

Ngaio

1907

14th October 1907 A largely attended meeting of residents of Crofton was held in All Saints Church Room last week to discuss the question of establishing a public school in the district. The outcome of the meeting was a resolution that Mr Wilford, M.H.R. for the district, be asked to arrange with the Minister of Education to receive a deputation requesting that a school may be established forthwith in an available building temporarily, and that a school site and permanent school be provided by the Government as soon as possible.

15th October 1907 A large deputation of Crofton residents, introduced by Mr. Wilford, M.H.R., waited on the Minister for Education yesterday in regard to the necessity of erecting a school at Crofton. Representations have been made to the Education Board on the matter, and the board is willing to help the residents, but suggested that an application should be made to the department for £1300. The deputation asked the Minister to provide for the rent of a temporary building available at Crofton, and to undertake the purchase of a site. The Hon. Mr. Fowlds said he was prepared to recommend the payment of rent for a temporary building, and he would also consider the question of procuring a site one of which had been offered to the board for £365.

1908-1910

1908	28	Ngaio	Page	Margaret	D1	Female	£144.00	£20.00
1909	34	Ngaio	Page	Margaret	D1	Female	£155.00	£20.00
1910	37	Ngaio	Page	Margaret	D1	Female	£160.00	£20.00

The £20.00 in the far right hand column is because a residence was not provided.

In 1882 another Mary Page started for the Wellington Education Board and this Mary went under the name of Margaret Page

Margaret Page [Also recorded as Mary in Staffing Lists.] started teaching for the Wellington Education Board as a pupil teacher at Mount Cook Infants' in 1879 and was there until 1883. In 1884 and 1885 she was at Te Aro all as a pupil teacher, From 1887 to 1900 she was Head Female at Thorndon Infants'. Then from 1900 at the Thorndon school as an assistant.. Then in 1906 and 1907 she was at the Normal/model school which was attached as a teaching arm of the Wellington Training College. From 1908 to 1912 when her career ended for the Wellington Education Board she was the first teacher at Ngaio School

28th February 1908 Wellington Education Board: The application of Crofton for the Opening of a school in a rented building was granted.

16th March 1908 Cabinet has agreed to give a £ for £ subsidy for the purchase of a school site at Crofton, £18 for the erection of school outbuildings, there, and also to allow 10s. a week for the rent of premises for a school in that district. The school site is to cost about £350.

27th March 1908 Wellington Education Board: Crofton—A subsidy of £ for £ was offered towards the cost of a school site at Crofton, with the addition, of; a grant for the rent of a

temporary; building. It was decided on the motion, of Mr. Hogg, that application he made for an unconditional grant of £200 towards the purchase of a site.

24th April 1908 Evening Post: . Complaint is made in a letter to the editor by "Crofton Resident" as to the method adopted by the Education Board in appointing a teacher for the infant school to be established at Crofton. The Education Board states that no appointment has yet been made, and no appointment will be made until the monthly meeting on Thursday next.

13th May 1908 Wellington Education Board: Crofton, sole teacher. Miss Page;

14th May 1908 There is a possibility that the name of Crofton will be changed in the near future. Mr J. G. Harkness intimated at the meeting of the Onslow Borough Council last evening that there was a possibility of a new post office being erected at Crofton, and as there was a Crofton near Halcombe, in the Rangitikei district, it would cause confusion to have two places with the same name. Councillor Aplin, "I think it would be advisable for the other Crofton to alter its name." (Laughter.) Mr Harkness explained that in the ordinary course the Council would be asked to suggest a name. So far as he was aware. Sir Wm. Fox had given Crofton its name and having a farm in the Rangitikei district he has also given it the same appellation. Councillor' Kiernan pointed out that considerable inconvenience and confusion in connection with the postal and telegraphic service had resulted, owing to duplication of the names; as Crofton in the Rangitikei was the larger place, the smaller township should alter its designation.

26th June 1908 The question of procuring a site for a school at Crofton was considered by the Education Board yesterday. Application was recently made to the Department for a grant towards purchasing a site. This the Department declined to grant but offered to give half the price of the land up to the sum of X 175. The secretary reported that the Board had a definite offer of a site, "the cost of which was £335. The Department had pointed out that the Board had the power to purchase sites out of certain funds, but these were at present on the debit side. (Under the circumstances it was decided to take no action in the matter in the meantime-

13th August 1908 . The Postal Department refused to establish a post office for Crofton, as a Crofton already exists in the Rangitikei district, and duplication could not be permitted, so last night the Onslow Borough Council carried a resolution to the effect that the name be changed to Ngaio. It was stated that residents preferred that name to any other if a change at all was imperative. Several Councillors endeavoured to have the name altered to Onslow, but it was considered that the adoption of that name would lead to confusion

25th September 1908 Wellington Education Board Crofton, that the chairman, inspector and clerks of works visit Crofton.

10th October 1908 The difficulty under which the Education Board and the Crofton people laboured in consequence of the impossibility of obtaining a suitable site for a school has been solved by the presentation of an acre of ground to the board on behalf of the Crofton Downs Estate. The site is beautifully situated on the slope overlooking the railway station, and has been selected by Mr. Lee, the chairman, and Mr. Stewart, the secretary, after visiting the locality in the company' of Mr. Rounthwaite, the engineer who is roading the estate. It is understood that the money required for a school has been available for some time, and that the building will be erected without further delay.

30th October 1908 Wellington Education Board: . That Dr. Chapple be thanked for his offer of a school site at Crofton, and that the matter be reported upon by the chairman and inspector.

2nd December 1908 The Railway Department has agreed to follow the Postal Department's precedent in re-naming Crofton. The new, designation of the station will be Ngaio

29th January 1909 NGAIO SCHOOL SITE. The board decided to accept with thanks Dr Chappie's offer to sell portions of two' sections near Ngaio (Crofton) station as a site for the now school and give land which would bring the area of the site up to' an acre.

30th July 1909 The designation of .the' Crofton School has, been changed to "Ngaio," in conformity with the change .which has .been made in the postal. and railway designation of, that suburb. In deciding upon the- change yesterday, the Education Board was within' as ace of being involved in a conflicting controversy over, .the general question of Maori nomenclature. Mr. A H. Vila--.wanted to know the precise significance of the word, "Ngaio," -justifying, his curiosity by pointing - .out that many of our Maori place names were capable of "scandalous interpretation. Mr; W- C. Buchanan thought that the spelling of the word should be ' ; N-g-a-i-a-o, and was referred to Mr. W. H., Field, who was named as: an authority, on the matter. Mr; Buchanan drily suggested that the. question required a: weightier authority. Someone 'then went out and. Procured a Maori dictionary, 'and members' submitted to "weight",' of the volume which assorted that "Ngaio", meant: "a little tree.

30th July 1909 Wellington Education Board: the Works Committee recommended that application be made to the department for a grant for one room at Ngaio

28th September 1910 Wellington Education Board: ; Ngaio (gorse grubbing), J. Pender £4 10s.;

17th December 1910 At the breaking-up ceremony of the Ngaio School yesterday, after singing a number of Christmas carols, the children presented Miss Page, the headteacher, with a handsome hand-bag and purse, Mr. Mainwaring making the presentation on their behalf

1911-1912

1911	45	Ngaio	Page	Margaret	D1	Head Female	£180.00	£25.00
1911	45	Ngaio	Whitcombe	Minnie A	D2	Assistant Female	£110.00	
1912	50	Ngaio	Page	Margaret	D1	Head Female	£185.00	£25.00
1912	50	Ngaio	Whitcombe	Minnie A	D2	Assistant Female	£115.00	

Minnie A Whitcombe started teaching in 1896 for the Wellington Education Board at Mt Cook School in 1897. Then from 1897 to 1901 still a pupil teacher she was at Tawa Flat. Then as a Mistress she was at Porirua from 1901 to 1910. Followed in 1911 to 1917 at Ngaio. Then in 1919 to at least 1921 she was at Johnsonville Newland school as Infant Mistress before being in 1923 at Miramar South School. Retired in December 1931 after serving Wellington Education Board for 35 ¼ years.

