

## Makerua

About 6 Kilometres North of Shannon in the Horowhenua area

Makerua was a flaxmilling area of Horowhenua

Wikipedia

The Makerua Swamp or Opiki Plains in the Opiki District of the Manawatū-Whanganui region of New Zealand were around 1910 the location of the flax mills that once operated on the banks of the Manawatu River.<sup>[1]</sup> Flax fibre, often known as New Zealand hemp, New Zealand flax or *harekeke*, but more correctly known as phormium tenax, was an important produce of New Zealand

28th January 1910 Wellington Education Board Mr F. Venn, Makerua, offered three acres in exchange for the present unsuitable school site.—The offer was accepted.

27th May 1910 XFAY SCHOOL FOR MAKERUA. The Following interesting letter is to hand from Mr W. H. Field, Parliamentary member for this electorate: I have received word that the Government has agreed to errant a sum of £368 10s for the purpose of erecting a school at Makerua. This is a school which has been asked, for for some time past by the people in and about Makerua. as they have felt that the distance to the Shannon school on the one side and the Tokomaru on the other was rather far. particularly for young children, and many of them object to sending their children to school by conveyance. A number of members of the Board, including myself, visited the locality some months ago- and approved a school site fronting on the main road, part of Mr F. W. Venn's property. The site originally set apart for the school was found to be most unsuitable in every w\ay. and Mr Venn has generously agreed to mike an exchange by giving the site selected by the Board and taking in return for it the unsuitable site originally provided.

11th June 1910 Tenders Wellington Education Board MAKERUA.—New School. Plans also at ' Mr. Venn's, Makerua, "Times/' Palmerston, and "Chronicle," Levin.

30th June 1910 Mr Arcus was the successful tenderer for the erection of the new school at Makerua, the price being £251.

2nd September 1910 Mr Arcus, of Levin, who was the successful tenderer for the erection of the Makerua School, has already got the piles in and the bottom plate's laid. he intends to push on the work quickly.

10th December 1910 There was a-meeting of : 'householders held on Tuesday last at Makerua for the purpose of forming a school committee , for the new school which opens after the holidays, The following committee was elected: —Messrs A. Clark (chairman), H. Brown, W. Tremewan, W. Berquist, and J. Barclay (secretary)

17th January 1911 The newly-formed Makerua School Committee met recently to arrange for the opening of their new school. They will probably fix on the 28th. inst. for the event, when they will hold a picnic on Mr H Brown's property. The committee are endeavouring to get Mr W. H. Field, 1M.P.. to perform the opening ceremony.

## 1911-1912

1911	24	Makerua	Oswin MA	Mabel E	B2	Female	£150.00	£ 15.00
1912	30	Makerua	Oswin MA	Mabel E	B2	Female	£150.00	£ 15.00
1913	30	Makerua	Oswin BA	Mabel E	B2	Female	£155.00	£ 20.00
1914	29	Makerua	Oswin BA	Mabel E	B2	Female	£165.00	£ 20.00
1915	32	Makerua	Oswin BA	Mabel E	B1	Female	£175.00	£ 20.00

The figure in the right hand side is the allowance made to the teacher per annum because a teacher's residence was not provided by the Wellington Education Board

An important function took place yesterday afternoon—the opening of the Makerua State School. From one to two o'clock traps 'from the outlying districts began; to roll in until the grounds and the school : were well crowded. ..

The ceremony was commenced by Mr Clark, the chairman of the' School Committee, who, introduced Mr Field, the member for the district. The latter expressed- his pleasure at being present at this, gathering';, and also his regret at not being 'able- to be present at more of the social functions owing to severe business' pressure, He complimented the settlers upon being able to procure such a splendid site for the school, and also the parents for the prepossessing; appearance and number of children present. Judging by present appearance, an addition to the school in the near future would be. required. He also stated that a relieving teacher would be appointed for the opening of the school\_ until its requirements were ascertained. Following a few other suitable, remarks, he finally declared the school open.

