

Awatoitoi School.

(Including Blairlogie School)

Established 1921

Closed 1971



PP indicates Papers Past Website.

Writing in Times New Roman indicates material from Log Books

Writing in blue is information from Committee Minutes

Writing in Tempus Sans ITC is from items at National Archives Wellington

Writing in bold indicates newspaper cuttings

Writing in Italics are comments from the compiler: Robin Carlyon

This research has been undertaken by Robin Carlyon. I went to school in the late 1940s and went to Wellington Training College in 1960. For all but one year I taught in schools run in the Wellington Education Board Area. For 36 Years I was Principal of a number of schools. Thirty Five of those years in the Wairarapa Bush area. This research project is presented with this background and experience.

Please acknowledge in any published work my research and the part played in the research by Gareth Winter and his excellent team at Wairarapa Archives

Opening Day Pupils Awatoitoi

(As provided to Wellington Education Board on application for a school)

Parent	Profession	Child	Age	Comment
Hugh Morrison	Farmer	Muriel	6	
Robert Liverton	Farmer	Mavis	6	
John Barty	Publican	Marjory Leeming	8	Niece
		Alice Leeming	7	Niece
William McDonald	Roadman	William McDonald	7	
John Burns	Gardener	Alexander	14	
		John	12	
		Elizabeth	8	
		William	5	

Opening Day Awatoitoi School

1921 Backward Class

A D Mckinley

21st February School opened today: 9 on the roll.

5 Desks arrived from Masterton School. (*Presumably the twin desks with lift up tops.*) Also 1 Table and 1 chair from WFCA, (*A farmers store in Masterton selling all manner of goods*), and 1 blackboard and easel from Lansdowne School

My own quarters here are very comfortable.

15th April 1921 DEPT of Ed. Approved school and rent of £5 to Mr Morrison for use of the room.

12th May. Broke up school today. Left everything in order.

1st June . (*A new teacher Mr John Barker arrived.*) School opened with roll of 9. All the classes are unusually backward in their studies. Especially true of the junior classes who know practically nothing of school work

Evelyn Reid, Standard 6 came to school for the first time. She is fairly well advanced but extremely weak in Geography, History and Grammar. Both primer classes promoted a class.

26th August this has been a very broken week owing to the death of Mr Barty of the hotel, his 3 nieces having been absent for most of the week.

26th August Both primer classes again promoted.

13th September. School reassembled with 9 pupils. Gave a thorough revision of elementary grammar and analysis. The simple complex and the three sub-ordinate clauses pretty well understood. (*I taught for 46 years and actually attended secondary school and training college and I have no idea what he is talking about.*)

The classes especially the younger ones have made excellent progress during the past few weeks. They have been promoted twice since I have been in charge on 21st June 1921

Result of proficiency exams for Standard 6

Subject	Alex Burns	Evelyn Reid
Reading	70/100	70/100
Writing	20/25	20/25
Spelling	20/25	20/25
Composition	80/100	70/100
Grammar	40/50	40/50
Arithmetic	75/100	70/00

Two proficiency certificates issued. A Cowles Inspector. Evelyn Reid leaving for Whakataki where her parents are conducting a hotel. (*Proficiency passes were important, as children could not go to secondary school with a free space without passing this exam.*)

23rd September. The children look forward to receiving the monthly journal, which is a great help in reading

21st October. There has been a good deal of irregularity in the attendance lately owing chiefly to slight colds

28th October. Much rain with very high wind. Promoted the 2nd primer class to 2nd standard. Books are very hard to obtain for this class, as there seems to be none in the country.

16th September. A complete list of passes 13 items all passed. Inspector Cowles Inspector comments. This school, which opened this year, has suffered from changes in control but under Mr Barker the pupils will make good progress

11th November. Commenced Decimal fractions with Standard 5. The weather being fine at present the attendance has improved.

9th December. Taught the whole school God Save the King. The children's notice of time and pitch was not good. They will require a

good deal of training. The smallness of the numbers militates against proficiency in class singing

23rd December. Issued examination reports to parents. With slight exception, the results are very satisfactory. This could not of been otherwise as every child has worked with the greatest diligence since I took charge.

1922 Banks Closed on Saturdays

10th February 1922. Opened after midsummer holidays. The classes much upset owing to inability of some of the children to obtain a proper supply of books from the booksellers

17th February Commenced scripture lessons half hour per week.

24th February Two boys came from the nearby hotel. Both unusually backward and not fitted for the standards they maintain they are in. John Burns Standard 5 is far away ahead of the 2 new boys. Their knowledge of Grammar, History, and Geography is Nil

3rd March. A new boy John Groves arrived. His first time at any school. Born 25th June 1914. So nearly 7 years old before attending school, with no preschool experience.

17th March. Received word from Board of Education that in future a small allowance payable quarterly will be made to purchase school requisites. (*Presumably before this either the school committee or even the teacher paid for supplies*)

Owing to the teacher having to go to Masterton to procure books and other school supplies the school was closed on Wednesday. The Saturday half-holiday on Saturday is very inconvenient for people from the country.

31st March The daily short grammar lessons given orally to all the junior pupils (with two exceptions) are keenly relished. Almost every child can now pick out correctly the parts of speech.

With a view of eventually interesting the children in gardening, a number of geraniums and roses are being struck with success.

5th April 1 Awatoitoi the average attendance for the December quarter was only 8. The claim for this school has been reduced to £3-6-8

7th April The ground is being prepared around the building for planting of plants and shrubs.

28th April An address by the teacher was given to the pupils on Anzac Day but the day being cold and wet it was not observed by the school as a holiday. (*This means that whether the school was open or not depended on the teacher. I can imagine the fuss these days if suddenly the children arrived home because the teacher decided to close the school for the day.*)

2nd June Attendance very good. Every child present during the past month. Progress very satisfactory.

9th June A cold dreary week. Playtime curtailed. The few minutes every morning given to Nature Study are eagerly looked forward to by pupils

16th June. On Wednesday the 14th the school was closed owing to my having important business in Masterton .The banks of all business are closed Saturdays before people from the country can reach town hence it becomes necessary to close down the school so that the teacher can cash his monthly cheque and obtain occasional supplies for the school. (*These were the days of cheque payments once a month, there were no electronic payments. I guess that the local hotel*

would cash cheques. In the 1960s all country schools, that were a certain distance from listed services, like a garage and dentist were closed for a day of the teacher's choosing if there was not a school holiday in that month. This allowed for shopping etc as shops were closed all weekend. This included most petrol stations. Only dairies were opened and this is largely why towns had a dairy on every corner.)

23rd June. The elder children are not making very satisfactory progress in British History. The main problem seems to be there is no suitable text book for teaching this. It is very hard to give oral lessons in a school consisting of 5 or 6 different grades.

22nd September. Those pupils promoted from Standard 2 to Standard 3 are being introduced to English History and the Geography of NZ

17th November. Miss Blackburn of the Physical Culture Dept visited the school.

The boys take great interest in gardening. Many bulbs have been planted lately.

24th November. Inspector Cowles Report. The work of the pupils in this class is from very satisfactory to good. The pupils are under good control and work with a good spirit. Attendance: regular. Accommodation ample.

1st December. Began preparing recitations for Christmas social

8th December. As the teacher was acting as deputy Returning Officer for the Taueru Polling Booth of the general elections on December 7th the school had a holiday on that day.

15th December 1922. Issued results of 3rd term examination to the parents. On Thursday evening, a public examination of the whole school was held at Mr H Morrison's house. The school being too small for such purposes

At the close a supper and Christmas tree were liberally provided by Mrs Morrison, Mrs Liverton and the other kind friends, and every pupil was delighted with the many handsome presents he or she received. The whole proceedings form a red letter day in the history of the school closed 15th December until February 1st 1923

1923 Trouble with British History

2nd February 1923 School reopened with 10 pupils

9th February. 3 new pupils came this week, all unusually backwards Fiona, Ngaire and Mayra Taylor. Fiona is placed in Standard 5 as she is absolutely unfit to go onto Standard 6. Two younger children will try Standard 4 for the present as they both failed miserably to pass an easy test in Standard 3 All 3 girls know nothing whatever of Grammar, History, Geography and Nature Study, indeed in these subjects they are no better than my youngest pupils.

16th February. A little girl Elva Hodgetts came to school for the 1st time this week. She does not know her letters and hence is in the lowest class. We are short of desk accommodation having only 10 places for fourteen pupils

23rd February. The elder boys are digging up and cleaning the front lawn preparatory to sowing it down with proper grass seed

Two boys caught taking apples from Mr Morrison's grounds were severely dealt with. It is fair to state that this is the first offence of its kind that has occurred here.

2nd March Miss Stillburn took charge of the girl's needlework on March 2nd. As the grass in the school grounds has grown spontaneously it is coarse and rough. In consequence, we are digging

it up and sowing proper grass seeds. (*This means the boys gardened while the girls did needlework.*)

9th March. Many of the children have difficulty with British History. The text book in this area is very poor, as far as possible the lessons are given orally.

No news of new desks. It is over a month since Wellington Education Board was notified that there was a shortage of desks and yet no notice has been taken of it.

16th March We have recently received material for plasticene work and several of the older children have already shown aptitude in making models of maps etc. (*Before play dough arrived plasticene was used for repetitive model making, as it could be used more than once.*)

Google December 2010 Plasticine® is a trademark name for an oil-based modelling material that was developed by an art teacher in England in 1897. The non-drying clay that William Harbutt formulated is still available; Plasticine has distinct properties that make it useful. Unlike clay and wax, plasticine stays soft and workable: it neither hardens nor dries. Unlike pottery clay, it comes in a wide array of colours that can be used as purchased or blended. Also, unlike clay, plasticine doesn't stick to your hands.

26th March. School inspected by Mr Cowles. Quote "The pupils are making very good progress and take a lively interest in their work. Control very good".

20th April Wellington Education Board has supplied us with a map of Europe which was much needed. With the exception of one little girl all the school now have good knowledge of the Geography of Australia.

27th April On the 25th the school was closed for Anzac Day

11th May Much rain has fallen this week and roads are flooded. On the 10th 5 pupils could not get to school

8th June Standards 2;3;4;5; are studying the map of Europe as one class and all have a good knowledge of it.

22nd June. Fine weather all week until Friday when snow broke over the district and covered the neighbouring hills temporarily. Arthur Flack who has frequently shown a surly temper was given a good strapping for acts of irregularity and insubordination.

6th July. The half hours scripture lesson from 3 pm to 3.30 pm is much enjoyed by the pupils, no one ever being absent, although of different religious denominations.

20th July Much rain and fog. Commenced geography of Asia with whole school

3rd August. Mr Kirkwood the drill master visited the school and put the scholars through some simple exercises.

Miss E Stillburn sewing mistress has again been absent 3 times this week.

17th August. The drill instructor has sent his report. It contained one word "Satisfactory."

14th September. Mrs Flack took the girls for sewing this week as Miss Stillburn has not put in an appearance since Aug 7th owing chiefly to illness.

12th October. All the elder scholars have acquired a good knowledge of the outlines of British History.

26th October. John Burns the only person presented for a proficiency certificate passed with the following marks.

Reading 65/100 Spelling 23/25 Writing 18/25 Comprehension 65/100 Grammar 41/50 Arithmetic 100/100 Geography VG History G.

On Friday 26th the school was closed for a holiday for inspectors visit in accordance with Board's regulations.

November 2nd

Class	Number
Standard 7	1
Standard 6	2
Standard 5	4
Standard 4	4
Standard 1	2
1 st Primer	4
Total	17

(Classes were called Standard because prior to this school children only moved from one standard to another if the school inspector passed them with exams. My mother told of "Boys" in Greymouth still being in Standard 2 (Say) and being passed by younger siblings who succeeded in their exams.)

November 30th Inspectors Report. October 23rd Number present 16. This school is under very good management. Order, discipline and tone good. Attendance regular. Accommodation now inadequate. Satisfactory arrangements are made for the comfort of students.

The pupils are thoroughly in earnest and perform their tasks quickly and cheerfully. Every subject tested (except Writing) is marked good or very good. Promotion is made as required and the classification is approved. The infant class is well taught, Alfred Cowles Inspector

14th December. A very noticeable feature in the school is the fact that no pupil is ever late. This is an indication that the scholars are thoroughly interested in their work.

1924 Coke At School

8th February On the 5th February 1924 school reopened 15 pupils were present. The garden and grounds have been thoroughly watered, cleaned and weeded.

15th February Patrick Scanlan admitted and Monday the 11th and didn't come that week. No sewing was taken as Mrs Flack wanted to take her 2 hours together and the teacher considered it was too hot for children to sit continuously for 2 hours.

22nd February. On January 29th of this year. Mr H Morrison the chairman and patron of the school left for a tour abroad. Since his departure several of his employees notably Ruth Flack wife of one of the shepherds and John Burns have tried to make mischief by interfering, unnecessarily, with petty school matters.

The week had been broken by the Masterton Show.

14th March. Pat Scanlan does not attend very regularly, as he is a little boy and has a long way to come.

28th March. The elder children are taking an interest in ball games

11th April Examined the children in the Stuart Period.

25th April The teacher addressed the scholars on the duties of citizenship, loyalty and King and Empire after which they were dismissed for the day.

6th June Several of the senior girls lead by Ona Taylor showed signs of insubordination one day this week and refused to obey orders. They were promptly squelched and severely reprimanded. This is the first attempt at this sort of thing since I have been in charge.