When Minnie Agnes Whitcombe was born on 5 January 1878, in New Zealand, her father, William Eustace Whitcombe, was 30 and her mother, Ellen Jenkins, was 20. She died on 27 September 1973, in Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand, at the age of 95, and was buried in Christchurch, Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand.

1974/32303	Whitcombe	Minnie Agnes	5 January 1878
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17th October 1911 The 'Wellington Education Board invites Senders, closing on October 26th, for woks at Ngaio.

1st November 1911 Wellington Education Board: Ngaio— That the board approve purchase of sections 45 and 46, Crofton Downs

7th November 1911 On Friday last a children' 6 bazaar and afternoon tea was held at the Ngaio School. The children were the stallholders, and they managed to dispose of their goods during the afternoon. Afternoon tea was dispensed by Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Ware, Mrs. Waldie, Miss Vickers, and Mrs. Willis, to the large number of visitors. Songs and recitations were given, during the afternoon by Mrs. Burge, Mrs. Plank, and Mrs. Collett. The sum of £13 was realised, and a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by the children and their friends. Great praise is due to the parents and others who made the bazaar such a success.

8th November 1911 Sir,— In your issue of the 1st inst., under the heading "Education Board," appear these words: "The Works Committee recommended as follows : Ngaio — That the board approves purchase of sections 45 and 46, Crofton Downs." Now, sir, beneath these apparently simple words a great deal is concealed, which with your permission I will now bring to light. Some three or four years ago the Education Board, being desirous of securing a site for a school here, sent Mr., Fleming, one of the - inspectors, to inspect a site. At the board's request^ Mr. Mainwaring, J.P., and myself accompanied Mr.. Fleming and inspected several sections, among them being a very suitable section on the main road, centrally situated, with the excavating already done. This section belonged to Mr. Holmes, Sen., a well-known resident here, who offered it to the board (informally) through its inspector, at .practically half its value, for school purposes. Mr. Fleming expressed his approval of the site and promised to recommend its purchase to his board. Years went on, and apparently nothing was done in the matter, (so far as the public was aware) until it was announced the Crofton Downs Syndicate had offered a site for a school to the board, which had been accepted. Now, this site is on the western side of the railway line. The ground is too steep for a playground and is covered with gorse. But its chief objection is that it is in an out-of-the-way locality, on a hillside, right away from the majority of the inhabitants of Ngaio, and only accessible ,by a level railway crossing at a tablet station, where trains are passing all day, and where shunting, etc., is always going on. The majority of the children here will, therefore, for all time b» subject to the risk of being run over or maimed on their way to and from school. I need hardly add that the action of the board deserves very strong censure in thus ignoring its inspector's recommendations for a central site and choosing one so ill fitted in every way for the purposes, of a school. In conclusion, let me add that I have no interest at stake in the matter (as I send' my child to a private school, and 'in view of this death-trap intend doing so in future), but I would like to let the people of Ngaio know how much the Education Board has studied their interests. — I am, ate, A. GIBSON. Ngaio, 4th November.

The matters dealt with in the foregoing letter were brought under the notice of the Secretary of the Education Board (Mr. Stewart), who gave the following reply:— "The Ngaio School, it is to be remembered, is designed to serve two nearly equal areas, situated respectively on the east and west of the railway line. The site chosen stands as nearly as possible in the centre of these areas, under twelve chains west of Ngaio Station, by well formed road, forty-three chains from the point where the road to Kaiwarra begins to descend, under two miles from Khandallah, and at a distance slightly greater from the western than from the eastern boundary of the district served. It is safe to say that four-fifths of the children are within the

half-mile radius, and none are inconveniently distant. Precisely the objection made by the writer to children crossing the railway to reach a western site can, with equal force, be urged by the increasing number of residents on the west to their crossing to reach an eastern site; and equally applies wherever the population is located on both sides of the line. Moreover, safe access to the west is now afforded by a subway under twenty chains (quarter mile) north of Ngaio Station. In 1907, when the provision of school accommodation became urgent, the lands on the west of the line were not roaded or opened up. 'At that time the board (the Inspector approving of the site of Mr. Holmes, as the best then offering, although deficient in playing space) obtained an option of purchase but was unable to exercise it within the limit of time. Further, the offer of the church room removed all reasons of urgency for purchase. About a year later the Crofton Downs Company offered the board, as a gift, about an acre for a school site. After inspection and favourable report by the chairman, inspector, and clerk of works, the offer was accepted, and on their recommendation the board obtained in addition, by purchase, a little over a quarter of an acre, for £175 at the rate paid for adjoining sections. Except for a small expenditure on gorge grubbing and fencing, this was the whole outlay of the board on the Ngaio site, until last week. Practically the whole area can be made available for playground purposes at a very moderate cost for grading. The site mentioned by Mr. Gibson was offered by him to the board for £350, with the suggestion that, to furnish a playing area, the level of the higher portion should be reduced by eight feet, and an adjoining area of an acre and a half be acquired at £450. At the very outside, not more than half of the area offered by Mr. Gibson could have been made available for school purposes. Lately the growth of the population of Ngaio has been such as to convince the board that the area of the site should, if possible, be increased. The Education Department concurred, and a special visit was paid by the board and chief staff officers. Having decided what was most desirable, the board, with the full concurrence of its inspectors, has since purchased two adjoining sections from two private owners at a price which leaves the sellers no margin of profit. Two other sections offered by the Crofton Downs Company were not purchased as being less suitable. I may add that at the last meeting the board accepted a tender for the erection of a school as soon as some necessary grading is completed."

28th November 1911 WELLINGTON EDUCATION BOARD. TENDERS for Earthwork, Ngaio School Site, will be received at the Education Board Office up to Noon of Tuesday, 5th December. Plans, etc., may be seen at the Education Board Office.

27th November 1912 Wellington Education Board: With regard to Ngaio, it was intimated by the department that the course of instruction must conform to that prescribed under the Act. The issue of tree railway passes from Ngaio to Wellington would cease

1913-1916

1913	80	Ngaio	Clark	William H	D1	Head Master	£205.00	£25.00
1913	80	Ngaio	Whitcombe	Minnie A	D2	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1914	102	Ngaio	Clark	William H	D1	Head Master	£210.00	£25.00
1914	102	Ngaio	Whitcombe	Minnie A	D2	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1914	102	Ngaio	Spence	Elizabeth P	D3	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1915	125	Ngaio	Clark	William H	D1	Head Master	£220.00	£30.00
1915	125	Ngaio	Whitcombe	Minnie A	D2	Assistant Female	£130.00	

1915	125	Ngaio	Spence	Bessie P		Assistant Female	£120.00	
1915	125	Ngaio	Hogben	Edward N S		Male Probationer 2	£30.00	

William H Clark started as a pupil teacher in 1894 at Otaki and remained there until 1901 serving 9 years as a pupil teacher. From 1902 until 1907 he was at Kereru North of Levin. Then the school was renamed Koputaroa and he spent until 1912 there. He started at Ngaio in 1913 and was still there in 1923 when my records end. In 1934 he was Headmaster of Miramar Central School

Elizabeth P Spence taught at Ohariu in 1914 and under the name Bessie P Spence at Ngaio in 1915 for the Wellington Education Board

Edward N S Hogben Only taught for Wellington Education Board for this period

29th January 1913 Wellington Education Board: Ngaio asphaltting paths: half cost. Ngaio application for railing on bank be deferred

13th March 1913 Ngaio (near Wellington)— Head Teacher, . £180 to ,£210 and £25 h.a. [Housing allowance] (probable rise in Grade in 1914).