Mr Venn was then called on for a speech,. Ho said he was very pleased to see Mr Field there to open the school, as it was much needed, and they had struggled very hard to obtain it. He would also like to make a few remarks about the drag which conveyed the children to the Shannon school. They were so numerous that they hung on to the drag like flies on to a treacle pot,\_ and had it not been for very careful driving of the drag he was sure more than one. Accident would have occurred. For all the world it reminded him of the eastern pilgrims to Mecca—some clinging in riggings and anywhere they could hold on, under the impression that once they embarked on the voyage if they succumbed they would immediately enter Paradise Now he had no doubt that that was not the impression of those parents whose children had clung to that drag,\_ and the building of the school would evidently take a great weight off their minds. They would remember what the late Premier told them about keeping the cradles full. He did not think there was much need of that advice now, since this school had been built. He had already had one or two invitations to weddings in the district, which proved that if the Government would build schools in the outlying country districts the population would surely increase, 'thus saving them a great anxiety in the immigration problem. Mr Venn wished to disclaim any credit given to him for the expense and trouble ho had incurred in obtaining the school and at the same time 'gave much credit to Mr Tremewan, who so generously gave such a large road frontage for the site of the school. Mr Clark then thanked Mr Field and Mr Venn for their attendance in opening the school, amidst general applause,

Light refreshments were handed round in the school building, after which children's sports were held in Mr H. Brown's paddock opposite, which resulted in the various events being hotly contested,

In the evening a social and dance was held when the carrying capacity of the school was taxed to its utmost and a most enjoyable time was spent. Great credit is due to the school committee and settlers for the energy they have displayed in procuring this much needed addition to the district.

28th January Part of another Long review of the opening in the Levin Chronicle was this: The new Makerua school building is built on a plan /that, for ventilation and light, might well be copied 'by all the boards in the dominion. Everything about the school is of a substantial kind and reflects credit on the designer and builder. Miss Feist will, take charge of the school until a permanent teacher is appointed.

18th February 1911 Miss M. Oswin,- B.A., at present in charge of the South Featherston School, has been appointed sole teacher at Makerua;

21st March 1911 Miss M. Oswin,- B.A., at present in charge of the South Featherston School, has been appointed solo teacher at Makerua ;

19th December 1911 Wellington Education Board Grants £2 10 shillings for library subsidy

16th July 1912 It has been decided, in accordance with your representations, to open a post office, including a money order office, and a savings bank, at Messrs A. and L. Seifirt's mill at Miranui. The name of the office will be 'Makureru.' The Native Department states that 'Makerua' is a misspelling, and that the proper name as given by the natives is 'Makurerua,' the designation given by the original inhabitants to the big swamp near Shannon/

31st July 1912 Wellington Education Board The Clerk of Works to estimate the cost of a residence at Makerua

Miss Oswin started teaching at the Terrace School in 1895 until 1899.

1900-1901 There is a gap of 2 years presumably because Miss Oswin went to Training College

1902 to 1910 Mabel Oswin was sole charge teacher at South Featherston school with a BA

1911 to 1915 Mabel was at Makerua School in the Horowhenua before going to Wainuiomata by 1917. In 1911 Miss Oswin had a MA

By 1921 Miss Oswin was at Te Marua School as head Teacher until records end in 1923

27th December 1913 The Makerua School held a successful picnic last week in Mr Brown's paddocks last week

29th January 1915 The children attending the Makerua State school have generously decided to forgo their annual prizes in order that the money collected for the purpose (£7 5s) may be devoted to the Belgian Relief Fund. This amount has accordingly been paid into the "Standard" office for that purport by Mr W. E. Tremewan.

8th September 1915 Miss Oswin, of Makerua, was appointed to till the vacancy on the teaching staff of Levin School [At December 1915 Miss Oswin was still teaching at Makerua]

5th April 1916 Miss Oswin, who has been in charge of the Makerua School, has been appointed mistress of the' Wainui-o-mata School, near Wellington. [Also a sole charge school]

6th May 1916 As no School Committee was elected on 17th April a new election will be held on 22nd May Wellington Education Board

15th June 1916. Mr J R Kirby appointed Sole Teacher. In 1915 James R Kirby was at Brooklyn School and by 1919 at Featherston School. No mention in the 1917 Staffing, 26th September 1917 Mr J R Kirby resigned as teacher at Makerua School. 22nd October 1916 he went into Camp

[Taught at Featherston School while the researcher's father attended.]

