

Muhunoa East

1900-1907

1907	112	Ohau/Side School	Feist	Adolph M	D1	Head Master	£225.00	\$30.00
1907	112	Ohau/Side School	Tew	Winifred E H	D2	Assistant Female	£105.00	
1907	112	Ohau/Side School	Atkinson	Mary E		Assistant Female	£85.00	

3rd May 1900 Wellington Education Board An application was received for the establishment of an aided school at Muhunoa, about three miles from the present Ohau School. The Ohau committee wrote objecting to the proposal, urging that it would tend to weaken the present school. It was decided to suggest to _ the committee that it should subsidise a cart for the conveyance to and from- the present school of children living at a distance. [An aided school is where the community pay all the costs and the Education Board pays the school a sum of money based on the roll.]

28th June 1900 It was reported that parents on the Muhunoa road declined to provide conveyances so that their children might attend the Ohau School.

4th March 1903 Wellington Education Board With regard to the Kimberley road and Upper Muhunoa schools, it was reported a new road was being made to connect the districts, in which case one school would serve the needs of both places. The department's offer of a subsidy towards the cost of conveying children living at the extremity of the road, the report stated, was still available. The report was adopted.

5th October 1904 Wellington Education Board Inspector Bakewell reported in favour of a new side school at Muhunoa, three to four miles from Ohau.

1st September 1905 Wellington Education Board Granted Ohau a tank for side school

25th November Election meeting at the Ohau East School

27th November 1905 Election Meeting notice OHAU EAST—At Muhunoa East School, TUESDAY, 28th Nov., 8 p.m.

31st May 1906 A deputation representing residents of Muhunoa East, inland from Ohau, interviewed the board in advocacy of the establishment of a school, capable of teaching up to standard VI., iv place of the present school. The chairman said that an inspector would report on the case, and the matter -would come up at the board's next meeting.

29th June 1906 OHAU SIDE SCHOOL. The position of {he Ohau Side School was the subject of a report from the Chief Inspector, Mr. Fleming. The chairman explained that at present there were fifty children three and a half miles away from. Ohau, and the question was whether or not the board should convey the .children to Ohau or build a school on the spot. The chairman, secretary, and chief inspector were appointed a committee to make the best arrangements for the conveyance of children to the present school ; failing that, to erect a new school.

4th March 1907 A difference of opinion lias occurred between the Education Department and the Wellington Education Board regarding the provision of education facilities for the Dyer Settlement and Muhunoa, each of is distant about two and a half miles from Martinborough and Ohau respectively. The department takes up the position" that it would be better that the

children should be conveyed to a central school, rather than the number of small schools should be multiplied, on the ground that such, a course would be not only more economical, but more in the interests of the children, and it is stated that in each case the inspectors have reported in favour of the conveyance of the children. For the Dyer Settlement a school to accommodate the children would cost from £200 to £300, and for Muhunua the cost is estimated at £517,, and in each case, of course, a staff would have to be provided. —The department has finally offered to provide for each place a specially-constructed van for the conveyance of the children, and there the matter rests at present.

9th March 1907 TO THE EDITOR. Sir, In reference to a paragraph published in the Post regarding the difference of opinion existing between the Education Board and the Education Department over the Dyer and Muhunua settlements school question, I would like to correct an error as to distance. In your paragraph it mentions it in each case as being two and a half miles from the present schools. Speaking for Muhunua, I may say that when the inspector (Mr. Fleming) was up about the matter, he selected a site for the proposed new school, the distance- of which is more than four miles from the present Ohau school and would tap children who live two miles further back .still ; so this will show what the Muhunua people are by no means asking for what they should not be entitled to in a new school. For the past two years we have had a side school, about two and a half miles from the main school, and in that short time we have had four changes of relieving teachers, which is by no means satisfactory in regard to the progress of the children. If the school we are asking for is erected, it will benefit at the present time fifty children living within a radius of two miles, besides twenty-three more under school age, who will be benefited as they come on. — am, etc., "B.N, CARPENTER,.

6th April 1907 The Wellington Education Board has received notification that a grant has been made by the Government of £420 for the erection of a school at Muhunua East, near Ohau.