14th March 1913 At its last meeting the Ngaio School Committee passed the following' motion : "That this committee, having been informed of Miss Pages intention to resign from the teaching staff of the Wellington /Education Board, and having 'in view the fact that it will not be in office when she actually severs her connection with the Ngaio School, takes this opportunity of expressing its deep regret at parting from her, and of placing on record its sincere appreciation of her earnest and successful efforts to benefit her scholars intellectually, morally, and spiritually, and trusts she may long enjoy her well-earned rest."

28th March Wellington Education Board Miss M Page head Teacher of Ngaio school resigned

11th April 1913 Ngaio head teacher Mr W Clark (at present at Koputaroa)

19th April H M S New Zealand [Anchored in Wellington Harbour] (Hon. A. L.. Herdman). The visitors were entertained by Captain Halsey. The school children visitors to-day include those from Paekakariki , Tawa Flat, Johnsonville, Ngaio, Linton, and Paraparaumu, besides others from Wanganui and Foxton.

26th April 1913 NGAIO SCHOOL. The Ngaio School Committee, in its annual report, states that during the year just closed the' average attendance, has risen from 50 to 74, an increase of 24. At the beginning of the school. year, in April last, teaching was carried on up to Standard II only, but since the summer vacation the board has made provision for teaching all the standards, and it is hoped that the better facilities now provided will induce all parents in the district to avail themselves of the local school, instead of sending their older children to town. Owing to the capitation scale pressing very hardly upon small schools, the committee has been much hampered by the insufficiency of ordinary funds for the work of the school, but, by means of a canvass of householders and the holding of a concert and a scholars' bazaar, money was raised for the purchase of forms, the . installation of electric light, and the laying down of asphalt paths, the remainder of the sum realised being devoted to the current expenses of the school. During the year, the committee induced the board to plant hedges on the south and east sides of the grounds, and these should in the future afford excellent shelter from the winds. , , , The . committee very much regrets to record the resignation of the head teacher. Miss Page, who opened the school-in hired premises a few years ago as a side

school. and who has. in the face of many difficulties and "discomforts, .laboured to great ability and self-sacrifice. Undoubtedly the present flourishing state of affairs is largely due to her untiring efforts, and the committee desires to place on record its "-warm- appreciation of her services to Ngaio School. She will be succeeded, at the beginning of June, by Mr. W. H.. Clark—now in charge of Koputaroa School who was strongly recommended, by the 'board, and was .selected, practically unanimously by the committee, who feel satisfied that under his capable direction; the progress and efficiency of the school will be fully maintained.

30th April 1913 School Committee: Ngaio. — Mesdames Darvall and Scrimgeour, Messrs. H. Brenton-Rule (chairman), F. Johnson (secretary), L. A. Browne (treasurer), Thomas Barnes, Walter Barnes

19th May 1913 On. Thursday afternoon, at the residence of Mrs. Plank, ladies of Ngaio gave a farewell afternoon tea to Miss Page, who is leaving the Ngaio School. The hostesses, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs, Plank, received their guests in the drawing-room, and a musical programme provided entertainment for the large number of guests. A delightful tea was served in flic dining room, and a very happy time concluded with the singing "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow" and "Auld Lang Syne."

On Friday evening the members of the Ngaio School Committee and friends met at the residence of the chairman, Mr. H. P.. Brenton, who presented Miss Page, on behalf of the committee, with a silver inkstand, suitably inscribed. , Miss Page, in thanking the committee, said that her heart had always been in her leaching, and that she had always enjoyed it. Music and recitations brought a pleasant evening to an end all too soon

26th May 1913 . At the break-up of the Ngaio School for the term holidays on Friday, the children gave an afternoon concert before a large audience of parents and friends, and Miss Page, the retiring head teacher, received from the residents of Ngaio and from the pupils of the school some valuable presents, including a silver inkstand from the Ngaio School Committee. After the concert, afternoon tea was dispensed to the large gathering by Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Darvall, Mrs. Watts, Miss Vickers, Miss Barnes, and Miss Nesta Brown, and a most pleasant afternoon concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

26th May 1913 Koputaroa residents gave the local schoolmaster a send-off on Thursday evening, on the eve of his departure to Ngaio, to which school he has received promotion

31st May 1913 Mr W. H. Clark, headmaster of Koputaroa school for the past twelve years, has resigned to take up a similar position at Ngaio. At the farewell "social" Mr Clark was the recipient of numerous presentations.

26th November 1913 Wellington Education Board that tenders Ube accepted for gorse cutting at Ngaio,

7th May 1914 The annual report of the Ngaio School emphasises the progress of the school from a roll of 25 in 1910 to 107 in 1914. Application has been made to the board for the enlargement of the school by another room,' with the increased attendance the present accommodation is becoming too small. The committee expresses its appreciation of the good work done by the head teacher (Mr. \V. H. Clarke) and his assistant (Miss Whitcombe). A library for the use of scholars has been added to the school, and now contains 200 Volumes. A bazaar in aid of the school funds realised £27 4s Id., and the committee has set aside £10 as the nucleus of a fund for school ground improvement and £10 towards a fund for the purchase of a piano. Through the liberality of residents a further sum of £14s 6d has been

added to the fund, and a piano has been secured. The new, committee is asked to devote attention 'to the provision of more level playing areas for the use of scholars. The outgoing committee considers the only successful way Of dealing with the matter is to level a certain part of the grounds and put down tennis courts for use of scholars and for letting when not in use by the school The financial position of the committee at present is satisfactory. Appreciation is expressed of the hearty co-operation of parents and householders in the various improvements the committee has been able to carry out.

22nd September 1914 The Ngaio School, which opened with an attendance of about fifty pupils, has had an average attendance during the past couple of months of over 100 scholars. During the past two or three years a number of new houses were erected, and building is still going on, though on a more limited scale

7th November 1914 £2 2s 3d Wellington Mayoral Fund

2nd December 1914 Standards 2. 1 and primers £1 5 0

12th December 1914 The Ngaio School Committee has made final arrangements for the annual bazaar in the schoolhouse next week. The whole proceeds arc to be handed over to the Poor of Great Britain and Ireland and Belgium Fund. This will be the culmination of a. series of efforts the school having collected on Guy Fawkes' Day £2 2s 3d. In addition, the scholars of the junior department by means of their own voluntary pence donations have contributed £2 ss, and a canvass of the residents of the district by the seniors has resulted in the taking of about £18, with more still to come in.

