

## Mangatiti and Puketoi

1901-1909 Mangatiti A school about 10 Kilometres from Pongaroa on the Pahiatua Road.  
Renamed as Puketoi School

### 1898

1898		Mangatiti	Baker Gabb	Mary		Female	£52	\$8,916
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22<sup>nd</sup> October 1897 The Mangatiti improved small farm settlement block, in the Mount Cerberus Survey District, Wellington, containing 100 acres, has been set aside for an improved farm special settlement.

19<sup>th</sup> September 1898 Wellington Education Board There have been 2 applicants for the position of Head Teacher at Mangatiti

1<sup>st</sup> November 1898 **Miss** Baker-Gab [Sic] has been appointed mistress of the Mangatiti school in the Forty-mile bush district—to be opened on the 17th November

2<sup>nd</sup> November 1898 **Mrs.** Baker-Gabb has been appointed to the charge of the school which the Board of Education has decided to open at Mangatiti, near Pahiatua, on the 17th inst.

16<sup>th</sup> November 1898 Mrs Baker Gabb is the governess appointed to the Mangatiti school, which is expected to be opened in the course of a few days. The school is situated near the 11-mile peg on the Makuri-Pongaroa road. A social and dance eventuates shortly in aid of the school funds, which I hope will be well patronised

15<sup>th</sup> December 1898 Wellington Education Board It was decided that separate districts be constituted for the following schools with an attendance of 15 and over: Mangatiti.....

1944/19182		Baker-Gabb	Mary	83Y				
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Teaching at Girls High school in New Plymouth and was the second Head Teacher at the Girls High School as Miss Montgomery.

It appears Mary Baker Gabb was not born in New Zealand or got married in New Zealand

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1913 Mrs Baker Gabb, B.A., who has occupied the position of secondary assistant in the Pahiatua District High School for several years, past, and who is retiring upon superannuation, ' was on Monday presented with a handsome hand-bag from the teaching staff, and a travelling rug and silver-mounted smelling salts bottle from the pupils. Mrs Baker Gabb r leaves shortly on a visit to Europe.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 1913 Mrs Baker Gabb, formerly secondary assistant at the Pahiatua District High School, returned to Wellington last Monday by the Athenic after a very enjoyable round of visits to friends in various parts of the United Kingdom

### 1899

1899	10	Mangatiti	Baker Gabb	Mary		Female	£80	\$14,195
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12<sup>th</sup> January 1899 In a long article on the Revaluation Commission and what they saw was this piece: Passing through a considerable area of bush we reach the Mangatiti river, where a considerable quantity of cleared country is found, and a large amount of improvements in the shape of fencing and homesteads are witnessed. This is the scene of the Mangatiti village and

improved farms. There is a cottage doing duty as a school at present, with 26 pupils, and a lady teacher; a post office in one of the private residences, and Messrs Birch, Stenberg and others have some very fine grass paddocks. The dray road terminates and degenerates into a bridle track, portions of which, even with fine weather, are by no means too good.

27<sup>th</sup> February 1899 Mr T R Fleming Inspector will visit Mangatiti on the 7<sup>th</sup> March

14<sup>th</sup> December 1899 Wellington Education Board sent in the requests to the Education Department: Island Bay, estimated cost, £1500 ; Manuhara, £250 ; Mangatiti, £200 ;...

1900

1900	12	Mangatiti	Irwin	Alexandrina		Female	£45	\$7,824
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27<sup>th</sup> February 1900 Mr Bakewell to inspect the Mangatiti school on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1900

1<sup>st</sup> March 1900 In a review it was found that Mrs Baker Gabb was overpaid per year by £38 15s [Part of a long list of overpayments]

1<sup>st</sup> November 1900 Mangatiti settlers are agitating for the erection of a dairy factory in their midst.

1901

1901	13	Mangatiti	Irwin	Alexandrina M		Female	£60	\$10,129
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21<sup>st</sup> February 1901 Mr Bakewell to inspect the Mangatiti School on the 9<sup>th</sup> April

21<sup>st</sup> March 1901 Wellington Education Board It was decided to have plans prepared for the erection of a new school at Mangatiti, and to call for tenders for the erection of a shelter shed at Stokes Valley.