8th May .Attendance register: Ages and time since admission to be filled in. Scheme In some subjects programmes of work could be more definitely stated. Time table analysis could be filled. Reading of pupils heard was fluent. Silent reading for comprehension should

preceded oral reading. Primer classes making good progress. Geography recommended less attention to memory details and more appeal to reason. The teacher is working energetically and the progress of the children at this time of the year is satisfactory. W G Blackie Inspector. *(The paper work may not be that good but the man could teach. I had a few reviews over the years that sounded very similar. Inspectors have always it seemed wanted all the paperwork done, even if it had no relevance to the teaching of kids.)*

20th June The coke with which we have been supplied does not give good results. *(No it's not a drink or a drug. Coke was made in the process of making gas. Masterton had its own gasworks with gas piped underground. Following the process the black coal was left very light and was often used in fires as it heated well, though obviously not so in this case.)*

27th June Evening parties in the district often interfere with the attendance of pupils in some cases they stay away to attend them. *(Remember this is 1924.)*

11th July. The boys cleaned out the spouts and planted some laurels, cut the grass and cleaned up generally.

25th July 3 Flack children left for the Hawkes Bay

1st August Raymond Gordon. Left the district

17th September 1924. Opened School for afternoon session. 11 present Children well behaved bright and intelligent. *(The school had been closed for five weeks.)*

2nd October. Despite the fact the school has been closed for 5 weeks and had opened only a fortnight before the inspection visit The pupils as a whole made a very satisfactory showing in the main subjects showing the permanent teacher had done effective work. Attendance good.

The present accommodation is poor there being little space for the teacher. Provision should be made for teaching needlework. W G Blackie Inspector

19th December 1924 Leave with regret having found the children well behaved, diligent and intelligent. Burchett

1925 New School Gift

C O'Leary

1912	8	Kaiwaka	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1913	8	Kaiwaka	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1914	3	Kaiwaka Waihoki	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1915	6	Valley	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1917	7	Waihoki	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1919	10	Waihoki Waihoki	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1921	9	Valley Waihoki	O'Leary	Cornelius N
1923	10	Valley	O'Leary	Cornelius N

Week ending April 15th 1925. School opened 11 children present

17th April Visited Awatoitoi and found awkward class. Older children to be worked on tables: D H Hopkirk Inspector

24th April Taylor Girls 1st day back Roll 16

11th September 1925. Letter from Thomas Moss Eketāhuna who with Mr Powell and Self called on Mr Hugh Morrison who showed us the building in use for school purposes. The school is held in a room which is part of the shearer's quarters and it is too small and unsuitable for a school. The teacher's quarters consists of two small

rooms, living and sleeping with PWC (*Private Water Closet (toilet)*) and is adjacent to a cottage in which one of the men working on the estate lives. Teacher has his meals at this cottage. The site Mr Morrison suggested was too small. The price put on the land was £20 per acre.

The best site is opposite the hotel but it would be a mistake to establish a school in front of a business of this kind.. It will be advisable to erect one of the type of school building that can be readily removed. (*Mr Moss was a member Wellington Education Board*)

16th September 1925 PP

SITE FOR A SCHOOL

GIVEN BY MR. HUGH MORRISON.

It is not often Education Boards- in New Zealand profit much by the generosity of the private, citizen. School sites have usually to be bought at their .normal market value, and, there is little sentiment in the provision of schools. A new departure was seen at. the meeting of ,the Wellington Education Board today, when Mr. Hugh Morrison, of the Wairarapa, attended and made a generous offer of three acres of land for a School at Awatoitoi, with provision, for a residence for the teacher. The board expressed its warm, thanks to Mr. Morrison and accepted the offer gratefully.

24th September 1925. Mr Morrison has informed the board that the building is required for the purpose of his farm. It is in fact in the shearer's quarters and therefore it will be necessary to provide a

school building. The district is on the side of the undeveloped part of the Wairarapa and about 17 miles from MASTERTON.

September 1925 3 acres offered for school site. Wellington Education Board to pay for fencing, survey and transfer fees.

4th October 1925. To be installed in new building a Carron stove for heating. Also One shelter and wood shed combined. The land site to be 3 acres.

September 15th Walter Burns taken to hospital on 4th Supposed to be suffering from diphtheria. School closed by Ministry of Health for 6 days.

November 4th Closed General Election

December 2nd Inspectors Report. N R Mckenzie Inspector. Organisation etc Satisfactory The school is temporarily held in an otherwise unoccupied cottage. Better accommodation is needed.

1926 Teachers' Grading

27th Jan 1926

New School. Tenders Frederick Bacon £585. Except fencing quote of £4 per chain was considered excessive and reduced.

28th October. Letter from Ed Dept to the Minister The school has been conducted for some years in a building privately owned which the Wellington Education Board now states is required as Shearer's Quarters. There is no other building available. 17 children are concerned. The nearest school being 7 1/2 miles away. The Board asks for £364 for the building alone, Out offices, shelter shed etc bring the cost to £595 (*\$52,811.48 in December 2010*)

terms)

School opened on 1st February.

Taylor's left. Sold farm. Nancy Linton, McMillan children gone to Masterton Convent.

19th February School Opened No attendance. Masterton Show.

16th April Place on grading List 173. *(Each year a list of all teachers was published ranking all the teachers of the Wellington Education Board in order. From this list, promotions were made. Just imagine how one would feel if a teacher at your school was bottom on the list and had no opportunity to move out on promotion.)*

26th April Mr Bockett Agriculture Instructor visited

31st May New School Opened. *(There is no mention of a building happening but suddenly the bald statement and nothing else. No children's reaction, no teacher's opinion, just stark reality.)*

1927 Order and Discipline: Good

Jan 3rd 1927 Order and discipline Good. The children are very comfortable in their new room. The buildings are in good order. The majority of the children have been admitted since the beginning of the year, they are making fair progress. W J Boden Inspector.

February 11th 1927. All children present 10 on roll

February 18th No children present Masterton Show

13th April School closed for Easter and Duke of York's holiday.

13th April. Received new desks, 1 chair, 1 table 1 Blackboard from Wellington Education Board

1928 Wouldn't Come to School

February 1 1928. Roll 8 School Opened

June 8th 1928. Owing to accident, Mr O'Leary is on sick leave from school. Relieving teacher Miss K Reece sent to take his place.

July 27th Annie Connell absent from school during the week. Her mother being ill and 3 small children to be looked after. Attempts to make her attend failed.

Aug 11th School Bazaar held on Sat 11th. Programme bazaar, selling afternoon tea short concert. Takings were 4 pound 5 shillings and 3 ½ pence. A proposal made to get a swing in the playground for the little ones. No definite arrangements have been made.

September 7th. School received grant of 2 pound 15 shillings. This is the normal grant. Mr Morrison keeps the receipt.

1928. Bazaar money sent to Wellington to get a receipt.

November 23rd. School Closed Mon and Tues. Chairman's permission to attend funeral.

December 19th. I found the children orderly and well behaved and have spent a very pleasant time here. K Reece relieving teacher.

1929 1 Year 3 Months in Hospital

February 4th School 7 on Roll M Wilson Relieving Teacher.

May 28th C E Goulton Relieving Teacher

Aug 19th Chamberlain children quarantined for chicken pox

Aug 21st Only 2 present

September 13th 10 children on roll. *(Mr. C N O'Leary the teacher who returned after 1 years and 3 months in Masterton Hospital where he was treated for a broken leg. The bones of which did not heal and had to be joined by a plate. He was a widower aged 69. He came out from Ireland after his wife died, leaving children in Ireland.*

Not only the age of the man but the length of time in hospital would not be allowed today. Thank goodness for modern medicine.)

9th October 1929 Included in the Inspectors report

Mr O’Leary is doing fair work in spite of his disability. Grounds. Cattle traipsing around the grounds evidently blocked the drains. The water collecting in clayey grounds by tank at back of school. The water stagnating about and under the building is unsanitary.

December 13. Money collected at school bazaar by Relieving Teacher. This to be used for a swing. The money sent to the Wellington Education Board . There is no swing so far and I know nothing of a subsidy.

6th May 1936 The verdict that death was due to injuries to the brain received through falling to the floor from his bed in the Masonic Hotel was given by the Coroner, Mr. E. Gilbertson, J.P., after an inquest today into the death of Cornelius Neil O’Leary, aged 72, a retired schoolmaster PP

1930 Collecting Manure

1930. Eileen R Niall

February 3rd school started. 11 pupils. Gave children silent reading books and spent the morning writing up register and time table and cleaning out drawers and cupboards.

February 14th Spoke to Mr Morrison about catch on school door and possibility of a garden.

24th February Received 3 pairs of scissors from Wellington Education Board thus bringing total to 7.

May 5th Commenced first term test. Arithmetic Reading Writing English Recitation and spelling. Results very unsatisfactory.

May 6th Continued tests Composition, History, Handwork and Drawing.- History very poor on whole as the pupils did not pay enough attention to the explicit directions given before commencing their work.

May 19th. Spent part of the morning and afternoon cleaning the school and pegging out garden plots, which are to be dug during the holiday. Manure collected by children and laid in plots. (*Manure means I would guess real manure. Probably collected in buckets from the horse paddock.*)

May 27th Only 3 children present closed at 12.30.

May 29th Closed school at 12.30 as Harry Browne had all the symptoms of influenza and Mollie Scanlan lives several miles away and if the weather changed she would have got very wet.

June 2nd closed the school at 2.30

June 4th School closed as I was unavoidably detained in Pahiatua last night owing to the only service car running in the evening being full. I left Pahiatua at 11.00 this morning.

June 10th. Withdrew Margaret Scanlan’s name from register as she will not be back next term. She is only 5 and has a very long way to come on foot.

June 17th School closed today as I had contracted a heavy cold and did not feel fit for school being unable to speak very much.

July 10th. School closed 10th July for the death of Sir Joseph Ward. School should have been closed yesterday but I was not aware of his death.

July 14th Miss N Blackburn came this afternoon and demonstrated “corrective exercises”. She also taught new country dances. (*There*

was no evidence of what corrective exercises were, but synchronised drill exercises were favoured in the 1930s.)

July 18th Temperature of school room at 9.00 36 degrees Fahrenheit. (2.22 Celsius) *(Just a little cold There is no mention of any heating in the school.)* Snow on ground ankle deep. Closed school at 12.00.

September 17th Gramophone ordered by Wellington Education Board and paid for by Wellington Education Board with subsidy from school.

September 23rd Received Gramophone and 4 country dance records. One has a hole in it and is to be returned if possible. *(I thought all records had a hole in them, I guess this meant another hole. A gramophone was wound up by a handle. The music was picked up by a needle. From experience teaching folk dance on a shaky schoolroom floor was always interesting when using records.)*

October 28th Received from Wellington Education Board 2 packets of tree seeds Macrocarpa and Eucalyptus. These will be planted in a special row in the experimental plot

November 11 Armistice Day observed 2 minutes silence at 11 O'clock in honour of the fallen. Lesson on Tawhira Staminata Pistillate flowers and pollination. *(If Masterton archivist, and garden guru, Gareth Winter is around he may well be able to explain. The children must have been riveted as she wrote this title on the blackboard.)*

December 3rd Miss Blackburn, drill inspector watched a display of exercises and country dancing by children – explained errors. Received from Wellington Education Board lupin seed and manure.

December 8th Held school concert for afternoon in the Whare dining room. Presented school prizes, bran rub for children.

1931 Children will not Listen

Roll 13 The garden is not in good order owing to the fact that Mr Brown was allowed by the chairman to run his cows on the school property in the vacation. A fence has been put around the plot but it is no use as it does not enclose the whole plot and moreover has no gate. I shall ask the chairman to have it removed and get part of the playground fenced after.

February 24th I Removed name of Joan Chamberlain from school roll. She has just turned 14 years of age and is to go into service with an aunt at New Plymouth. Home circumstances would not permit her to take advantage of a proficiency certificate if she obtained one.

April 15th Dr McIlwraith Senior Inspector visited. Full attendance 11 pupils. .. tested poetry and suggested dramatic and facial expressions.

April 20th Only 7 children present today so will close school at 12.15.

May 6th Examinations..... These children are very poor examination subjects and will not listen to instructions. Their main idea seems to be to get the work done as quickly as possible.

May 25th Reopened school this morning Attendance 10. Pat Scanlan has mumps so as neither his sisters nor John Heeney has had it. I sent them home again for 3 weeks acting on the Chairman's Instruction. This means that for 3 weeks we shall have an attendance of 7 daily thus making every day an "excepted" day

June 1st All returned after 3 weeks only Pat didn't have mumps but a bad cold in the glands and cannot attend school until the swelling has gone down.

June 12th School closed all day today to enable me to attend the drill class and demonstration for teachers given by Miss Blackburn.

June 17th On Thursday last May 11th I discovered when about to punish several children that the strap had been removed from my

drawer. I summoned the whole school and questioned each child receiving an absolute denial from each one. On Monday I again questioned them and made them forfeit their recess period. Today I placed 3 O'clock as the limit of time- after which the matter was to be placed in the hands of Mr Morrison. The strap was discovered hidden in a scrub bush, yesterday afternoon and every child again denied knowledge of it. Harry Brown and Len Chamberlain therefore confessed this afternoon that they had taken it on Wednesday last during the dinner hour. I punished them severely after school- giving them 6 cuts with the strap on the hands and about as many more on the trousers. I am reporting this immediately to Mr Morrison.