25th September 1916 The Makerua school was crowded to overflowing last Friday evening, when the many friends of the Rev. (has. Palmer, vicar of the district, met together to bid him "Farewell" prior to his departure on a short trip to England, for which purpose he goes to be married.

During the course of the evening he was presented by the residents with a beautiful afternoon tea service as a token of their esteem for him. Mr Palmer expressed his very great thanks to those present for the kind thoughts and words and said that on his return both Mrs Palmer and he would be delighted to see them till at the vicarage partaking of afternoon tea from their beautiful gifts. The success of the evening was very greatly due to the, excellent music provided "by Mr and Mrs Alf Judd, who so kindly played for the songs and dances. Items were given by the Misses Brown, Ross and Tremewan, the school children and Mr Palmer. The committee desire to thank Mr and Mrs Dalziel for lending their piano, and also those gentlemen who assisted with the carting of the seats.

## 1917-1923

1917	29	Makerua	Eggleton	Ada L	D-80	Sole	£180.00
1919	24	Makerua	Taylor	Francis H	Licensed	Sole	£220.00
1921	21	Makerua	Taylor	Francis H	Licensed	Sole	£270.00
1923	23	Makerua	Taylor	Francis H	Licensed	Sole	£255.00

Ada Eggleton was at Makerua in December 1917 and at Brooklyn in 1919. In 1915 She was at Waikiwi in Southland as a teacher filling in for a soldier In 1921 she was a relieving teacher at the Normal School in Christchurch.

26th May 1917 A very pleasant gathering took place at the Makerua school last night. Mr Kirby, headmaster, who is very anxious to raise funds to obtain a piano for the use of the school, organised a social and dance, which was a great success. Invitations were extended to Shannon and Tokomaru. with the result that the attendance was very large and made the evening a most enjoyable one. Every effort was made to put the floor in the best order for the dancing, which was kept up until the early hours of the morning. Mr and Mrs A. Judd very kindly provided the music, which was quite a treat, and added to the success of the evening. Songs were given by Mrs W. Quarrie, H Hook, and A. Judd. Mr L Wickliffe very kindly relieved at the piano. Supper was handed round and judging by the mirth everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. It was also tile breaking up for me children's holidays. Mr Kirby had carefully seen that their enjoyment was not curtailed, and the children were evidently having a very happy time with all sorts of games. \_ .

Mr Kirby mentioned that the collection from the dance will form the nucleus of a fund, and we hope that his efforts will be rewarded by practical help as, there is no doubt a piano will be- an acquisition to the school,

25th September 1917 Mr Kirby schoolmaster Makerua school leaves to join the colours next Saturday

15th November 1917 Miss L J Frayne appointed by Wellington Education Board [At end of 1917 Miss Leonora Frayne BA was sole teacher at Ruawhata in the Bush Area and in 1919 was at Eketahuna DHS teaching in the secondary school

22nd December 1917 A very pleasant gathering took place at the Makerua school, where the parents and children met to make a presentation of a, gold brooch to Miss Eglinton who has been relieving mistress for a few months. Very kind remarks were made regarding the pleasant relationship which had existed, and hearty wishes were expressed for success in her future sphere of work. The presentation was made by Mr Clarke, on behalf of the parents and children.

9th May 1918 Wellington Education Board advertised that a School Committee election will be held on the 27th May as no School Committee had been elected for the year

14th September 1918 Miss Christiansen of Makerua appointed to Tokomaru School [Doesn't say if she was teaching at Makerua']

17th October 1918 Miss L J Frayne resigns from Makerua '

2nd November 1918 Temporary Position Wellington Education Board Makerua Sole Teacher £140 to £190 and £Housing allowance.

11th February 1919 Mr F H Taylor appointed

1st March 1919 The annual picnic in connection with the Makerua School was held at Mr H. Brown's paddock on Friday. The weather was ideal and the children and parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

24th May 1919 Wellington Education Board advertised that a School Committee election will be held on the 27th May as no School Committee had been elected for the year

23rd December 1921 THE ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING. The Makerua School was the scene of a very pleasant function on Wednesday afternoon the occasion being me annual prizegiving. There was a good attendance oi parents and friends, and the gathering was. presided over by Mrs Smith, chairwoman of me School Committee who afterwards. very kindly entertained me visitors at afternoon tea at her residence.