22<sup>nd</sup> March 1901 Proposed new salary of teacher £60 and increase of £15

29<sup>th</sup> August 1901 It was decided to provide a school at Mangatiti as soon as funds were available

18<sup>th</sup> September 1901 Mr James McMillan is the successful tenderer for the building of the Mangatiti school, which is to be erected on the Education Reserve at the 12-mile peg on the Makuri Pongaroa road

Alexandrina Irwin only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Mangatiti

1902

1902	18	Mangatiti	Warwick	Robert S		Master	£80	\$13,190
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See Makairo School for details about Australian Robert S Warwick

27<sup>th</sup> February 1902 Wellington Education Board Appointing Miss Alice Petrie at £72 Sole Teacher Mangatiti

1<sup>st</sup> Mat 1902 School Committee Mangatiti— Messrs. Debreceny (chairman), D. Buckley, P. Stenberg, D. Loney (secretary), J. Hayes.

26<sup>th</sup> May 1902 The Wellington Education Board requires teachers for schools at Tauherenikau, Maku and Mangatiti.

1<sup>st</sup> August 1902 Wellington Education Board got 1 application for position at Mangatiti

28<sup>th</sup> August 1902 Appointment was made to Mangatiti subject to confirmation by School Committee

## 1903-1905

1903	20	Mangatiti	Warwick	Robert S		Headmaster	£83	\$13,719
1904	22	Mangatiti	Warwick	Robert S		Master	£90	\$14,903
1905	22	Mangatiti	Warwick	Robert S	Lic	Master	£118	\$18,662

2<sup>nd</sup> January 1903 Creameries and dairy factories are the rage. But for the bad roads dairy farming would be the prevailing industry everywhere. The butter factories at Waione and Mangatiti are receiving plenty of support. Owing to the difficulty in getting the machinery over the roads, the factory at Pongaroa was somewhat late in starting, but it has now a good prospect of a useful and prosperous career

26<sup>th</sup> March 1903 Inspector's report to Wellington Education Board included In 1901 the total was 143, but of those, four—To Aupapa, Whareama, Mangatiti and Pencarrow—were closed. .... Mangatiti' and Pencarrow have been re-opened,

2<sup>nd</sup> May 1903 Another highly successful improved farm settlement is at Mangatiti, where 26 out of 31 selectors are residing, and where improvements totalling £5280 11s 6d have been effected. The non-residents are to be questioned immediately- by the Land Board.

1<sup>st</sup> August 1905 At a meeting of settlers at Pongaroa, on Saturday, a motion was unanimously passed to ask the Government to make a grant of £3500 to metal the Makuri-Pongaroa Road, which is almost impassable now from Mangatiti to Pongaroa. In the event of the Government declining, the Akitio Council will be asked to raise a loan, and the Government then asked for a £ for £ subsidy.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1905 Wellington Education Board Mangatiti Fencing approved

## 1906-1909

1906	21	Mangatiti	Cook	Olive M	Lic	Female	£130	\$20,203
1907	17	Mangatiti	Flyger	Juanita E	D4	Female	£130	\$20,380
1908	23	Mangatiti	Leighton	M J Mrs	E3	Female	£110	\$17,245
1909	28	Mangatiti	Leighton	M J	E2	Female	£135	\$21,453

24<sup>th</sup> October 1905 Matamau Mrs M. J. Leighton resigned her office as school cleaner, her duties to terminate on 31st October.....Accounts from Mrs M ,T. Leighton, Wylie and Co., and Mr C. G. Leighton were presented

Olive M Cook only taught for Wellington Education Board in 1906

Juanita E Flyger only taught for Wellington Education Board in 1907

Mrs Mary J Leighton taught at Waiohine School for 3 years before teaching at Mangatiti/Puketoi until at least 1921.

30<sup>th</sup> March 1906 Wellington Education Board In a long report on agriculture as a school subject Mangatiti made an application for registration of their classes

27<sup>th</sup> August 1906 Mangatiti Improved Farm Settlement. — There are 24 sections occupied, of a total area of 3,164 acres, and having a population of 95 souls. 2,626 acres are felled, and 2,359 acres are grassed, the total value of improvements effected being £7,829 including £3,309 advanced by the Government. The livestock running on the land consists of 53 horses, 857 cattle, 905 sheep, and 109 pigs. Some of the selectors supply local creameries, but the majority spend their time between their sections and Government road works. The

progress made is satisfactory and owing to better road access and higher prices ruling, the selectors are becoming more prosperous.