June 22nd Only 4 children present. All others at dental clinic.

August 19th I closed school early this afternoon as I had a bad cold and a wretched headache and I think I am getting influenza.

13th August. Wellington Education Board refused to pay £1.00 library subsidy as the money being subsidised was cleaning money to be paid to children and teacher had not paid the children.

(The following books were listed as the books to be subsidised for the library)

10 pence each A tale of 2 cities, Robinson Crusoe Alice in Wonderland

1-8d Grimm's fairy Tales, Heidi, The deer slayer

2-3d The biography of a grizzly, Raggylug, Billy the dog that made good

2-6d Martin Rattler, Meg's friend, Little Blue Clare, The vicar of Wakefield

2/- Granny's wonderful chair, Greenwood tales, Arabian Nights

9d each Blackers easy to read books 13 titles

November 3rd This morning I punished Catherine Chamberlain for note passing in school. She was warned about this some time ago and told she would be punished next time. I confiscated the note- a very stupid one- and ordered her out on the floor- she refused to come bursting into tears saying she was sick and her father wouldn't let her be punished. She created such a disturbance that I had to drag her out onto the floor. She refused to hold out her hand so I hit her once on the back and once on the leg with the strap. She then stood up and held out her hand shrieking all the time that she was going home to tell her father. I gave her three strokes with the strap and sent her back to her work. Her sister Norma also burst into tears and was rather rude and I let it pass after a warning as she is a highly emotional child.

November 15th The school was closed yesterday owing to my absence in Pahiatua due to a car accident. Late on Saturday afternoon I broke the axle of my car and had to be towed into Pahiatua. On Sunday Evening, I found that no new axle could be obtained. Immediately I rang Mr Morrison who gave me permission to stay until my car was fixed. *(Eileen Niall must have had access to money to even think about owning a car on a Teacher's Salary. A Sole Charge teacher in a small school earned about 80 pound per annum. This is worth \$7516 in 2010 terms. Hardly well paid.)*

December 2nd School closed again for General Elections. School used as a polling booth.

December 11th Received notice of results of synchronous Proficiency examination. Proficiency Normal Chamberlain, Mollie Scanlan. Competency Pat Scanlan

1932 Trees Die. Onions Fail

1932. Reopened Roll only 9 Mollie Scanlan is going to Masterton Technical School and Norma Chamberlain has also left although her parents have not thought fit to tell me.

February 1st I have been appointed to Sole Teacher at Mangaorapa (*Southern Hawkes Bay*) the appointment starts at March 1st. (*Later on all appointments were only made at the beginning of a new term. The allowing of teachers to go at the beginning of the next month was always disruptive as there was no active reliever system in place.*)

February 24th Meg Brown is absent from school today as she is being kept home to look after her sisters small child. Meg's mother is seriously ill (in fact, the Doctor has given her two days to live.) And it is essential there be quiet in the house.

February 26th Eileen R Niall left Awatoitoi

1st March E T Whitta Reliever. 11 children

3rd March Mr Bockett came and inspected trees, most have died and the bed of onions is a failure.

26th April 1932 The school was closed. Awatoitoi School did not combine with the other local schools for an annual picnic and as a substitute the entire school is going to town for a day. In the morning Mr Morrison has arranged for the children to go through the Waingawa Freezing Works and in the afternoon they are going to see the African picture Trader Horn.

23 May Mr W Neas opened the school Went to Waione at end of year following a good Inspectors report.

1933. No Level ground

Miss A Dysart appointed to Sole Teacher position. (*Kept no real log and only lasted one term.*)

Margaret G Baxter started Term 2 1933

3rd July School closed for day. Children taken into town for the annual picnic. The children were taken into town in Mr Morrison's 2 cars. They went to the railway station to see the Wellington express come in. The children were allowed in the engine to see the furnace etc. They then went through the printing works of the Daily Times. They then went to fire engine and then went to see the Pantomime Cinderella This made for a very happy picnic day.

Aug 1st A bundle of young pines came in and they have been heeled in to a garden plot awaiting for the soil to dry and be planted for shelter.

October 2nd Inspectors report very positive. The school is well cleaned. The grounds are tidy. Some shelter trees have recently been planted. The children have wisely protected them with brushwood. This school ground has not a level patch. Would it be possible to secure unemployed labour to level a patch sufficient for drill basketball and tennis? (*Up to 1970 the game we now know as Netball was called basketball, or Outdoor Basketball. The game we now call basketball went by the name of Indoor Basketball. Outdoor basketball was played on a court divided into 3 parts as is Netball. The game was played nine aside with players not allowed to move out of their third of the court.*)

October 9th. Mr Brockett visited the school this morning and gave us instruction for the mangle variety trial to be carried out in garden plots

October 26th the school Doctor was due today but had not arrived at 3 pm so I dismissed children unfortunately a message to keep the children as she would be late did not reach me and Dr Anderson arrived at 3.30 pm

1934 Earthquake

5th February Only 5 present as measles was in the Chamberlain household.

8th February A very wet day only 3 children present.

Mar 6th Very severe earthquake felt last night and several chimneys at Awatoitoi came down. A short sharp shake about 9.10 am. So took children out of doors for remainder of morning. Children very nervy and upset as a result of last night's shake. From 2-3 pm went to Mr Brown's to listen to Education Department's broadcast but reception was very poor.

April 25th Mr Morrison spoke to the children for half an hour today and then the school was closed for the remainder of Anzac day.

June 11th The District Nurse visited during the afternoon and tested the eyes of all pupils present.

July 20th The school was closed this date for the Annual Picnic. Mr Morrison lent his cars to take the children to Masterton where they caught the 7.40 am train for Wellington . In Wellington the party visited the Zoo, Woolworths,(*Woolworths was a large department store, a bit like the Warehouse of today, not a grocery store*) went on the cable car to the Kelburn Tea Kiosk for a comprehensive view of Wellington. On the escalator at D.I.C. (*DIC stands for Direct Importing Company and was on Lambton Quay next to Kirkaldies and Stains. These two shops were for the wealthy and were*

extravagant in their presentation of goods) and in a lift to the top of the building and finally to the wharves. The children looked over the Hororata and saw many of the store sheds. The party returned on the train that left Lambton Quay at 4.15.

Aug 3rd 100 poplar trees arrived from Wellington Education Board and were planted in holes prepared for them around the playground.

September 19th School closed for 2 days. While I attended classes in Masterton in drawing and Physical Culture. By staff from Auckland Training College Staff.

November 6th Dr Anderson and Nurse Hodges visited the school.

November 16th Catherine Chamberlain has left school this week and is going into domestic service at Tinui.

1935 School Closes at Noon

February 5th Only 7 children present.

February 11th from today until the end of February we are having school from 8.30 to Noon to avoid the intense heat. The roll is being marked for mornings, rain fell on February 7th after a very hot dry of six weeks or more.

February 21st The hot trying weather seems to be over. Resume 9.00 to 3.00 hours we have had nearly 4 inches of rain so far this month (*1 inch= 25.4 millimetres*)

29th April School resumed with a full roll of 9.

7th May. The school was closed yesterday to celebrate the Kings Silver Jubilee. These school children were taken into Masterton to see the Jubilee procession and to the pictures which the 10 shillings allowed by the Govt is to be paid to Mr Morrison for the hire and benzene of his truck which was used to convey the children

10th May. Margaret G Baxter leaves to go to Graham's Beach School, Manakau Heads Auckland.

27th May Alice E Golder Relieving Teacher. Roll 8.

8th August. An excellent inspectors report in detail.

9th September. 8 children. Harry Brown and Len Chamberlain have left. George Presow and Tui Scanlan have started.

13th September school closed for annual picnic. The children were taken into Masterton in one of Mr Morrison's cars. Mr CE Daniell showed them through his factory and sawmill while the men were working. They visited the railway station and saw the 11.10 come in. In the afternoon they visited the park and then the steam laundry At 2.20 they went to the pictures and saw "Bright Eyes" featuring the popular Shirley Temple.

November 1st School closed to allow teacher to sit examinations

November 21st. School closed for teacher examination. 6 children went to the dental nurse

November 27th School closed election day.

1936 No Books at School

Leslie G T Adams

March 2nd. School reopened with 7 Pupils. Rose Brown, Jocelyn, Jack and Jill Chamberlain, Margaret & Anne Scanlan and George Presow.

Rose and Jocelyn absent with horses entered at Tinui. Margaret and Anne Scanlan absent because of inclement weather

March 12th. For gardening, the children today began clearing up the school grounds and made marvellous progress in half an hour. They seem to enjoy this work better than other kinds. I intend giving them

practical lessons in Nature Study i.e. teaching them the names and peculiarities of the weeds they eradicate.

March 19th Children taught outside all day. The weather is fine and warm so we are taking advantage of it. The children seem to work better outside on these days. (Mr Brady Government Life Insurance agent in Masterton came at lunch time for an interview with me)

March 7th Mr Partridge inspector came this afternoon. Children were unprepared having taken their books home so that we could proceed with getting school ready for a concert.

May 25th. Murray Yule admitted. Mr Partridges report came during the holiday. Made lots of recommendations. Was not impressed that children's books were not at school.

June 2nd No school today. No pupils present have closed the school until Monday.

June 23rd. Today being the Kings Birthday the children were taken to the pictures in Masterton and then to the air pageant. We inspected the Union Airways Liner Korimako and the children were very interested in the formation flying, bombing and aerobatic display.

23rd July School closed as I had influenza and the weather was very rough

October 29th At Mr Morrison's direction, I closed the school for peoples' day at the Carterton Show.

23rd -26th November school closed for teacher examinations.

14th December. School Closed for King George the 6's birthday.

15th December. All schools in NZ close today on account of an epidemic of infantile paralysis. (*Polio*).

1937 Infantile Paralysis

D Hodgkinson

March 1st School opened today. Late opening because of infantile paralysis. school in dirty condition but straightening it up with aid of children.

March 8th new stove put in during the weekend. This was badly needed as old stove gave out little heat. Also the hand basin was taken away to be replaced. A catch was placed on the front door, the door of the tool shed repaired and a padlock fitted. 3 new towels received for use of the children.

March 22nd Received notice from Wellington Education Board about special fund which is 4 pounds and 9 shillings in debt. Suggested to children they collect bottles to be sold. Other means of fund raising to be discussed with school committee.

5th April New basin put in today.

9th April. The girls did not go to needlework today as Mrs Presow is in hospital.

20th April All schools in Wellington Education Board are closed because of infantile paralysis. Children will do their work at home.

12th May. School closed. Children have been doing their work through post owing to infantile paralysis. The work in most cases has been done regularly

24th May. School reopened all children present. During the holidays two Elsan chemical closets were put in, which will certainly improve the sanitation of the school. *(The Elsan Sanitary Pan is evidently one which allows the cleaner to remove the bucket and tip the contents in a hole somewhere. At South Featherston School where I taught, the*

toilets had a small door behind each toilet to allow access to the bucket.)

27th May. Mr Hector the new teacher called in today and was introduced to the pupils

28th May This was my last day here. School will be closed on Monday as the mail car leaves at 9 am and I have no other means of getting into Masterton at a later time.

1st June I Took over Duties today Mr J Hector.

4th June School closed owing to my motor accident. 7th June School reopened.

11th August planted Red Beech tree for Arbor Day.

22nd 25th November School closed for my examination

December 7th District Nurse and Doctor visited school

December 15th School closed early in order to visit Mangapakeha School as directed by Mr Stubbs, (Inspector)

December 16th Closed school today to attend selection Committee re entrance into training College

1938 Children Clean the Toilets

R E K Barton

Log of Awatoitoi School for year 1938

February 1st. The school had been left in a dirty condition and I intend with the aid of the pupils to have a thorough clean up tomorrow. The school register is still in Wellington so I am keeping a temporary one. Roll 7

February 2nd The desks and floor were thoroughly cleaned by the children and myself. Mrs Yule supplied the hot water and scrubbing

utensils. Time was spent on the garden and the paths. The weeds are plentiful and will take a considerable time to be cleaned out.

February 11th At my suggestion two toilet paper holders were purchased from Masterton. These were supplied free to us when we bought one dozen Jeyes toilet rolls. The lavatories were scrubbed and cleaned by the pupils and myself

February 28th The lining of the school fences with Manuka is being started this afternoon by the boys

Mar 7th. The School Saving Bank Scheme was started this morning. The children are enthusiastic about it and it shows every sign of success

Mar 20th George Presow away today-it being very cold. George hasn't any boots or shoes to wear.

April 5th The Elsan Sanitary Pans were emptied by me at 4 pm today. *(It seems as though someone complained about the toilets being cleaned by children. Therefore, the recording of the time is the teacher making a point.)*

April 6th The separate towel system was begun today. Each child is to line and put his name on the towel provided and then to hang them on the hooks in the corridor.

April 26th Mt T Bell is continuing with improvement work which began on Friday

June 2nd The school lawn mower arrived today. Work was done after school and already there is a vast improvement in the appearance of the grounds. *(This probably was a hand mower, previously the grass would have been cut with sickles.)*

June 7th The rope for the swing came today and was placed on the hooks ready to use.

August 1st. The Elsan Sanitary pans were emptied by me at 4 pm

August 5th Mr Powell Wellington Education Board architect called today and inspected the school.

