

**Kaitara:** *1898-1937* There never was a Morrison Bush School. From day 1 the Kaitara School was at Morrison Bush. One myth is about the length of time Isabella Campbell worked at the school. Staffing records show that she was the sewing teacher between 1883 and 1889 and that is the only record of her being on the staff of Kaitara School. 7 kilometres from Greytown on Bidwills Cutting Road



Writing in Times New Roman 12 black is School Log Book  
Writing in Tempus Sans 12 is from National Archives

Writing in italics are comments by Robin Carlyon  
Writing with PP is from Papers Past Website

## Buildings

School Built 1876 267 sq Feet

Addition Built 1884 354 621 sq foot total

1938 Still 621 sq foot

Residence built 1886 6 Rooms

## 1861

5<sup>th</sup> November 1861

### WAIRARAPA EDUCATION MEETING.

The Settlers at Morrison's Bush attended a meeting held at Mr. Hodge's Hotel, on Monday, 28th October, for the purpose of memorialising the Superintendent to proclaim Morrison's Bush Reserve a separate School District, under the Education Act. H. T. Spratt, Esq., the Coroner of the district, was chosen Chairman, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

1. That it is desirable that the Moroa district, commonly known as Morrison's Bush Reserve, should be sub-divided from the Greytown district, under the provisions of the Education Act, and that his Honor the Superintendent be written to that effect.

2. That a School Committee should be at once constituted for the purpose of superintending the erection of a School House, and the organization of a School, and that this Committee do consist of the following, Settlers, Mr, John Hodge, Treasurer, Mr. H. T. Spratt, Secretary, Mr. W. Field, Chairman, and Messrs. Barratt, Terry,

Smith, and G. Wakelin, Committee men. Another resolution was also passed with reference to the site of the proposed School of no general, though of great local interest. It may be stated that his Honor had been previously written to asking him whether he would give a few acres as an Education Reserve, for the purpose of the School, to which he replied that he would. This reply was received by the meeting with the greatest satisfaction.

Subscriptions have already been promised to an amount equal to the estimated cost of the building, and it is believed that the School in this district — numbering near 40 children under 14 years old, and having not a single inhabitant 5 years ago — will be forthwith commenced. PP

### 1874

1st June 1874 In answer to an application for a school at Morrison's Bush, the Secretary was instructed to ascertain whether a suitable site could be obtained, and what aid the settlers were themselves prepared to give. Mr. Henry Willis, of Richmond, Nelson, was appointed master of the Feilding school, to be opened on the 1st July PP

### 1875

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1875 A number of applications were received from country schools for assistance to carry out improvements (offering to pay part of the cost) and it was agreed that the Board should grant a subsidy of £50 in each case on the promised subscriptions being paid in. The schools thus dealt with included Karori, Goat Valley, Caernarvon No.

2, Upper Turikina Valley, and Morrison's Bush — Kaiwairua receiving £60 PP

### 1876

13<sup>th</sup> January 1876 Tenders were accepted for new schools at Mauriceville, Morrison's Bush, and West Masterton PP

### 1879

9<sup>th</sup> January 1879 School Committee Elections Called for PP

10<sup>th</sup> April 1879 Mr. R. H. Huntley, schoolmaster at Kaitara, near Greytown, who was stated in our telegrams yesterday to have been found dead in a closet, was one of the early settlers in the colony, and was very widely esteemed, and respected. He was one of the volunteer pioneers in the war of 1845, and was present at the taking of the pas of Pomare, Kawiti, and Hone Heke. He also took part in other well-known engagements

18<sup>th</sup> April 1879 We observe, from a telegram from Greytown, in the Evening Post of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. that Mr R. H. Huntley, schoolmaster at Kaitara, near Greytown, and lately of the Catholic School, Meanee, was found dead in the closet on that morning.

2<sup>nd</sup> May 1879 A Teacher is also required for the Kaitara School, near Greytown PP

### 1881

26<sup>th</sup> January 1881 At the meeting at Kaitara, Morrison's Bush, the following were elected Messrs Thos. Ward, John Hodge, Wm. Wood, George Knapp, H. Waite, F Nicols, and W. Mitchell, The Committee

met afterwards and Thos. Ward was elected Chairman, and John-Hodge Secretary PP

## 1882

29 Nov 1882 That a grant of £6 should be given to each of the following schools: — Makara, Mauriceville, Kaiwairi, Opaki, Gladstone, Waingawa, and Kaitara;

The School Committee at Kaitara, in reply to their letter, were told that they might expect a grant for repairs during the summer PP

## 1883

31<sup>st</sup> January 1883 Kaitara Repairs 50 pound PP

28<sup>th</sup> March 1883 The architect was authorised to effect repairs at Kaitara PP

18<sup>th</sup> April 1883 Needlework is not taught in the following schools — Karori, Makara, Kaitara, Matarawa, Fernridge, Mauriceville. and Eketahuna; and I beg to recommend the Board to assist each of these schools in obtaining a sewing mistress. Great improvement in the work, and in the number of standard passes, was shown at Kaiwarrow; and a marked improvement at Matarawa, Kaitara PP

13<sup>th</sup> June 1883 Plans of proposed alterations to the Kaitara and Judgeford schools were submitted and it was decided to forward them, for approval, to the local committees. The Board then adjourned. PP

25<sup>th</sup> July 1883 The Inspector and the master were instructed to report on the question of additional accommodation at the Kaitara School PP

26<sup>th</sup> September 1883 Additions to the Kaitara school were authorised as recommended by the committee. PP

20<sup>th</sup> November 1883 TO BUILDERS. SEPARATE TENDERS will be received at the Education Board Office, up to Monday, the 26th instant, for the erection of School Buildings at Kaitara (Morrison's Bush), PP

29<sup>th</sup> April 1885 The Board decided to ask the Kaitara Committee to recommend a pupil teacher. The Board then adjourned. PP

27<sup>th</sup> May 1885 An application for a new residence at Kaitara was scheduled as a new work

27<sup>th</sup> May 1885 Miss Mary Ann Ward appointed Pupil Teacher PP

30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1885 A sum of £1 was voted for effecting repairs to and purchasing a sewing table for the Kaitara School PP

26 May 1886 Kaitara, Trotman and Humphries

25<sup>th</sup> August 1886 Mr. T. Wakelin, of the Kaitara School, asked to be allowed to use the ground, which formed the site of the old residence. The application was granted. PP

29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1886 The Kaitara Committee wrote complaining that they had not been properly treated by the Board. Replies to letters which they had sent to the latter had not been received, and they had not been consulted with regard to the teachers' residence. The Secretary of the Board explained that a difficulty had arisen in regard to this committee, in as much as the teacher was also secretary to the committee, and when he wrote to Wellington it was difficult to know whether he wrote as the master or as secretary. The Chairman stated that the master (Mr. Wakelin) had been requested to cease acting as secretary. The Board resolved that the committee should be informed that they can have the rent of the old residence leased by Mr. D. Henderson. PP

27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1886 Miss Ward, pupil teacher at Kaitara, applied for exemption from instruction for the approaching teacher's' examination, on the ground of ill health. The application, which was supported by the Committee, was granted PP

### 1887

5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1887 The whole district of Kaiwaiwai, Moroa, and Morrison's Bush has been on fire for the last week. To-day the sun, owing to the dense smoke, was not seen for hours at a time. Thousands of acres of grass and bush land are now one black mass. The fires have occasioned great destruction to the fences, and men have been employed riding about on horseback from place to place endeavouring to stop the progress of the fire. It is to be hoped that rain will set in soon, or there is no telling where the fires will cease. One of the heaviest gales of wind experienced for a long while occurred last night and continued to-day

4<sup>th</sup> April 1887 Kaitara.— Presented, 66; failed, 3; passed, 35; percentage of passes, 53 ; percentage of failures, 8. The written work is deficient in neatness and arrangement. Much good work in the school, more especially higher standard arithmetic Good results in passes (*The missing figures would relate to infant children who were presented but did not sit examinations*) PP

29 June 1887 A sum of £5 was voted for Shelter shed and fencing, Kaitara PP

29 June 1887 The Kaitara Committee asked for a bell. This request was complied with, PP

### 1888

28<sup>th</sup> July 1888 A letter was read from Mr. Thomas Wakelin, of Morrison's Bush, asking to be excused from instructing Miss Ward, the pupil teacher, on the ground of ill-health, It was resolved to inform Mr. Wakelin that the regulations must be adhered to PP

### 1889

29 May 1899 Of the various elections of school committees which were challenged on account of alleged irregularities only one, that of the Kaitara Committee, has been set aside by the Education Board. In this instance the ground of objection was that several residents beyond the boundaries of the district voted at the meeting of householders, and two of them were returned. The Board therefore declared the election void, and ordered that a new one shall be held. The objections that the schoolmaster at Otaki spoke and voted at the meeting, and that at Tenui there was a discrepancy between the detailed return of votes and the total, were considered insufficient to upset the elections. PP

29 May 1889 Mr. Buchannan (*Board Member and MP*) undertook to report as the necessity for fencing and re-flooring the Kaitara school. PP

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1889 The Kaitara (Morrison's Bush) School Committee having been declared illegally elected the householders met again on Wednesday evening to elect a new committee. The election resulted in the return of Messrs. H. Hodge, Waite, Ward, H. Dick, McIntyre, Reeve and Wood. Mr. H. Hodge was elected chairman. PP

28<sup>th</sup> September 1889 The death is announced yesterday of Mr. John Morrison, of the Wairarapa, one of the oldest settlers in the district, and after whom Morrison's Bush was named. He arrived in the colony when quite a boy, accompanied by his parents, in the ship Clydesdale, in 1841 The emigrants were almost exclusively Scottish Highlanders, and after their arrival at Kaiwarra, near Wellington, their interviews with the Maoris, to whom the Gaelic was an extraordinary tongue, created many an amusing scene. The cause of death was stricture of the gullet, so that really he was starved to death PP

14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1889 The children from Kaitara School and several children from Greytown assembled at noon for the purpose of climbing Morrison's Hill, a place of vantage from which could be viewed the beauties of the Wairarapa. The day, though threatening, turned out fine, and all enjoyed the outing. It was a disappointment that the day was not clear enough to enable a photographer to take some views. On the journey home, an unpleasant and what might have been serious accident occurred to Mr. Nation, the well-known proprietor of the Standard. That gentleman was crossing the Ruamahunga River in his gig, which, beside himself, contained his daughter Jessie and another little girl, her friend, when the horse reared, throwing the little girls out. The water being some three feet or more deep and the current swift, Mr. Nation jumped out after them, and after some exertion secured the children, when Mrs. Welch, who was on the bank in front, emptied her vehicle and came to the rescue. Fortunately no damage was done with the exception of some bruises on the girls and a thorough drenching. PP

27 Nov 1889 The Kaitara Committee wrote approving of the amended boundaries of their district. They have asked for a vote in

aid of repairs. The Board decided that there were no funds available for this purpose 24 Dec 1889 Stumping and ploughing is still going on apace, and I think a sufficient amount of potato seed is being planted to supply the whole Valley with that succulent and useful vegetable Morrison's Bush is also making progress in the same direction, some large pieces of felled bush being already burning. The Dairy Factory is still making headway PP

## 1890

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1890 Speaking of schools, a pleasant day was spent at Kaitara, Morrison's Bush, on the anniversary of the opening of the school there. As usual the settlers provided liberally for both young and old, and dancing closed the day. Mr. W. C. Nation, of Greytown, gave away the prizes in the absence of Mr. Coleman Phillips. Miss Ward, the assistant teacher, leaves her post there, and received two presentations on the day of the treat PP

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1890 A liberal settler of Morrison's Bush, Mr. D. Barrett, has promised the master of the Kaitara School enough trees for each child to plant one to decorate their playground PP

27<sup>th</sup> August 1890 The Kaitara School Committee asked for the sum of £15 for fencing the playground. The Board decided to grant £6 for the purpose indicated PP

## 1891

20 May 1891 Arbor Day Committee have decided upon Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, for the school children to plant trees on the road leading

from Greytown to Morrison's Bush. Those planted last year have been earthed up and are thriving well. PP,

7<sup>th</sup> September 1891 Next Friday night a soiree takes place at Morrison's Bush PP

27 Oct 1891 Miss M. E. Wakelin, sewing mistress, Kaitara PP

27<sup>th</sup> October 1891 It was decided that the Chairman and Messrs. Fraser and Brown should inspect the rival school sites at Kaitara PP

## 1892

27 April 1892 to postpone an application for a grant for a dividing fence at the Kaitara school until an estimate is received PP

## 1893

11<sup>th</sup> April 1893 The Morrison's Bush school treat last Friday was very successful, but the event was marred by the serious illness of the teacher, Mr. T. Wakelin, who is not yet able to leave his bed.