23rd December 1914 Proceeds of Canvas [Door Knocking] and bazaar held at Ngaio School £44

3rd April 1915 Poor of great Britain and Ireland Fund: Balance of proceeds of Ngaio School bazaar (balance already received £44), per H. Brenton 19 shillings 4 pence

3rd May 1915 School Committee: The Ngaio School Committee' report: "The school has now 134 scholars on the roll, and the average attendance for April, 1915, was 125. In April, 1914, the roll number was 108, and the average attendance 100. It will be seen from these figures that the roll number and attendance -would have been much better but for an epidemic of 'measles which visited the district in the December quarter and for-some weeks seriously affected the attendance at the school. . . . The committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the good work done by the head teacher, Mr. Clark, and his assistants, Miss Whitcombe and Miss Spence,; and consider that the householders have good reason to congratulate themselves on possessing a staff who have the interests of the children so much at heart."

4th May 1915 At the annua! meeting of the Ngaio School Committee Mr. H. Brenton-Rule ' presided. The new committee elected is as follows:—Mr. H. Brenton-Rule ' (chairman), Mrs. Darvall (secretary), Mr. Williams (treasurer), Mrs. Chatwin and Messrs. L. A; Browne, T. Barnes, and F. Fitch.

4th May 1915 The annual report presented to the meeting of householders at Ngaio last night stated that there were now 134 scholars on the roll, as compared with 108 in April 1914. The average attendance in April of this year was 125. A new room had been added to the school during the year, but ft was apparent that further additions would be required in the near future. Tie head teacher was commended for his endeavours to develop, by means of the school library, a, taste in the scholars for good reading matter. With the gift of a donation,

and subsidies from the committee and the board, some hardy shrubs had been planted in the school grounds. Collections and a successful bazaar had realised the sum of £44 19s 4d for the Belgian Fund. The matter of increasing the level playing area in the school grounds was regarded as of the utmost importance, but the board had declined to assist in a scheme with, this end in view. The report places on record appreciation of the work of the head ' teacher, Mr. Clark, and his staff.

26th May 1915 In a long article about health in schools held by the Wellington Education Board: The Ngaio School Committee recommended that action be taken in regard to medical treatment for children reported by the medical inspector as requiring same.

3rd July 1915 TENDERS, closing 12th July, are invited for Excavating and Levelling portion of Playground at Ngaio District School. (Particulars can be obtained from the Head Teacher at the school, or the Secretary Main-road, Ngaio. M. F. DARVALL, Secretary.

1st September 1915 Wellington Education Board: The application for. fireguards for Ngaio was deferred.

29th September 1915 Wellington Education Board: Removal and ne-erection of outbuildings at Ngaio are to be carried out

11th October 1915 The hon. treasurer of the Mayoress's Countess of Liverpool Fund acknowledges the following donations to the Leather Waistcoat Fund : — Ngaio School (1st and 2nd classes and £1 3s,

16th November 1915 Military Hospital Guild: Pupils of Ngaio School, 5 balaclavas, 10 face cloths, 10 feeders;

14th December 1915 Military Hospital Guild Ngaio School: 18 face clothes

18th December 1915 NGAIO. the Ngaio District School held its annual "break-up" on Thursday, and in his remarks, to the parents, Mr. Brenton-Rule, the chairman, congratulated them on the outlook "for the future. The three candidates for proficiency certificates had been successful, and. the school attendance average had been such as to warrant a third assistant next year. The schoolgrounds have been further improved, through the generosity of the Education Board and of parents, and the committee hopes to shortly lay down a. tennis court for the benefit of the scholars, Mr. Clark, the headmaster, and his staff, were heartily thanked for their whole-hearted interest in the school.

21st December 1915 Countess of Liverpool Fund: Ngaio School pre M Whitcombe 34 face cloths.

1916-1919

1917	138	Ngaio	Clark	William Henry	D-42	Head	£270.00
1917	138	Ngaio	Whitcombe	Minnie A	D-72	Assistant	£160.00
1917	138	Ngaio	McGowan	Mary	B-87	Assistant	£140.00
1917	138	Ngaio	Kennedy	William R		PT3	£55.00
1917	138	Ngaio	Willcock	Lilian A		Probationer 1	£30.00
1919	157	Ngaio	Clark	William Henry	D-41	Head	£350.00
1919	157	Ngaio	Tuely	Catherine B	D-72	Assistant	£220.00
1919	157	Ngaio	McGowan	Mary	B-83	Assistant	£195.00
1919	157	Ngaio	Brownrigg	Alfred H S		PT2	£75.00

Mary McGowan started her career in 1893 at Levin as an assistant female. There was a May McGowan teaching at Pleasant Valley for the South Canterbury Education Board in 1892 but not in 1893 so I presuming they are the same Mary McGowan. In 1898 and 1899 she was sole teacher at Wairere School 37 Kilometres North West of Masterton Then from 1900 to 1904 she was sole teacher at Judgeford School. By 1905 she was at Newtown DHS until 1915. In 1917 and 1919 Mary was at Newtown followed by being at Roseneath school as Infant Mistress until at least 1923.

William R Kennedy was a Pupil teacher at Mount Cook Boys in 1915 a pupil teacher at Ngaio in 1917 an assistant at Island Bay in 1921.

Lilian A Willcock only taught as a probationer for the Wellington Education Board at Ngaio
Catherine B Tuely was teaching for the Hawkes Bay Education Board in 1896 at Mangaatua. For the Wellington Education Board she started in 1897 as sole teacher at Tane School East of Eketahuna on the Mangaone Valley Road] leaving in 1899 for sole teacher at the Kohinui School [North East of Pahiatua] until 1904, In 1908 she was assistant teacher at the Ballance School [North West of Pahiatua. Then 1910 to 1912 she was an assistant at Taita School Followed by 1913 to 1917 at Tokomaru [North East of Levin. Then after 1919 to 1921 she went in 1923 to Mount Cook Girls' school. Retired in 1927

1948/27127	Tuely	Catherine Bertha	75Y
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Alfred H S Brownrigg only taught in 1919 as a pupil teacher for the Wellington Education Board

14th April 1916 In its fourth annual report the Ngaio School Committee is pleased to be able to congratulate parents on the small amount of illness amongst the children during the year—probably due to the thorough way in which the caretaker's duties have been carried, out, and also to the fact that the committee had the school disinfected by the Health Inspector during the holidays. The committee, owing to the shortage of water during the hot weather, wrote to the Borough Council urging that body to bring forward a scheme for water supply in the near future, and has had a reply to the effect that the question is now receiving the attention of the council. . .

Following on the headmaster's remarks at the last annual meeting, the committee reports that it has been able to considerably enlarge the playground. The board, after being approached several times by the chairman and headmaster, granted a subsidy of £37 towards the cost, which was made up to the total of £59 12s .by the generosity of parents and others interested in the welfare of the school.

Though the school has made no combined effort in aid of any war funds this year, the various classes are all doing Red Cross work on sewing days; and thus the children are directly interested in and helping the men at the front. In conclusion, the committee thanks Mr. Clark and his staff for the careful and sympathetic work of the past year. The inspector's report showed a satisfactory condition in all the standards and was very gratifying indeed. The committee feels sure that with the increased help now available the school will be further improved.