31st May 1907 Wellington Education Board Concerning a grant of -£750 for a school at Ohau, and of £37 10s for half-cost of site at Muhunua East, a sub-committee was appointed to pass plans and invite tenders, for the erection of a school at each place. [The Ohau school had been burnt completely]

31st May 1907 Wellington Education Board The purchase of three acres at Muhunua East should be completed.

26th July 1907 Wellington Education Board Tenders accepted: Erection of school, Ohau, L. Arcus and Son, £566 14s 6d ; erection of school, Muhunua , Arcus and Son, £353 17s 6d:

15th October 1907 Horowhenua County Council The bridge oh the Muhunua road will be finished today or at latest on Monday.

1908

1908	42	Muhunua East	Blake	Bertie N T	C2	Head Master	£165.00	\$20.00
1908	42	Muhunua East	Bell	Ruth A		Assistant Female	£85.00	

The \$20.00 means that a residence was not provided for the first year after which a house was provided at the school.

Bertie N T Blake started teaching for the Wellington Education Board in 1904 at Johnsonville School. In 1905 he was sole charge teacher at Horokiwi School. In 1906 & 1907 he was at Horoea School out in the Puketois the most Northerly school of the Wellington Education Board on the East of the Tararuas. He then came into town at Muhunua. Before going back to Wellington to Teach at Mount Cook Boys until about 1917 when he had a B A and by 1919 at the Normal School with an MA. [Normal School was the name for a school attached to a training College and used to train students.] Became an Inspector for Auckland Education Board in 1927.

Ruth A Bell was a Pupil Teacher at the Terrace DHS in 1906. In 1907 she was at Kaitara School, Known locally as Morrison's Bush just east of Greytown on the road to Martinborough Then after 2 years at Muhunua East was at Rongokokako 7 Kilometres west of Eketahuna in 1910 and 1911 and didn't teach again for the Wellington Education Board In 1912 was Teaching at Te Rehunga school for the Hawkes Bay Education Board.

15th January 1908 Muhunua East (new)— Sole Teacher, £160 and £20 (probable)

13th February 1908 Mr B Blake appointed

27th March 1908

8th April 1908 Muhunua School Assistant Mistress Muhunua East School (Near Ohau) Assistant Mistress £80

5th May 1908 Miss Bell, who has been for some time assistant teacher at Monson's Bush School, has left to take up a similar position at Muhunua East School. [Morison's Bush is the local name for the Kaitawa School]

28th August 1908 Wellington Education Board That application be made for a residence at Muhunua East

28th August 1908 Mr Davies Wellington Education Board Agriculture Instructor reported At Muhunua the school ground was being laid out in gardens and the work promised well.

25th September 1908 Consideration was deferred by the Education Board yesterday of applications for residences in connection with the schools at Muhunua and Tokomaru

1909-1910

1909	34	Muhunua East	Blake	Bertie N T	C2	Head Master	£185.00	House
1909	34	Muhunua East	Bell	Ruth A		Assistant Female	£90.00	
1910	28	Muhunua	Blake	Bertie N T	C1	Head Master	£190.00	House

13th January 1909 The Government has. agreed, states the Horowhenua "Chronicle" to build teachers' residences at Waikanae, Reikiorangi, Tokomaru, and Muhunua

29th January 1909 It was reported that the Education Department 'had allocated -grants tor teachers' residences as Tokomaru, £420; Waikanae, £400; Hastwell, .£410- Muhunua, .£410;

30th April 1909 Tenders to build gates W Pringle £24

8th May 1909 On Sunday Mr Braddock will peach in the new Muhunua School

30th July 1909 Wellington Education Board pays a library subsidy of £2. Which meant the school had purchased £4 worth of books

9th December 1909 On December 7th, 1909, at Nurse Murphy's Private Hospital, Abel, Smith street [Wellington], to Mr and Mrs B. T., Blake, of Muhunua, East Ohau— a ; daughter.

