

The new building cost £265 (\$24 230.95 in March 2012 terms). This was a portable building from Mornington in Wellington. The Wellington training college were paid £50 for the building. The land for the school purchased from the dairy company cost £25 and the removal of a whare on the site cosy £15

The first teacher was Miss Thompson a reliever, who started teaching on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and had gone by the 27<sup>th</sup> September. On the 26<sup>th</sup> September Miss T Kingsbeer was appointed as a reliever and the Wellington Education Board told the School Committee that the accommodation would need to be better than that provided to Miss Thomson. Miss Kingsbeer was advised to tell the School Committee what time she was arriving in Carterton so that she could be picked up. Miss Kinsbeer's previous job was Sole Teacher at Akitio.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September Mrs J P Sage wrote to Wellington Education Board.

Re the letter about the teacher boards to Hannah I want one of the Board Members to come and see for themselves the sort of accommodation I prepared for her if you don't think it is good enough for

her re the teacher didn't complain to me about it not being good enough she had a dog with her I think that is a bit off to think anybody is going to have a dog to accommodate as well as a teacher, hoping to see one of your members early next week without fail I am very annoyed at such a letter you wrote Hannah. (Punctuation as written)

A letter from Wellington Education Board was sent to Mr Hannah saying they understood accommodation would be at his place,

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1932 Mr Hannah wrote to Wellington Education Board No accommodation available but Gladstone Hotel would arrange accommodation for 25/- per week. The hotel is about 1 ½ miles from the school and somewhat nearer than the present teacher Miss McPhee.

Then on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1932, Miss Pickering accepted a job at Ahiaruhe and arrangements were made for her to stay at Gladstone Hotel. Miss Pickering accepted another position elsewhere. So on the 11<sup>th</sup> May a letter notifying the School Committee that in the next gazette the Wellington Education Board would be advertising for a male teacher was received at the school.

Then a letter written on the 11<sup>th</sup> May from Mr Hannah to the Wellington Education Board stated. I am replying to your letter re distance from Gladstone Hotel to school. Your information is correct as to it being 12 miles by road and 1 ½ miles by shortcut. As to the practicability of a lady teacher being able to do the walk I have to state that in winter weather it will be anything but pleasant walking. But the present Miss McPhee has done the journey every morning and I can only use her walk as a reference to your enquiry. The walk should not present any difficulty to a man. We thank you for allowing Miss McPhee to continue until we get over the present difficulty.

A Letter was written to the Wellington Education Board on January 28<sup>th</sup> 1936 from Mr Hannah explaining that there was no accommodation for teachers. The previous teachers Miss Kelly and Mr Keedwell arranged

their own accommodation but the people providing this accommodation have moved away.

23<sup>rd</sup> August 1937 A letter to Wellington Education Board from A. S. Clark chairman of the School Committee advising that the teacher's present accommodation is not suitable and she had requested a change. The school committee are satisfied that the place is not suitable board for a permanent teacher and has advised Mrs Flynn that no teacher accommodation is available. The committee deeply regrets the unfortunate position in which Mrs Flynn is placed and trust the Board will give her every consideration

On the 2nd Sept 1937 the Secretary of Wellington Education Board replied I am in receipt of your telegram of today's date informing me that there is no accommodation available for a relieving teacher. In view of these circumstances the school will have to remain closed until board can be procured. In this connection the Wellington Education Board will be obliged if you will do your best to procure board somewhere in the district. For you information I may add that this Board is using its utmost endeavour to secure permission to have a residence erected in Ahiaruhe

An application for Portable bach at Ahiaruhe was made to the Ministry of Education. This bach would have been about 5.6 Meters Long and 3 meters wide. The Department of Education turned down this option.

The Average attendance for Ahiaruhe School over the last few years was listed as

1934	12
1935	12
1936	15
May Term 1937	16
1937	23

Then the final letter on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1938 from Wellington Education Board to Carterton School..... recommends consolidation of Ahiaruhe School on Carterton School and this will be carried out. (Carterton School was selected instead of Ponatahi or Parkvale schools because it would cost more to upgrade Ponatahi, the nearest school than to transport children to Carterton at a cost of 40/- per day) This is typical Wellington Education Board action, forget about what was best for kids, just pick the cheapest short term Option

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 1938 a letter was sent to Mr Clark. Mrs Erskine not now available in view of modification of time table during February and fact that conveyance commences on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. The board does not propose to reopen Ahiaruhe

This ended the Ahiaruhe School, always struggling because of the lack of accommodation for the teacher. The school remains on site and has become the local hall