September 8th Jocelyn Chamberlain definitely has measles. John, Jack and Edward were quarantined for 16 days as contacts.

September 13th School was closed today so that I could visit Mr Wisely at Mangapakeha as suggested by Mr Stubbs

Awatoitoi National Election. Mr Morrison's School Room 4th October 1938. *(Even at this date the National Advertisement for general election polling stations referred to "Mr Morrison's Schoolhouse. This infers that he owned the schoolhouse The other explanation could be is that this was the old schoolroom owned by Mr Morrison.)*

October 27th It was suggested that for 1939 Awatoitoi should combine with Tinui, Whareama, Mangapakeha and Whakataki in their annual sports day. Mr Wisely will supply information.

November 7th The school was closed today to enable the teacher to be medically examined re entrance to training college 1939

November 14th The painting of the school was commenced today.

November 28th The final term examinations started today.

November 30th The school was closed today to enable the teacher to interview the selection committee re entrance to training college
Roger E K Barton Leaves after a year

1939 The Lespedeza Plot

J D Beddingfield

1st February 1939. School Roll opened with roll of 8. Twice during the day the pupils worked in the grounds clearing up the weeds which have grown over the long holiday

2nd March 1939. School was closed to allow children to attend the dental clinic in Masterton

15th March. School was closed in order to visit Mr Wisely at Mangapakeha School Grade 2. This visit proved very instructive.

23rd March 1939. The children worked with Mr Brockett in the lespedeza plot (*Flowering pea family*).

17th April Beryl Yule absent with sore leg. This is the first absentee for the year

20th April 1939. On account of the very bad weather school closed at noon.

4th May. This afternoon 3 members of Wellington Education Board visited the school. In the afternoon all desks were scrubbed, the sanitary pans emptied and the school windows cleaned.

5th May This morning all furniture was removed from inside and the school thoroughly scrubbed out. We are thankful for Mrs Yule providing hot water for this purpose.

16th June 3 Chamberlain children attending school in Masterton. Roll is now 6

3rd July Audrey (P2) and Randolph (S3) Morrison were admitted to school today. They have just arrived from Scotland (Aberdeen).

19th July Mr Brockett (Agriculture) visited today and discussed the native plant project. He gave advice on planting seeds, shoots and plants at length.

26th July 1939 The infant inspector Miss Laurie visited the school Speech Training, Reading, Handwork and drawing were discussed.

18th September Packet of native seeds arrives

6th October. A framed photograph of the royal family in coronation robes arrived at the school today.

27th October 1939 the school was closed for the children to attend the Carterton Show. We are indebted to Mr Morrison for the loan of his car for transport purposes.

1st December the school was closed yesterday to enable the teacher to interview the training college selection committee.

2nd December. The children's eyes and ears were tested today and the Doctor will pay a visit to the school next week in order to make complete examinations.

7th December the school Doctor visited us this morning and examined all the children. All present were presented.

14th December The school was thoroughly cleaned today. Mrs Yule is thanked for supplying hot water.

15th December No prize giving as teacher had to go to a funeral.

1940 Two Days for M J Savage

L A Crosbie

6th February 1940 school opened with a roll of 10. A start was made in general cleaning up of school grounds- mowing of lawns.

5th March 1940. White and coloured chalk received for school. (*Even in the 1960s coloured chalk was expensive. I was given a few sticks at the start of the year and once they were gone, there was no more.*)

8th March 1940. Mr Morrison dismantled the tank at school for repairs. There has been no water supply since the beginning of the year.

14th March 1940. At Mr Morrison's direction, the school was closed to allow children to attend the centennial celebrations in Masterton.

Four of the children took part in the procession in Miss Morrison's old time conveyance.

19th March 1940. The school tank returned from Masterton where repairs were carried out. Mr Morrison replaced the tank and connected the new piping. The boys cleaned out the spouting today.

1st April 1940. School closed on 28th and 29th March owing to the death of the NZ Prime Minister The Hon M J Savage.

3rd June 1940 Audrey Morrison returned to school (Following a bout in Hospital with Diphtheria) King's Birthday not observed as a holiday.

15th October 1940. The school tank was cleaned today by the Boards cleaner.

10th December 1940. Received a parcel of school supplies. 1 workbook, 1 timetable, 1 daily attendance register, 6 report forms, 3 A5 forms 4 small and 4 large envelopes

1941 Apple Case for Teachers Chair

A S Jameson

3rd February 1941. School started with a roll of 10. Commenced cleaning up the school grounds. The boys cut the lawns and the girls were weeding the gardens.

10th April A S Jameson left to enter camp with NZEF (New Zealand Expeditionary Forces).

16th April No log. One term wonder Allan J Devlin Left 9th May 1941.

30th July 1941. A number of children reported with mumps. Then this report was written School closed on 1st August to 4th August as teacher had caught the mumps.

5th August Miss Wheeler arrives at school as reliever. *(This is the first time a short term reliever had been appointed. Prior to this entry the school appeared to close for the day at the whim of the teacher).*

15th August Teacher returns to school today.

P A Conners leaves after a term on 22nd August 1941.

8th September 1941 New teacher Miss I Thompson. The only chair in the school is broken. I have to use an apple case. The clock is also out of order, otherwise the school and grounds are very neat and tidy.

15th September 1941 Mr J Morrison has repaired the chair and the floor of the tool shed.

26th September 1941. School closed for holiday granted by Governor General. *(Right up to the 1960s if the Governor General came to the school or the children had an opportunity to go and see the GG then the school was able to have a day off at their own choice of day.)*

1942 Another Earthquake

2nd February 1942 Roll 12.

25th May 1942 Mr Hall relieving as Miss Thompson ill. Miss Thompson resumed 29th June 1942.

29th June 1942. Reopened school after intense earthquake on Wednesday night. The school is not much damaged beyond broken chimney pipe to heater. Fire extinguisher has fallen and spilt contents. Asbestos at back of heater badly cracked. Bottles of chemicals broken and spilled, tank stand damaged, overflow pipe from tank broke. Mr Hickey's house and Teacher's bach wrecked by intensity of shake.

20th June 1942 Mr A Donald, Board Member Wellington Education Board, Secretary of Wellington Education Board and Mr G

Drummond called 5 pm Monday 29th June when passing through the district.

15th July 1942 Mr Peet and Mr Proctor wired pieces of tin over the holes in the pipe of the heater.

16th July 1942 A cold wet day with snow thick in the playground. As the heater is smoking badly I have decided to keep the children at school until one o'clock and then dismiss them for the day.

14th October 1942. I accidentally broke the glass in one of the windows in the porch.

1943 What to do with the Nations?

3rd February 1943. Took children swimming over to the dam near the blue gums. The water is very dirty.

26th February 1943. Have taken children swimming in the dams several times the water is not so dirty.

5th March 1943. School was closed to enable teacher to attend drill displays at Central School in Masterton.

7th April 1943. The children have knitted 10 scarves and 5 balaclavas for the Junior Red Cross and Patriotic Society.

2nd August 1943. Nation Children have again quarrelled with the other children and have made everything unpleasant for everyone.

3rd August 1943. Mr Morrison rang Wellington Education Board re Nation children. They are absent from school this morning.

10th September. School closed to celebrate Italy's surrender.

1944 Just fairly Intelligent

22nd March Received first case of apples from I M D Hastings.

3rd April. Committee have installed a Hot Dog heater during the holidays. It is an improvement on the old heater.

22nd May. Reopened school after holidays. Roll 10 present 9. A very wet day and playgrounds are very wet. I have decided to keep the children at school until 1 pm and dismiss then, so that they will not get wet going to and from lunch. Committee bought basketball for the girls.

18th August MW Thompson Leaves.

5th September. JT Pound relieving. Children appear well behaved and fairly intelligent. There is no infant material at all in the school and absolutely no teaching material of any description.

14th September. School visited by Mr Maloney Agricultural Instructor. Talked to children on the project of growing Sweet Corn in their gardens. Advised the planting of trees such as Blue Gum and Toitoti to afford protection from the wind.

1st October Appointed as Sole teacher. This is a direct war appointment. The permanent teacher being a member of the armed forces a Mr Bissett.

2nd October. School closed. Teacher missed the railcar from Wellington on Sunday and was forced to remain in Wellington and catch the Wairarapa Express on Monday Morning. Rang Mr Morrison on Sunday night to let the children know.

3rd October. Reggie Taplin has chicken pox. Molly, Ivan and Jimmie are away from school, being quarantined for three weeks

9th October. Gave Stan McDonald 4 on the hands for cheating at spelling.

10th October. In the morning Alec, Ron and Stan dug a tip and we deposited the school rubbish in it. Having cleaned out the cupboard and boxes in the school

10th November. Took children for a walk in search of dams suitable for swimming

1945 Children Man the Bonfire

5th February. The school was in good order but the grounds will need a lot of attention being practically overgrown.

14th February Took children to Liverton's Bush to look for young trees to plant round school. Found nothing suitable but children enjoyed the outing.

9th-13th March. School closed. Teacher in Wellington on urgent personal business.

9th April First case of apples for the year.

20th April. Mr Howatt brought up 35 poppies from the hotel which the children undertook to sell. Let children go at 2.30 as the bigger boys had fair distances to go and sell theirs (Sold 29). *(These would have been poppies used by the RSA Returned Serviceman's Association to raise funds for the RSA).*

23rd April Reminded Mr Hickey, secretary school committee to write to Wellington Education Board for a cupboard. *(Each sole charge classroom had a storage cupboard, where teacher's could store personal material as well as school supplies etc. I presume they are looking for a replacement).*

30th April Started to clean out the drains.

4th May School closed in thanksgiving for the surrender of the German armies in Italy.

4th June. Visit of Mr Maloney Agriculture Instructor. He talked to children on the Soya Bean Trial and on Home gardens.

11th June. Stan and Ron McDonald and Ivan Taplin absent in the morning to keep the bonfire going to guide the men looking for the lost cowman from Rewanui.

25th June. Handwork material arrived. Cleared out three desks to the play shed to make room. *(Most schools had a playshed. This is where children went on wet days or at lunchtime. Children did not stay inside at breaks. Large schools often had a boys and a girls playshed. A playshed was a three sided building with an open front. Usually made of wood with a low ceiling, some were made of concrete and were large.)*

27th June. Basketball and 6 rubber balls for Phys Ed use arrived.

6th July School closed to enable teacher to attend sister's wedding

27th July. Bitterly cold. Heavy snowfall.

3rd August. School closed in afternoon. Children collecting clothes for UNRRA *(United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association, established 1943)*

15th August School Closed at 12. VJ Day. *(Victory over Japan Day)*

28th September. School closed to attend sister's wedding. Children given work to do.

17th October. Rose Jensen attending only 2 days a week as Mr Jensen's motorbike is in Masterton being repaired.

30th November. Visit of Miss Taylor. Took children for Folk Dancing and percussion band work.

19th December. Cleaned and scrubbed school and desks.

20th December. School Year Finished!

Josephine F Pound.

1946 Broken Troubles

7th February Roll 10. The garden is overgrown with weeds and the grass on the school grounds very long but the school buildings are in good order.

18th Mar. Miss Biedin indisposed with broken ankle.

20th Mar. Mr D G Carlyle took over relieving duties.

19th June. Visited Mangapakeha for the day School closed.

17th September. 2 new pupils enrolled Joan Siemonek and Gloria Siemonek.

30th October. Teacher absent owing to visit to hospital re broken finger.

1947 No Teachers

4th February. School reopened with roll of 15. One new pupil. Edwin O'Conner being admitted. Joyce, Colleen and Pam Hayes being unable to attend owing to the fact that their mother is in hospital and they are unable to get any help in the house. The roll will consist of 9 girls and 6 boys

8th Mar. Annual combined school sports at Castlepoint. Practically full attendance of both parents and children . Had a very enjoyable day and was 3rd in the contest for the shield.

21st March. First visit from Mr Stewart the new vicar at Tinui. Mr Stewart talked to children for ½ an hour and is intending to be here each Friday at 11.30.

26th March. Received information we will receive out first books from the country library service on 1st May 1947.

20th April Took children to the homestead at 2.00 to see Miss Nancy Morrison's wedding. Stayed approximately ¼ hour.

17th July. Visited by the traffic inspector today. Unluckily available films could not be shown because of lack of electricity, short talk given to the children. (*Electricity did not come to area until 1949*).

22nd September R W Ryan. The school has been closed for a fortnight because of the lack of teachers. 5 new admissions from the Whareama School These children are conveyed by Transport Wairarapa.

23rd September received 20 National library Service Books

8th October. 6 Admissions today bringing roll up to 23. There are desks enough for 20. Until we can obtain further desks some will have to sit 3 in a desk.

22nd October. Received 3 desks from Lansdowne School Two No 1 and 1 No 5.

19th November. School Closed. Used as polling booth for Local Body Elections.

1st December. School closed on advice of Health Dept. This was deemed necessary owing to the threat of Infantile Paralysis Epidemic. The children called to collect their books, I spent the day tidying up and preparing records.

1948 Polio=No School

School opening has been postponed due to Poliomyelitis Epidemic. Correspondence assignments will be sent to pupils to do at home. Along with work broadcast on the National Programme.

19th February Visit by Mr Evans Agriculture Instructor. He expressed disappointment at poor state of school grounds.

1st March. School reopened Roll 22.