14<sup>th</sup> December 1906 Mr J McFadden appointed

1<sup>st</sup> February 1907 £372 allocated by Department of Ed to Wellington Education Board for a school residence at Mangatiti

15<sup>th</sup> July 1907 Miss J Flyger has been appointed sole teacher at Mangatiti twelve miles from Makuri

30<sup>th</sup> September 1907 Tenders accepted Mangatiti C H Godfrey £312

31<sup>st</sup> January 1908 Miss J Flyger resigns Wellington Education Board It was decided— That arrangement's should be made with the department to allow, two smaller houses to be built at Mangatiti in place of one;

8<sup>th</sup> April 1908 A grant of £175 has been made by. the Government, to the Wellington Education Board, towards the cost of the removal of the Mangatiti School to a new site, thus consolidating the schools, in that district. " The school at Maku, which was recently destroyed, by bush .fires, will be replaced by a building to be erected on a new' site, and the Pukehinau School will then be closed. There will thus be two schools instead of three

28<sup>th</sup> April 1908 The attempt which was made recently by the Wellington Education Board to secure a satisfactory adjustment of the school difficulty at. Mangatiti and Maku does not appear to have been successful. The Board proposed to remove the Mangatiti School to a new site on the Range Road. , The settlers in the district do not approve of .this, and a petition containing a large number of signatures will be presented to the Board for consideration at its meeting on Thursday

1<sup>st</sup> May 1908 Referring to the Board's resolution that the Mangatiti, Pukehinau, and Maku schools should be consolidated. Mr Vile said the decision was arrived at upon the report of the inspectors. He could see that very great hardship would be caused to many of the settlers who had probably paid a little more for their land because a school was there. A creamery had been established opposite the Mangatiti school, and it stood in the centre of a rich agricultural district. There were twenty-one children of school age served by the Mangatiti school, but only eleven resided within easy distance of the Range-road site. Mr H. Dillon, a Mangatiti resident, attended the meeting, to urge the retention of the school. He stated that no children would go from the district to the new school, and it would cost as much to move the building as to erect a new one. After considering the question in committee, the Board decided that it could not depart from its original decision.

1<sup>st</sup> May 1908 A petition for settlers in the Mangatiti district against the resolution of the Education Board at their last, meeting to shift the school was read at this afternoon's meeting. 'A similar petition had been presented to the Minister for Education. Mr. A. H. Vile spoke strongly in favour of the petition, which recited the hardships likely to accrue to settlers in case of removal Many of them would leave the district. Timber was also on the ground for a teacher's residence, and - it would cost as much or more to shift the school as to erect a new one. If the school were shifted, "the whole locality," according to ' a letter from a settler, "would become a vast sheep run." Mr, H. Dillon, a Mangatiti .settler, attended in person, and declared to the board that if the school were shifted, none of the present families would send their children to the school on the new site. The board decided to reconsider the whole question

4<sup>th</sup> May 1908 MANGATITI SCHOOL.

THE BACHELOR SETTLERS' GRIEVANCE.

Few things have excited more amusement in an educational circle than the reading of an analytical examination of the settlers that signed a petition strongly objecting to the removal of the Mangatiti School to a new site. Mangatiti is a sort of half-way house between Makuri and Pongaroa, in the Forty-mile Bush. It consists of a schoolhouse, creamery, and a few settlers' houses widely apart. For want of accommodation there has long been a difficulty in keeping the school supplied with a teacher. One enterprising young dominie, tired of bachelorising, got married, and he had to hold his honeymoon on the school verandah. A relieving teacher was recently sent to Mangatiti but she found she had to take quarters in the corner of the weatherboard walls of a settler's whare. with a family of children on one side, and the wind and rain beating through the boards and keeping her garments soaked on the other.

The Board's Inspectors and Secretary, who have all visited the place, recommend the school to be shifted about two miles along Range-road, the position being more central and convenient for the bulk of the families. The petitioners objected on the ground that it would ruin the creamery and depopulate the place, seeing that in the absence of a school, some of them would have to soil out and go to Pahiatua with their families.

One of the petitioners—a Mr Dillon —appeared before the Education Board on Thursday. After he had made his protest, Mr Hogg, with a view to having a good row conducted in the fairest way possible, suggested that the Chief Inspector, who was present, and Mr Dillon should fight the matter out in the presence of the Board. Inspector Fleming and Secretary Stewart declined, urging that they had already fought the question at Mangatiti.

At a later stage the petition, as analysed, was read. One petitioner was a married man with no family. Another had no case, as the new site would give him a school nearer his residence than at present. The next petitioner had only an infant. Several others were, bachelors, and could have no family grievance. Only one family could be discovered that would be likely to suffer badly by having the school moved away.

"Isn't it remarkable," submitted a member, "that a lot of bachelors should threaten to sell out and move into Pahiatua so that they may educate their families?" When the laughter had subsided, the Board's chief bachelor, with an air of deep gravity, exclaimed: "It's not the families, present or to come, they are thinking about. It's the effect the removal of the school may have on the selling value of their land."

29<sup>th</sup> May 1908 Wellington Education Board Some correspondence was received with reference to the removal of the Mangatiti School to the proposed new site. It was generally that the matter had already received 'the fullest consideration of the Board, and that its previous decision—to remove, the school, —be adhered to.