12<sup>th</sup> April We have lost another early settlor, and a popular one, too, in the district where his lot was cast — Mr. Tom Wakelin, the teacher of the Morrison's Bush School, who died last evening in his 48th year. Although lately suffering from an attack of la grippe, he toiled on in preparing the school children for the annual examination. This over, he broke down, and on Friday last he had to take to his bed, and was seriously ill when the annual treat was given to the children. He leaves a widow, five sons, and two daughters, who were all with him at the time of his passing away. The deceased was the son of the late Mr. Richard Wakelin, and came with his father to the Wairarapa in

the early days. He was a hard-working teacher, and Much respected. The whole district will mourn his loss. PP

12<sup>th</sup> April 1893 Wo regret to learn that Mr Tom Wakelin died at his residence at Morrison's Bush, near Greytown, last night. He had been working extra hard for the annual examination, up to last Thursday. He felt unwell and took to his bed last Friday, when Dr Bey was called in, and said that ono lung was slightly effected, attended with "La Grippe," but at the time there was no immediate danger unless it spread, when it would prove fatal. On Sunday last the unfortunate sufferer became unconscious, and remained so till between five and six o'clock last evening, when he expired. He was 48 years of age, and leaves a widow and five sons and two daughters, who were all present at the time of his death, to mourn their loss. He was the eldest son of the late Mr Richard Wakelin, and a brother of Mr R. A. Wakelin (ex-Mayor of Greytown). He was many years ago on the reportorial staff of the Wellington Advertiser.. After he became a teacher under the Wellington Educational Board he carried off a B A. degree at a New Zealand University examination. The funeral will leave his late residence at 2.30 p.m. next Friday. PP

17<sup>th</sup> April 1893 The funeral of the late Mr Tom Wakelin, of Kaitara, was followed to the Greytown Cemetery on Friday last by a very large number of friends and relations, the cortege including a considerable number of school children. At the church twelve little girls placed wreaths on the coffin as a last token of regard for their late teacher. Other wreaths were received from the Inspector of schools, the Melrose Football Club, and the Greytown Cricket Club, also from many parents of children attending the Kaitara School PP

22 April 1893 Head Teacher Kaitara School, near Greytown; average attendance, 34. Salary, about .£150, and residence

26 April 1893 on the motion of Mr. Buchanan, M.H.R., to grant three months' salary to the widow of the late Mr. Wakelin, teacher of the Kaitara School. Mr. Wakelin has been in the service of the Board for many years, and was a good teacher. PP

F. G. Stuckey has been appointed headmaster of the Kaitara School, vice the late Mr. Wakelin 4<sup>th</sup> May 1893 PP

27<sup>th</sup> September 1893 This afternoon a large gathering was attracted to St. John's Presbyterian Church to witness the marriage of a young lady long connected with the congregation — Miss Annie Pope, eldest daughter of Mr. J. H. Pope, Inspector of Native Schools, the bridegroom being Mr. F. G. A. Stuckey, master of the Kaitara School. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. Paterson, pastor of St. John's. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore cream cashmere, richly trimmed with edelweiss lace, with Watteau train and the usual veil and orange blossoms. The bridesmaid, Miss Effie Popo, sister of the bride, wore a cream and-maize de lame costume, trimmed with maize surah and guipure lace, and also a gold topaz brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. There were also six other lady attendants — Misses Puller, H. McNeill, Laery (of Dunedin, cousin of the bride), McNeill, and Paul (2), all carrying baskets of flowers The bride's mother was in black grenadine, trimmed with lace, and green and heliotrope shot surah, bonnet to match ; Mrs. Stuckey, Sen., wore black grenadine, trimmed with black lace and straw-coloured ribbons. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was an amethyst bracelet. Mr. R. H. Popo acted as groomsman. At the conclusion of the ceremony the bridal party drove to Mr. Pope's residence, Marama Crescent, where afternoon tea was served. The bride received very many and substantial tokens of the goodwill of her friends. PP

## 1895

5<sup>th</sup> April 1895 The Morrison's Bush school children had a very enjoyable treat on Tuesday. We are full of entertainments in South Wairarapa, and it is a toss-up as to which ought to be patronised. The children's Arbor Day concert and cantata to-morrow evening will draw well. The girls will be dressed in white, with coloured sashes, and each will carry a tree. Their singing is very good, and the entertainment will give funds for more tree planting. PP

## 1896

29<sup>th</sup> January 1896 Leave of absence was granted to Miss McGowan (Levin) and Miss Forbes (Matarawa) for one month, to Miss Reith (To Aro Infants) for one year, and to Miss Hardwick (Kaitara) for an indefinite period. Miss McKenzie was appointed to take Miss Hardwick's place PP

26 Feb 1896 TENDERS will be received by the under-signed, up till 10th March, for Felling about 80 acres Bash on Moroa Plain, near Morrison's Bush, Wairarapa. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. JACOB JOSEPH, Hobson-Street PP

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1896 Miss Hardwick, formerly of Wellington, who was assistant teacher at the Kaitara school for some time, has been promoted to the charge of the aided school at Nikau, near Pahiatua PP

## 1897

17<sup>th</sup> October 1897 The Chairman said he had been asked to defer his report as to the new site for the Tauherenikau School, to enable a communication to be made on the subject. As to the Kaitara School (Morrison's Bush), it was entirely in the wrong position at present, and he had asked the residents to make a suggestion as to a new site. PP

20<sup>th</sup> October 1897 LOCAL AND GENERAL. The Chairman of the Board of Education (Mr. J. R. Blair) leaves for the Wairarapa tomorrow for the purpose of enquiring into the representations as to the necessity of providing school accommodation for the children at Tauherenikau, South Featherston, and The Camp. Mr. Blair will afterwards enquire as to the desirableness of removing the Morrison's Bush Schoolhouse to another site a mile away from the present situation PP

25<sup>th</sup> October 1897 The Chairman, of the Education Board, who visited South Wairarapa last week, has advised the settlers there to meet and decide amongst themselves as to whether the proposed schoolhouse should be erected at The Camp. His own view is that it should be there. He is also in favour of removing the Kaitara (Morrison's Bush) schoolhouse to a more suitable site than, the one it is now occupying PP

27<sup>th</sup> October 1897 As to the Kaitara School (Morrison's Bush), it was entirely in the wrong position at present, and he had asked the residents to make a suggestion as to a new site PP

Kaitara Public School, Morrison Bush, is a neat wooden building in the centre of the settlement, adjoining which is the teacher's residence. Both are well kept, the grounds being tastefully planted.

Connected with the school is a lending library, which is available to the public. There are fifty-four children on the roll, Mr. F. G. A. Stuckey being the teacher. NZETC. Cyclopaedia of NZ Wellington Provincial 1897

## 1898

30<sup>th</sup> March 1898 The resignations of Miss Jessop (Wairere School), Miss King (Kaipororo), Miss Nelson (Newman), and Miss McKenzie (Kaitara) were accepted PP

30<sup>th</sup> 1898 In the matter of the punishment of a pupil at the Kaitara School, the Committee is to be asked to furnish a report PP

## 1900

1<sup>st</sup> February 1900 The Board of Education has selected Mr. Stuckey, of the Kaitara School, for the position of head teacher of the new school at Island Bay PP

31<sup>st</sup> May 1900 Seven parents with twenty children of school age sent in a petition asking the Board to erect a school at the lower end of Ward's Line, at the junction of the road to Greytown and . Morrison's Bush. Inspector Lee was requested to visit the locality and report upon the subject. PP

10<sup>th</sup> February 1900 Head Teacher, Kaitara School; attendance, 46. Salary about £155 and residence PP

10<sup>th</sup> February 1900 Mr. F. G. A. Stuckey, for the last seven years master of the Kaitara School, Morrison's Bush, and who holds a B2 Certificate, will take permanent charge of the new school at Island Bay on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant. Mr. Anderson, the Board's relieving teacher,



will be placed in charge of the school at Kaitara until a permanent appointment is made PP

22<sup>nd</sup> February 1900 Before leaving the Kaitara School to take charge of the new school at Island Bay Mr. Stuckey was presented with a handsome clock by the children and residents in the Morrison's Bush District PP

22<sup>nd</sup> March 1900 Miss L. Feist, who has been in charge of the Wangaehu School, has been promoted to the charge of the school at Pahautanui, vice Miss Dowdeswell, transferred to the Kaitara School PP

15 June 1900 The latest additions to the Indian Famine Fund (Mayor of Wellington's list) are:— £1 from A.H.13. £4 Is from the Johnsonville Road Board; and £1 15s from the Kaitara School PP

1900 Kate Hardwicke Kaitara passed 4<sup>th</sup> year pupil teacher exams

13<sup>th</sup> January 1901 A Dowdeswell Current 140 pound proposed increase by Department 13 Pound PP

## 1901

16<sup>th</sup> March 1901 Pupil Teacher for the school at Kaitara, near Greytown PP

1901 Kaitara PT salary 30 pound increase of 5 pound

21<sup>st</sup> March 1901 Resignation of Amy Keedwell (Pupil Teacher) accepted PP

16<sup>th</sup> May 1901 Public attention has been directed time and again to ,the double work, scholastic and manual, imposed upon many country school children in dairy districts. In face of inspectors' reports and; other evidence that has been adduced, it is impossible to deny the existence of a serious abuse. Unfortunately, it seems that our dairy

industry, owing to the scarcity and high price of labour, cannot go on and prosper as it has done without this child, help. Is the industry to be sacrificed to the children, or are the children to be sacrificed to the industry. That is the question we must face sooner or later unless some radical change is effected in existing conditions. Speaking recently at a prize distribution at Kaitara in the Wairarapa Mr. Coleman Phillips, endeavoured to combat the statements that have been published, but he was; less -successful in that than in a suggestion he made as to a possible means of overcoming the difficulty. He proposed that during the "flush of the milking season," that is from September to January, the children's schoolwork should be diminished. Mr. Phillips would, in fact, have made the school quite secondary to the dairy, and in this we could not follow him, but it is worthy' of consideration whether children in dairy districts might not have a long holiday and shorter school hours during the dairy season, - provided that the time thus lost were made up by lengthening the period of compulsory attendance. The matter is of sufficient importance to demand the early 'and serious attention of the Education Department PP

## 1902

6<sup>th</sup> January 1902 Mistress Kaitara 80 pound PP

27 Feb 1902 Kaitara — Miss Helen Brunton, mistress, at £80; PP

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1902 Transfers of pupil teachers, necessitated by the alterations made under the new colonial scale, have been made by the Education Board as follows : — H. Evans, from Kaitara to Greytown

1<sup>st</sup> May 1902 The following resignations were received: —Helen Brunton, Kaitara School;

1<sup>st</sup> May 1902 KAITARA. School Committee Messrs—H Morison (chairman), J. Thompson (secretary), J. Hodge (treasurer), T. Walker, J. D. Gilliland, J. McNamara and J. B. Brickell. PP

5<sup>th</sup> May 1902 Miss Enid Williams has been appointed mistress of the Kaitara school PP

26<sup>th</sup> June 1902 Consideration of an application from the Kaitara Committee for a change in the name of the district to Morrison's Bush was postponed. PP

## 1903

22<sup>nd</sup> August 1903 What might have been a serious accident occurred on Wednesday. Mr C. Wiggins was driving down a sharp cutting near the Kaitara School, when the horses bolted and ran into a wire fence, capsizing the brake. Mr Wiggins was jammed under the brake, but when extricated was found to be only seriously bruised. No damage was done excepting breaking of harness, etc. PP