18th April 1916 A good muster of householders attended the election of the Ngaio School Committee, which resulted as follows:-. Messrs. H. Brenton-E/ule (chairman), L A. Browne, G. Pitch, T. Barnes, J. D. Williams, and Mesdames Chatwin and Darvall

22nd July 1916 Red Cross: Ngaio School Children, 3 pairs socks, 2 pairs bed socks, 11 balaclavas, 5 pairs mittens, 6 scarves, 12 pyjama girdles, 18 eye bandages, 6 pillowslips 3 handkerchiefs;

16th December 1916 Ngaio School: Proficiency Certificates. Adeline Browne, Vera Cole, Nada Nation, Jack Banks, Kenneth Gray, William Haggett, William McCaskill, Buzicott Rowdon - . , Competency Certificates Mildred Barlow. ,

Attendance Certificates Eileen Ross, Nora 'Clark,. Otari Kilmister, Lorna McKay, Alexander Grant, Percy Clark, Eric Ross, Ken Grant, Harold Cole, Maurice Eagles, Alexander McArthur. Arthur Kilmister, Nellie Cole, Edith Clark, Lily Huntington, ' Agnes Lindsay, Adeline Browne, Nada Nation, Nellie Buckley, Olga Richardson, Myrtle McKay, William Haggett, Jack Banks, Guy Haggot, William McClelland, Harold Baker, Esma Brought Grace Hanson.

19th January 1917 Wellington Hospital Board; Ngaio School has been disinfected

2nd February 1917 Miss H Lynneberg pupil teacher Ngaio resigned.

29th March 1917 Wellington Education Board: Miss A Macmillan resigned from Ngaio School.

1st May 1917 AIO. The new committee of the Ngaio School consists of the following:— Chairman, Mr. H. Brenton-Rule; secretary, Mrs. Darvall; treasurer, Mr. J. G. Williamson; committed, Messrs. Browne, Barnes, and Fitch, and Mrs. Chatwin.

2nd May 1917 As stated yesterday, the Ngaio School Committee was re-elected unopposed. The annual report stated that the average attendance was 128 on an average roll of 140. The number on the roll now was, 160. The Education Board granted £50 for asphaltting during the year; this greatly improved the playing space. The board had just passed a further grant of £70 for levelling work, and when this was completed the committee hoped to initiate a scheme for providing tennis and croquet lawns for the children. About forty shrubs and trees, besides, a hedge of forty laurustinus and twenty native flax plants were planted last August, and more planting could be undertaken when the levelling was completed. The children had collected £6 7s 9d for the Belgian Relief Fund and £1 1s 6d for the Red Cross, besides doing a large amount of sewing under Miss Whitcombe's supervision, for the Red Cross. '

The Chairman and, Mr. Williams were appointed delegates to the School Committees' Association formed in July last. At, the householders' meeting motions were unanimously passed asking the association to do its .utmost to further (1) the scheme for a suitable site and buildings for the Technical School; (2) to agitate for the. provision, free of cost to scholars, of all readers, exercise books, pencils, etc., 'So that our system of primary education may be made free in the full sense of the word; (3) for the adoption of single desks instead of dual desks at present used; (4) the use of uniform books throughout the schools of the Dominion.

The combined committees of Onslow schools interviewed the Library Committee of the City Council, and the council agreed to let them have books from the Central Library on very favourable terms. It was proposed to ask the Onslow Borough Council for the necessary money for the scheme. The committee expressed its appreciation of the conscientious work done by Mr. Clark and his staff and thanked all who had been of assistance during the year, especially the Education Board, which had been very generous, and deserved the thanks of the householders.

31st May 1917 Miss G McKinlay probationer resigned from Ngaio School

26th September 1917 Wellington Education Board: On the recommendation of the Executive Committee it was decided that the Ngaio School Committee be requested to obtain a local contribution of £10 towards the additional amount required for grading, and that the work proceed

27th September 1917 In effecting certain improvements to the school at Ngaio it was found that the work had cost, some £20 more than had been anticipated. At the meeting of the Education Board it was decided, on the suggestion of the executive, that the committee be asked to obtain, a local contribution of £10 towards the additional amount.

15th October 1917 Onslow Borough Council: A letter was considered from the secretary of the Ngaio school committee asking for the repair of the footway giving access to the school. Councillor Tucker agreed that the road was bad ; the centre had been washed away by storm water and was one big groove; he thought the cost of repairs would be small and moved that the school be informed that the council considered the matter one for the Education Board. Councillor Appleton seconded the motion, which was carried.

20th December 1917 Proficiency List. Marshal! Eagles, Guy Haggett, Walter Huntington, William McClelland; Fred Peacock. Ray Barnes, Violet Eagles, Olive Hall, Irene Rankin, Freda Topp. Standard VI.—Olga Richardson, Louisa Parsloe. Attendance Certificates. Nellie Cole, Ray Barnes, Nellie Buckley, William McClelland, Guy Haggett, Marshall Eagles, Arthur Kilminster, Eleanor Clark, Percy Clark, Kenneth Grant, Alex. Grant, Harold Cole, Alex. McArthur, Lorna McKay, Esme Brough, Agnes Lindsay, Gladys Baker, Albert Bird, Stanley Buckley, William Holmes, Harold Baker, Willie Smith, Maurice Clark, Marjory White, Maurice Eagles, Jack Lindsay, Edith Clark, Eric Ross, Otari Kilminster.

Three Years' Certificate. Nellie Buckley, Arthur Kilminster, William McClelland, Guy Haggett, Alex Grant.

31st January 1918 Wellington City Council library scheme for Children: On behalf of the Kaiwarra, Ngaio, and Khandallah School Committees, the Onslow Borough Council pays one shilling a head per pupil per year—an amount which just about covers the cost of supplying those schools. To the city schools no charge whatever is made, but the committees make good all damage and all losses but are in no way responsible for ordinary wear and tear.

21st February 1918 Wellington Education Board: Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. A. Jackson and E. K. Rishworth (Training College students), and W. R. Kennedy, pupil teacher, Ngaio, for Expeditionary Force service.

23rd April 1918 The following committee was elected at Ngaio:—Mr. Brenton-Rule (chairman), Mrs. Darvall (secretary), Mrs. 'Chatwin, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Gapper, and Mr. Watts.

13th December 1918

Ngaio School

Proficiency.—H. Baker, W. Holmes, H. Thomas, Olga Richardson, Florence Topp, Margery White, Gwennie Williams, Elsie Ware.

Endorsed Competency.—Irene Parsloe

Promoted to Standard VI.—S. Buckley, L. Bird, A. Bird, I. Brenton Rule, L. Cummings, C. Glenday, A. Kilmister, R. Green, A. McCaskill, G. Norton, L. Peacock, C. Symmonds, H. Watts, B. Harpham, G. Baker, M. Lawrence, A. Lindsay, N. McGill, E. Rabbitt, F. Eagles.

Promoted to Standard V.—A. Brenton Rule, P. Crozier, L. Eagles, M. Eagles, G. Glenday, J. Lasken, J. Lindsay, C. Gillett, A. Topp, E. Brough, N. Cole, M. Beaglehole, E. Clark, A. Hampton, L. Huntington, Wm, L. Newbold, J. Nichols, A. Thomson.

Promoted to Standard IV.—P. Clark, A. Grant, C. Parsloe, E. Rax, N. Barnes, N. Clark. M. Darvall, G. Eagles, D. Glasgow, L. Holmes, O. Kilmister, A. "McCaskill, L McKay, A. Norton, M. Olsen, M. Peacock, M. Scrimgeour.

Promoted to Standard III.—K. Grant, C. Lindsay, P. Jerram, D. Gardner, B. Chilcott, R. Hampton, E. McClelland, M. McInnes, E. Poole. E. Ross, J. Thomson, M. Baker, B. Smythe, G. Smith.