30<sup>th</sup> May 1908 The tender of Messrs Taylor and Hodges, of Masterton, for the erection of the new brick school at Lansdowne; near Masterton, and that of Mr H. H. Godfrey, of Pahiatua, for the removal and re-erection of the Mangatiti School have been accepted by the Wellington Education Board.

30<sup>th</sup> June 1908 According to the Pahiatua paper, the roads in and around Pongaroa are now as bad as ever, and vehicular traffic is only conducted with the greatest difficulty. From Mangatiti to Pongaroa the road is a veritable quagmire, being axle deep. The township of

Pongaroa is a sea of mud, and the state of the approaches to the Post Office is a positive disgrace. The Makuri-Pongaroa coach has ceased running.

25<sup>th</sup> September 1908 The adjustment of the boundaries of the Mangatiti School District-was left in the hands of the secretary Mr G. L. -Stewart)

29<sup>th</sup> January 1909 Wellington Education Board The purchase-of new sites at Mangatiti and Pukehinau having been .completed, - and one school removed, the committee did not see. Its way to reopen the question of a school at Maku. Already declined

28<sup>th</sup> May 1909 Report on Wellington Education Board A new residence has been built at Mangatiti

29<sup>th</sup> October 1909 The name of the Mangatiti school, at the request of the local committee, was altered to Puketoi, the name' of the adjacent post office

## Puketoi

1910-1959 Puketoi is on Range Road which leads off the Pahiatua Pongaroa Road at the top of the climb 11 Kilometres from Pongaroa

### 1910-1912

1910	29	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J	E2	Female	£150	\$23,516
1911	28	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	E2	Female	£155	\$24,513
1912	26	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	E2	Female	£160	\$24,538

1<sup>st</sup> June 1910 Wellington Education Board gives a grant for repairs

27<sup>th</sup> July 1910 Wellington Education Board repair to residence not over 20 years old Puketoi

30<sup>th</sup> November 1910 Wellington Education Board Grant of £7 5s for the residence, porch etc

1<sup>st</sup> March 1911 Wellington Education Board The tender of A. Napier at £3 per annum for ten years, from March 1st, was accepted for section 17, block V,, Puketoi.

27<sup>th</sup> July 1911 Of the thirty-two pupils of the secondary department of the Pahiatua District High School, twelve come from outside the school district, five, being from Mangatainoka, four from Scarborough, one from Puketoi, one from Nikau and one from Konini.

30<sup>th</sup> August 1911 Wellington Education Board The department increased from £330 to £455 the amount granted for wash-houses at Puketoi, Ohariu, Mangatainoka,. Cross Creek, and Manakau.

28<sup>th</sup> February 1912 Wellington Education Board Mr Whittaker for additions to the residence at Waione and Puketoi, and for repairs to the residence and school at Korora.

13<sup>th</sup> March 1912 The Education Board's architect is in /the district, examining the additions made to the Pongaroa, Puketoi, and Waione school-house

27<sup>th</sup> March 1912 Wellington Education Board A grant of £20 was made tor repairs to the residence at Puketoi;

24<sup>th</sup> April 1912 School Committee Puketoi.— Messrs W. H. Gowler (chairman), J. Hayes (secretary), H. Bagley, R. Utting , R. Parker, J. Hennessy, H. H. Alderwick.

30<sup>th</sup> April 1912 Wellington Education Board Tenders received for erection of a chimney at Puketoi Residence W Whittaker £14 10s

30<sup>th</sup> October 1912 Wellington Education Board Puketoi, erecting break wind and shifting door, £8 5s;

30<sup>th</sup> October 1912 Wellington Education Board Section 16, block V.-, Puketoi:' That the lessee be requested to make immediate payment of arrears.

## 1913-1919

1913	27	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	E2	Female	£165	\$24,750	Provided
1914	24	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	E2	Female	£175	\$25,055	Provided
1915	22	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	E2	Female	£185	\$24,781	Provided
1917	18	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	Sole	E-78	£190	\$21,295	
1919	221	Puketoi	Leighton	Mary J Mrs	Sole	E-76	£250	\$22,585	

Provided means a residence was provided for the teacher

28<sup>th</sup> May 1913 In a list comparing 1900 school roll Puketoi was listed with 12

In 1900 and 26 in 1912. Horoeka 9 and 16 Pukehinau 30 in 1912 and Pongaroa 40 and 52

12<sup>th</sup> June 1913 At the Puketoi Schoolroom on Friday afternoon Mrs. Gupwell and Mrs. Matthews judged the girls' sewing and awarded prizes to the successful girls. The prizes were donated by Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Fulcher. Mrs. Gupwell, and Mrs. Matthews. The prize-winners were: Elsie Fulcher. Ivy Hayes, Iris A. Gupwell, Mavis D. .Parker, Eileen S. Dillon, Lily Fulcher, and Eileen E. Parker.