## 1905

1<sup>st</sup> March 1905 Miss Janet McLean, of the Clyde-Quay School, will take up the duties of assistant at Kaitara School, Morrison's Bush

15 December 1905 painting, Kaitara, £42; F. Harding

## 1906

25<sup>th</sup> May 1906 At the annual gathering of the Kaitara School, Wairarapa, before the presentation of prizes, the Rev. Mr. Brown, on behalf of the committee, presented the schoolmistress, Miss Dowdeswell, with a handsome set of silver toilet requisites, and an

address of appreciation on the occasion of the completion of her sixth year as teacher of the school. Miss Dowdeswell, to whom the gift came as a surprise, made an appropriate response. The school has a good record. This year all the children passed, and the dux, James MacNamara, gained 500 inspectors' marks PP

31 August 1906 Leave of absence was granted to Misses Ziman (Mount Cook), Dowdeswell (Kaitara),

9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1906 A Morrison's Bush schoolboy of thirteen years has just completed a six years' unbroken record of attendance at the Kaitara School. He has walked, wet or fine, a distance of two miles since he was seven years of age, say the Pahiatua Herald PP

13 Dec 1906 Miss J M Mclean resigned Kaitara PP

## 1907

9<sup>th</sup> May 1907 Miss R- Bell has been appointed assistant teacher in the Morrison's Bush School PP

25<sup>th</sup> June 1907 Mrs. and the Misses Dowdeswell (Greytown) had an exceptionally good voyage from the colony. They landed at Plymouth, and spent a. month in Devonshire, visiting Exeter, Torquay, and other places of interest. London was reached in the middle of March. Miss A. A. Dowdeswell spent Easter at Oxford, where she attended the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers

July 1907 Visitor to High Commissioner London Mrs D and Miss Dowdeswell Greytown PP

25<sup>th</sup> October 1907 The Misses Dowdeswell (Wellington Province) are still in the United Kingdom. They have lately been touring in Scotland PP

25<sup>th</sup> October 1907 Miss Dowdeswell, head teacher Kaitara, an additional month leave of absence, PP

Dowdeswell (Wellington)

25<sup>th</sup> November 1907 On the SS Iconic Ionic Mrs. M. Dowdeswell, Miss Dowdeswell, Miss Dowdeswell

30<sup>th</sup> November 1907 More evidence of the ubiquity of the New Zealander is furnished by a recently returned Wairarapa man. During his visit to Switzerland, Mr Feist ascended the Sonnenberg, in the Alps, and on the topmost peak met Miss Dowdeswell, of the Morison Bush school, Greytown. Sitting at lunch in a restaurant in London one day, Mr Feist was accosted by a gentleman on the opposite side of the table with the remark, You have had a better lunch than this for a shilling in New Zealand." "How do you know I'm a New Zealander?" "Oh," was the reply, "I'm a New Zealander myself, and I notice you are wearing the fern leaf too," alluding to a greenstone charm with fern leaf on Mr Feist's watch chain

11<sup>th</sup> December 1907 The Misses Dowdeswell, of Morison's Bush, have also returned after a tour of England extending over twelve months

1865/10851 Dowdeswell	Adelaide Augusta	Mary	John
1921/4410	Adelaide Augusta	Dowdeswell Sandham	Gillingham
Actually Sandham Gillingham not Gillingham Sandham			
1952/25248 Gillingham	Adelaide Augusta		87Y

## 1908

25<sup>th</sup> July 1908 observed Arbor Day on Friday by tree planting PP

24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1908 Kaitara residence, H. Humphries, Masterton (*Erection of*)

## 1909

30 June 1909 Master Sydney Knapp, of the Kaitara Public -School, has never **missed school** for seven years, and during that time he is credited with having walked nearly 10.000 miles. A very good record for a boy to put up. His home is some three and a-half miles from the school. PP

4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1909 For the position of assistant mistress of the Newtown District High School there were twenty-seven applicants. In accordance with the usual practice, the Education Board forwarded to the committee the names of four of the candidates. After careful consideration, the committee last night selected the name which stood first on the list, that of Miss A. A. Dowdeswell, head teacher of the Kaitara school, in the Carterton district. The position became vacant through the resignation of Mrs. Jordan, who retires in February next, when Miss Dowdeswell will succeed her PP

12<sup>th</sup> October 1909 Miss M- Ussher, head teacher at Kaitara PP

31<sup>st</sup> December 1909 Mss Dowdeswell. together with her mother and sister, have left Morison's Bush for their new home at Newtown PP

## 1912

15<sup>th</sup> February 1912 The death is announced of Miss Lily Dowdeswell, a former resident of 'Morrison's Bush—a sister of Miss Dowdeswell, one-time head mistress of the Kaitara school, and of Mr Dowdeswell, formerly of Eketahuna, and now of Patea.

28 August 1912 repairs fireplaces; Kaitara PP

## 1914

11 Sept 1914 Kaitara 17 shillings The following donations have been made by State school children in the (Wellington education district towards a fund of £2000 for an ambulance equipment for the Expeditionary Force

Log Book Entries Start

## 1916

20<sup>th</sup> June Roll 29 Teacher Miss Martha J Ussher

Roll 29 An excellent report from Mr Stuckey

20<sup>th</sup> June A half-holiday was given so that children could witness the big gun firing in the neighbourhood of the school

22<sup>nd</sup> June Today we have worked 94 articles for the Lady Liverpool Guild in Greytown These of course are for the soldiers, and include handkerchiefs, eye bandages, face washers, etc. The boys as well as the girls are keen on knitting

27<sup>th</sup> June Have today handed over the sum of 22/- to the representatives of the National Service League- proceeds of sale of 22 badges at 1/- All profits go to the widows and orphans of wounded

soldiers. Have received a supply of plasticene tools and a dozen boards for use as handwork in senior classes

29<sup>th</sup> June At a meeting of the School Committee held last evening it was decided to approve of the town teacher's scheme to help the starving Belgians and to collect for same on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

3<sup>rd</sup> July Have received word that the Thomas children will be away from school a month from today on holiday. These children are very backward and can ill afford to be away at all. Have forwarded Mr Thomas's letter to the truant officer.

4<sup>th</sup> July Handed into the ladies guild Greytown 14 pyjama girdles (knitted) 2 khaki handkerchiefs and 3 face washers The latter given and made by Freda Polson

11<sup>th</sup> July Have received one copy of Harbutt's "Plastic methods for Plastic Minds" for use with the senior children- this book was recommended by Mr Stuckey.

14<sup>th</sup> July Have removed the name of Harold McHardy from the roll until after winter.

17<sup>th</sup> July The sum of £3-14-0 has been handed in by the children towards their Belgian Children's fund for which a collection is made in all schools Also promised 1 Ham, 1 fur rug to be forwarded to Wellington for the sale re above.

26<sup>th</sup> July Present Henry and Percy Thomas the two other children have not yet returned.

28<sup>th</sup> July Have finished for the Lady Liverpool Guild 14 eye bandages, 4 face washers, 9 pyjama girdles 12 khaki handkerchiefs  
Absent all week Doris Roband

31<sup>st</sup> July Alma Thomas present, Edward Thomas will be absent this week.

1<sup>st</sup> August Roll 30

3<sup>rd</sup> August Very Wet Heavy rain 80 points registered. All the juniors are absent

11<sup>th</sup> August Half holiday granted by Chairman to witness the soldiers at their machine gun practice in the hills near

16<sup>th</sup> August Absent P and N Svenson who usually attend well They live a long distance from the school.

23<sup>rd</sup> August More gear to Liverpool Ladies. 210 articles this year.

31<sup>st</sup> August Have collected in the Red Cross Box the sum of six shillings and two pence. This is the third instalment this year.

12<sup>th</sup> September Entered H McHardy and Jno Hall

28<sup>th</sup> September School closed in place of 25<sup>th</sup> Dominion Day

6<sup>th</sup> October All girls have attended all the week 100%

13<sup>th</sup> October The children have just finished sewing ten dozen small sweet bags for use on Red Cross Day. This is not included in the number of things being made for the Lady Liverpool League.

16<sup>th</sup> October Alma Thomas is away because of a sore foot. This family is somewhat irregular.

23<sup>rd</sup> October This is really Labour Day which we will take on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

25 Oct 1916 The following resignations have been received by the Wellington Education Board: Miss Ussher, sole teacher, Kaitara PP

2<sup>nd</sup> November Half-holiday awarded by chairman at Teacher's request

7<sup>th</sup> November Inspectors Report on Kaitara Morison's Bush School Roll 31

This school is in excellent order. All subjects are well and faithfully taught It is a matter of regret that after over thirty years of good sound conscientious work in the services of education Miss Ussher has decided to retire.

15<sup>th</sup> November The senior girls and boys are busy checking library books. I shall destroy the very dilapidated ones.

21<sup>st</sup> November The annual exam was on this date last year So far the papers have not reached me.

27<sup>th</sup> November Examination of Standard 5 and 6 begins (Others tomorrow)

Absent D Roband who was absent at the Inspector's visit. She is very backward owing to continued illness.

29<sup>th</sup> November Examination of all classes completed and papers forwarded

30<sup>th</sup> November Mr Direen (Truant Officer) called yesterday but all are at present in attendance

8<sup>th</sup> December More articles for Lady Liverpool Guild

11<sup>th</sup> December Have received 4 proficiency certificates for four candidates presented viz. J Polson. T McHardy. I Dupley and N Thomas.

12<sup>th</sup> December The Red Cross box contains 15/4½d This is the children's own money

I shall hand over to same in Greytown

14<sup>th</sup> December This is my last day at Kaitara School as I am leaving the service at the end of the year I have completed 7 years as sole teacher here. (During that time I have received much kindness and consideration from the committee (Chairman Especially) and the people generally

In retiring I wish to express my thanks and to ask for the same good treatment for my successor

## 1917

30<sup>th</sup> January Mrs Daisy R Bewley teacher

15<sup>th</sup> May Weather rather bad, but roads in a very bad condition therefore only 17 children present out of 25.

21<sup>st</sup> May Harold McHardy very sick Gone to Greytown Hospital to be operated on.

29<sup>th</sup> June Inspector Stuckley's report Very satisfactory

27<sup>th</sup> November Barbara Knapp sat for and obtained her proficiency

## 1919

15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1919 SOLE TEACHERSHIP- Kaitara: £130 to £160 and house PP

20<sup>th</sup> March School closed on account of darkness and peculiar day (Taihape Fires?)

29<sup>th</sup> March Today I leave the school closes for Easter Holidays

4<sup>th</sup> April 1919 Sole teacher, Miss M. Ussher; To Whiti PP

### WRITING COMPETITION.

10<sup>th</sup> April 1918 RESULTS OF W.F.C.A. CONTEST. — Mr F. G. A. Stuckey, (*Ex Head Teacher Kaitara*) Inspector of Schools, has given his decision in connection with the W.F.C.A. writing competition. The following are the prize winners, and the prizes (ono guinea each), will be presented at the matinee in the Cosy Theatre next Saturday afternoon. Mr W. H. Jackson will make the presentations.

A. Gully, Standard. 5, Masterton D.H. School. Gordon Thomas, Standard. 4, Kaitara school, Morison's Bush. Nita Ingley, Standard 1, Kaitara school, Morison's Bush. In his comments, Mr Stuckey said the writing was so uniformly good that the task of selecting the best in each group was by no means an easy one. PP

15<sup>th</sup> April N Johnston Relieving Teacher. Opened school this afternoon. I came up to relieve in this school till the next teacher is appointed. Twelve pupils present

25<sup>th</sup> April Received a memo dated 19<sup>th</sup> April authorizing the closing of schools on Thursday Afternoon 25<sup>th</sup> April to celebrate Anzac Day The 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the British landing at Gallipoli.

29<sup>th</sup> April No Householders meeting was held last night

A meeting of last years committee met tonight I have written to the Secretary on the present state of the sanitation. There is no one at present to sweep floors or attend to offices (*Toilets*). Passer by's frequent these places thus adding to difficulties.