1909/13270	Blake	Lorna Wenonah	Eva Jessie	Bert Newman Thornton
1912/10855	Blake	Zina Jessie	Eva Jessie	Bert Newman Thornton
1916/7486	Blake	Mary Joan	Eva Jessie	Bertie Newman Thornton

24th February 1910 In committee this afternoon the Education Board confirmed the transfer of Miss Bell from Muhunua to Rongokokako. [Drop in Roll]

25th February 1910 The annual picnic of the children attending Muhunua East School took place on Wednesday at the Ohau River Reserve. A dance was held in the schoolroom -in the evening

1911-1913

1911	28	Muhunua	McCaul	Enid L	C2	Female	£150.00	House
1912	29	Muhunua East	McCaul	Enid L	C2	Female	£155.00	House
1913	20	Muhunua East	McCaul	Enid L	C2	Female	£160.00	House

Enid McCaul started as a pupil teacher in 1897 at Newtown [Wellington] school in 1897. In 1901 and 1902 she was a pupil teacher at Mount Cool Girls'. From 1904 to 1906 she was at Pahiatua School. From 1907 until 1910 She was back in Wellington teaching at Island Bay School. Following her three years at Muhunua Eat she taught at Gladstone School as head of the school

1916/4270	Isabella Enid	McCaul	Peter Henderson	Dodds
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9th March 1911 . FOR SALE—Pony Turnout. Pony 6 yrs, staunch and clean. Pony cover. Harness in good condition Pony cart newly cushioned and varnished. £23. Apply or write to B. T. BLAKE, Muhunua East School Ohau

11th April 1911 Muhunua East (Near Ohau) Sole Teacher £150 to £180 and house

10th March 1913 ANNUAL .SCHOOL PICNIC. Owing to the weather being unpropitious in the morning the picnic was held in the school grounds. In the afternoon the weather cleared up beautifully and there was a good .attendance, both of children and adults, and a very enjoyable time was spent. The results of races were as follows :

- Boys' race, under 15 years. H. Stratton 1. H. Webb 2.
- Boys' race, under 12 years.- -B. Webb S. Death 2.
- Boys' race, under 8 years.- --V. Death 1. S. Stratton 2.
- Little 'boys race.--Norris Taylor 1. .Master Compton 2.
- Girls race, under 13 years. —C. Taylor 1. V. Reid 2.
- Girls' race, under 10 years. E Reid 1, R. Death 2.
- Girls' three legged race, under 13 .E Reid and E Webb 1
- Girls' three-legged race, under 10 - -G. Taylor and 1. Death 1.
- Boys' kangaroo race.- H. Webb 1 J. W. Reid 2.

Boys' three legged race. B. Webb 1, R. Reid 2.
 Wheelbarrow race.- H. Webb and J. Death 1.
 Sack race H. Webb 1. J. Rolleston 2.
 Little boys' high jump.- -Walter Wilton q
 Boys" under 8 years high jump . – Fred Death 1.
 Boys' under 12 years High Jump B. Webb 1.
 Boys under 15 years high jump.---H. Webb 1.
 Men's High Jump. - - T. Field 1. T. Osborne 2.
 Old boys' race.-'R Rolleston 1. H. Death 2.
 Young men's race. H. Death J Crowe 2. .
 Married men's race.--B. Mexted A. Webb 2.
 Hop, step and jump (distance 36 feet). B. .Mexted 1, B. Osborne 2.
 Guessing competition for ladies .--Mrs Webb 1, .Mrs Crowe 2.
 Tug of war. ladies, married v. single.—dead heat.
 Tug of war. men. married v r . single. Married won.
 Men's 100 yds race—H. Horrobin 1. .J Crowe 2.

At the end every child was the proud possessor of a prize. .Miss -McCall,[Sic] schoolmistress, an energetic committee. and the ladies are worthy of great praise for the complete and expeditious [sic] way the arrangements were carried- out, and one and all contributed to make the day what it. has even been—a delightful outing for young and old.

30th April 1913 Wellington Education Board are to put a skylight in the residence

21st May 1913 Great interest was taken in tin. lantern lecture given at the Muhunoa East schoolhouse on Monday evening. The residents in the valley turned up well, for the night was not at all inviting. The scenes in the Waitomo Caves were graphically described by Mr J. W. Gibson, and the beautiful slides lent by the Tourist Department backed up his statements the one of the underground river being especially line. Pleasure was expressed that the Government intend to enlarge the hotel (now containing thirty rooms). It is to be considerably enlarged. Competitive essays among the young folk, present were invited. They are to deal with the picture trip and be handed to Miss McCaul (the head mistress). These should prove a lasting benefit lo the rising generation , who to their credit be it said voted the proceeds last night to Dr. Barnado's Homes, in preference to the local school prize fund. Vote.--of thanks were heartily given to the lanternist (Mr W. Read), and the lecturer, when the latter, on returning thanks, expressed the surprise that similar gatherings were no more regularly held in sparsely populated parts during the winter months.