5<sup>th</sup> November 1914 Wellington Education Board ambulance equipment fund Puketoi £1 1s 6d

7<sup>th</sup> December 1914 Deputy returning officer Puketoi C G Leighton Husband of the teacher

26<sup>th</sup> June 1915 . A wedding was celebrated at the Mangatainoka Anglican . Church, on Wednesday,- when two well-known residents of the Pongaroa district were married, the contracting parties being Mr Charles Swan, of Pongaroa, and Miss Bessie P. Leighton, eldest daughter of Mr Chas. G. Leighton, of Puketoi.

24<sup>th</sup> February 1916 The- Akitio County Carnival, in aid of the Wounded Soldiers' Fund, closed oil Tuesday night. Miss Annie Burling (Pongaroa) was elected queen, and the next in order were: Miss L. Burling (Rakanui), Miss E. Crawford (Coast), Miss Holdem (Waihi), and Miss D. Leighton (Puketoi). The sum raised as a result of the carnival was over £5700 (states our Pahiatua correspondent).

16<sup>th</sup> February 1917 The St. John Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross Society are very grateful to the pupils ;of the undermentioned schools for the excellent parcels of work they have sent in. The work has been done by both girls and boys, and in spine of the schools the boys are both knitting and sewing, willing to do anything to provide comforts for our wounded soldiers. The names of the schools are as follow:—Paraparaumu, Newtown, Petone West, Pirinoa, Rongomai, Puketoi.....

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918 Copper Trail Puketoi, dance, per D. Leighton, £4 10s. 6d

6<sup>th</sup> August 1919 The engagement is announced of Miss Maud Larsen, fifth daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Larsen, of Mauriceville Mr Henry Leighton, a returned soldier, only son of Mr and Mrs Leighton, of Puketoi.



7<sup>th</sup> August 1919 At Pongaroa last week, Mr [Sic Miss] D. Leighton was married to Mr F A. Stunnel, of Feilding. The bride was previously postmistress at Puketoi, while the bridegroom in a returned soldier.

20<sup>th</sup> October 1919 A wedding was celebrated on Wednesday last at the North Mauriceville Church, when Miss Maud Ellen fifth daughter of Mr and Mrs Lars. Larsen, of Mauriceville, was married to Mr Henry Leighton, only son of Mr and Mrs C. Leighton, of Puketoi. The bride, who was give away by her father, wore a dainty frock of cream silk lmena, with the usual veil and orange blossoms, fastened with pearls, and she also carried a lovely bouquet of white flowers and lycopodium Miss Mary Larsen, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid. The Rev. Parker officiated. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Wedding March was played by Miss Edna Gyde. In the afternoon Mr and Mrs Leighton left for the north by motor. The presents were very numerous and included many cheques.

### 1920-1923

1921	19	Puketoi	Moloney	John	Sole		£200	\$17,218	
1923	17	Puketoi	Kilsby	Alfred S	Sole	B	£195	\$17,922	

12<sup>th</sup> June 1923 Mrs [Sic] A S Kilsby appointed to Puketoi

27<sup>th</sup> November 1923 Mrs A McKay appointed sole teacher

Sam Kilsby was Head Teacher at Featherston School in the 1950's and lived in Featherston after his retirement

### Post 1923

28<sup>th</sup> May 1929 In those districts where, on 22nd April, no election of school committees took place, a second meeting will be held this evening, under the same conditions pertaining to the first. In the Wellington Education Board's district elections will take place at the following schools:—Marlborough: Koromiko, Waikawa Pa, French: Pass; Wairarapa: Puketoi, Putara, Lansdowne, Horoeke, "Waihakeke.

6<sup>th</sup> December 1934 Miss F Mortimer Sole Teacher appointed

20<sup>th</sup> March 1936 Mr. A. G. Featonby, to Puketoi;

22<sup>nd</sup> October 1940 Mr A G Featonby Sole Teacher Muhunoa from Puketoi

**National Archives: Buildings and Sites:** Puketoi 1902 500 Square Feet as at February 1951'

Residence 3 rooms and a scullery Section 4 Block IV Mt Cerebus Puketoi

Consolidated on Pongaroa 1947

14<sup>th</sup> September 1906 Residence . 1908 removed to central Site. In 1910 additions to residence In 1945 Electric heaters and water in residence