2<sup>nd</sup> May I received after a School Committee meeting last night 1 Bottle of Jeyes Fluid. 1 tin of Surodon's Sanitary Powder, 1 packet envelopes, 1 writing tablet (*I Pad?*) 1 dust brush, 1 box pencils (Slate)

I have put Nita Ingley and Gordon Thompson into 3<sup>rd</sup> Standard they are good workers

6<sup>th</sup> May Mr J Thompson was here all morning seeing to the sanitary arrangements of the school. Everything is now perfectly clean and in order. The offices are now fitted with locks and keys.

1<sup>st</sup> July New Teacher Kathleen S Stuckey Daughter of Inspector F G A Stuckey wo taught previously at Kaitara

1894/16862 Stuckey	Kathleen Theodora	Mary Ann Janet	Frederick George Albert
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There were 8 children present. 13 on the roll I found the house to be in very poor condition. The papers are dirty and torn with the

exception of one room. The roof is badly in need of repairs as there are leaks in almost all rooms

5<sup>th</sup> July Mr Powell Clerk of Works visited. He noted the repairs necessary both in the house and the school Hydroplate Boards are being forwarded for free arm drawing and will have to be put up by some member of the School Committee

19<sup>th</sup> July A Heavy fall of snow this morning has prevented the children from attending school

24<sup>th</sup> July Owing to continued snow school has been closed for three days. This is the heaviest fall of snow in the Wairarapa for 20 years.

29<sup>th</sup> July I have enrolled four new pupils all readmitted after some week's attendance at other schools. Gordon Thomas who has been attending school in Hamilton The Svenson's from Kaiwaiwai School Roll 16

20<sup>th</sup> August While attending Spring School in Masterton I applied to Mr Cumming for recognition of agriculture class Recognition will probably be granted shortly and the necessary implements etc will be forwarded shortly too.

30<sup>th</sup> August Received garden implements

3<sup>rd</sup> September Commenced gardening lessons

7<sup>th</sup> October School closed on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> instead of September 30<sup>th</sup> for news of Bulgarian Surrender.

6<sup>th</sup> November School closed half day to celebrate- fall of Austria.

10<sup>th</sup> November School closed until further notice on account of Influenza Epidemic

## 1919

4<sup>th</sup> February During Holidays school has been thoroughly disinfected and cleaned Some repairs to gates etc have been done by School Committee.

6<sup>th</sup> February readmitted Doris Roband from Greytown School

28<sup>th</sup> February Am leaving this school today. Kathleen Stuckey

1<sup>st</sup> April M Ussher Have once more taken charge of this school. 20 children present

Kaitara: Sole teacher, Miss M. Ussher 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1919 resigned 18<sup>th</sup> February 1920 PP

3<sup>rd</sup> April Inspector Stuckey paid a surprise visit this morning. I pointed out several requirements in school and residence

10<sup>th</sup> April School closed for licensing election. Used as a polling booth

29<sup>th</sup> April Two boys returned from Kaiwaiwai C McHardy standard 4 and Harold McHardy Primer 2. 20 present

1<sup>st</sup> May Have completed a new timetable Am including gardening as handwork Have returned heavy spades to Wellington to be replaced with light ones.

The senior girls are cataloguing library books.

2<sup>nd</sup> May Have received from School Committee 1 Chair and a seat for the broken one, also 1 axe

5<sup>th</sup> May At Inspector Stuckey's request I asked the children of Standard 4, 5, and 6 to write down their favourite subjects and forwarded them to him.

9<sup>th</sup> May The School library is now in order and all books renumbered. Children can renew books weekly. One girl had no less than eight in her possession.

14<sup>th</sup> May In spite of cold frosty mornings the attendance keeps up well

Am arranging with the children so that each can have a cup of hot cocoa at lunch

21<sup>st</sup> May From now and through the winter months the children will have a cup of hot cocoa with their lunch Mrs Dupley has forwarded me a large tin of cocoa

27<sup>th</sup> May Only two children absent. These two live on Moroa Road some distance.

Mrs Morison has kindly forwarded a tin of coca for children's lunch.

30<sup>th</sup> May Have received intimation from the Board that a new range has been ordered for the residence (A Shacklock)

9<sup>th</sup> June The new range has arrived and I hope will soon be put in place.

11<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Polson advises me that she has taken her two girls Freda and Stella to the seaside (Paremata) for a couple of weeks holiday.

I have decided to promote G Thompson to Standard 4 as he has been working with them for arithmetic.

16<sup>th</sup> June have forwarded a list of those who ride to school from a distance.

23<sup>rd</sup> June Several workman, painters carpenters etc has started with the painting etc which is to be done at the School and Residence

24<sup>th</sup> June The new range (Shacklock) has been set in place in the residence

1<sup>st</sup> July Half holiday granted by School Committee - the occasion being the marriage of an ex pupil (Alma Thompson) the daughter of the Secretary Mr Jas Thompson

7<sup>th</sup> July Have distributed to the standard children (12) the tubes of dental cream (as per circular instructions) Added to lesson on Care of teeth

21<sup>st</sup> July Holiday granted for peace celebrations

24<sup>th</sup> July Left Stella Polson until spring warmer weather. This child is somewhat delicate and is now ill

22<sup>nd</sup> August Classes 3 – 6 spent an hour preparing ground planting potatoes and sowing various seeds

25<sup>th</sup> August The children have now discontinued their daily cup of cocoa, which has been much enjoyed during the winter months. The senior girls attended to same

September 1<sup>st</sup> 1919 Entered Clarence Price who is five today, he has however attended school since January

10<sup>th</sup> September 100% in attendance this week

19<sup>th</sup> September Roll 21

22<sup>nd</sup> September School closed Dominion Day

23<sup>rd</sup> September Two new pupils entered Mary and Alan Strawbridge Standard 3 and 1 from Greytown School and now at the Bush Hotel

24<sup>th</sup> September The children of Standard 3 -6 attended a lecture (afternoon) by Lieutenant Chalters in Greytown on his war experience

30<sup>th</sup> September Inspector Stuckley's report for 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> August included

- a) Roll 20
- b) Instruction Good
- c) Physical Exercise Daily exercises on Department Programme
- d) The buildings have been repainted and repairs made to residence



14<sup>th</sup> October Several of the senior girls are absent, I understand suffering from colds

31<sup>st</sup> October Mr Stuckley examined 3 candidates for proficiency Two were successful Rita Morison and Doris Roband. Ken Ingley gained proficiency

3<sup>rd</sup> November By permission Labour Day holiday taken instead of 27<sup>th</sup> October

13<sup>th</sup> November Mr Cumming Agriculture instructor called and gave hints, which will be of use. He addressed the children on garden matters.

18<sup>th</sup> Have completed exam of standards and shall forward papers to Mr. Stuckey as per instructions, in a day or so

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Owing to family bereavement the school was closed on these dates

26<sup>th</sup> November The senior girls have catalogued the books in the library- some have been condemned The number now of books is 119

27<sup>th</sup> November Have received through Mr Cummings 6 packets of seeds to sow on resuming after the holidays so as to use the ground after peas, potatoes etc have been removed.

3<sup>rd</sup> December Owing to a very heavy southerly storm no children attended- hence school closed.

10<sup>th</sup> December List of School furniture etc

1	Abacus
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2	Reading Charts
8	Drawing Charts
1	Modulator
1	Box Coins
1 pair	Blackboard Compasses
2	Set Squares
1	T Square
1	Globe
1	Barometer
1	Measuring Glass
1	Balance
21	Ink Wells
1	Bell
2	Blackboards
1	Clock
1	Piano
2	Tables
3	Pictures (framed)
1	Doormat
3	Registers
1	Log Book
1	Education Acts
1	Large Set Drawing Models
26	Dumbbells
1	Small set models in box
1	Magic Lantern and Slides
1	Singer Sewing Machine
1	Kerosene Heater

1	Metric Ruler
30	Small Free arm blackboards
1	Box rubber types for Infant Classes
1	Exhibition Certificate of Awards (Framed)
119	Library Books
1	Nelson Shield
1	Microscope
Maps	1 world (Mercator)
	1 World (Roderick)
	1 Europe
	1 British Isles
	2 New Zealand
	1 School District
17	Dual Desks
1	Fire Screen

Martha J Ussher

## 1920

4<sup>th</sup> February 1920 Sole Teacher Kaitara: £130 to £160 and house. PP

19<sup>th</sup> February J P Cooper took charge 15 children attended. During the holidays the school has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected throughout, Found school and house in good repair

20<sup>th</sup> February Received two hydroplate boards (Blackboards) Will consult School Committee re putting them up

23<sup>rd</sup> February Received from Wellington Education Board 5 Swiss Family Robinson and 5 story of Francis Drake

12<sup>th</sup> March I put up the new blackboards this afternoon

31<sup>st</sup> March Very poor attendance today on account of a local wedding

9<sup>th</sup> April Heavy Southerly gale only 7 attended

14<sup>th</sup> April Mr Burns inspector paid a surprise visit today

5<sup>th</sup> July case of Diphtheria reported Freda Polson

Contact Stella Polson Received notice from Health officer to this effect.

27<sup>th</sup> July Inspector Burns inspected school today. On roll 32 Present 31

12<sup>th</sup> December Promotions made after Annual Exams. No failures All Standard 6 pupils successful in recent proficiency exams.

Average attendance for quarter 31

## 1921

28<sup>th</sup> January School gone up a grade, Mr J P Cooper upgraded. Mr H Morison is chairman

1<sup>st</sup> February School reopened School has risen from Grade 1 to grade 2

18 February 1921. Mr R E B Walshe appointed PP

11<sup>th</sup> March J P Cooper to Wellington Education Board re holding school picnic and asking for approval

2<sup>nd</sup> May The two new windows have been installed on the Western side of the school This (A long felt want) has greatly improved the lighting and ventilation of the school

22<sup>nd</sup> June Inspector Cowles Report included

- a) Several children have to travel long distances.
- b) Lighting has been made quite satisfactory.

1<sup>st</sup> December All proficiency candidates obtained proficiency

## 1922

12<sup>th</sup> May First Term Exam. Reports distributed.

15<sup>th</sup> August Report

- a) Standard 7 1 pupil 1 presented
- b) Roll 28
- c) The methods in use are effective the pupils are responsive and work quickly and well;
- d) Reading enunciation requires some work
- e) The written work is commended.
- f) A good spirit of work is in evidence and the general tone of the school is good

1<sup>st</sup> December Winnie and Rita Fitzgerald sent home, as their heads are unclean. The School Committee- owing to numerous complaints from parents re vermin in the school unanimously approved at meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November of any action teacher may take

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion on which these children have been sent home. Their parents are advised by letter that these children cannot be readmitted until they are clean

15<sup>th</sup> December Breaking up ceremony at 1.30 Prizes distributed in presence of large gathering of parents

The pupils of the school presented Mrs Cooper and Myself with a handsome Royal Dalton Salad Bowl and Servers May we stay long in their midst!