30th May 1913 Subsequent to delivering a lecture to the schoolchildren of Muhunoa .East (on the Waitomo caves) Mr J. W. Gibson donated prizes for the two best essays written regarding the lecture. Several competitors sent in essays, and the editor of The Chronicle was asked to judge them. He awarded first prize In over 11 division to Edna Webb, and first prize in the under 11 division to Rita Death. The essays wore decidedly meritorious for the work of such young children.

14th November 1911 Wellington Education Board call for tenders for painting the school and residence.

13th July 1913 The Muhunoa East School committee asked the Horowhenua County Council to-day to fill in a water hole at the end of Florida road. It was only a- few chains from the

school and was dangerous to the children going to and from the school.- - the County Engineer said that the request was a- reasonable one, and he would attend to the matter.

16th April 1915 The engagement is announced of Miss Enid McCaul, elder daughter of Mrs. M. M. McCaul of Gladstone, to Mr. Peter H. Dodds Gladstone, late of Crookham, Northumberland, England.

1914-1915

1914	17	Muhunoa East	Galt	Lionel		Master	£135.00	House
1915	14	Muhunoa	Galt	Lionel		Master	£135.00	House

Lionel Galt only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Muhunoa Taught at Upper Shotover near Queenstown 1911-1913 Was only in Southland Electorates.

9th September 1914 Muhunoa East (Railway Station, Ohau) —Sole Teacher, £150 to .£180 and house

21st May 1915 Interest in school matters at Manakau were lukewarm during the last twelve month. A like manifestation was apparent at Muhunoa. The annual meeting of householders lapsed in both townships, and in consequence there was no election of school committees. The Wellington Education Board, to meet the difficulty, is calling meetings for Muhunoa and Manakau. to be held on Monday, 31st May.

1917-1923

1917	14	Muhunoa East	Arcus	Ellen J Mrs	E-85	Sole	£120.00	
1919	14	Muhunoa East	Arcus	Ellen J Mrs	E-84	Sole	£205.00	
1921	14	Muhunoa East	Burch	Margaret L Mrs	E-84	Sole	£230.00	

Ellen J Howan taught at Kaiwhata which was about 50 Kilometres East of Masterton recorded in my Review of Kaiwhata School was this: Ellen J Howan went to school in Foxton and did four years as a pupil teacher at Foxton and then came to the backblocks of the Wairarapa at Kaiwhata. In 1889 Passed her Class E teacher's exam. From 1889 to 1890 was at Manakau School. Then taught at Keruru school [Later renamed Koputaroa in 1908] She was born in 1866 to Samuel and Ellen Jane Howan [Mother had same name as her daughter] 27th August 1895 Arcus—Howan.—On 20th August, at the residence of the bride's parent, Foxton, by the Rev S. Barnett, Peter Leslie, fourth son of Lawrence Arcus, Wellington, to Ellen Jane, second daughter of Samuel Howan, Foxton

1896/8976	Arcus	Colvin Howarth	Ellen Jane	Peter Leslie
1898/7904	Arcus	Peter Leslie	Ellen Jane	Peter Leslie
1900/3759	Arcus	Gilbert Tullock	Ellen Jane	Peter Leslie

Margaret L Burch only taught for the Wellington Education Board under this Surname in 1921

3/3907	Margaret Lucy	Marten	Harry Adolphus	Burch
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Margaret Lucy Marten started teaching for the Wellington Education Board at Ngapopotu school in 1902-1903. Near Tinui East of Masterton close to the Coast. Then taught at Brooklyn school 1904-1905. In 1906 she was at Belvedere School west of Carterton then

from 1907 to 1909 at Pahiatua and from 1910 to December 1912 at the Ponatahi School between Martinborough and Carterton as sole teacher

1914/6367	Burch	Audrey Ruth	Margaret Lucy	Harry Adolphus
1917/2610	Burch	Lloyd Kenrick	Margaret Lucy	Harry Adolphus

17th May 1917 THE Annual Meeting of Householders, In the following school districts. having lapsed, I hereby notify that a meeting will be held in each of the following school on Monday, May 28th, at 8 p.m.. for the purpose of electing a school committee for the respective districts for the year ending 28th February 1918: MUHUNOA. The procedure in connection with this election is exactly the same as that prescribed for the statutory meeting which was fixed for Monday 30th April.