6th July Received new library bookcase from Wellington Education Board. *(Even in the 1960s school libraries were small, maybe a 100 books at the most. Reliance was made on country library service books which were changed every so often, I think 6 months. Schools could request books on certain topics but these were unreliable in meeting needs. In the 1950s there would have been very books to even choose from. I can't remember a library or collection of books at Muritai School I attended in the 1940s and 50s. There were just a few books in each classroom.)*

7th July. Visited the Steam Laundry, Saw a Safety Traffic Film, Fish Hatchery and Times Age. Several parents came also and everyone enjoyed the day.

26th July Field tiles were put down around the side and top boundaries. Next week the school, water drainage will be connected with these drains. Glad to see something done at last. Secretary of School Committee has done everything possible to see that these repairs and improvements are carried out. I hope efforts will be rewarded.

November 26th Wash hand basin installed and spouting repaired. *(This indicates that up to 1948 there were no facilities in the building for children to wash their hands)*

November 30th Parents Day. 25 Visitors. Children's work on display. Lambs judged Phys Ed display and concert. Children received presents and they served the afternoon tea.

1949 No More Mud

February 1st School reopened with roll of 21

During holidays entrance to school grounds was made and new gates erected. A large strip in front of the school has been levelled and the grounds have been disced and will later be sown in grass. This work is a great step forward in improving the school grounds.

February 12th Today we went to Masterton Central to use their instruction pool for a swimming lesson. *(This learner's pool was situated on Russell Street where the Warehouse Store is situated).* We hope to use this pool every Saturday provided a truck is available for transport.

February 28th Mr Daken *(School Committee member)* has presented a clock to the school. This is a great acquisition.

Mar 1st Meeting to arrange interschool sports at Castlepoint on Saturday. Received a tumbling mat from the Wellington Education Board.

Mar 5th Tinui and East Coast Sports at Castlepoint. A Beautiful day. Transport in Mr H Morrison's truck. On Wednesday this week the school will be used as a polling booth for licensing and off course totalisator referendums. *(The liquor referendum was whether hotels should continue to have their doors shut at 6 pm. This rule was often broken especially in the country. The front door may have been shut, but those in the know would have been using the backdoor. Remember there was a hotel at Blairlogie until June 1969. 6 O'clock closing was abolished in October 1967, when 10.00 pm closing was introduced.*

Betting on racing was on course only. There was no TAB; phone betting was not to happen. In the 1960s most bars had an unlicensed bookmaker sitting in a corner taking bets. Races were broadcast. The Totalisator Board was established in 1950. Both these referendums went for the status quo).

March 26th We took part in the Masterton Primary Schools sports meeting. We combined with Whareama.

March 29th We received 18 library books from Wellington Education Board.

March 31st we received 1 5 gallon aquarium jar and a rain gauge.

May 5th Went to Onetai to see aerial topdressing at Onetai, (A station owned by the Morrison's. A quote from Wikipedia. By the end of 1949 there were five firms; Airwork had five Tiger Moths, James Aviation three, Aircraft Services three, Gisborne Aerial topdressing (which was to become Field Air) had one, and Southern Scenic Airtrips had converted an Auster In addition Wally Harding was top dressing his own property with his private Tiger Moth. Rex Garnham started Rangitikei Air Services with one DH82 and held the first Aerial application license Within the following five years nearly 50 other companies—mostly one-man operations—joined as competition/ These children were watching topdressing planes at the start of a new industry that changed the face of farming in New Zealand)

May 23rd School reopened today. A culvert has been laid to take water away from new entrance road so that we should have less trouble with mud from now on.

July 7th Today we made a trip to town. We visited the Post Office, the Huia Aerated water Company and the Gas Works.

July 9th Received 3 mats for infant use from the committee.

July 18th During the weekend hedge plants were planted out and a beginning was made in repairing outside fence and putting in new netting fences around garden area.

August 2nd to 12th. School closed as Teacher had contracted chicken pox.

September 5th. School opened with roll of 22.

October 17th Committee purchased two cricket bats, a baseball bat and a softball.

October 19th Filmstrip projector and two six volt batteries have arrived. (*Filmstrips were a valuable teaching tool in most schools. They were subject specific which meant teaching was made easy.*



Most schools had a rack of filmstrips on a wide range of topics. They could also be borrowed from the Rural Adviser or easily swapped between schools. Basically they were a roll of negatives often with captions that were put through a special projector. Most filmstrip projectors also had a slide

viewer where individual slides could be used. A slide was where a negative was put inside a cover and shown on a big screen. These were popular in the mid 1900's as people returned from trips with boxes of these and showed them to friends and relations. These shows were often long, tedious and non selective. To be avoided)

November 2nd Visit from Wellington Education Board architect. Took measurements and observations re suggested enlargement of school buildings.

November 30th School used as Polling Booth for general election.

December 7th Parents Day. 25 parents attended they were very interested in use of filmstrip projector and puppetry. Many pleasing

compliments were paid to the improvements in the grounds. We have raised 2 pound 5 shillings towards the cost of a radio.

1950 Travel to Masterton by Truck

February 1st School opened today. Grounds are in good condition Gardens are bright and lawns and gardens will not need much attention

February 4th Trip to town to begin swimming lessons.

February 14th School closed teacher joined in group discussion at Tinui school lead by Mr Bringans, Inspector.

February 21st Swimming lessons all older pupils are making excellent progress. Received timber supplies for light woodwork.

March 4th Last of 5 swimming lessons today. As instruction pool was closed. Had a picnic at Te Ore Ore River.

March 20th Social Afternoon. Presentation to Mrs Taplin in appreciation of her wholehearted support of school interests. A Nice enjoyable afternoon.

March 30th. The radio receiver has been installed.

April 17th. District Health Nurse Miss Millihan today inspected the children. In the afternoon most of the mothers were present. Miss Millihan discussed individual problems with the respective mothers. After which a discussion on child health and the health nurses work took place. Afternoon Tea was served bringing to a close a worthwhile and enjoyable gathering.

May 31st Received a new rugby football from Wairarapa Rugby Union.

June 16th Football and basketball goals have been erected and gates swung in spaces in the garden fence.

July 7th Received copy of plans and specification for enlargement of the school. Tenders are being called.

July 10th Received copy of Janet and John readers.

August 13th Children's fancy dress party held in Langdale Hall.

August 18th A combined sports day with the children of Mangapakeha, Tinui, Whareama and Homewood schools was held at Langdale Sports Ground. Children played football (Rugby) and Basketball in age group teams.

September 4th School reopened today roll 27.

September 29th Mr Daken presented us with a "Crown" pencil sharpening machine.

October 12th-13th School closed to enable children of Standards 3-6 to go to Wellington. We travelled in the Awatoitoi truck to Masterton. From to Wellington by railcar arriving 10.20 am. Billets had been arranged with children of similar age and sex at South Miramar School. The children then proceeded to Parliament buildings and where Mr Cooksley MP for Wairarapa showed them the council chambers and explained procedure. They watched the session from the gallery. They went up in the cable car, down through the botanical gardens through the DIC along the wharves to watch the Wanganella depart. *(At 11.30 p.m. on 19 January 1947 the captain of the Wanganella mistook the flashing buoy in front of Barrett Reef for the light to guide ships into Wellington harbour. The ship, with 400 passengers on a voyage from Sydney, struck the reef and remained fast on the rocks. The passengers were taken off the next day. For 18 days the ship was stuck, saved by fine weather, which became known as 'Wanganella weather'. During that time there were a number of attempts to free the boat. Finally on 6th February tugs did succeed in*

hauling the boat free, and they towed it into Wellington Harbour. The ship was not repaired until October 1948. Te Ara Encyclopaedia).

Then back to the public library. On Friday a trip to Mt Victoria by trolley bus was followed by a trip to the museum and to the Jubilee Industrial Exhibition in the afternoon. Then to the zoo. In the afternoon they went on a 30 mile sightseeing trip. The children then did things with their hosts.

November 30th 12 children came from Miramar South School Visited woolshed, Friday a picnic in Liverton's Bush. Weekend free.

December 15th Today I conclude 3 years teaching at the school I have enjoyed my time here and leave with best wishes of the people and a feeling of great satisfaction with the job I have done.

J R Dawson

1951 Roll 29

6th February R Blake commenced duties Roll 22

9th March very warm weather lately 87 degrees inside today (29.44 Celsius)

30th March finished relieving

4th April. New permanent teacher appointed

4th May School roll 29. End of term 2 fine school days this month.

1st May 1951 KJ Holyoake (*MP for Pahiatua. Awatoitoi was in his electorate*) involved over overcrowding and sent a number of letters offering support

21st May Grounds are not in good order owing to high rainfall.

Letter to Wellington Education Board from G Milne including the following statement Last year when tenders were called the

position was acute. Now it is beyond human endurance. We as parents feel quite insulted that our children are educated in conditions which approach the renowned "Hole of Calcutta". . The room was built 30 years ago for the maximum of 15 children. Etc. 24th May 12 B desks and chairs arrived at school a very welcome addition

12th June No practical drill taken yet owing to state of grounds. Every child in class with a cold.

17th Aug 1951. The school measures 17 ft 6 x 16' (5.3 meters long by 4.8 meters) which comfortably accommodated 19 children The price being £1297 is high for a new classroom. There is a continuing difficulty in obtaining tenders for jobs in the Wairarapa area.

1952 Needed: A Residence

6th May 1952. The building is situated on a steeply sloping hill side and there is no flat paved area for general play, drill and other organised activities. The ground has practically no soakage and in wet weather is churned into mud. All the children are forced to wear gumboots and parents have lodged many complaints with the committee about the state of the grounds. Notes to Minister of Education

Mr A L Morrison proposed that the committee approach Mr John Morrison, Blairlogie, for a bulldozer to excavate a playing area for the school.

14th October Mr L Black proposed that the secretary write to the education board for bank authority and suggested changes for the school lighting.

27th November an earthworks contractor was approached for a price for bulldozing the proposed playing area. He agreed to undertake the work for 50 pounds. (\$2,638.95 in December 2010 Terms)

The work has since been completed and passed as satisfactory.

That the committee write to Wellington Education Board for information regarding the erection of a residence for a married schoolteacher. Mr A E Morrison proposed that the secretary and chairman pay a visit to the Wellington Education Board as we have been getting no satisfaction from correspondence.

16th December. A report on the visit to the Wellington Education Board was received. The Board suggested that the committee find a suitable site for a school teacher's residence and then the board would take steps to consider the erection of a building within two years.

1953 No New Residence

20th April It was proposed by the schoolteacher the Wellington Education Board be approached with regards to getting an electric water heater and a vacuum cleaner for the school.

27th April. The secretary was requested to write to Wellington Education Board regarding a new stove for the school, which was promised some months back.

The teacher spoke of a visit to the Wellington Education Board. He was told by the Board architect that the proposed teacher's residence would not be built this year. It was proposed that a deputation of

members would approach the local Wellington Education Board member.

22nd October 1953. The site is an extremely wet one and the approaches to the latrines in their present position on the hill are very muddy. (*Letter from Wellington Education Board to the Minister of Education*)

11th November Septic Tank instalment approved

6th December 1953. A grant of 275 for a 12 foot wide driveway to house is additional. 1954 grading roll 26 The present teacher who is single intends to get married as soon as a house is provided and is pressing for early commencement of work .

1954 Clean School

4th May The teacher reported on present difficulties re cleaning of school, it was left to him to arrange a more satisfactory position if possible.

1955 Water Problems

Proposed that committee meet on Saturday .12th February for inspection of work to be carried out round school house also re water for school baths.

2nd May A discussion took place of the prospects of erecting baths at school. It was proposed that the committee try and work out some scheme to put to Wellington Education Board.

1st June. That the Secretary write to Wellington Education Board re a clock for the school.

27th June. The committee were still trying to get a water scheme for the schoolhouse.

10th July proposed that Mr Morrison ring Wellington Education Board re hole to be dug for tank at teachers residence.

24th October. Write to Wellington Education Board approving of appointment of Mr Allison as teacher (*Appears not to have taken job*)
Proposed to write to Wellington Education Board asking for a clock.

1956 Telephone

27th April 1956

The residence is in a windy place in order to force rain off additional window hoods were necessary.

24th April: committee were most interested in having a telephone onto the school.

18th July A discussion took place in paying for the telephone rental. It was moved that the committee pay half and Mr J Staff pay the other half. Committee were thankful to Mr J Staff for the way in which he had planted all the trees which were given to the school by the forestry department.

L Wilton moved that J Staff get a pain(sic) of glass for school window

1957 2nd Time Lucky

20th March. Committee agreed to spend 10 pound on fuel for the school. Coke and Coal. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board concerning chimney in school.

Taueru school offered use of their swimming pool to us. Moved that their offer be received. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board on subsidy for a multiplex set. Playground and gymnastic equipment . Value £34/17/6 per half set.

15th April Taueru School offered the Awatoitoi School the use of their swimming baths. All members were most thankful of their offer.

1958 Grass Fire

February Committee agreed to buy 6 bags of coke and 6 bags of coal for school.

Moved the school committee pay ¼ of the telephone account.

£5 were paid to Taueru school committee for use of swimming baths.

The Committee were pleased with the most successful swimming season.

19th April Discussion took place concerning the grass fire which took place at the school. It was moved to write to Wellington Education Board on grass fire around the school. Also mention a fence so as to graze the area.