Promoted to Standard II. M. Brenton Rule, M. Clark'. J. Holmes, T. Johnson, H. Lawrence, K. Munt, J. Norton, li. Bowdon, V. Sando, M. Chilcott, E. Goddard. H. Lawrence, R. Haines, J. Olsen, M. Smith.

Promoted to Standard I.—C. Brerton Rule, K. Gardner, -S. Gardner, A. Gidall, G. Heatherwick, S. Hicks, J. Huntington. J. Pettet, W. Poole, R. Sando, E. Williams, I. Anderson, M. Anderson, N. Browne, T. Brough, V. Gillatt, E. Kelly, F. Lawrence, J. McCaskill, K. Prince, P. Westbrooke, P. Harpham, S. Smith.

Attendance (certificates to be distributed after the holidays) W. Holmes, A. Bird, C.-Glenday.' A. Kilmister, I. Parsloe, E. Ware, A.' Lindsay, H. Cole, G. Glenday, J. Lindsay, N. Cole, L. Huntington, A. Thomson. A. Grant, C. Parsloe, E. Rex, M. Darvall, O.' Kilmister, L. McKay, M. Scrimgeour, IC. Grant. C. Lindsay, W. Smith, M. McInnes, E. Poole, T. Johnson, K. Gardner, G. Heatherwick.

11th April 1919 The annual report of the Ngaio School Committee congratulates parents on the general good health of the children, .is evidenced by the fact that at her last visit of inspection the Education Board's medical inspector had reported that there was no need of any corrective treatment. The roll at the commencement of 1918 showed 129 scholars, and at the close 172, while the average attendance during the year was 148, as against 130 for the previous twelve months.

Despite the heavy disadvantages imposed by changes and reductions in the teaching, staff, excellent work has been done during the year, as is, revealed by the examination for free places Of nine children presented, eight gained proficiency certificates, and ono an endorsed competency. This highly satisfactory result is mainly due to the devoted Work of the headmaster, Mr. W. H. Clark, who is tireless in his devotion to the interests of the scholars.

The last term of 1918 was considerably shortened by the closing of the schools in common with others throughout the district—on consequence of the influenza epidemic. In this connection the committee desires to express its warm appreciation of tile arduous and self-sacrificing labours of the headmaster, Mr. Clark, who was captain of the district, end directed the efforts of the local committee.

The levelling work in school grounds has recently been completed by the board, after many delays from causes beyond the control of the committee. The bulk of the levelled area should soon be well settled, and the incoming committee should give its immediate attention to the matter of laying down the surface in asphalt, for use as playing area and tennis courts. The retiring committee has had this matter under consideration, and has in hand tentative arrangements for a series of money-raising entertainments, etc. Although the health of the school continues good, the sanitary "arrangements which we are compelled to adopt are of

such a primitive nature that their continuance for an indefinite period would be a menace to the health not only of the children and teachers, but also of the families they represent. We have in the past appealed in vain to the board for the installation of a proper sanitary system for the school, and it is therefore a matter of great satisfaction to the committee to know that Ngaio is now part of Greater Wellington, as we hope and trust' that amalgamation has brought within measurable distance the provision of water and drainage services in what was the borough of Onslow.

At the last meeting of householders a year ago resolutions were carried calling for:—(1) Smaller classes; (2) more air spaces per pupil; (3) abolition of attendance-basis in fixing salaries; (4) better pay for junior and pupil teachers. Nothing has been done in the direction indicated, however, with the exception of slightly better financial inducements to those entering the teaching profession, and despite the profuse assurances of politicians generally, it seems useless to expect any appreciable improvement in educational matters until the rank and file of the voters throw off their indifference and lethargy and decline to return to Parliament any but men pledged to spend some millions additional on education.

12th April 1919 An Honours Board in connection with the war is to be placed in the Ngaio School. The amount required has been raised by local subscription. About forty residents of the district went on active service. -

15th April 1919 Ngaio School Committee election. The following were elected —Messrs. H. Brenton Rule (chairman), J. H. Terrain (secretary), William Watts (treasurer), G. S. Gapper, T. H. Barnes, and Mesdames Chatwin and Newbold

22nd May 1919 Wellington Education Board: it was decided to forward to the Education Department, without comment, a number of motions (already published) passed by the Ngaio householders' meeting.

19th August 1919 WANTED, Gleaner for Ngaio School; permanent work for competent person. Apply for particulars, Headmaster, Ngaio School.

12th April 1920 AN'HONOURS BOARD UNVEILED. An interesting ceremony (which will mean tradition to the district) took place at the Ngaio school on Saturday afternoon, when, an honours board to commemorate the memory of those who went to the war from Ngaio, and those who had paid the full price of patriotism, was unveiled by Brigadier-General G. S. Richardson. Mr. Watts (chairman of the School Committee) presided. In unveiling the honours board—which was most artistically designed and illuminated, Brigadier-General Richardson referred to the fine spirit of loyalty and self-sacrifice which New Zealand had manifested right through the war. They found that from a small district like sixty lads had volunteered, and of those twelve had made the supreme sacrifice. Incidentally, he mentioned that 17,000 New Zealanders had fallen in the war, and to visualise what that meant said that, if that number of men marched four abreast they would take three hours to pass a given point. In referring to the happy ending of the war, the general expressed the hope that whatever Government might be in power he trusted they would see that the actual dependants of those who had fallen in the war would be kept in the same circumstances as though they still had the support of those who had "gone West." He then unveiled the board, expressing the hope that the loyalty and devotion to duty of those whose names appeared thereon would inculcate a spirit of emulation with the young men of the district for all time.

Mr. R. A. Wright, member for the district, apologised for the absence of the Mayor (Mr. T. P. Luke), who was to have been present, but was detained in town owing to the arrival of the Corinthic with the last of the New Zealand soldiers from England. Mr. Wright said that an

outstanding feature of the greatest war of all time—and one that should not be overlooked—was that Britain's hands were perfectly clean in respect to the causation of the war, whilst their soldiers on the field of battle had shown undaunted courage, and on all occasions had played the game, the statesmen of the Empire, prior to the call to arms, had. done all that was humanely possible to prevent war, and when they failed, through the machinations of those enemy countries which were eagerly desirous of war, they had risen to the occasion in a way that was traditional. One had only to review the work of Mr. Lloyd George to measure the consummate ability and alertness with which he had guided the ship of Empire through the tempestuous seas of a world war. (Applause.)

The gathering concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

30th April 1920 A well-attended meeting of householders was held at Ngaio. on Wednesday night, Mr B. J. Lynneberg in, the chair. The annual report showed a very satisfactory position. Voluntary subscriptions and the proceeds of entertainments. supplemented by subsidies from the Government, had provided during the year £137 for the laying down of tennis courts, and the provision of hot drinks', for children during the winter months.' The sum of £26, added the report, had also 'been raised for the Honours Board, and steps had been taken to provide the school with a set of suitable historical pictures. The health of the children and the standard of teaching had been excellent throughout the year. Great dissatisfaction was-expressed at the utterly unsuitable school ground, which should never, be used for games such as football, and cricket;, and the meeting 'decided to urge the authorities to provide' a suitable area for' playing purposes before accessible'-land in the vicinity of the school becomes unobtainable.