25th June 1918 Liverpool Christmas pudding fund. Muhunoa 10 Shillings

23rd September 1918 Muhunoa Copper Trail Muhunoa East £9 0s 6d

6th January 1909 The results of the examinations of the Muhunoa. East school have been received, and are as follows: —Promoted to Primer 1., Jack and Walter Hyland and Willie Wilde; to Standard II. Mavis Smith; to Standard III., Marjorie Rolston; to Standard IV., Albert and Mercy Wilde, Earl Lawrence and Jean Hyland; to Standard V., Howard Stratton, Rachel Rolston and Dalphne Lawrence, proficiency certificates, Valerio Hyland.

17th April 1919 Messrs C. Waller. A. Death, and Evans, and Mesdames A. Death and R. A. Rolston were elected a committee at Muhunoa East

23rd December 1919 The promotions in the Muhunoa East School were as follows:

To Standard 6.—Howard Stratton, Albert Wilde, Rachel Rolston and - Daphne Lawrence.

To Standard 5.—Earl Lawrence and Mercy Wilde.

To Standard 4.—Daniel Parker and Marjorie Rolston. ,

To Standard 2.—Frank Rolston, Percival Wilde, Ronald Denison and Kenneth Field.

To Standard I.—Jack Parker, William Wilde and Ida Lawrence.

At the closing of the school the children presented Mrs Arcus who is leaving, with a beautiful set of dishes as a small token of their appreciation.

Mrs Arcus in thanking them expressed sorrow at the thought of not being with them from day to day but hoped to see them often as she would always take a lively interest in their future welfare

19th January 1920 Muhunoa, £130 to £160 and' house

29th January 1920 Wellington Education Board accepts Mrs Arcus's resignation

4th March 1920 REQUIRED immediately, bright Companion or Girl just left school; very light duties. —Mr Burch, Muhunoa School

22nd March 1920 A pleasing feature of some of the [country school- in this district is the encouragement of school gardening, and in this connection Muhunoa East occupies a prominent place. At the present time the gardens form quite a picture, and visitors are struck with the industry and neatness of the youthful gardeners, whose labours produce such pleasing results. Muhunoa is an example to many other schools ,and, Mrs Arcus and other gardeners responsible for supervising the work are to be congratulated on this feature of school work.

22nd March 1920 PRIZE-GIVING DAY. The annual picnic and in connection with "the Muhunoa East School was held on Friday. In spite of threatening weather, every family

in the district -was represented, the gathering being one of the largest and most enjoyable that has been held, for many years. The principal items of the day were a sports gathering and the annual presentation of prizes to the pupils, for which Mr A. S. Death, chairman, and other members of the School Committee had made ample arrangements, and it was entirely due to these gentlemen, with the support of the ladies, that the day was so successful.

The sports programme passed off very successfully, but as the ground was wet from the rain in the early morning, it was decided, to draw for the prizes in the married ladies and men's races and strangely enough the gentleman who had won the latter event on three previous occasions drew the lucky number and again, got the prize.

The presentation of prizes was made by the Mayor of Levin (Mr D. W. Matheson) who was introduced by Mr "Death the latter remarking that it was an honour to the district to have Mr Matheson present.

Mr Matheson stated, that the honour of the occasion was his, as he deemed it a privilege to be present to see such a gathering of healthy children, while he congratulated the settlers and their wives on holding their lands in spite of the big inducements to sell, and bringing their properties to a still higher state of production, the district containing as it did some of the finest farms in a locality which was renowned for its farming qualities. Mr Matheson then presented the prizes to the winners of the sports events, and to the pupils of the school, and commented on the commendable practice of giving prizes to each of the younger brothers and sisters of the pupils. This generosity would, have good results in fostering kindly feelings for the school among the pupils of to-morrow.