4th June 1958. Grass fire destroyed fence. Replacement £25. School Committee wanted internal fence to graze sheep but Wellington Education Board wouldn't allow. The fire was caused by burning paper blown out of a large half tank used for the disposal of rubbish

4th August Committee were most thankful to Wellington Education Board for installing tanks at the school.

Awatoitoi Station offered to fill school water tanks. The committee were very grateful.

10th November. Committee were very thankful on receiving a new table and chair for the teacher.

Moved: the school be closed for one day a term. The day to be arranged by the teacher.

1959 . Doors Need Locking?

13th April Committee are most thankful to Mrs Staff for offering her services as sewing mistress.

6th Aug. Moved that Committee buy two sheets of pinex board 6x4 to be used for display of infants work.

Moved that school committee buy a Tape Recorder. At present 26 children on the roll. *(A tape recorder would have been a reel to reel tape recorder. These were handy to use in the class, especially for taping plays and were also used so that children could hear their own reading especially during the use of plays from School Journals)*

October 28th. Committee authorised Mr J Staff to buy window catches to lock school windows.

1st December. Chairman reported on the painting of Taueru School Baths. it was moved to donate £5 to Taueru School for use of their swimming pool.

The Head Teacher procured for the school a pane of glass for window also a door lock and window catches.

1960 Mr Staff: Gone

28th April Roll 26. Committee agreed for teacher to acquire a bucket for school

27th July Moved that school committee buy netting and standards so as to graze grass around the school as they are unsuitable for mowing.

9th Aug On receiving complaints from parents meeting concerning charges against Head Teacher J H Staff committee had to consider what action to take

It was agreed by members of the committee that a copy of the Minutes from the parents meeting be sent to the following

(a) Head Teacher Mr J H Staff

(b) Education Board

(c) Education Board member for district Mr J Donovan

The committee now await what further action the Wellington Education Board consider to take.

22nd August. Appointment of Mr C E Ashworth as our sole teacher.. Committee moved that the secretary write to all parents notifying of Mr Staffs transfer and appointment of Mr Ashworth at all times.

8th September: Proposed that we notify police of the theft and breaking into the school premises.

19th October. Teacher to contact J Curtain concerning drainage from the schools lavatory.

Motion sanctioning the teacher to send a circular to all parents concerning the clothes worn by the children to school

22nd November: Moved that the secretary write to both Mrs Ivil and Mrs Searle thanking them for organising card evenings at the school to raise funds to secure cups and saucers for school use. *(This was a common winter fundraiser in country schools. The game played usually was Flag 500. Where one member of the four at the table went to another table to play a hand of 500. If they won they came*

back with a flag. (The team with the most flags won.) Players paid an entry fee. It was an ideal community get together and fundraiser)

1961 No Father Xmas

July: A letter read from Miss S Pearce, District Nurse regards space and lighting in the school. Letter forwarded to Wellington Education Board for their comment.



These old school original Tall neck ABC Beer Bottles all dated starting from left to right on bottom edge under writing is the date 1933, all the rest are dated on the bottom, 1939, 1940, 1944, 1954 & 1963 Trade Me Photo Jan 2011.

Mr Ashworth raised idea of raising funds for a new lawnmower. It was decided to have a bottle drive. *(Beer was purchased in large brown bottles and taken home in wooden crates, The payment of a small refund on bottles was not worth enough to take the bottles back. Mostly they had to be taken to the bottle collectors, not to the hotels that sold them. These bottles were collected and sent back to the bottlers to be rewashed and used again. However it was profitable for a group like a school or scout group to go house to house and take the piles of bottles in some backyards and sell them to the "Bottle O". It was an easy way to make money. Usually it just needed a lot of hands, a truck and energy. Soft drink bottles, not in same quantities, were taken back for reusing)*

Moved that the cleaners wages be paid each term and tolls be deducted

October Moved that the Annual Guy Fawkes event be held.

To go to Taueru again for swimming if their committee agree

November Chairman thanked committee members who helped paint the Taueru baths.

Mr Barton thought the date of the calf and lamb day should be changed as it will clash with the Mangapakeha school closing which would effect quite a few families in the district. It was proposed to hold Judging on the 15th December.

Moved that the concert for the school be held on the 12th December. Supper Afterwards and ladies a plate.

Re alterations to school Mr Hyde (Builder) would have to have the meter read before commencing work and also after he had finished and pay for the power.

Mr Barton moved Mr Morrison seconded that Father Xmas services be dispensed with and to ask Mr Stratton to distribute the presents. It was decided to dispense with Fruit Salad at the party. Books were to be brought for Standard 2 upwards and gifts for lower grade children.

1962 A Decent Teacher Please

April. Moved that we write again to Wellington Education Board asking them to reconsider their decision about replacing curtains with blinds at the house.

A discussion was held re clothing worn by children to school during winter months. Mr Searle asked if the Head Teacher would reconsider his decision of not allowing children to wear long pants to

school. Mr Barton moved, Mr Williams seconded that the head teacher give it thought.

Mr Barton asked the Head Teacher if he would name the pegs for the children in the cloak room as there seemed to be some confusion amongst the children.

Mr Ashworth asked for the First Aid Box be refilled.

May: (*Mr Ashworth not present*) Correspondence read re Mr Ashworth. Mr Morrison congratulated Mr Barton re this matter.

Mr Barton informed the committee that he had been assured by the Education Board that they would appoint a decent teacher to the school. In the meantime they would send a reliever.

Mr Barton Moved Mr Ashworth not be forwarded the cleaning money that he was short paid as the cleaning had not been done.

Mr Barton informed the committee that Mr Calcinai had been appointed relieving teacher. Mr Searle offered to board Mr Calcinai until the end of the term.

Mr Barton proposed Mr Morrison that Mrs Atack be paid the cleaning for the two weeks she was teaching school

It was agreed to order a load of metal for the school driveway.

Mr Williams Proposed Mr Searle seconded that the children be supervised during playtime.

Mr Searle moved Mr Williams seconded that a six weekly inspection be held at school

Mr Barton proposed that a drain be dug to drain the backyard of the schoolhouse. Also four posts were needed and he proposed each committee member supply one.

Mr Barton told the committee that a new incinerator was needed. Mr Morrison offered a 44 gallon drum for the purpose.

Mr Searle proposed that a telephone extension be installed in the school.

It was decided by the committee to try out different kinds of heaters for heating the school.

August Both the Current Reliever and the New Teacher Mr Davidson attended the meeting. Mr Davidson, the new teacher, thanked Mr Calcanai for all he had done during his relieving term and said it was a pleasure to see a relieving teacher take such an interest in the school. He also informed the committee that he would keep the grounds in order.

The telephone had been transferred to the school and the Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board telling them.

Mr Calcanai informed the committee that the drains were blocked. Mr Barton offered to look into the matter and contact a plumber if necessary.

Mr Barton suggested that Mr Davidson contact Mr Hedley of Wellington Education Board re papering the schoolhouse.

Mr Calcanai on leaving was given a glowing testimony October. Mr Barton stated that Mr Manion had offered the use of his tractor for flattening out the top soil ready for grassing.

It was moved that stamps be purchased for the Head Teachers Use.

Mr Wilton Senior was to be asked to be Father Xmas.

November. Taueru School asked for £15 for Filtration Plant in addition to £5 pool hire. Awatoitoi committee decided this was too much and that children would be taken by parents to town pool

1963 Father Xmas Back in Fashion

February. It was agreed that the swimming at the Memorial Baths was a great success.

That we hold weekly Euchre evenings to raise funds, they also decided to have a bottle drive.

Mr Davidson thanked for the use of house for the meeting.

Inspector Logan had visited and remarked on the general condition of the school and also the children's learning ability. He also asked Mr Davidson to pass on his personal thanks to the committee and parents for backing the school (owing to personal history)

Mr and Mrs Searle donated a cup to the school. Mr Davidson to decide how to award it.

April: Householders meeting. It was generally agreed that Father Xmas tradition be adhered to.

November a casual reference to an Amalgamation Meeting. No mention of amalgamating what, where and why

It was moved that Mr Davidson had £5 to be held in petty cash for minor purchases,

1964 Mr Hedley Apologises Again

April. A new daylight screen had arrived. *(Daylight Screens were a boon to picture showing, remembering there were no whiteboards in classrooms to use as a screen. The daylight screens had small pieces of glass or glass like substances that allowed movies and filmstrips to be shown in any room without direct sunshine in it. Much more convenient than blacking out a room or a corridor)*

There had been an offer by a resident to excavate a pool site and remove the soil. It was decided at a householders meeting to get approval.

26th June Mrs Davidson teaching sewing

2nd July Arrival of 1 cwt (*hundredweight about 50 kilograms*) sack of clay at school from art and craft branch (Wellington Education Board)

3rd July. Arrival of new steel broadcast radio receiver from town-subsidy

6th July. No water at school- pump not working. Wellington Education Board notified and permission given to call in Wairarapa Electric Power Board. (Water in underground wiring between head tank and school. Rewiring needed). We operate pump with manual switch in the meantime.

9th July School sports afternoon at Whareama. Football and Basketball (*Netball*). Transport Mrs Burch-Williams-Wilton

13th July School "hit" by flu 13 children out of 24 present.

15th July Mr Pullar Vicar, for religious instruction 10.30

16th July. Mr Searle and Mr Williams at school with posthole digger to plant new shrubs bought by committee. Six shrubs planted by most senior children present. Shrubs include Silver Birch and Bottle Brush

20th July School Committee meeting tonight. Further discussion on swimming baths project. Approval to spend £10 subsidy on musical instruments for nucleus of school band.

28th July Mr Hedley and Mr Kilsby on annual Maintenance Survey Trip (*Wellington Education Board Officers*) Committee and parents present for final working bee of a series at school

(1) Building of new style over subdivision fence

(2) Stapling of wire on asphalt surround fence

- (3) Priming of Short fence at end of asphalt
- (4) Erection of wind shelters for new shrubs
- (5) Concreting around sandpit
- (6) Digging of trench for new electrical wiring for school water pump
- (7) Erection of new radio aerial for school radio
- (8) Removal of old dead branches from poplar trees

Mr Hedley was apologetic about the fact that so little of the maintenance granted for 1964 had been done and promised a change for the better.

30th July Sport at Whareama this afternoon- preparation for winter tournament in town on Tuesday August 11th. 7 aside grades. Rugby under 4 ½ stons Under 5 ½ stons Under 6 ½ stons and an open grade. Basketball (Netball) Standard 1 and 2 Standard 3 and 4 and Form 1 and 2. Venue: Memorial Park and Central School

12th August. Mr Pullar wasn't able to give religious instruction as his van was almost over the bank down our school road and he took most of the morning to arrange with neighbour's help, its safe recovery.

13th August. Children's' shop day held in school playshed. Big improvement on last year in terms of the way the children were able to arrange market and price their donations. Very good response from parents. School class fund benefited to the extent of £9/9/ 9 ½ .

19th Aug Mr Porter Wellington Education Board carpenter- New Gate-Window Fasteners fitted in residence.

7th September. School reopened for 3rd term Roll 24. (15 Girls, 9 Boys)

14th September. Consent forms back for Educational Trip to Christchurch with Tinui, Whareama and Castlepoint. Trip unfortunately restricted to Form 1 and Form 2.

15th September. Committee decided to approach Land Owning families of the district to test reaction of the giving of stated amount for the purpose of raising sufficient funds to employ a Bath (Sic) Building Contractor. 15 families counting estates etc.

16th September. Mr Doyle (Road Traffic Instructor) Spoke to children and showed filmstrips. Theme: lets cut down the road accident rate Mr Farland new Organising Teacher made first visit to school Arrived at school at 3.00 so missed seeing the children at school. (*Bill Farland was a Rural Adviser for small schools, generally four or less teachers. Bill was a very nice person though as an adviser not as sharp as he could be. He was often late as in this case, or would turn up with something he had brought around the visit before. The other thing he was renown for was to bring a good idea from the previous school he had visited. Because small school teachers usually had close contact with their neighbours It was easy to recognise the source of the "new idea"*).

25th September. P&T (*P&T stood for Post and Telegraph. The Post Office and Telephone Operators were all under the control of the local postmaster*) technician visited school to check phone and to change batteries

9th October. P&T technician visited to talk over telephones. Desk phone for house, wall phone for school

21st October. Visit from Mr Martin Inspector. Discussed aspect of my new appointment to Opaki School-

28th October. P&T put in new coloured phone.

2nd November. New Blairlogie exchange opens today.

6th December visit from the new appointment to Awatoitoi School and family. (Mr John Fuller from Lower Hutt)

17th December the end of 2 ½ years of enjoyable teaching.

965 First Newsletter

Mr John Fuller

2nd February Roll 21.

3rd February. Mr Barton Committee Chairman called to discuss prospect of children leaving at 2.30 to attend Dancing Classes at Whareama.

Swimming Left to travel to Masterton Memorial Baths. Most children showed good progress.

12th February Form 1 and 2 to Manual

24th February School closed for Annual Picnic. This was held at Castlepoint. Mrs Meredith kindly made available their house on the beachfront for changing lunch etc.