Motions 'were also passed urging upon the Government: (a) The extension of the school age and the reduction in the size of classes; and (b) the securing of more trained teachers and to this end the payment', of much better salaries. ; Seventeen candidates were nominated for' the seven vacancies and the school committee; and the following were elected for ; the ensuing year;—Messrs W Watts (chairman), J. H. Jerran (secretary),. A. H. Gibson (all re-elected): ;F. Johnson, A. B. Topp , H., D., McLeod, and H. Prince

12th May 1920 The Mayor has received a letter from the Ngaio School Committee asking that – the City Council should take steps to secure a recreation ground for the suburb. The people of Ngaio are without a proper recreation ground at the present time, and the lack of it is felt to be a serious deprivation for the young - people, and especially the school children. The Mayor has- promised to look , into the matter and bring it before, the council. He stated yesterday that he realised the incorporation of Ngaio, Khandallah. and Karori imposing new responsibilities on the council, which must look to the present and future needs of the districts. The provision of a recreation ground for Ngaio obviously' was a matter of importance. '

1921-1923

1921	148	Ngaio	Clark	William Henry	D	Head	£410.00
1921	148	Ngaio	Tuely	Catherine B	D	Infant Mistress	£280.00
1921	148	Ngaio	Sellar	Jeannie E	C	Assistant	£220.00
1921	148	Ngaio	Perry	Jean R M		PT1	£125.00
1921	148	Ngaio	Miller	Eric C		Probationer 2	£95.00
1921	148	Ngaio	Fabian	Molly F		Probationer 2	£90.00
1923	164	Ngaio	Clark	William Henry	D-73	Head	£405.00
1923	164	Ngaio	Crellin	Muriel L	C-13	Infant Mistress	£263.00
1923	164	Ngaio	Stephens	Ethel I	D-168	Assistant	£213.00

1923	164	Ngaio	Trischler	Walter J		Reliever	£145.00
1923	164	Ngaio	Barnes	Kathleen R		Probationer 2	£78.00
1923	164	Ngaio	Henderson	Dorothy W M		Probationer 2	£78.00

Jeannie E Sellar started as a probationer at Lansdowne school [North Masterton]. In 1913 and 1914 she was not teaching and was probably at training college. By 1917 she was back at Masterton as an assistant. She was at Ngaio in 1921 and at Te Horo [South of Otaki] in 1923 when my records end.

1974/35048	Sellar	Jeanie Esther	26 August 1894
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In 1929 she was Infant Mistress at Longburn School. Palmerston North and in 1934 at Masterton West School.

Jean R M Perry was a reliever at Ngaio in 1921 as a Pupil teacher and was a reliever at Levin DHS in 1923.

Eric C Millar only taught for the Wellington Education Board in 1921 as a probationer 2.

Molly F Fabian only taught for the Wellington Education Board in 1921 as a probationer 1

Ethel I Stevens taught at Rongokokaho in 1915 Parkvale out of Carterton in 1917 as an assistant Eketahuna DHS in 1919 t at least 1921 and then by 1923 was at Ngaio School

Walter J Trischler only taught up to 1923 at Ngaio as a reliever

Kathleen R Barnes only taught as a probationer at Ngaio in 1923 when my records end.

Dorothy W M Henderson only taught as a probationer at Ngaio in 1923.

20th April 1921 NGAIO. Messrs A. H. Gibson, S. T. Morrell, W. McClelland. N. D- McLeod, H. Prince, K. W. Stevens, W. Watts. Mr Watts was appointed chairman, Mr Gibson secretary, and Mr Stevens treasurer

30th May 1921 Soccer Game: Ngaio School applied to join the schools (B) division

21st December 1921 Ngaio The following obtained proficiency certificates :—Claude Casey, Percy Clark, Charles Craig, Maurice Eagles, Alex Grant, Victor Harris, Norman Fuller, Colin Puller, Fred Newson, Cyril Parsloe, Nancy Barnes, Nora Clark, Dora Glasgow, Lily Holmes, Lorna McKay, Olive Kilminster, Avice Norton, Nancy Peacock, Muriel Scrimgeour.

The following obtained attendance certificates :—Murray Smith, N. McInnes, R. Smith, B. McClelland, M. Jacobs, B. Prince, Rhoda Smith, A. Hastie, T. Kilmister, N. Prince, R. Holmes, L. Larkin, M. Smith, R. Goddard, M. Clark, ,K. Grant, J. McClelland, A. McArthur, M. McInnes , B. Harpham, G. Smith, A. Jacobs, O. Fuller, N. Fuller, O. Parsloe, V. Harris, G. Clerk, L. McKay, D. Glasgow, O. Kilmister, L. Holmes, M. Peacock, A. Norton, M. Scrimgeour.

Special attendance certificates were gained by the following : —Lorna McKay, not absent once for seven years; Alex Grant and: Kenneth Grant,' not absent once" for six years; Mavis McInnes , not absent once for four years; Cyril Parsloe and Alex McArthur, not absent once for three years; Naira Prince, not absent once for two years.

7th March 1922 With the object of improving the Ngaio School surroundings, the School Committee held a "Paddy's Market", on Saturday, and the sum of £80 was realised. Goods not sold on Saturday will be auctioned later. The market was opened by the Mayor (Mr. R. A. Wright, M.P.), who congratulated the committee on the improvements that had already been effected. Those who took part in the day's work were:—Mrs. W. Watt, tea-rooms, assisted by Mesdames McClelland, McLeod, King, Hodson, Shalders, Grant, and Davidson; Mrs. Bird, bookstall; Mr. and Mrs., Clark, produce stall, assisted by Mr. Thompson; Mr. Goodson, fruit and vegetables,

assisted by Mrs. Prince; party from Johnsonville. Punch and Judy; Mr. McClelland, sweets, ices, and soft drinks, assisted by a bevy of girls and Boys; Mr. Prince, bran tub and guessing competition ; Mr. Morrell,' shooting gallery, quoits, and other 'games.

1st April 1922 BETTER SITE WANTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE DEPUTATION TO MINISTER. SYMPATHY—BUT NO MONEY. A deputation from the Ngaio School Committee—Messrs William Watts (chairman) and A. H. Gibbons (secretary)—waited upon the Minister for Education (the Hon. C. J. Parr) yesterday, with a view to securing a better site for the Ngaio school. “A MOST UNSUITABLE SITE.” Mr R. A. Wright, M.P. for Wellington Suburbs, in introducing the deputation, said that the site of the present school was a most unsuitable one. It was very steep, and only two acres in extent, whereas the site which the committee wished to see secured was a fine level piece of ground some 3 acres in extent. A good deal of building was being done in the district, and they feared that the land might be cut up for building purposes.

ATTENDANCE INCREASING. Mr Watts stated that the number of children on the roll at present was 158, but it would not be long before there would be 200, and an addition to the school, very expensive, if not impossible, to make on the existing site, would be required. The School Committee had spent a great deal of money on making as much as possible of the present site suitable for a playground, with tennis courts, etc., and had just raised £75 by a produce sale for further improvements. In reply to the Minister, he explained that the reason why the school had been built on the present site - was because a land syndicate had given them an acre for a school with a view to getting it near the estate the syndicate was cutting up. The Board of Education had bought another acre, but it was a bad bargain.

The Minister: it would have been better if the “generous donor” had not come to light, then. (Laughter.) In my experience, syndicates don't give you the best sites. _

Mr Watts said that the committee did not want the Government to spend money on building a school yet; but they wanted the department to secure the ground. Mr Gibson said that if the land was left till it was cut up into building sites it would be much more costly to acquire.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE. Mr Wright stated that the School Committee had at the back of its mind the idea that the present site and school would do for an infants' school and that when the population of the district had increased so that further accommodation had to be provided for the children another school could be built on the proposed site. A proposal had been made by the city engineer that a bridge should be thrown across to Ngaio from Wadestown, and that the trams should run across, which would mean that Ngaio would go ahead very much indeed.