Another important function followed,, that of presenting a piece of plate to Mrs P. Arcus, who is retiring from the position of teacher after four years' service, during the war period. Mr Matheson stated that when the war broke out it was found that a teacher was not available for Muhunoa so Mrs Arcus offered her services and carried on for four years, with the greatest credit to herself and with the utmost benefit and advantage to the school and district. Mrs Arcus had two sons at the front, and -it showed a splendid spirit when she, too, came forward to do her part in the great crisis through which our nation had passed. Mr Matheson concluded with the wish that Mrs Arcus would be long spared to enjoy that health and prosperity which was certainly her due, and which he hoped she would experience.

Mrs Arcus made an excellent reply. She stated that it was not so much the assistance she had been able to render that counted, as it was always found a good principle that when there was any trouble about to go to work and do something. This advice she recommended, to the children, and when they find things do not go as smoothly as they expect, not to run away to Levin or somewhere else, but get busy and everything would work out all right. Mrs Arcus remarked that the four years spent at Muhunoa had been very happy ones, and she enjoyed the work. She appreciated very much the handsome present she had received, and the kindly feelings that accompanied it.

On the call of the Mayor, cheers were given for Mrs Arcus, the School Committee and the new teacher, a Compliment that was also extended to the Mayor and Mrs Matheson by the gathering. Afternoon tea was Supplied in generous style by the ladies of the district, who helped in no small way "to the success and enjoyment of the day.

19th April 1920 It is expected that about 800 children will come to Palmerston on the occasion of the Prince's visit from the following schools in the Wellington education

district:—Koputaroa 46, Levin District High School 290, Makerua 20, Manakau 43, Muhunua East 8, Ohau 45, Shannon 150. Tokomaru 60, Waihenga 13, Levin Convent 40, Weraroa Farm 60.

29th April 1920 MUHUNOA EAST. The committee elected last evening was Messrs. Lawrence, J. Stewart, T. Field, C. Waller and Mrs Birch. Mr Waller was appointed chairman and treasurer, and Mrs Birch secretary. The outgoing committee handed over a credit balance of £10 with which to carry on the work of the school

20th April 1921 At the School Committee election at Muhunua East on Monday evening it was reported that the school children intended paying their tribute to the memory of our soldiers who had made the great sacrifice in the war by making a wreath and sending it to Wellington for the Anzac Day service

16th November 1921 The school essay competition has met with a good response, there being 57 entries, the schools represented being Paekakariki, Waikanae, Paraparamu, Ohau, Muhunua East, Otaki Convent and Levin High School. The subject is "Why should we purchase New Zealand-made goods?" and this will afford the rising generation a good opportunity or reasoning out why they should be loyal to the manufacturers of their own country. Prizes are being offered for the best two essays in each standard, and special prizes for the two best in the competition.

Result Edith Groom was second in Standard VI out of 26 entries

23rd December 1921 At Muhunua East School, "breaking up Day" was made the occasion of a gathering of parents and friends. The children were determined that every guest should enter into, the spirit that characterised the day for themselves, and exerted themselves to entertain, their visitors. Quite informally songs and recitations were given on the lawn. Then Standard VI. pupils received the proficiency certificates won, and the prize presented by the Levin Chamber of Commerce for an essay on "Why we should buy New Zealand made goods," was handed to Edith Groome. No sooner was this little ceremony over than two girls appeared with a bran tub, into which the ladies were invited to dip for useful specimens of the hand-work done by the pupils during the year. An "advertisement competition" was won by Mrs Gardner. After afternoon tea had been served—and the little folk served it well—the children raced and romped till it was time to dispense. "God Save the King," "Three cheers for our Teacher," and the gay little group gradually scattered holidays had really begun.

18th February 1922 The Muhunua School held their annual picnic on Friday on Mr Gorrie's property at a beautiful spot near the river. There was a large attendance of parents, and the picnic was a great success, everybody enjoying themselves thoroughly.

27th April 1922 MUHUNOA EAST. At the meeting of householders, held in the school on Monday, the following were elected a Committee for the ensuing year; Messrs. G. E. Lawrence, A. Cooper, G. E. Denton (secretary), T. W. Field (treasurer), C. E. Waller (chairman). The following resolutions were carried: That this meeting of householders condemns the policy of the Government in reducing the grant to education; that this meeting considers the action of the Government, in reducing the grant to be inimical to the interests of the children of New Zealand, particularly those of country districts, who are already handicapped.