## 1923

30<sup>th</sup> April Householders annual meeting

1<sup>st</sup> August The present winter has been very severe one rainfall a record Attendance in spite of adverse conditions remains practically unaffected. Roll number 35

Inspectors Report Alfred Cowles included

- a) Roll 35, present 33
- b) The school is under good management
- c) The pupils have made good progress
- d) The schoolroom is clean and comfortable
- e) The pupils are keen and attacked their work promptly
- f) The written work in all classes was very satisfactory
- g) Recommended the adoption of the phonic method of teaching reading
- h) That the results of concrete work in number be thoroughly memorised

31<sup>st</sup> October School closed until 14<sup>th</sup> November Teacher granted leave for university exams

20<sup>th</sup> December Breaking up ceremony held Mr Jas Thompson presided and presented the prizes. Children presented Mrs Cooper and myself with a handsome set of Royal Dolton Jugs and sweets bowl

22 Dec 1923 The Featherston County Council has decided to build a ferro-concrete bridge as early as possible to replace the wooden bridge between the Kaitara School and the Morison's Bush Hotel. PP

## 1924

5<sup>th</sup> February 22 children present

13<sup>th</sup> August Inspectors Report A N Burns

- a) Some steps should be taken to beautify the grounds
- b) The room will be improved if the frosting on the window were renewed

24<sup>th</sup> September I have received word to the effect that I have been appointed First Assistant at Lansdowne- Masterton I will be leaving here at the end of October

6<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Wellington Education Board Mr Cooper is being transferred to Lansdowne School next Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October We have been able to make arrangements for Mr P Rhodes an experienced and well qualified master to take temporary charge of your school The Board trusts you will find suitable lodgings for Mr Rhodes. We usually give one month's notice to the School Committee but couldn't do so in this occasion

8<sup>th</sup> October Night Letter (Like a telegram) Mr Rhodes proceeding mail train Saturday Moring. Please arrange meet him Greytown

9<sup>th</sup> October As I have received word to take up my position at Lansdowne on October 12<sup>th</sup> I am leaving Kaitara School today.

12<sup>th</sup> October P H Rhodes took charge today

22<sup>nd</sup> October Miss Pinfold Appointed Grading No 184 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaching Currently at Blenheim School

22<sup>nd</sup> October Mr Rhodes applies for holiday for Carterton Show Wellington Education Board reply approves school closing for Masterton Show

26<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Mr Morison to Wellington Education Board Welcoming Miss Pinfold. Recommending that she comes on the Morning Express as the Evening train does not come into Greytown. Queried where Miss Pinfold was going to live.

23<sup>rd</sup> November School flag hoisted at half mast in sympathy with the Royal Family in their bereavement the death of the Queen Mother.

18<sup>th</sup> December School break up last night's Xmas Tree at the local hall and an almost complete muster of residents.

I understand that Mr Hugh Morison has been chairman of the School Committee for the very long period of 36 years.

My thanks are due to Mr and Mrs L Robard, Mrs Svenson, and Mrs Thompson for their efforts on the children's behalf last night.

Keys to Mr H Morison

Relinquished charge of school this day P H Rhodes

## 1926

1<sup>st</sup> February D E Pinfold Took over management of Morison Bush School

11<sup>th</sup> February Visit of organising teacher agriculture Mr Brockett

11<sup>th</sup> February Letter from Doris C Pinfold asking that Miss Eunice McGarry carries on with sewing so that Miss Pinfold can work with boys outside. Wellington Education Board replied if there is a women teacher, there is no payment for a sewing teacher. As far as the board is aware it is not customary for boys to be given outside work while the girls are engaged in their sewing lesson.

18<sup>th</sup> February Letter to Wellington Education Board from Miss Pinfold Owing to my recent appointment and my ignorance of local functions I was not aware of the fact that a show was held in Masterton and that this school was always in the habit of closing for the said show. Apologised for not giving 10 days notice

18<sup>th</sup> March School took a nature study ramble on Mr Morison's Hill and down into the swamp 1-2.30 pm Thoroughly enjoyable and instructive

25<sup>th</sup> April (Anzac Day) Children conveyed to Greytown to attend public service in Town Hall, through the kindness of Mr L Thompson who drove his lorry

6<sup>th</sup> May Report of Mr Brockett Agriculture instructor included

- a) Note books being kept on right lines
- b) Work is being carried out by experimentation and observation
- c) Careful records of what has been done by children
- d) An effort is being made to improve the appearance of the school grounds. Flower beds have been made
- e) I would suggest that the school garden be divided into lots and each plot will be assigned to a group of children
- f) The remainder of the ground can be given to some crops like pumpkin which will require little attention and will prevent the place looking untidy
- g) Present heaps of weeds and grass cleared up from the garden should be made into a compost heap and later dug in.
- h) Children are making a collection of common weeds
- i) I would suggest that as far as possible each specimen should be a complete plant and a little should be known about its life.

j) Garden tools require a cleanup A monitor might be put in charge and held responsible for their proper care

11<sup>th</sup> May Inspectors report included

- a) Roll 22
- b) The history programme should extend to 1603 Much detail is not needed.
- c) Phonic method is used successfully
- d) In number work is too early to take multiplication tables Concentrate on addition number facts
- e) It is a waste of time for the upper standards to say tables every day
- f) The school is well managed and the work is excellently organised
- g) The pupils are exceedingly well behaved and are working willingly and industriously
- h) Miss Pinfold is congratulated for her successful management and teaching

2<sup>nd</sup> June Received small supply of cardboard beads etc for handwork

19<sup>th</sup> June Some ½ dozen pupils and I went for a ramble along the Martinborough Road. A most enjoyable time was spent

9<sup>th</sup> July This afternoon the children of the school invited their parents to a social afternoon in the schoolroom. Admission was 1/- proceeds were to be sent to Miss Joyce Secretary of Y H L. The room was decorated and bright with spring flowers After a short programme, afternoon tea was handed round by the children The sum of £2-5-6 was raised. The afternoon closed with the singing of the national anthem.

14<sup>th</sup> July Delivered into postman's hands a 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of attendance returns as requested by the Board

24<sup>th</sup> July Received small tin of ink powder (2 half gallon packets) 6 sheets of blotting paper, 1 box of school nibs from the School Committee. The axe has broken but the committee is attending to this small matter

24<sup>th</sup> July I arranged with the mother of the girl entrusted with the cleaning of the school to mop the school with water and disinfectant every month, as sweeping is insufficient.

28<sup>th</sup> July Received and acknowledges receipt of practice football

30<sup>th</sup> July Received new axe handle and sharpened head

2<sup>nd</sup> August Received new hard broom and mop for cleaning school

11<sup>th</sup> August. Another eloquent letter from Miss Pinfold to the Wellington Education Board There appears to be slight confusion in this school as I am receiving 2 Education Gazettes and 2 parcels of journals one addressed to "Kaitara" and One addressed to "Morison's Bush" These two places are the same. Kaitara being included in the larger Morison's Bush. The name Kaitara seems not to be generally known. I might suggest that this school be known as the Morison Bush School. Postal authorities accept it as such

Since I took charge of this school on February 1<sup>st</sup> 1926, no little inconvenience has been caused through my correspondence addressed to Kaitara, seeking me at places such as Waitara, Kaitawa Kahutara etc

14<sup>th</sup> August Wellington Education Board Replied Journal Editor Notified of error. To change the name the Committee has to apply

15<sup>th</sup> October No objection to Labour Day being taken on Thursday instead of Monday by Wellington Education Board

30<sup>th</sup> September The children again entertained their mothers at afternoon tea. Mrs Morison occupied the chair. A very pleasant time was spent. The sum of £2-3-0 is forwarded to Miss Joyce Wellington Secretary of Y H L. Miss Ussher a former teacher at this school was present

8<sup>th</sup> October In pursuance of the Education Board's Secretary's desire arrangements were made with the chairman to take Standards 5 and 6 to Carterton to attend the lecture delivered by His Majesty's Trade Commissioner Mr Beale. Miss Morison kindly motored the children and me to Carterton The address proved interesting and instructive, but unfortunately too brief.

21<sup>st</sup> October Received advice from Wellington Education Board that a holiday for the Carterton show will not be granted but Labour Day holiday may be observed on that date 28<sup>th</sup> October

21<sup>st</sup> October Mr Laughton (Lawton, both spellings are used) Agriculture Instructors noted included

- a) Roll 30 present 30
- b) Good work but owing to the possibility of centralisation of this school with Greytown it does not seem advisable to send supplies for the garden.
- c) The time is accordingly spent in Nature Study proper.
- d) Tools should be removed to Greytown if the school is closed.

5<sup>th</sup> November Miss Blackburn drill instructor visited today.

6<sup>th</sup> November Mr J Thompson Secretary of the School Committee hung two pictures up in the school from the Wellington Education Board. One was When Yellow Leaves etc and the other Tea Planting in Ceylon.

Mr Thompson also supplied me with a small clock.

3<sup>rd</sup> December School closed for proficiency test- held in Greytown. One candidate presented himself and was successful.

7<sup>th</sup> December The children and I spent a very pleasant day down by the river on Mr Skeet's property.

16<sup>th</sup> December Children and parents spent a very happy evening in the hall when Father Xmas presented each child with a gift from the Xmas Tree.

## 1927

1<sup>st</sup> February School reopened after being thoroughly cleaned

4<sup>th</sup> February Letter from Miss Pinfold to Wellington Education Board The Greytown School is holding a Picnic at Petone Beach on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February and has invited Kaitara School Wanted to adjust the school days so as the school could close next days for Masterton Show People's Day. Wellington Education Board accepted

14<sup>th</sup> February Kaitara School and Matarawa Held a school picnic at Petone Beach. The children enjoyed the outing- some never having ridden in a train before

5<sup>th</sup> March Children above Standard 2 and I took a trip to Masterton to see the Duke and Duchess of York

7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> March School closed for two days in honour of the visit of the Duke and Duchess.

17<sup>th</sup> March Miss A H Buncle appointed Grade 154, 20 years service Presently relieving

31<sup>st</sup> March Relinquished charge of this school this morning

Good Luck to my Successor!

1<sup>st</sup> April I Maxwell commenced duties today. Relieving until Easter Received notice of another two days holiday for the Duke and Duchess attached to Easter.

21<sup>st</sup> April Took over today Miss A H Buncle.

29<sup>th</sup> April Only 11 children present wet cold day.

21<sup>st</sup> June Mr Lawton visited school today and left Onion and flower seeds and signed order for rain gauge

4<sup>th</sup> July The rain gauge arrived on Saturday and has been fixed on the post in place of the old one.

28<sup>th</sup> July School closed in order to take children to winter show in Wellington

22<sup>nd</sup> September Mr Lawton's report in agriculture included

- a) Roll 32
- b) Note books show a decided improvement
- c) In both divisions the indoor work is better. Answering is not generally prompt. More oral answering should be given
- d) The outdoor work is good. Vegetable plots are sown and the onions are doing well.
- e) The flower plots are neat and show a fair amount of bloom.
- f) Upper Division Native birds and their uses, protection of birds, both native and imported
- g) Lower Division. Pine trees and other evergreens. The uses of timber trees. Their flowers and seeds. Tree planting
- h) Spelling lessons might be of value in the correction of notes

19<sup>th</sup> October Scholars progress cards arrived today

27<sup>th</sup> October Carterton Jubilee Show. School closed

Inspectors report. The school room is falling into disrepair

6<sup>th</sup> October Letter returned to Miss Bunce because the chairman of School Committee had not countersigned the application for Carterton show holiday

18<sup>th</sup> October The school had to be closed this day the children were taken to Wellington to see the winter show.

## 1928

1<sup>st</sup> February 30 children present The floors, desks have been scrubbed, and the walls swept.

6<sup>th</sup> February Annual picnic at Petone Beach

20<sup>th</sup> February received medical cards

4<sup>th</sup> March School will commence at 9 am today instead of 9.30 as during the summer season

14<sup>th</sup> March Manager's Meeting We are to have a new glass for picture of King John

Fences mended and pump made workable.

Windows in cloakroom, gutters cleaned, tanks covered, blackberries cut out, hand brush and soap, Jeyes Fluid and Carbolic powder.

From the Wairarapa Standard Office Cardboard, coloured, white, brown and graph paper if they can supply them

20<sup>th</sup> April. roll number 39 1 teacher

1<sup>st</sup> May Roll 37 average attendance 34. Mr. Strachan School Inspector approved an assistant be appointed.

2<sup>nd</sup> May Director approves appointment of a temporary assistant But insists that the Head Teacher is not given a rise to Grade 3

17<sup>th</sup> May Miss S A C Allan temporary assistant starting 21<sup>st</sup> May

21<sup>st</sup> May Miss Allan arrived to assist and will take full charge of the infants and Standard 1 and 2

Albert and Clarence Lyster have left as they have gone to live in Greytown

20<sup>th</sup> July Jack McHardy has left to go to work at Wairongomai. He has just lost his father.