25th February. First Newsletter sent home. Fordigraph had been repaired after many years not going. *(A Fordigraph preceded the Photocopier. These machines were commonly called Banda Machines On a special piece of paper with carbon paper on it the writer wrote the message, could be typed, then the finished item was put in the Fordigraph on a drum with the carbon paper removed. The machine would have methylated spirits in a small tank. Then turning a handle as many copies as needed were printed. The first thing that happened when issuing out the week's newsletter was that children would generally sniff the paper before reading. Larger Schools used Gestetner printers for their newsletters)*

2nd Mar. Letter to Wellington Education Board re fly doors on front and back of school house. Committee offered to pay costs of material- hence fly doors made by the teacher to remain.

20th March. (Saturday) School opened for a polling place. Teacher acted as polling Deputy Returning officer. No Voters!!!. Castlepoint Races clashed with this day- hence district was empty.

23rd March. Visit from Audiologist .Tested children's ears. All passed Rang Wellington Education Board re hold up of installation of blinds in schoolhouse and for the outside rubbish bin.

31st March Mr Barton arrived at school with a wasp trap. Wasps have been proving a real menace to children, disturbing working conditions etc. Many hundreds were caught in this gadget.

2nd April Mr Manion brought 6 15 foot (About 5 metres) manuka poles for goal posts on lower ground. He also donated an old lawn mower for doing parts of the lawn not accessible with heavy lawn mower.

7th April The District Nurse called today to give infant children their Mantou Test.(*A test for Tuberculosis*). Intends to return and check the eyesight of all the children at a later date.

Mr Oldfield- Board contractor came to measure the area at the end of the asphalt which is to be sealed.

22nd April Standard 4, Form 1 and 2 children left at 9.10 am with Mr Barton to go to Tinui Station. The children took part in the preparations for the erection of the new aluminium cross on top of the Taipos. The memorial is to replace the first ever memorial in NZ to commemorate ANZAC. Some of the children were photographed by TV cameramen and subsequently saw themselves a few nights later on TV.

23rd April. Visit to school by Mr Hedley-Wellington Education Board maintenance officer. Checked toilet seats (as yet unreplaced), blocked drain. Broken top of Septic tank. I gave him the broken pump. Early

in March the pump between the two 4000 gallon tanks gave up the ghost. A new pump was installed by Bouzaid.

28th April Boys of Awatoitoi School visited Borthwicks Meat Works (*Waingawa*) with Mrs Bell and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

24th May Roll still 21

26th May. Boys weighed in connection with football

30th April Wrote away for OTIS and IQ Tests

15th June Board carpenters visited school 12.00 pm checked on Maintenance work re playshed, bench top at schoolhouse and drawer stops

20th August. School closed neat and tidy. School cleaned, floor oiled.

7th September. School water supply inspected by County Health Inspector. Water supply renewed because former water in storage was Declared unfit for use. 10000 gallons released. Board authorised 10000 gallons supplied by Transport Wairarapa from Tinui.

9th September. New galvanised single tub installed at schoolhouse

1966 Inadequate Heating

2nd February Roll 25

15th February Pump for water at school house has packed up rang board and received permission to get electrician (Blade) out to see it. County Health Inspector to inspect house water supply at 3.15 pm.

16th February First swimming lesson at Bell's pool.

5th April. Board Inspectors arrived at school. The school had its triennial inspection as well as teacher's personal inspection.

20th April. Four Wellington Education Board members visited the school for morning tea.

Mr Ganoway visited school and spoke to children on Post Office Saving Banks.

26th April School resumed after ANZAC Day. School watched Queen's Mothers arrival at Wellington on TV at the School House. 10 am to 11.30 am.

2nd June. Mr (*Fred*) Wallis (*Wellington Education Board Maintenance Officer*) called again to investigate heating problem following a letter written by the committee. This letter was based on the Triennial School report which stated that the heating was inadequate.

22nd June. Masterton County Engineer came at 9.00 to survey the proposed turning area for the Castlepoint bus. The teacher spoke with parents of children who use the Castlepoint Bus to test their feelings re the long walk from the hotel and back each day to connect with the Castlepoint Bus. All parents agreed that something could be done. These parent then subsequently met with Mr Wilton (bus contractor) to discuss the problem during May Holidays.

The County were approached by the School Committee requesting them to make a turning area by the gate. The County agreed to do this job and Mr Wilton agreed to extend his bus route to the school at a slightly increased fare. This meant the children arrived at 9.00 instead of 9.15/9.20 and left at 3 pm instead of 2.45 pm.

11th July. The water pipe from the storage tank broke at cloakroom corner of school. Board were contacted. Mr Piotroski, plumber arrived at 4 pm repaired broken pipe and left hole to be filled in later! Mr Barton and Mr Bell (School Committee) inspected hole

18th Aug Finlayson and Vaughan arrived 2 pm to install 2 new heaters in the school. These have proved most satisfactory.

30th September. Visit from Mr Barker and Wallis (*Wellington Education Board*) to inspect house and school water supply. Serious contamination had created a health hazard.

10th October. Rang Board re school water supply. Checked with Health inspector. Nothing doing.

11th October. Record player purchased for school 19 pound 19 shillings.

21st November. Visit to Wellington . Left on workers train at 6.50 a.m. Mrs Peacock, Mrs Williams, Mrs Foster came with school We combined with the Senior children from Okautete. Visited Todd Motors, Parliament Buildings, Overseas Terminal, Cable Car, Broadcasting House, Trip on police launch Lady Elizabeth to airport and back. A worthwhile day.

30th December. New stove for house installed.

1967 Condensation Problem

1st February Mr Potter, board carpenter measured up alterations to fit stove in beside cupboard.

2nd February. Roll 22

6th February. Mr Potter puts vents into two top bedrooms to try and prevent condensation on ceiling.

Mr Piotroski Wellington Education Board plumber put in alkathene pipe on pump at house and sealed lids on tanks at school. A small vent on tank nearest the house enables one to check level of water.

29th March. I Borrowed Mr Barton's big powered rotomower to cut down long grass at school.

5th May. Last Day of first term Parents came at lunchtime to say goodbye.

2nd term Mr Stanley a retired teacher relieved for 2nd term 1967. No log

4th September, I commenced duty on 4th September. No log kept (*I is Mr J A McPearson*)

1968 Two Teachers

Roll 28

11th June Board appointed Mrs I Douglas as relieving assistant mistress

Mrs Douglas and I worked in main room until 30th October (Roll 36) . The old Castlepoint Building was barely functional at this stage. Interior renovations were finished in the last week of the Christmas Holidays

1969 No Information

3rd February Miss J Holm a year 2 teacher commenced duties as assistant mistress Roll Room 1, 18; Room 2, 17

5th Aug 1969. Classroom ex Castlepoint recommendation is that Grant of \$1328. 85 be paid to shift a Disused small classroom from Castlepoint. Originally it didn't cover getting classroom back in order but was later upgraded. The size of the new classroom is 288 Sq ft (26.78 square meters). There were Supposed to be 40 desks but recommendation has been reduced because of size of room,. Grant was \$979 but then the whole room needed to be completely upgraded

Present roll is 36 pupils

Existing classroom 588 sq feet (54.62 meters)

Letter was Marked Urgent. Letter from Wellington Education Board to the Minister of Education.

18th December School closed roll 23

This has ended my stay of 7 terms at Awatoitoi School I would like to wish my successor every success. J A McPearson

1970 Bush Telephone Working

Nick Ives

2nd February. Teachers Day. Nick Ives as Sole Teacher. Seconded from Masterton Intermediate School for this term. Spent morning moving equipment and desks from Room 2 as school is now a sole charge school

3rd February School started with a roll of 20

12th February Form One pupils went to Manual Training at Central School.

24th February Today we held our own swimming sports in Bell's Pool. Results in 24th February 1970 Times Age

26th February Children competed in swimming sports in town. Did very well considering the size of the school.

23rd March Stock Drive for school farm. District Responded well. We now have 23 ewes.

Heavy rain today, Form 1 boys helped clean spouting of leaves. Water tanks full again after 2 months of drought.

25th May. M J Lessels started school.

Mrs Douglas rang offering help to get the infant programme underway as she is an ex teacher of infant class.

27th May. Weather is windy and very cold, the ground is wet underfoot. The bush telegraph phone between school and residence is working again.

29th May. The average time of arrival of school buses is 9.15 for this week.

4th June. Warm mild day, Pick a Colour craze sweeping the school. *(It was amazing how crazes swept quickly through schools and between schools. This one involved making an origami piece with flaps where you chose a colour and then by opening it up there was a message for the selector.)*

15th June. The sheep got out and were roaming around the school grounds and just outside but returned of their own accord.

29th June. Rubella (German Measles) vaccination cards were given out to pupils New Entrants to Standard 4.

17th July. For the last fortnight the school has been in the throws of influenza (A Bad Type).

10th Aug. The school's sheep have started lambing after the death of two ewes. One lost its bearings and the other is a mystery. The ewe that lost its bearings had twin Suffolk Down/Romney Crosses.

12th Aug. The schools stock has increased in size, we now have 7 lambs.

Jay Foreman (The audio or Asphasic (*Aspersers?*) problem) proved most difficult (In assessing) showed no effort towards her work. Last week I tried a new approach to her reading, by putting the onus on her, as too many children have done everything for her, that she has lost her independence, I have at times been very stern which achieves

no good on the day but the day after it had a remarkable success, this may have no bearing on the success of being stern. At present I'm at a loss for a new approach to her problem, even though she has just started a correspondence course for special class pupils. *(The needs of special needs children in rural schools was a real problem. There were no teacher aides to help with special needs children. Psychologists told you what you already knew, that there was a problem, but with no idea of help. Teachers were left on their own to cope. Parents lacked support and help and felt that the teachers were at fault)*

7th September. School started with 21 present and the day was glorious.

8th September. Post Office go slow had little effect on the school mail

16th September. Wind is upsetting the children's behaviour slightly today. *(I had teachers that didn't believe this, but after teaching at Featherston in a lot of wind, classes were definitely noisier on windy days).*

24th September. gave a lesson in precautions in Gales. Today the winds are gale force and branches are flying off the trees also one tall pine has fallen. I didn't let the children outside as it was too dangerous.

8th October the school lambs were docked today by Mr J Peacock and D Goodin.

19th October. School Committee holiday today to enable me to do some important family business. I was grateful to the school committee for this day.

20th October. At school today there was a Working Bee by the Fathers of the district to top the trees facing North. The noise of 5 chainsaws was incredible to believe but did little to disturb the

working atmosphere of the school. Mrs Douglas was a great help in controlling the children on their breaks.

7th December. The school telephone out of order for most of Sunday and Monday. Mrs Douglas helped out with the infants again and this will be her final day this term Mrs Douglas has completed 70 hours assisting at the school.

1971 School Closed

2nd February Roll 19. 13 Boys 6 girls

3rd February a letter from Wellington Education Board about the school's future was extensively discussed. A meeting is planned on the 11th February (*Held on 18th*) to discuss with Board Members about the future of the school and the main point to be discussed will be whether or not the parents of the district will agree to consolidating the school with another.

10th February. Commissioner for Lone Scouts talked to the boys about the scouting movement.

12th February. Buses have been late every day this week, particularly the Castlepoint Bus. The reason for its lateness is the Mangapakeha hill road is closed for reconstruction but the school bus is allowed through but only after the way is cleared.

17th February Dr Bondy from Correspondence school visited and checked Jay's progress but was unable to communicate with him, in fact, he can communicate but refuses to do so with strangers. Copies of Jay's psychologist report was sent to the correspondence school with Dr. Bondy.

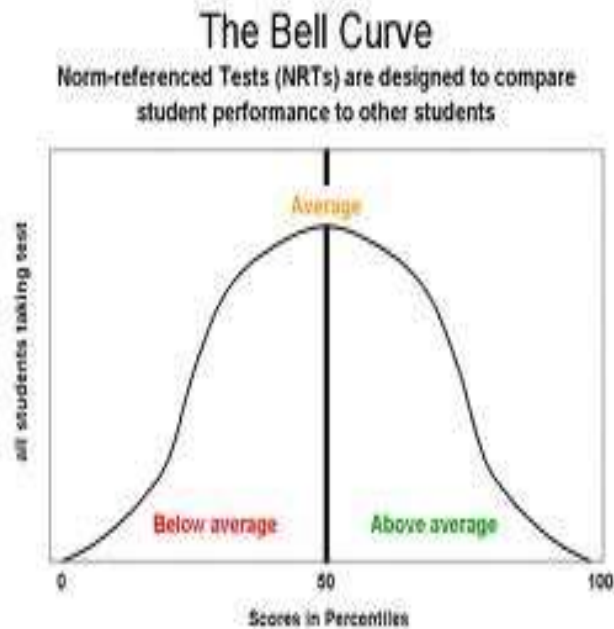
18th February. Householders meeting. Re school future.

The following points and problems were discussed at the meeting.

1. Consolidating on Taueru
2. Consolidation legislation and procedure
3. Benefits of continuing in present situation
4. Toilet facilities and the proposed extension to the building
5. Problem with transport.
6. The board members said if the roll drops to 15 then they may force consolidation.

Impressions. Though the impression of the meeting may not be entirely true, I felt the Board was using this school as a test case in an exercise that was presently being carried out. The exercise at present is to compile a list of schools with falling rolls, that the Board could close. The Board are being quite fair about it at present.