20th May 1922 Recently a capital master rolled up at Muhunua State Schoolhouse when the Rev. G. Frost, of Levin, showed some excellent lantern slides, the property of Mr W. Gibson,

who last year tramped over to Milford Sound, and so was able to describe the various views. The proceeds are to be devoted to Dr. Barnardo's Children's Homes.

Post 1922

18th December 1925 Some three years ago the Muhunua East School, situated under the hill and about three miles distant from Ohau, was closed on account of the gradually- diminished attendance, and the scholars were conveyed to the Ohau school.

At different times the conveyance of these children has been undertaken by various residents in the Muhunua district, but at a considerable loss to themselves. Mr C. I. Harkness, who represents this on the Wellington Education Board, has persistently drawn the Board's attention to the fact that sixpence per head (yielding in the vicinity of from 6d to 5s per day for the run) was quite inadequate for the carriage of children, and did not- represent 50 per cent, of the costs to the owners of the conveyance. From time to time have protests and applications been made to the Department of Education for the granting -of an amount up to 12s 6d per day, but these requests have been as consistently turned down by the Department, At the last Board meeting this matter was again brought forward by Mr Harkness, and on his representations it was resolved to accept the only alternative, that is, to re-open the Muhunua School . The local member pointed out that this was the only course open to them under the circumstances, in view of the Department's action, and he moved accordingly the resolution being carried. The mover said it was to be hoped that the residents of the district would support the school, by seeing that a good attendance was maintained.

First Note is in 1927 when a school committee was elected/

Kete Horowhenua Information re Muhunua East School

School closed 2005

By 1904, the Ohau School was overcrowded and a side school was opened on 3rd February, 1904, in a small hall just over the Muhunua East Bridge on the east side. [The hall was subsequently moved further up Muhunua East Road for use as a hay shed on Triplow's farm - as shown in the photo on the right taken about 1980.]

There were 16 pupils on the Roll at the commencement, and Miss Arcus was the first teacher. This school which was under the jurisdiction of Mr. Feist (Head Master of the Ohau School) catered for children in the primers and up to and including Standard II only. (As the writer had passed into Standard III at this time he had to continue to go to Ohau School until he left in December 1907).

The teachers who followed were Miss Hurley, Miss Sullivan, Miss Newton (later Mrs. F. Roe of Levin) and Miss Atkinson.

First Day Pupils:

Dennis Campion; James, Thomas and Dorothy Cooper; Gertrude and Lillian Death; Frank and Elsie Joll; Stanley and Godfrey Read; Robert, Elizabeth and John Rolston; Myrtle Whiley; Edgar and Edward Williams.

Others who attended later were Ruby Arup; Glen and Madge Campion; Henry, Eva, Elsie, Sylvia and Joseph Death; James Denton; Eric and Rachel Joll; Alice, Edward, Leonard, Cyril

and Irene Nicholson; Charles, Stanley, William and Morgan Read; James and Penwill Rolston; Arthur, Herbert, Spencer and Eileen Stratton; Ian and Topsy Taylor; Edna, Franklin and Harry Webb; Valentine Whiley; Leonard and Mary Williams.

As there were only lady teachers in charge of the school, the older boys took advantage of them and constituted to some extent an unruly element rather hard to control.

One day a fight was on; this time it was two girls that were involved; Lizzie ---- and Eileen -- --. They had had a “tiff” or something, the cause of which I never could find out. Both were in the right and neither would capitulate, and it was agreed between the two parties to settle the matter with a fight. The contest was to take place after school and the teachers had left and only on condition that no boys were present.

Some of the other girls were evidently in possession of the information which was to be kept secret, but in some mysterious way it leaked out. The boys had heard a whisper. Were they interested? They sure were ... “For boys will be boys”. The contest duly took place in the schoolroom and believe it or not the big boys were spectators unobserved. The girls wore long hair at that time and whether hair pulling or fists were used is not quite clear, but probably both had their place – neither side won, it was a draw and the contest well worthwhile, for they were good friends ever after. Lizzie who was one of the contestants gave me the information many years after. She has now passed on.

School at the Foot-hills



The land for the permanent school was purchased from Mr. Alex Campion by the Wellington Education Board, and the school was built in 1907, by Mr. P. Arcus, at a cost of £305.5.0. The school which constituted one room and porch was a complete primary school, primers to standard VI, and was opened in February, 1908, with 52 pupils on the Roll. [Drawing on left shows the school in 200?.]