27<sup>th</sup> July 9 children are leaving school today. They all live in the Battersea settlement and will take advantage of the bus, which will take them into Greytown from Monday Morning onwards, picking them up at Dick's Corner

31<sup>st</sup> July Letter from Agnes H Bunce to Wellington Education Board included

- a) Owing to inauguration of a bus service from Battersea to Greytown the roll has dropped by 9
- b) Roll is 23
- c) Two children have become orphans owing to the death of their father The Boy John McHardy (14) has gone to work and the Girl Lucy McHardy (16) is admitted to a home (Whatman) in Masterton
- d) Another little girl is away in Masterton for the winter but is expected to come back and bring her small brother

7<sup>th</sup> August Temporary assistant withdrawn at end of month

17<sup>th</sup> August Miss Allan will not be back next term as the roll is only 23.

1<sup>st</sup> October School closed to go to the Wellington Easter Show



23<sup>rd</sup> October If proficiency exam is held in your school then other children stay. If Sixth Standard exams are held at another school then your whole school is closed.

12<sup>th</sup> November Inspectors report included

- a) Roll 27
- b) Order tone discipline are good
- c) The spouting on the school building should be repaired
- d) One tank is leaking and the other is without a proper cover, consequently the water is not fit to drink
- e) The pine needles are blocking the spouting
- f) The front gate is falling off its hinges
- g) The general standard of work throughout the school is weak

3<sup>rd</sup> December School Doctor Bakewell visited today and examined all the children

4<sup>th</sup> December School closed on the Occasion of Greytown's Jubilee Celebrations

19<sup>th</sup> December School closed

The parents came from 2 to 3 and had afternoon tea

Vernon Whiteman and Henry Maidment received their proficiency certificates

Aileen Thompson received a competency certificate

A new tank for drinking water was brought and fixed in position in the girl's playground

## 1929

4<sup>th</sup> February The walls have been repainted inside and out and the floors and desks scrubbed.

Only 19 children present

7<sup>th</sup> February A School Committee meeting was held this evening. The Secretary signed the necessary papers to be forwarded to the Board with £2 collected towards a gramophone for school with request for a subsidy.

The School Committee suggested that each child should bring a 1/- towards new basketball and rings (Netball) for the posts the total cost of these being £1-12. Mr Price kindly let us have the ball which was more expensive for £1 the rings were 12/-

11<sup>th</sup> February Children bought 17/- towards ball. Committee sent 23/- both ball and rings are now paid for.

About 56 lbs of clay have come, it has been put in a kerosene box

7<sup>th</sup> March The maps of Europe, the World, and North and South America have come

26<sup>th</sup> March Miss W G Meyer appointed relieving teacher from 3<sup>rd</sup> April

3<sup>rd</sup> April W G Meyer commenced as reliever.

4<sup>th</sup> April 1929 Miss A. Campbell, Sole teacher, Kaitara PP

20<sup>th</sup> April Received Columbia Gramophone and 4 records

25<sup>th</sup> April School closed Anzac day

27<sup>th</sup> May Took over charge (Miss A Campbell?) Roll 23

One family suffering from chicken pox.

Entered Lloyd McIntosh and Peter Oliver on register as both are now of school age.

7<sup>th</sup> June Full attendance children having recovered from Chicken Pox

13<sup>th</sup> June Truant Officer visited school

17<sup>th</sup> June Severe earthquake felt at 10.28 a m

30<sup>th</sup> June Received circulating scheme re Featherston Central Library and Committee decided to cooperate

8<sup>th</sup> July Withdrew Peter Olliver's name for register as left to reside with relatives near Wellington for the winter months

23<sup>rd</sup> July Received word that application for vegetable seeds- potatoes- not approved as not now customary to provide free supplies.

24<sup>th</sup> July School closed went to Winter Show in Wellington

25<sup>th</sup> July Mr Darroch, Secretary of Navy League Wellington visited the school and gave a short address on aims and objects of league. In response to his appeal 9 became members.

27<sup>th</sup> August The school is a very old one and considerably below standard in outbuildings

With the increasing shortage of timber for fuel a fuel shed is needed The erection of a shed £40

6<sup>th</sup> September In Reply Department replies roll has fallen considerably

9<sup>th</sup> September Forwarded information re children required by Wellington Education Board in connection with bicycle, tool and woodshed asked for by School Committee

19<sup>th</sup> August New pupil Ralph Cook

9<sup>th</sup> September The teacher with the help of Vera, Lorna and John Thompson, mopped out the school and the remuneration 10/7 be spent on gramophone records

10<sup>th</sup> September Alan and Jack Brickell started school

10<sup>th</sup> September Wellington Education Board to Department Will keep cost down as far as possible. Roll 22 Attendance 20

18<sup>th</sup> September From Department It appears that the Department as no great urgency in providing a shed and the matter will be considered later in the financial year

19<sup>th</sup> September Received word from chairman Dental Clinic Greytown re attendance of infants at dental clinic on 24<sup>th</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> September Medical Officer visited school and examined all pupils. Sent 7 dental and 2 medical notifications to parents

25<sup>th</sup> September Ralph Cook, Arthur Maidment, Lloyd McIntosh for first time attended Dental Clinic and Kathy Whiteman, Lyn McIntosh, Donald Oliver, and Peggy Hawke for re examination

5<sup>th</sup> October received circular re mangold growing competition from Mr Brockett

12<sup>th</sup> October Sent reply re weighing machine

30<sup>th</sup> September Readmitted Peter Olliver, has returned home

17<sup>th</sup> October Mr Brockett Agriculture Instructor inspected and addressed children on aims and objectives of mangold competition. No entries as parents are not agreeable for children to compete,

2<sup>nd</sup> November Received timetable and some of the tests to be kept sealed for proficiency exam November 22<sup>nd</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> November Received circulars re NZ Bird Protection Society, Xmas seal for anti tuberculosis campaign

22<sup>nd</sup> November held Synchronous for 3 proficiency candidates, the remainder of the school being dismissed, as advised. Forwarded exam work

14<sup>th</sup> December Jack Brickell gained proficiency and Lorna Thompson Competency

17<sup>th</sup> December Miss Blackbourne visited the school Alan Brickell misbehaved during drill and as punishment was not allowed to join in the games

19<sup>th</sup> December Alan Brickell for wilful disobedience had to be severely strapped by the teacher. He retaliated by kicking but afterwards apologised. It will be necessary to suspend the boy if his conduct does not improve.

20<sup>th</sup> December Closed school for the year

The usual parents day was postponed till a less busy time for the parents on the recommendation of the teacher. A Xmas Tree outside was given by the teacher instead.

Gave 1 copy of vocational guide pamphlet to Jack Brickell who is leaving to assist his father on the farm.

## 1930

3<sup>rd</sup> February reopened with 17/20 present

Received word that handwork materials were awaiting delivery at Greytown Station

Withdrew Lorna Thompson, John Thompson, Edward Yeoman, Bill Whiteman, Alan Brickell from register as left to go to other schools

4<sup>th</sup> February Mr W Thompson brought the school clock which has been under repair for six months and fixed it on the wall out of children's reach.

Olliver children returned today thinking it was the opening day

Jack Svenson absent to assist with haymaking.

Mr L Thompson Secretary brought the handwork material from the Railway Station

10<sup>th</sup> February Received instructions on keeping progress cards also list of unclaimed cards Nola Ingley, who died two years ago was on the list

15<sup>th</sup> February School was thoroughly cleaned by Mrs Horne and her daughter

18<sup>th</sup> February Received two weather charts to be filled in and exchanged with another school

25<sup>th</sup> February Sent 10/- to Director of Education for records

1<sup>st</sup> March Miss Campbell has been appointed to Ngaturi School and we will try and get a teacher by June

7<sup>th</sup> March Received memo from Department that 10/- would not cover cost of records ordered. Sent another 7/6

12<sup>th</sup> March Received memo re lecturer Rev Charles Wickham-Board's sanction to visit schools re photographing school children Education lantern slides and films sanctioned for schools.

17<sup>th</sup> March Vera Thompson returned after 12 days absence, due to tonsil operation and under observation in hospital.

20<sup>th</sup> March Received 20lbs superphosphate and bone dust, 1 parcel of blue lupin for gardens- also parcel of clay

21<sup>st</sup> March Held Picnic at Tauherenikau racecourse Messrs L Thompson, W Thompson and C Ingley conveyed most of the children to and from in their lorries. The day was fine and thanks to willing helpers, the children had a very enjoyable day

10<sup>th</sup> April Received 5 gramophone records. -Playways as ordered from Wellington Education Board

One load of farmyard manure was brought for school garden by John Thompson, ex pupil, son of Mr L Johnson, Secretary of School

Committee. It was very much appreciated as every effort is being made to make the grounds more attractive

29<sup>th</sup> April Very wet day- attendance below average. Two children, living across river- without a bridge- will be unable to come regularly

28<sup>th</sup> April Householders Meeting 7 present Mr H Morison (Chairman), L Thompson (Secretary) A Maidment, C Ingley, and J R Kearns

2<sup>nd</sup> April Received 1 dozen readers for lower classes.

10<sup>th</sup> April Teacher with help from Vera Thompson and Norris Maidment mopped floor, cleaned windows of school- payment 10/- to be spent on gramophone records.

11<sup>th</sup> May Mr Thompson (Secretary) made concrete foundation at doorstep The old dividing fence is being pulled down and material used for extra fence to shut the children's horses from the playground

13<sup>th</sup> June Pupils of Primer and Junior classes attended Dental Clinic in Greytown Received parcel of trees (escallonia exoninsis) from Wellington Education Board and teacher and children spent the afternoon planting hedge,

18<sup>th</sup> June Received circular re supply of free homework books, damage to public telephones, punishment, teacher's annual exam reports, dates of Board Meetings

7<sup>th</sup> July Withdrew Norris Maidment's name from register. Gone to Greytown School

23<sup>rd</sup> July. Closed school for Wellington winter show

6<sup>th</sup> August memo re teachers' refresher courses in Folk and Country dances to be held during holidays

11<sup>th</sup> August. Entered new pupils Molly and Pat Skeet who are staying in the district

19<sup>th</sup> August Mr Brockett visited the school and filled the barometer (*With mercury*)

16<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Skeet removed stumps of 2 diseased apple trees and placed temporary fences to prevent children's ponies from damaging the garden

30<sup>th</sup> October Closed school for Carterton show

## 1931

2<sup>nd</sup> February Removed Ray Ingley, Vera Thompson, Vera Hawkes, Desmond Hawkes, Peggy Hawkes and Phyllis Olliver from register as left to attend Greytown school Stella Evans enrolled

16<sup>th</sup> February Withdrew Peter and Donald Olliver

3<sup>rd</sup> March Readmitted Joan Ingley

8<sup>th</sup> May I am leaving today as I have been transferred to Carrington School A Campbell

25<sup>th</sup> May K J Dickson Relieving

John Svenson removed from register. School has not been cleaned, is very untidy

12<sup>th</sup> June Tidied school cupboards to find surplus materials. This took about 3 hours with the assistance of five of the children and most of the material, being quite useless, was destroyed, Cupboards very untidy

16<sup>th</sup> June Entered Ivan and Gloria Friend and David Knapp

2<sup>nd</sup> July Received notice today that my position here terminates Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

10<sup>th</sup> July The school has been mopped out, cupboards tidied and desks scrubbed

I am leaving here today

13<sup>th</sup> July J Somerset, 15 children present  
 17<sup>th</sup> July Attended a refresher drill class 1.30 to 3.30  
 21<sup>st</sup> John Chisholm has returned to Carterton  
 14<sup>th</sup> August David Knapp returned to his home in Wellington  
 21<sup>st</sup> August The desks which were very dirty have been cleaned.  
 Floor washed.  
 22<sup>nd</sup> September Meeting of School Committee plans for improving  
 the School grounds have been prepared.  
 A severe earthquake was felt at 12.30 or 1 a.m.  
 25<sup>th</sup> September Mr Stubbs Inspectors Report

- a) Roll 16
- b) The work is organised along lines to keep the pupils busy
- c) An improvement is noticeable in the quality of work. Which  
 however is only fair.
- d) Commendable efforts are being made to establish habits of  
 industry and to raise the standard of work.
- e) Ground improvements have been planned and steps are being  
 taken to have unsightly logs removed.