At Mrs Smith's request, the prizes were presented to the pupils by Mr Warrington, of Shannon, a former chairman of the Committee, and warm friend of the school.

The Following is the prize-list:—

Standard VI.—Endorsed Competency certificates: Annie Smith and Hanna Brown.

Standard V.—First prize, James Walker; second prize, Roy Walker.

Standard IV.—First prize, Tom Johns; second prize, Yctte Christensen.

Standard III—First prize, Harry Smith; second prize, Allred Shearman. \

Standard II.—First prize, Hendrick Christensen.

Standard I.—First prize, Frank Judd; second prize, Jack Shearman; third prize, Vernon Judd; year's work, Noreen Shearman, Ted Russell, Richard Anderson, Lester Burling.

Primer, —First prize, Willie Shearman; second prize, Joe Anderson; third prize, Jean Reid; year's work, Joe Smith, Douglas Dalzell, Harold Shearman, Chris Anderson, James McEachen.

Good Conduct Prizes. —Girls, Hanna Brown; boys, Richard Anderson.

Attendance Prizes.—Girls, Annie Smith; boys, Ted Russell.

After the prizes had been distributed the headmaster, Mr Taylor, expressed his great appreciation of the interest shown in the highest welfare of the pupils by the Rev. Mr Stewart, who has conducted a most successful Bible Class at the school for some time, and Miss Annie Smith presented him with a silver-mounted ink-stand on behalf of the children. In responding, Mr Stewart said that his work had been a labour of love, and only his duty as a minister of the Gospel. !

An exceedingly enjoyable afternoon was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

21st June 1921 The adjourned householders' meeting for Makerua took place on Monday evening in the School and was probably the best represented meeting that has been held. A very capable committee was elected from those present, viz.; Mrs Smith, Mrs Russell, and Messrs. Russell, Smith, and Shearman. After the general meeting, the committee elected Mrs Smith chairwoman, and Mrs Russell secretary. The flaxmills in this district, which, have been closed down for some time, are again in full swing.

19th December 1922 MAKERUA SCHOOL PICNIC. AND PRIZE GIVING. On Friday last the children of the Makerua School held their annual picnic on the school grounds, when there was a record attendance of parents and friends. The day turned out fine and those present had a most enjoyable time. There were games for all, and races which were keenly contested. The ladies of the district provided an excellent sit-down lunch, which was done full justice to.

After the luncheon adjournment, a presentation was made to the Rev. Stewart, Presbyterian minister, by Mr Taylor, the headmaster. In making the presentation he asked Mr Stewart to accept a small token of the esteem and regard in which he was held by the pupils of the Bible Class, and referred to the fact that since the Education Department had granted permission to ministers to give religious instruction in the schools, most valuable work had been done by him and Father Forrestal for the spiritual welfare of the children. These gentlemen had; often attended at great personal inconvenience to themselves and had won the high esteem and regard of the children. This work, in Mr Taylor's opinion, was of the highest importance to the welfare of the children, and he had great pleasure in asking Rev. Stewart to accept a Greek pocket Testament from Standards 3, 4 5 and 6, and a gentleman's diary from Standards 1 and 2, and a collar box from the infants.

Rev. Stewart, in responding, said it had been one of the greatest pleasures of his ministerial work to conduct the Bible Class at Makerua, and that he had been deeply Impressed with the high moral tone of the school and excellent behaviour of the children.

Rev. Father Forrestal, being unable to attend, wrote expressing his appreciation of the courtesy and kindness extended to him during his visits to the school. He stated he had been impressed: with the spirit and courtesy of the pupils, not only amongst those under his supervision, but also amongst the Others, and he was deeply touched therefore to see evidence in the schools of such a high tone

A presentation 'then followed to the headmaster, Mr Taylor, by the School Committee. In presenting Mr Taylor with a fountain pen, Mr Russell, on behalf of the Committee, eulogised the good work done at the school. Mr .Joseph Smith, a member of the Committee, also spoke of the teacher as a worker. Mr Taylor suitably replied. Special thanks are due to the members of the School Committee for their whole-hearted effort to make the outing such a success, Messrs. Dalzell and .Anderson for the able manner in which they carried out the sports programme, to the ladies of the district who supplied the refreshments which were so much appreciated, and to Mrs Aldersey for a handsome donation of toys.