The first teachers were Miss Atkinson in charge and Miss Armstrong as assistant teacher.

The school opening was celebrated with a picnic and a dance held in the evening when Mr. A. Dean supplied the music with an accordion.

Shortly after the opening of the school, also in February, 1908, a great fire fanned by a north-easterly gale swept across the foot-hills of the Tararua Ranges, and across the flat land of the district.

At this time the country was covered with stumps and logs the aftermath of the bush which had been felled, some years previously, and by this time was in a dry and decaying condition, and the sparks from several fires were carried by the gale, and in a very short time the whole of the foot-hills and country-side was ablaze.



The smoke from the inferno was almost suffocating. The children in the school were smoked out like bees in a hive, and Miss Atkinson sent them all home in the afternoon.

This was a very anxious time for the settlers as all their homes and other buildings were in danger from flying sparks, and the gale made it more difficult. The home of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dean on Florida Road was completely burnt to the ground. The timber for this home had been pit sawed by hand by Mr. Dean and his brother William and it must have been truly hard to see it all go up in smoke. The large Rimu and Rata logs and stumps took many days to burn out.

The school residence was built in 1909. [Drawing on left shows the school house to the left of the school.] The builder being Mr. William Pringle of Levin, and the cost £385.8.0. Mr. B.T. Blake, M.A., was appointed Head Teacher in 1909, and was the first to occupy the residence. Miss R.A. Bell was the assistant teacher. Up till this time the older boys had taken advantage of the lady teachers and had become most unruly. On the coming of Mr. Blake someone must have tipped him off as to the unruly element.

The very first day there was a straightening up of things in which the birch played a prominent part, and the boys were suddenly reduced to second place.

Their heroism had abated. My brother Jim informed me that he earned two strokes with a green supplejack 2 hours after opening.

Mr. Blake was regarded as a teacher of outstanding ability and the children made good progress under his tuition.

Unfortunately the School Roll declined after a few years, owing to several large families leaving the district, and the school lost its grade.

Mr. Blake went to a position at Mt. Cook school Wellington. He gained rapid promotion, was appointed to the Inspectorate, and later became Chief Inspector to the Wanganui Education Board. He died in January, 1946, at the comparatively early age of 63 years.

Numbers attending the school continued to decline and in 1922 the school was closed, and remained so until it was reopened in 1926.

Teachers who taught at the school at the foot-hills, Muhunua East, were Miss Atkinson, Miss Armstrong, Mr. B.T. Blake, M.A., Miss Bell, Miss Sullivan, Miss McCall, Mr. Grant, Mr. Galt, Miss Feist, Mrs. Arcus, Mrs. Birch, Miss Hooper, Miss Brand, Miss McKinlay, Miss Shepherd, Miss Rule, Miss Wright, Mrs. Dring, Miss Shirley, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Nees, Mr. Fentonby, Miss Fullarton, Mr. Finley, Mr. Andrew, Mr. Holder, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Morgan, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Taylor, Mr. May, Mr. Kull (present teacher).

Over the years the school room was used in the evenings for social functions such as dances and political meetings etc. Also religious services were held there on Sundays for a time by the Anglicans and Methodists, they taking alternative Sundays.

Bible in school lessons are conducted in the school for a period of half an hour one day each week. Mr. R. Greenfield conducted these from about 1961 to 1966, and now 1967 the lessons are given by Mr. W.H. Rolston, Mr. Greenfield having been given another school.

The School Log Book of 1904-1922 and other official records appear to be lost.

Early in January, 1926, the following petition was drawn up by residents and forwarded to the Education Board.

“We the undersigned, residents of Muhunua East, being desirous of having the Muhunua East School re-opened, respectfully ask you to do so in time to start the New Year, the present arrangements being unsatisfactory.

(Signed) J. Bertram, W.H. Miles. A. Evans,
H.H. Stratton, A. Cooper, A.M. Colquhoun,
T.A. Burling, H.H. Aldwick, A.S. Death,
R.A. Rolston.”

A reply dated 21st January, 1926, was received by the Committee Chairman, Mr. C.E. Waller, stating that the Board had decided to re-open the Muhunua East School as a separate school from 1st February, 1926.

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