

Matawhero 1919- 1921 At Matawhero Station just South of Kahutara Road and Lake Ferry Junction



11th February 1919 Matawhero Aided School, sole teacher Miss E. S. (*Elsie*) Aitchison

2nd May 1919 Matawhero Aided School, £140.(including contribution by parents) and free lodgings. Advertisement

7th June 1919 Matawhero Aided School, sole teacher, Miss M. R. Kearney. Appointment

Roll 9 Meta R Kearney Salary £140

Meta Rabey Kearney was in Nelson Electorate in 1914 and in Matawhero in 1919 (Listed as spinster)

Father Alexander Mother Meta. It appears that Meta came out to Australia without her parents. Her Father was Dean of a Protestant Church in Ireland. Her parents married in 1871. Alexander was still Dean of Elphin in 1917. Elphin is in Northern Ireland

In 1903 Meta was in Wannon, Victoria as a governess

In 1911 Meta Kearney was giving talks in Tasmania

Died 15th March 1950 aged 76 . There was in the death notice no mention of any other family or friends.

27th January 1921 Resignation Miss M R Kearney, second teacher Matawhero (*As written in paper*)

1914, 1915 M R Kearney Teaching at Elaine Bay, Pelorus Sound 6 children Listed as governess

15th June 1921 M R Kearney appointed to Lochmara (aided) Queen Charlotte Sound. Not teaching at Lochmara in 1923

Matawhero was the home of the Allen Family

This appears to be a two year school as no further references were found

Wellington Archives All material came from Matawhero File

27th August 1918 Letter from J Gilpin Hataitai Wellington address Stating that as he/she was unable to take a sole teacher position would he be eligible to take position of teacher in an aided school Reply Wellington Education Board has no positions available in in aided school

2nd September 1918 Secretary Wellington Education Board to Mr J McMaster asking to you still want to open a school at Tutarata (sic) if so please fill in form and return

26th September 1918 Memo to Inspector re application from Mr J McMaster for the establishment of a school at Tuhitarata

18th October Reply to Mr McMaster that Mr Stuckey will visit on the 23rd inst.

Application for a school

| Parent | Occupation | Acres Owned | Child | Age |
|---------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----|
| C N Allen | Farmer | 1700 | Doris May | 13 |
| | | | Thelma Grace | 11 |
| | | | Freda Sybil | 10 |
| | | | Ernest Ronald | 8 |
| | | | Gladys Emma | 7 |
| John McMaster | Farmer | 1030 | Keith Stuart | 9 |
| G Craven | Shepherd | | Phyllis | 7 |
| | | | | |

- a) None of these children were on a school roll
- b) Pirinoa 5 miles away, Dyerville 9 miles and Kahautara 9 miles
- c) Building 16 foot x 14 foot 6 inches, 10 foot high 2 windows and fireplace. Owned by Mr Allen Cost Free
- d) Teacher accommodation in same building and £40 charge for board and lodgings
- e) Nearest Post Office Tuhitarata
- f) Application by John McMaster

9th September Letter from John McMaster included

- a) Apologise for late return of application but got "knocked out" with influenza and couldn't do any business for over a month
- b) I am willing to find £40 for teachers board in addition to other charges
- c) Mr Craven is not in a position to assist
- d) Now with the Board's assistant of £ 8 per child the total sum for running the school will be £ 136 per annum
- e) Will this be enough for us to proceed?

20th September Letter from Mr McMaster asking for a reply to his letter

26th September Reply: I hope to forward a definite reply in the course of a few days

Undated memorandum from Mr F G A Stuckey inspector of schools included

- a) That a school be established at Matawhero from the beginning of next year (1919)
- b) That Matawhero may be required to attend Pirinoa School for the annual examination if necessary
- c) That the Board may require some of the Kohunui native children to be admitted to the Matawhero School

26th October Letter from Mr Stuckey to Mr Stewart Secretary of Wellington Education Board included

- a) Called into Matawhero on my way to Pirinoa

- b) The room is quite acceptable about 15 foot x 14 foot with a double window and a fireplace
- c) Mr Allen has a family of small children (About 7 all told)
- d) Some of which have been attending very irregularly the Pirinoa School The distance from his house is approximately 5 miles
- e) The establishment of a school would ease the work of the teacher at Pirinoa and might ease the need for more accommodation at that school
- f) It might be convenient to direct at some further date some of the native pupils to

10th December Letter to Mr E W Allen from Secretary of Wellington Education Board

- a) Rules as above
- b) That accommodation be provided for teacher free of charge
- c) The Wellington Education Board pays £8 per child on the average attendance
- d) That the settlers will add £40 per annum to add to the grant
- e) Salary with average attendance of 7 would be £96
- f) The Board will endeavour to open the school on 4th February 1919

Name: Meta Rabey Kearney
Residence: 1930 -, Wentworth, New South Wales, Australia Occupation Teacher

Name: Meta Rat Kearney
Residence: 1931 -, Darling, New South Wales, Australia

Name: Meta Rahey Kearney
Residence: 1934 -, North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Name: Meta Kober Kearney
Residence: 1935 - North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Name: Meta Robey Kearney
Residence: 1936 - North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Name: Meta Rabey Kearney
Residence: 1943 -, East Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Name: Meta Rabey Kearney
Residence: 1949 -, Bennelong, New South Wales, Australia