29<sup>th</sup> October. School closed to allow all to attend Carterton Show  
 31<sup>st</sup> October A month of wonderfully bright weather. Summer days.  
 Record Temperatures  
 6<sup>th</sup> November Mr Powell Board's architect paid a visit to inspect  
 range in schoolhouse. Sanctioned repairs.  
 4<sup>th</sup> December Zita McNamara on her fifth birthday admitted.  
 1<sup>st</sup> December Proficiency examination held in this school. One  
 candidate Mrs Street Kindly acted as assistant supervisor  
 2<sup>nd</sup> December. School used as Polling Booth General Election

7<sup>th</sup> December, At 2 pm Senior children under direction of the teacher  
 cleaned windows and washed out school building. Money to be used  
 for purchase of gramophone records.

18<sup>th</sup> December Short Concert Programme then presentation of Good  
 Attendance Certificates and prizes. Reports by Mr Whiteman  
 Member of School Committee who kindly attended in the absence of  
 the chairman. Then a picnic at the river in the afternoon. School  
 closed.

16<sup>th</sup> December Miss Campbell has objected to being transferred and  
 School Committee asked to comment

## 1931

10<sup>th</sup> January 1931 Letter from Mr Morison Chairman Kaitara The  
 Committee are of the opinion that in the best interests of the school,  
 Miss Campbell is Transferred

11<sup>th</sup> April Miss B Buchanan appointed. Grading, 170 15 years' Service Sole  
 Teacher Waikawa Pa School Picton

22<sup>nd</sup> April Miss Buchanan is going to Ruawhata School. Miss A  
 Campbell leaves at the end of the term

10<sup>th</sup> May Miss K Dickson appointed relieving sole teacher from 25<sup>th</sup> May

22<sup>nd</sup> June Mrs J Somerset appointed

Grade NO 159 18 years service Presently unemployed

## 1932

1<sup>st</sup> February Anne Scrimshaw and Desmond Olliver enrolled two little new ones.

Norris Maidment and Peter Olliver have returned to this school.

2<sup>nd</sup> February Three Hawke children returned. Roll 25

18<sup>th</sup> February Gardens have suffered from unusually long hot weather

22<sup>nd</sup> February Welcome rain during the weekend

4<sup>th</sup> April Admitted William and Percy Wilson from Martinborough

25<sup>th</sup> April Anzac Day. School closed. Two senior girls sold poppies in our district during the week to help Greytown fund £1.1 shilling

5<sup>th</sup> May Senior Boys obtained Titoki seedlings from Mr Thompson's river flat. Planted some at lower end of school ground. Others in nursery plot.

5<sup>th</sup> May Received football from Wairarapa rugby union. Acknowledged same.

24<sup>th</sup> May Admitted Beryl Hawke

26<sup>th</sup> May. Admitted Stanley E Mathews, Maori Boy- used to attend Greytown School but Father hopes that in coming to this school the boy will not be exposed to temptation and danger of being drawn into mischief. Roll no 30

31<sup>st</sup> May First severe frost, snow on mountains

2<sup>nd</sup> June Mended school flag so that it shall be ready for use.

3<sup>rd</sup> June King's Birthday, School closed. Two boys came at 9 a m to hoist flag.

18<sup>th</sup> June 3 small desks collected from Tauherenikau School

25<sup>th</sup> July Inspection of school by Mr Partridge. Serious weaknesses in arithmetic, spelling and recitation. Mr Partridge not satisfied with

work. The report was generally not satisfactory although tone and discipline were marked good.

5<sup>th</sup> August received supply of carrot seeds- as experimental crop for this

5<sup>th</sup> August Snow fell through early hours

8<sup>th</sup> August Arbour Day. Planted the trees received from Clareville School

18<sup>th</sup> August Paid an afternoon visit to Kaiwairi School in the afternoon. Boys played football Girls basketball (Netball). A pleasant afternoon

19<sup>th</sup> August School closed for holidays 3 pm. Monitors (Sweepers) came in on Saturday morning to wash up

5<sup>th</sup> September Roll 30

October Weather fine. Children busy in their gardens. Flower plots look much better

7<sup>th</sup> October removed Annie Scrimshaw's name from roll Delicate child- has made no attendance this term

3<sup>rd</sup> October Two sisters Mary and Flora Danahay both in Standard 4. Roll 31

27<sup>th</sup> October Carterton Show. Have had two long forms made for children to use out of doors. School Committee have provided two new basketball poles. Gate and fences have been repaired.

14<sup>th</sup> November Dr C Anderson came and examined all pupils.

6<sup>th</sup> December Proficiency exam at Greytown School Teacher attended with the three candidates- boys- Norris Maidment gained proficiency The other two boys gained competency

16<sup>th</sup> December Closed school for Christmas Vacation. We had a short concert Programme and presentation and certificates in the morning. Then we went to the river for a picnic.

May 6<sup>th</sup> Letter from Mrs Somerset. Explaining roll. Two pupils live across the river and cannot cross during wet weather.

One girl is a delicate child

November 1932

Letter from Mr J Morison Secretary of Kaitara School Committee to Wellington Education Board included

- a) We respectfully ask that Mrs Somerset be not transferred
- b) The Kaitawa School has been unfortunate in its teachers for some years whereas the present mistress has been most efficient in her methods
- c) The children have advanced in knowledge to a degree that is most gratifying.
- d) The discipline is on a level never before attained.
- e) The location is such that a single girl in the schoolhouse subject to the frequent call of swaggers would like a life of continual terror and the parents of the children are strongly opposed to a single male teacher for very obvious reasons
- f) The School Committee feel it would be derogatory to the school to have its even tenor disturbed without grave and sufficient reasons
- g) Please advise that our happy state of satisfaction is to continue

## 1933

28<sup>th</sup> January We are consulting with the Normandale School regarding transfer of Mrs Somerset

28<sup>th</sup> January I received notification today from Wellington Education Board that I am being transferred to Normandale School Grade 1. Records and register left in order

1<sup>st</sup> February Misunderstood Board's message and journeyed to other school Relieving teacher had been sent there. Returned at once and arrived here at 12.00 Children had been dismissed by chairman. Wired Board at once to explain

2<sup>nd</sup> February Opened School 25 children present. Roll 29

6<sup>th</sup> February Admitted Ian Wilson Delicate child Had made a few attendances at Martinborough School 1932

7<sup>th</sup> February Readmitted Anne Scrimshaw

9<sup>th</sup> February Received notification from Board. Transfer to Normandale being reconsidered. School falling in grade.

10<sup>th</sup> February Boys and Girls made a special effort to tidy grounds and gardens. Vegetable plots put into order. However gardens have suffered considerably from stormy winds and heat of January

17<sup>th</sup> March Received seeds Eucalyptus Boys planted Macarthuri. In ground, prepared

31<sup>st</sup> March Olliver children to attend Greytown School

27<sup>th</sup> March We are consulting with the Pukehinau School re the transfer of Mrs Somerset

22<sup>nd</sup> May 6 New Children Norman and Kenneth Udy. Bernice Ingley, Esmae Ingley Linda Ingley Lola Udy. Roll 35

2<sup>nd</sup> June Withdrew Stanley Mathews No attendance since 11<sup>th</sup> April

7<sup>th</sup> June A dreadfully cold wet stormy day. Present 12 only. Supplied cocoa at lunchtime.

3<sup>rd</sup> July Withdrew Annie Scrimshaw as she has been unable to attend this term

21<sup>st</sup> Donald Morison started (Infant)

31<sup>st</sup> July Received from Department 50 small trees (Pines) Trees arrived and we had our Arbour Day 1<sup>st</sup> August Every child responsible for a tree.

1<sup>st</sup> August Readmitted Annie Scrimshaw

16<sup>th</sup> August Boys distributed some of their trees which they had grown in their nursery plot (Eucalypts) to local residents who have helped us with our school gardens and grounds. The offerings were much appreciated and the boys were congratulated upon raising such splendid little trees. Each boy was allowed to take a tree to plant at home.

During the term Mr McNamara, Secretary of School Committee presented a football to boys. The gift was appreciated.

1<sup>st</sup> September Work carried out by School Committee. Removal and repair to girl's lavatory

19<sup>th</sup> September Admitted David Kempton Infant Roll 26

26<sup>th</sup> September Inspection by Mr McCaskill his report included

- a) It is pleasing to report that this school is in a sounder state than for some years past
- b) The teacher is keen and capable and has successfully applied remedial measures to eliminate weaknesses that have been referred to visiting inspectors
- c) The work in every subject shows improvement while the quality of writing and the development of the pupil's general knowledge are strong features.
- d) Order tone and discipline are very good. The pupils are now pleasant to work with and quite responsive
- e) The classroom environment is very attractive and the grounds are tidy.

- f) The roll is mounting rapidly, but the teacher has proved that she is able to handle a large sole charge school successfully.

13<sup>th</sup> October Admitted Errol Udy. Roll 37

27<sup>th</sup> October Withdrew Norman Udy from register.

22<sup>nd</sup> November Secretary and members of Wellington Education Board paid a visit

1<sup>st</sup> December Withdrew Ronald Crawley from register who left to accept employment offering. We have had a long spell of exceptionally hot weather The days have been almost trying in the afternoon heat

6<sup>th</sup> December I took the children to the river through Mr Skeet's property yesterday afternoon. Most of the senior pupils can swim. Others are learning

19<sup>th</sup> December We held a breaking up party in the public hall from 7 pm to 10 pm There was quite a large gathering and a pleasant evening was spent

20<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Christmas Vacation. We spent the afternoon at the river and enjoying our small picnic there. Mr Thompson kindly allowed us to use his property.

During November the Death of Mr Evans a member of School Committee occurred

## 1934

5<sup>th</sup> February Ethne Udy (senior) started Present 31

9<sup>th</sup> February Bernard Thompson gained proficiency last year and is attending Masterton Technical School. Vera Hawke and Linda Ingley left



During January the roof of school and sheds were painted. The new shelter and fuel shed was erected by the School Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> February readmitted Vera Hawke who is going try to gain her proficiency certificate

6<sup>th</sup> March Severe earthquake last night

19<sup>th</sup> April We had an illustrated lecture in Public Hall last night. Historical Geographical- we sold tickets and there was a very good attendance We gained 10/- 25% of the takings towards our school library funds

20<sup>th</sup> April readmitted Norman Udy

25<sup>th</sup> May Measles in our district. Every family has been effected. No infants this week

8<sup>th</sup> June Withdrew Donald Morison who is now able to attend school in his own district

Withdrew Vera Hawke. She is needed at home.

22<sup>nd</sup> June. Withdrew Joyce Maidment. Mother requires her help.

16<sup>th</sup> July I have purchased 5 lawsonia trees to plant along Western Boundary. Those planted shortly after I came have made good progress and are now well established. I have had a pretty decorative tree Retinisloua. Presented. We will plant that near the school entrance. The School Committee have promised to build a pergola on our small gateway. We hope to have climbing roses then to help improve our school grounds.

17<sup>th</sup> July Work on grounds done by senior boys windbreaks created to protect young trees. Shelter needed.

20<sup>th</sup> July. Cattle grazing in field adjoin school grounds are proving troublesome and destructive. They have stretched their heads through the fence and torn and eaten all our small shrubs and native plants

that had grown so splendidly. They have damaged our young pines also. It is very disappointing.

8<sup>th</sup> August School Inspection by Mr Partridge

- a) It is very pleasing to note the efficiency of this school continues to rise under the capable teaching and though some traces of longstanding weaknesses are still in evidence the general level of achievement is now good
- b) The pupils of the lower classes have made a very promising start
- c) The standard of neatness in all exercise calls for special commendation.
- d) The whole atmosphere is one of willing industry.