The presentation of prizes for the year's work at school were made by Mrs Smith, chairwoman of the School Committee, assisted by Mrs Russell, secretary, and were as follows: — Standard VI.—Dux school and proficiency: James Walker 1, Roy Walker 2.

Standard V—Yette Christiansen 1. Standard IV.—Harry Smith 1. Alf Shearman 2.

Standard II.—Lilian Gustofson 1, Nita Larsen 2, Henry Christiansen 3. Standard II.—Frank Judd I, Jack : Shearman 2, Lester Burling 3 Year's work: Rickard Anderson, Vernon Judd, Noreen Shearman.

Standard I.—Ted Russell 1. Willie Shearman 2, Joe Anderson 3. Primer.—Girls: Margaret Gustofson. Boys: Joe Smith, Douglas Dalzell, James McEachen.

Year's work; Chris. Anderson, Harold Shearman, Ned Judd, Carl Gustofson

Special Prizes—Attendance: Boys, Ted Russell 1, Rickard Anderson 2; girls (presented by Mr G. H. Bennett, Palmerston North), Yette Christiansen. Good conduct: Girls, Nita Larsen; boys, Douglas Dalzell.

In the evening a social and dance was held in the schoolroom, which was packed, a large number journeying from Shannon and Tokomaru. Although it was warm for dancing, the crowd enjoyed themselves. Messrs. Russell and Birling officiated as M.C.'s, while the music was in the capable hands of Mrs Shearman., extras, being played by Misses Burling- and Dunlop and Mr F. Jamieson. During the evening Mrs A. Parker contributed songs, and Mr Birling a recitation, both of which were much appreciated.

24th December 1923 The annual prize giving at the Makerua School took place on Thursday afternoon, the prizes being presented by Mr Andersen, chairman of the School Committee. In the course of his remarks he reminded the Children- of 'their indebtedness to their parents and others, and the necessity for being grateful for the many benefits they enjoyed. The prize list was as follows: Standard 6 Roy Walker (proficiency. Standard 5.—Harry Smith 1. Standard 4.-Gladys Taylor 1, Eric Mudgway 2, Hendrick Christensen 3. Standard 3.—Frank Judd 1, Jack Shearman 2, Clement Randall 3. Year's work, Vernon Judd; Rickard Andersen, Noreen Shearman. Standard 2.—Noreen Randall 1, Violet Mudgway 2, Willie Shearman 3. Year's .work, Joe Andersen, Joseph Brand.

.Standard I.—Ruby Lethbridge 1, Agnes Randall 2, Joseph Smith 3. Year's Work, Douglas Dalzell, Chris Andersen, Harold Shearman.

Primer Classes.—Ned Judd 1 Audrey Randall 2, Colin Dalzell 3. work, Fred Lethbridge, Ruth Andersen, Sybil Lange, Maurice Lange. Attendance Prizes—Harry Smith 1, Joe Andersen 2.

Good Conduct Prizes.—Girls, Sybil Lange; boys, Colin Dalzell. Special Sewing Prize (presented by Miss Smith, sewing) mistress).—Ruth Andersen.

Special prizes for writing (presented by Messrs G. H. Bennett and Co.) —Girls, Ruby Lethbridge ; boys, Eric Mudgway. , , Before the gathering dispersed the headmaster,. Mr Taylor, made a presentation to the Rev. A. 'F. Stewart, on 'behalf of the members of the School Bible Class, In asking Mr Stewart to accept a set of the New Age Encyclopaedia, a pencil and diary, Mr Taylor referred 'to the vital importance to the children of the work which Mr Stewart has been carrying on at the school for some years past, often .at great inconvenience to himself and assured him that his efforts on behalf of the children were very greatly appreciated. Mr Stewart in responding stated that he had always looked upon this work of imparting religious instruction to the young as a sacred duty and felt it to be a privilege and a pleasure to be able to conduct" a Bible Class week by week at the school, where he had always been made welcome.

The proceedings were brought to a close with cheers for the chairman and School Committee, and the singing of the National Anthem.

10th June 1932 Mr F. H. Taylor, formerly headmaster of the Makerua School, now Presbyterian Missioner, of Greytown, has received his license to officiate in births, deaths and marriages. He is also now entitled to use the word "Rev before his name.