REPRESENTATIONS A LITTLE LATE.,

The Minister, in replying, said that the district had now got a school on about two acres of land—so far - as measurement was concerned—one acre given them, and the other bought by the Government at a cost of some £398; and a fairly considerable sum had been spent in building the school. Now they came to him and said that a mistake had been made and asked him to cure the mistake. From what they told him it would seem very probable that a mistake had been made but the present was a very bad time for them to come about curing an expensive mistake. Two years ago, or even a year ago, he might have been able to do something; but to-day his policy was governed by the state of the public finances, and any money he had got must go into new buildings where they were badly wanted or into additions to schools that were now grossly overcrowded. He had no money for new sites. He had very little doubt that they were right m

suggesting the acquisition of the site proposed, as the best solution of the difficulty. He realised that the present site was quite unsuitable public spirit in doing as much as it had done in improving the present site. He thought, in view of the future before the district, it was a matter in which he ought to help them as far as he could; and he suggested that it might be possible to receive an option over the property referred to.

1st May 1922 The following school committee was elected at Ngaio: A. H. Gibson, James. H. C.: Grant, Edward H. McCrae, William McClelland, Francis F. Shalders, A. W. Thompson, and William. Watts. The meeting adopted a motion emphatically condemning the Government's policy of retrenchment in educational matters, and stating that such a policy was fatal to the true interests of the country

15th December 1922 The following pupils of the Ngaio School have been awarded certificates:—Proficiency. Mabel Baker, Rona Hampton, Birdie Harpham, Alice Jacobs, Eileen McClelland, Mavis McInnes, Gwen Smith, Fred Marriott. Endorsed Competency.—Alex., McArthur. Competency. —Eileen Ross. '

Attendance.—A. McArthur, V. Sando, J. Holmes, M. F. Clark, K. Munt, C. Lindsay, R. Holmes, J. Davidson, S. Hicks, J. Pettit, A. Gidall, I. Shalders, R. Sando, J. Seaton, M. Smith, W. R. Caton, G. Prince, R. Smith, N. McInnes, T. Kilminster, A. Baker, D. Porter, K. Gardiner, G. Heatherwick, T. Stephens, L. Carmichael, M. McInnes, G. Smith, M. Baker, N. Shalders, G. Scadden, M. Smith, R. Goddard, M. Anderson, I. Lawrence, J. Shalders, E. McInnes, E. M. Shalders, M. Rabbitt, M. Holmes, M. Stephens, M. Clark, Rhoda Smith, J. Haswell, D. Carmichael, N. Hall, L. Norton.

22nd March 1923 Messrs T. Moss and J. J. Clark, members of the Wellington Education Board, paid an official visit to the Ngaio school yesterday

22nd March 1923 In view of the meritorious efforts of the Ngaio School Committee, the Education Board decided yesterday to supplement their funds, making an expenditure in all of about £250 for certain necessary work required there.

1st May 1923 Insufficient nominations were received for the Ngaio School Committee, and consequently two vacancies will have to be filled. ' The elected members are: Messrs. A. H. Gibson (chairman), J. W. Telford, E. W. McCrae, A. Gregory, and J. A. C. Grant. The School Committees' Association remits were adopted, and it was also decided to approach the Minister of Education as soon as possible with a view to impressing upon him the urgent need of securing additional property, for school grounds. The retiring committee's report, which was adopted, showed a total of 172 children on the roll; and that eleven out of twelve had gained proficiency certificates last year. It was pointed out that the school would shortly have to be enlarged, and that it was important that a new site for the school should be acquired elsewhere.

1st May 1923 About forty residents attended the annual meeting of the Ngaio School, Mr A. W. Gibson presiding, when the remit from the School Committees' Association in reference to subsidies and manual and technical supplies was heartily supported. The main interest centred in the increase of school playing areas. A strong protest was made by several speakers in regard to the attitude of the Education Department, and the incoming committee was urged to continue the demand for proper playing facilities while they were available. The election resulted as follows:—Messrs McCrae, Grant, Gregory, Telford, and Gibson (chairman). Two others are to be elected by the Education Board.

10th May 1923 Accompanied by Messrs R. A. Wright. M.P., T. Forsyth (chairman of the Wellington Education Board), A. J. White (chairman of the School Committees' Association), and Mr G. L. Stewart (secretary to the Education Board), a deputation from the Ngaio School Committee waited yesterday upon the Hon C. J. Parr (Minister for Education) to suggest a new site should be secured for the Ngaio school, and a proposal was submitted to him. Air Parr said in reply that he had doubts as to whether the proposed new site would be sufficiently central to meet the possible future development of the suburb. He therefore asked the committee to obtain further particulars and promised that he would visit the district at an early date in order to secure first-hand knowledge of its requirements.

18th August 1923 Ngaio School Committee has written to the City Council expressing appreciation of the benefits the school has derived from the school library system.

20th October 1923 TENDERS FOR ASPHALTING NGAIO SCHOOL GROUNDS. TENDERS are invited for the Laying of approximately 800 square Yards at a depth of 2 inches. Further particulars from the secretary

24th October 1923 At Ngaio School A very pleasant and satisfactory afternoon was spent at Ngaio School yesterday 'by some members of the executive Mrs Anderson, Messrs G. R. Mitchell, Stevenson and P. Bennett when a new branch was formed. Mr Clark, the headmaster, received the visitors and with his staff had everything ready for the ceremony. In the absence of Mr G. Troup, the president, Mr Mitchell, presided; the National Anthem was sung, and short speeches were made by Mrs Anderson on veneration, Mr Stevenson on loyalty, and Mr F. Bennet on obedience. The certificates of membership were given out and each child was welcomed to the league. Between 40 and 50 boys and girls joined the organisation. On behalf of the children Victor Sando, a senior scholar, in a happy little speech, thanked the party for going out and putting them through the ceremony of initiation Mr Clark also stressed his appreciation of their attendance, and strongly pressed the urgent need of a playing area, for the girls and boys of the district. Mr Mitchell expressed his pleasure and gratification at the interest taken by the teachers in the proceedings.

31st October 1923 Miss Jean Sellar, of the Ngaio school, has accepted an appointment as infant mistress at Te Horo. Miss Sellar is well known in educational circles in Masterton.

18th December 1923 Ngaio School December 1923 The Methodist Church room at Ngaio was crowded when the school children of Standards 2 and 3 performed an operetta, "The Sleeping Beauty." It was an ambitious effort for such young and inexperienced actors, but they acquitted themselves well, and a number of very pretty effects were produced. All the principals, the Man in the Moon, Prince Lund, Chancellor, the King, Queen, princess, fairies, Protection, Envy, all did well in their parts. A number of the children sang solos effectively, and the duet between the prince and the cat (a little girl of five) appealed much to the audience. At the conclusion, Mr. Clarke, headmaster of Ngaio School, on behalf of the children acting in the play, presented Miss Dorothy Henderson, a probationer in the school, who was responsible for "getting up" the entertainment, with a fountain-pen and a box of chocolates. He also said that the result of the concert would be a substantial sum to procure a gramophone for the school. Miss Henderson, who was the recipient of several bouquets of flowers, thanked all who had assisted in the entertainment and in many other ways, and emphasised the importance of dramatic training for the children.