3<sup>rd</sup> September The Boys shelter shed and bicycle shed now have concrete floors

3<sup>rd</sup> September Bill Wilson operation during holidays

31<sup>st</sup> September Withdrew Bill Wilson from register. He is not well enough to attend school

1<sup>st</sup> October Dreadful Morning It is the worst storm I have ever experienced. One huge pine tree in playground has been uprooted. Others have had great limbs torn off. The Ngaio Tree has been completely destroyed. One tank has been blown off its stand; carried across the grounds Lying under willows. 10.30 a m Now that the wind has abated, somewhat, heavy rain has set in. 2 children present Lyn and Lloyd McIntosh

2<sup>nd</sup> October Heavy rain district flooded 12 present

18<sup>th</sup> December Breaking up party in the Public Hall tonight. Christmas Tree arranged. We have to thank lady members of the hall committee for generous donation which enabled us to a very pleasant ending to our school year.

## 1935

5<sup>th</sup> February Afternoon temperature very warm 92 degree Fahrenheit  
Chairman of School Committee called. I dismissed children at 2 pm

6<sup>th</sup> February Worked half day. But will work full days on cool days

26<sup>th</sup> February received new clock from School Committee

15<sup>th</sup> March An epidemic of Whooping Cough. 6 infants absent

Udy family left district. David Kempton has been withdrawn his  
father has taken him to Whatman Home Masterton

6<sup>th</sup> May Holiday to celebrate the Jubilee of King George and Queen  
Mary

10<sup>th</sup> May We are to have a party in the hall Children's entertainment  
Each child is being presented with a book donated by Mr Morison to  
celebrate the Jubilee

31<sup>st</sup> May Roll 24

5<sup>th</sup> July Attendance has been poor, excepted half days. Absence  
notices sent to parents

15<sup>th</sup> November I received word that my 2 proficiency candidates had  
been accredited.

27<sup>th</sup> November General Election school used as a polling booth

10<sup>th</sup> December Calf Judging to take place at Greytown DHS. Three  
girls from our school attended Secretary of School Committee Mr  
McNamara kindly mad necessary arrangements He took calves to the  
centre.

Joan Ingley's Calf Standard 4 gained 1<sup>st</sup> for type 1<sup>st</sup> for condition and  
Championship. Mary McNamara gained 2<sup>nd</sup> for type. There were 12  
entries

## 1936

4<sup>th</sup> February Roll 19

13<sup>th</sup> July Withdrew Lyndsay Snell. Living in Martinborough returned  
3<sup>rd</sup> August

12<sup>th</sup> October Art and Craft competition at Greytown DHS Children  
sent in a number of entries. We closed school early in the afternoon  
to attend. 15 children went in

14<sup>th</sup> December School closed birthday of King George the sixth

15<sup>th</sup> December Children came to collect belongings. School tidied.  
Children dismissed end of school early because of infantile paralysis

16<sup>th</sup> December 1936 Application to Department for a Hot Water  
service for Teacher's Residence including additional tank and stand  
£ 33-10

## 1936

9<sup>th</sup> January 1936. Department will pay up to £10 towards cost of Hot  
Water service. The remainder to be covered by Wellington Education  
Board or Local contributions

## 1937

1<sup>st</sup> March School commenced this morning after infantile paralysis  
epidemic

Roll 20

Lloyd McIntosh attending Greytown DHS

16<sup>th</sup> April Received notice from chairman to close school Sickness at Greytown. School closed.

12<sup>th</sup> May Coronation of King George VI

30<sup>th</sup> June Admitted Irma Morison- infant

2<sup>nd</sup> September School washed and cleaned

16<sup>th</sup> December Children came as usual heavy rain set in Plans for picnic to be held at the river had to be abandoned

We all left for hall at 11 a m There a pleasant day was spent

17<sup>th</sup> December After a pleasant happy “Breaking UP Party the school was closed for the Christmas Vacation,

This school is definitely closing as the children are to be conveyed to Greytown next year to attend Greytown school.

*Over the last two years the mood and tone of the log changed considerable. Obviously the morale of the teacher was being chipped away*

## 1938

17<sup>th</sup> March Wellington Education Board to Director The Wellington Education Board has had an enquiry into the sale of the building The school is closed and children being transferred to Greytown DHS. There is a local hall The Board would like to call tenders for the sale of the school

There is a tenant in the residence and the board wish to sell this  
28<sup>th</sup> March Sale approved by Department

16<sup>th</sup> June Director to Minister . Two tenders received. Recommends that £50 tender be accepted.

School on Corner of Morison Bush Road and Martinborough Road

## 1939

10<sup>th</sup> January 1939 By Telegraph—Press Association > CARTERTON, This Day. William John Kempton, a farmer, single, aged 51, of Morrison's Bush, Grey town, was fatally injured when he fell or jumped from a milk van when the horse shied near the Kaitara School yesterday afternoon. The wheel passed over his body. He was picked up and taken to hospital at Greytown, but died later. PP

## 1943

24<sup>th</sup> November School house to be let by tender, (Not sold in 1938?)

## 1944

Following a letter from Mr Andrew Jackson, a rabbitier wanting to rent the house The Wellington Education Board states to Director that the house needs to be repaired and when that is done will rent out the house. The wall papers are hanging

Site 2 acres

School erected in 1884 621 sq feet in one classroom was sold for removal in 1938

Residence erected in 1886 6 rooms The residence is unoccupied.

## 1945

Letter to Department want to sell house

23<sup>rd</sup> May Sale approved

3<sup>rd</sup> August One tender received from J E Snell the present tenant for property and house

7<sup>th</sup> December The boards architect places a value of £510 on the building and site The Board will not accept the tender of £100

## 1946

Letter from P J Ward Martinborough who thinks because of the amount of work needed the value is £300

27<sup>th</sup> August Mr Ward tenders £500 for whole property and sale is recommended

21<sup>st</sup> March 1947 Property finally sold to Mr P F Ward.

## KAITARA SCHOOL

Information from Greytown School 150 years Jubilee Booklet

Dates from 1878 to 1937

- a) The first school was in a cottage at Dick's Corner (Substation is now situated where Wellington Education Board owned a 10 acre block of land
- b) In 1878 on the Northern Western intersection of Fabians Road and the road to Martinborough  
Head teachers

1879-1881	Thomas Wakelin
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1893-1900	F G A Stuckey
1900-1910	Miss A G Dowdswell
1919-1920	Miss M Ussher
1921-1924	Mr J P Cooper
1931-1937	Mrs J Somerset

Yesterday and Today. Greytown School Written 1985

- a) Early 1870's school was taught by an ageing man Mr Huntley in a cottage on Dick's Corner
- b) 16<sup>th</sup> February 1875. Tenders called for the erection of a schoolhouse 24 ft x 16 ft on the East Side of Morison's Bush. Signed Thomas Ward (Chairman)
- c) Two acres of land
- d) Robert Huntley must have taught in the school at the end of 1878 and early 1879 since several of his records are recorded in the financial records
- e) He died 9<sup>th</sup> April 1879 of Apoplexy (Stroke)
- f) Thomas Wakelin accepted as first teacher started in March 1879 from Greytown School
- g) He was headmaster for 13 years. He died a year later
- h) The first committee were Thomas Ward (Chairman), John Hodge (Secretary), William Wood, William Mitchell, Duncan Morison, George Wakelin, Donald McIntyre
- i) Thomas Ward Chairman first 14 years, Hugh Morison Chairman 37 years, James Thompson. Secretary 32 years
- j) Until 1886 The old school cottage some two miles away as a school residence

- k) In 1886 Mr A R Wallace built on the Kaitara Section and the old cottage was rented out for 4/-
- l) Mr Stuckey described as a sound if occasionally heavy handed and impatient teacher
- m) Miss Dowdeswell an outstanding women and fine teacher
- n) Miss M Ussher whose quiet but authoritative manner will be remembered in many schools
- o) Mr Cooper a first class and popular teacher
- p) Mrs Somerset well liked and fondly remembered
- q) Sewing classes went on for one afternoon a week
- r) Dancing Classes were held in the evenings in the winter
- s) Roll

1889	53
1894	58

1879		Kaitara	Wakelin	T	Master
1880		Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1881	27	Kaitara	Wakelin BA	Tom	Master
1882	26	Kaitara	Wakelin BA	Tom	Master
1883	26	Kaitara	Wakelin BA	Tom	Master
1883	26	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing
1884	35	Kaitara	Wakelin BA	Tom	Master
1884	35	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing
1885	39	Kaitara	Wakelin BA	Tom	Master
1885	39	Kaitara	Ward	Mary A	Female Pupil Teacher
1885	39	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing
1886	38	Kaitara	Wakelin BA	Tom	Master
1886	38	Kaitara	Ward	Mary A	Female Pupil Teacher
1886	38	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing

1907	45
1912	24
1921	29

- t) Assistants Miss M A Ward, Hardwick, McKenzie, A Keedwell, Evans, Williams, Bell, McLane, and Allen
- u) The school was shifted onto a Martinborough farm as a woolshed
- v) The school land was purchased by Pat Ward

1887	45	Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1887	45	Kaitara	Ward	Mary A	Female Pupil Teacher
1887	45	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing
1888	39	Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1888	39	Kaitara	Ward	Mary A	Female Pupil Teacher
1888	39	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing
1889	34	Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1889	34	Kaitara	Ward	Mary A	Female Pupil Teacher
1889	34	Kaitara	Campbell	Isabella	Sewing
1890	190	Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1890	190	Kaitara	Hopkirk	John	Assistant Master
1890	190	Kaitara	Payne	Olivia	Assistant Female
1890	190	Kaitara	King	Edith M	Female Pupil Teacher
1890	190	Kaitara	Ward	Mary A	Female Pupil Teacher
1891	28	Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1891	28	Kaitara	Wakelin	Mary E	Sewing
1892	35	Kaitara	Wakelin	Tom	Master
1892	35	Kaitara	Wakelin	Mary E	Sewing
1893	23	Kaitara	Stuckey	F G A	Headmaster
1893	23	Kaitara	Hardwick	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher
1894	37	Kaitara	Stuckey	F G A	Headmaster
1894	37	Kaitara	Hardwick	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher
1895	41	Kaitara	Stuckey	F G A	Headmaster
1895	41	Kaitara	Hardwick	Kate	Female Pupil Teacher
1896	37	Kaitara	Stuckey	F G A	Headmaster
1896	37	Kaitara	McKenzie	Mina	Female Pupil Teacher
1897	35	Kaitara	Stuckey	F G A	Headmaster
1897	35	Kaitara	McKenzie	Mina	Female Pupil Teacher
1898	36	Kaitara	Stuckey	F G A	Headmaster

1898	36	Kaitara	Keedwell	Amy		Female Pupil Teacher
1899	48	Kaitara	Stuckey	Fred G A		Headmaster
1899	48	Kaitara	Keedwell	Amy		Female Pupil Teacher
1900	40	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide		Head Female
1900	40	Kaitara	Keedwell	Amy		Female Pupil Teacher
1901	41	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide		Head Female
1901	41	Kaitara	Evans	Hermione A		Female Pupil Teacher
1902	45	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A		Head Female
1902	45	Kaitara	Williams	Enid		Assistant Female
1903	48	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A		Head Female
1903	48	Kaitara	Williams	Enid		Mistress
1904	47	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A		Head Female
1904	47	Kaitara	Williams	Enid		Mistress
1905	48	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A	D1	Head Female
1905	48	Kaitara	Mclean	Janet		Mistress
1906	46	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A	D1	Head Female
1906	46	Kaitara	Mclean	Janet		Assistant Female
1907	36	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A	D1	Head Female
1907	36	Kaitara	Bell	Ruth		Assistant Female
1908	35	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A	D1	Female
1909	35	Kaitara	Dowdeswell	Adelaide A	D1	Female
1910	30	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	E1	Female
1911	30	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	E1	Female
1912	26	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	E1	Female
1913	26	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	E1	Female
1914	28	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	E1	Female
1915	30	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	E1	Female
1917	23	Kaitara	Bewley	Daisy R Mrs	Sole	D-71
1919	18	Kaitara	Ussher	Martha J	Sole	E-67

1921	28	Kaitara	Cooper	James P	Sole	D
1923	31	Kaitara	Cooper	James P	Sole	D-184