23rd February. Visit by 3 inspectors today. Mr (Athol) Blair (*Athol was principal of Greytown School and was followed as principal by his brother Haddon*), Hamish Henderson and another. They pushed going for a grading, very little was said considering this was a social visit. (The inspectorate used to at the beginning of each year pop into each school. The procedure in the South Wairarapa was for the first school to get this visit to ring onto the next and warn



visit. (The inspectorate used to at the beginning of each year pop into each school. The procedure in the South Wairarapa was for the first school to get this visit to ring onto the next and warn

them of their possible visitors.

By this time teachers wanting to get promotion had to be graded. This meant a visit by an inspector for a day. At the end of the year the applicant received their grading. The results could be appealed. The worst feature of the grading was that all applicants had to fit into the dreaded Bell Curve. Each inspector had to fit the applicants he, at this time always a he, into their curve and then all were ranked on a Wellington Education Board list.)

24th February: The Castlepoint Bus has been going the long way round this week via Whareama. The reason: The Mangapakeha Hill Road is closed for Earthworks and it is uncertain when it will open.

5th March. Mr Piotrowski the plumber started on laying the Alkathene piping from school tanks to the house tanks.

9th March. Mr Piotrowski the plumber has laid down drain tiles at the house. I think they are laid too high.

13th March School 50th Jubilee was held.

1st April a combined East and Northern teachers group meeting was held at Te Ore Ore School It was a lecture given by a real estate agent on the subject of financing a house.

8th April. Museum Displays arrived from Tinui School Today, They provided instant excitement and stimulation.

19th April. Book Club orders sent in.

21st April. Mailbag lock has been misplaced for several days but has been sorted out today with the Masterton PO.

22nd April Oldfields came today to reseal the asphalt tennis court/playing area.

15th June School went to visit Mrs Morrison today and sang to her happy birthday.

28th June. School Committee meeting at house. Request for a basketball was passed and we discussed the proposed 2nd meeting with Wellington Education Board rather fully.

30th June. Buchannan's dug the hole for rubbish. The school committee chairman went to Taueru Householder's meeting concerning their school's future and the possibility of consolidating onto Lansdowne. They rejected the Boards proposal.

1st July. Metric Temperature, rainfall and wool weight day. Discussed the metric change in full with Standards and infants.

5th July Mr Yule visited today and showed children a movie film on Farm Tractor Safety.

12th July Householders meeting re consolidation on Lansdowne or Totara Drive North. The meeting started at 7.45 p m with the proposal being stated that is the bus will be located at the site of the present school and will travel down the Whareama Road for 3 ½ miles and leave here at 8.00 and travel to 3 miles down the Mangapakeha Road to 3 miles and then to Masterton. After a period of silence. The householders discussed the proposal at length and some suggested alternatives. There was a change of heart by many people since the last meeting and this leads to further discussion and made the voting prolonged. The voting ended with 13 for consolidation to 8 for keeping the school open. Present at the meeting was Mr Frank Alpe, *Board Secretary*, Mr Carruthers, *Wairarapa Board Member*, Mr Matthews, *Board Chairman*, Mr Hanna *Inspector*, Mr Chatfield, *Board Transport Chief*, representing the Wellington Education Board and the Department and 25 parents. The evening ended with supper at 9.30 pm.

9th August 1 more ewe died over the weekend and another is due to die? Total ewes is now 13.

16th August. Today we started collecting for the CORSO Pakistan emergency fund for refugees in India.

8th September Nurse Higgenbottom visited the school, about Rubella injections for Form 2 girls

22nd September. Last night I was told by a local parent that the school was closing and that it was over the local news on TV and Radio. This is the official word that the school is closing at the end of the year. I thought it was pretty poor on the part of the Wellington Education Board and local Board member not to officially notify the chairman or myself before they went ahead and made a public announcement about the schools closure. For over a month now I have been under pressure from local parents as the whether or not I knew that the school was officially closing and had I heard anything in connection with it. It continues to amaze me how on earth our education system ever works, when there is a lack of efficiency, liaison and protocol

24th September. Since the announcement of the schools closure our telephone has been red hot. Several headmasters have also rung to secure several items but we did not have them.

28th September. Group Teachers meeting at Taueru. Guest Speaker Brian Lochore

29th September. This morning the school committee chairman visited the school to check the farm and to show a stock agent the stock to be sold.

30th September. Plumber finished replacing tanks and stands. One of the tanks at the teacher's residence is leaking and the plumber was informed on Saturday but has not yet repaired it.

4th October. Parents attitudes about educational trips in this district most people tend to think of trips as holidays and show an open

opposition to most things of this nature. Their ideas of the value of such trips is negligible and show little understanding of its goodness. Their points of view are usually selfish and have not considered their child in any way.

11th October. On Saturday the school was used for a polling Booth in the local body elections. I was the deputy returning officer for this booth.

14th October. The Head Teacher of Totara Drive rang to make arrangements for each other to meet and discuss school's closure. It appears he has more knowledge and information about the schools closure than I do.

15th October. The Head Teacher of Totara Drive School and I discussed what each other knew about the closure and this was nil. We also discussed roll numbers and Projected Roll Number and the HT (Mr Harry Graves) said would visit the school to view the equipment.

18th October. Bob Hopkirk rang, New Rural Adviser to visit the school on Thursday Morning. *(Bob had been Head Teacher at Opaki School, When he took over the Rural Adviser position his commitment to raising the standards of teachers was impressive, he later became an Inspector)*

21st October. Bob Hopkirk Rural Adviser visited today. Took the children for mathematics (attribute blocks) and showing them with aids concepts of set theory. We also discussed the schools closure and the part he was involved in, that is, clearing the remainder of the equipment when the school closes.

27th October. Nicola and Derek Williams (Flatspur) have been away due to the death of their older brother in a road accident. The school committee are sending a wreath on behalf of the school.

4th November. Mr Chatfield discussed developments in the transport of children to Totara Drive. Bus Drivers wage \$1.46 per hour.

9th October. Today the whole school went to Wellington by bus (Maxwells)

We visited the Geological Museum, Waiwhetu meeting house, cable car and Dominion Museum (*Buckle Street*) we had our lunch in the Botanical Gardens. Only one child was sick and she was no trouble at all.

11th October. Bob Hopkirk visited to say that the HT of Totara Drive was in hospital from a heart attack. He also took away the history books he required.

15th November. Rang members of the East Group on my exchange

1. The teachers group meeting at Castlepoint is changed from November 18th to 2nd December,
2. To order a wreath for Barry McAtamney who died suddenly. *Barry was Head Teacher of Dalefield at the time.*

24th November. The contractor tendering for the removal of the old building measured up today

. They toured the buildings and dental clinic. They also visited the deer park which they enjoyed very much

9th December. All children apart from Form 1 and 2 went to Totara Drive

13th December. Mr Bob Hopkirk arrived at school to take all equipment and books away. All equipment was removed by 2.00 pm and then went swimming

14th December.

Schools to Close Down

Pupils, past pupils and friends of the Awatoitoi School will be attending a combined closing down and Christmas party in the school classroom tonight.

The tiny school which opened in 1921 will officially close down at 12 noon tomorrow on a directive from the Wellington Education Board

The furniture from the school has been moved to Totara Drive School

The head teacher Mr M J Lessels has accepted a temporary position at the Short Street Intermediate School (*Masterton Intermediate School*) and he will drive the school bus from Awatoitoi each day.

Also closing is the school at Te Ore Ore

Times Age 14th December 1971

(It was common for teachers to drive school buses at that time. The paper work required for classroom teachers was very limited. There were no examinations to give and marking did not have to be recorded. The amount of work required in the 1970s was much less than present day teachers are required to do. Teachers were judged on how well they taught not on how well they planned their work.

I arrived at Horoeka School as a reliever the day before school started in February, only to be told I was driving the school bus the next day. So I rushed back to Pahiatua and the Traffic Officer, not a Police Officer then, got a mini bus, I drove around the block, once, and I was a qualified bus driver!

The next morning I drove around and picked up one lot of children dropped them off at school and proceeded to do another run. I was back at about 8.45 ready to go. No one supervised the children left at school and there were no problems. This couldn't happen now and society is worse off for this lack of faith in children)

The pupils and myself cleaned and Decorated school for closing ceremony. Children also decorated the Xmas tree,

Christmas party and School Closing A fairly full and enjoyable evening was had by all. The order of activities was

- (i) Items by pupils
- (ii) Official side of the closing
- (iii) Father Christmas
- (iv) Supper

The evening drew to a close at 10 30 pm

15th December. Final cleaning was completed and a small morning tea was put on for the pupils by Mrs Lessels. School closed its doors for the last time at 12.30 pm. Roll 5 Boys. 12 Girls

Kia mau koe ki te kupa a tou matua

Lay hold of the words your father gives

M J Lessels 15th December 1971

16th December 1921

Awatoitoi School Closes

The 17 pupils of Awatoitoi School, near Masterton each received an Atlas and a Dictionary to commemorate the school's closure at a special function last night

The school officially closed at noon today on a directive from the Wellington Education Board. About 60 attended the function last night including pupils, past pupils, parents and friends.

Chairman of the Wellington Education Board Mr G Matthews delivering the closing down address said it was a sad occasion for any district to see its school close down. He assured parents that their children would be well catered for at Masterton's Totara Drive School.

Tinui Parish minister the Rev, G W Tisch and the chairman of the school committee Mr J E Peacock also spoke.

Presentations

Pupils presented their headmaster Mr M J Lessels and the judge of their garden competitions for many years, Mr L Wilton with gifts.

Mr and Mrs F M D Bell also received a gift for allowing the school to use their swimming pool during the summer months.

Pupils entertained with Maori songs and Father Christmas was on hand to deliver presents to the children.

Furniture from the school has been moved to Totara Drive School and this morning pupils spent their last few hours at the school tidying up.

Mr Lessels said the school was like a skeleton this morning.

The doors of the single classroom Te Ore Ore school closed for the last time yesterday afternoon. No special closing down ceremony was held.

Times Age Report 16th December 1971

24th December the Second building ex Castlepoint School is to go to Tukurumuri

Teachers.

Note some days are approximate. Months/Years are accurate.

Mr A D Mckinley	Reliever	16/03/1921	12/05/1921
Mr Barker	Sole T	01/06/1921	12/08/1924
Mr Burchett	Reliever	17/09/1924	12/12/1924
Mr. C N O'Leary	Sole T	01/02/1925	08/06/1928
Miss K Reece	Reliever	08/06/1928	16/12/1928
M Wilson	Reliever	04/02/1929	15/05/1929
C E Goulton	Reliever	28/05/1929	13/09/1929
Mr C N O'leary	Sole T	13/09/1929	16/12/1929
Miss E B Niall	Sole T	02/02/1930	27/02/1932

E T Whitta	Reliever	01/01/1932	14/05/1932
Mr W Neas	Sole T	23/05/1932	16/12/1932
Miss A Dysart	Sole T	01/02/1933	15/04/1933
Margaret Baxter	Sole T	01/05/1933	10/05/1935
Alice E Golder	Reliever	27/05/1935	16/12/1935
Leslie G T Adams	Sole T	01/02/1936	16/12/1936
D Hodgkinson	Reliever	01/03/1937	28/05/1937
Mr J Hector	Sole T	01/06/1937	16/12/1937
Roger Barton	Sole T	01/02/1938	16/12/1938
J D Beddingfield	Sole T	01/02/1939	16/12/1939
L A Crosbie	Sole T	01/02/1940	16/12/1940
A S Jameson	Sole T	08/03/1941	10/04/1941
Allan Devlin	Reliever	11/04/1941	09/05/1941
P A Connors	Reliever	01/06/1941	22/08/1941
Miss Wheeler	Reliever	05/08/1941	15/08/1941
M W Thompson	Sole T	08/09/1941	18/08/1944
Josephine F Pound	Reliever	05/09/1944	
“	Sole T	01/10/1944	19/12/1945
Miss Biedin	Sole T	07/02/1946	19/03/1946

D G Carlyle	Reliever	20/03/1946	12/12/1946
JR Dawson	Sole T	04/02/1947	15/12/1950
Mr R Blake	Reliever	06/02/1951	
“	Sole T	04/04/1951	
D Weaver	Sole T		16/12/1955
J H Staff	Sole T	02/02/1956	00/08/2960
C Ashworth	Sole T	00/08/1960	00/05/1962
V Calcanai	Reliever	00/05/1962	16/12/1962
J Davidson	Sole T	02/02/1963	16/12/1964
Mr J L Fuller	Sole T	00/06/1962	17/12/1964
Mr John Fuller	Sole T	02/02/1965	05/05/1967
Mr E Stanley	Reliever	05/05/1967.	04/09/1967
J A McPearson	Head Teacher	04/09/1967	18/12/1969
Mrs I Douglas	Assistant	11/06/1968	19/12/1968
Miss J Holm	Assistant	02/02/1969	19/12/1969
Nick Ives	Reliever	02/02/1970	25/05/1970
M J Lessels	Sole T	25/05/1970	19/12/1971

Last Day Pupils

Form 2	Jenne Groves	Anne Douglas	Derek Williams
--------	--------------	--------------	----------------

Form 1	Annabel Barton	Susan Groves	John Peacock
Standard 4	Susan Groves	Kirsten Douglas	
Standard 3	Nicole Bell		
Standard 2	Davinia Meredith	Deborah O'Conner	
Standard 1	Nicola Williams	Maureen Williams	Richard O'Conner
	David Wilton		
Infants	Caroline Groves	Alistair Waterson	Lavinia Williams