

Nireaha

Nireaha was the last of the small schools to close in the area around Eketahuna.. About 6 kilometres along Nireaha Road West of Eketahuna. [Note it was not until 1917 that Nireaha had a male school teacher]

1896

1896		Nereha	Not yet Open				
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12th August 1986 Totaranui, the name of a new settlement north of Eketahuna, is to be called in future Nireaha, after a native chief in the Forty Mile Bush , the original name being similar to the name of a place in the South Island.

26th November 1896 Mr A. W. Hogg addressed the electors of Hamua in the Nireaha Hall on Monday evening (writes a correspondent). There was a large attendance. Mr H. Dash occupied the Chair.....

1897

1897	21	Nireaha	Hardwick	Kate		Female	£80	\$14,271
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18th February 1897 The new school at Nireaha, a few miles beyond Newman, is to fie opened on Monday 8th March, under the charge of Miss Hardwick, who has been promoted from the Nikau school .22nd February 187 Miss Kate A Hardwick passed her Class E teacher examination

5th March 1897 The Nikau school is likely to be without a teacher, as Miss Hardwick is going to the Newman School, and up to now there has been no applications for the post of teacher. We are sorry to lose Miss Hardwick, as the children have done well under her teaching, and I have no doubt the Newman children will do equally as well. [Read Nireaha for Newman]

26th March 1897 Miss Dinah Mitchell and Mr. J. Nicholls non-permanent postmistress and postmaster at Nikau and Nireaha respectively.

6th May 1897 School Committee Nireaha. —Messrs James Drysdale (chairman), W. J. Westwood, F. B. Mason, George Edwards, J. C. Nicholls.

27th May 1897 The grateful thanks of many of our settlers go forth to the Wellington Education Board for so promptly responding to their voices crying in the wilderness, "Enlarge our school." The timber is already ordered and the Nireaha School will soon be twice its present size. These Nireahaites are well-meaning people, but recently they held a concert and added a few pounds to the Hawke's Bay Fund. .Now I learn they are drafting rules for a Mutual Improvement Society, with all the attractions of a library and a chess and draught club. A small order of requisites was forwarded to Mr Elliot, of Masterton, the other day. Such evidence of the spirit of self-help and such a laudable desire for social and intellectual improvement is highly commendable to all concerned.

1st September 1897 The ladies of Nireaha intend giving a social on Friday evening in return for the entertainment recently got up by the bachelors.

8th November 1897 Part of a long article The well-known native chief of the Forty mile Bush, Nireaha, in physique and intelligence one of the bulkiest and brightest representatives of the native race in the Wellington province, has had an interesting interview with the Minister of

Lands, He was accompanied by the Hon Jas. Carroll and Mr Parata, M.H.R., and introduced by Mr Hogg. M.H.R , his pakeha representative. Mr Hogg informed the Minister that Nireaha's country seat was at Hamua, a village half way between Eketahuna and Pahiatua, which Nireaha had done much to improve,.....

1898

1898	20	Nireaha	Nott	Emily		Female	£120	\$20,556
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7th March 1898 Mr Robert Lee inspects Nireaha School Friday 25th March

1st September 1898 Miss Frances Chatwin resigns her position at Nireaha [I can't find an appointment nor one for Emily Nott who was at Nireaha at the end of the year and didn't teach again under that name She was a pupil Teacher at Johnsonville and Tawa Flat before coming to Nireaha. Apart from being on the electoral roll in 1900 I cannot find any other record for Emily Amelia Nott]

In 1897 Frances Chatwin was at Kereru School and then didn't work under her name again for the Wellington Education Board. Though there was a Fanny Chatwin who taught at Maranui in 1911

Frances Annie Chatwin lived to be 97 and died in 1955

2nd December 1889 It was decided to make a district for Nireaha School as its roll was over 15

1899

1899	26	Nireaha	Nott	Emily A		Female	£137	\$24,309
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1st June 1899 Wellington Education Board to get the clerk of works to report on an application for additional sheds at Nireaha;

5th June 1899 the social which was held in connection with the school at Nireaha proved a very successful gathering, and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. The following contributed towards the musical part:—Mrs J. Nicol, Misses Drummond, Drysdale, Morris, Andrews and Lower, and Messrs L. Ogden, C, Andrews, Atkins and F. Morris. The proceeds go to the prize fund for the school, which will greatly benefit from the social.

22nd June 1899 For some time past the settlers here have wanted to build a hall, as the school is too small for holding entertainments in. Several subscriptions for it have been promised. An Amateur Dramatic Society has just been formed. The members will give their first performance shortly, the proceeds to go towards the Hall Fund,. Additional books are now being got for the Nireaha Public Library, which -was opened a few months ago. This will bring the number of volumes up to three hundred and thirty-six.

28th September 1899 Wellington Education Board It was decided to obtain a plan of the locality at Nireaha where it is proposed to build a public hall.

1900

1900	27	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline		Female	£130	\$22,602
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1st March 1900 Wellington Education Board The following applications were referred to the board's carpenter to report: —Nireaha, special grant for cleaning

1st March 1900 Wellington Education Board Emily Nott of Nireaha has been overpaid by £27. [Along with a lot of others]

26th July 1900 Wellington Education Board To empower the chairman to authorise fencing at Nireaha if the work can be done for a reasonable sum ;

24th August 1900 Teachers will shortly be required for Matarawa and Nireaha, in addition to two other country schools

30th August 1900 Miss Emily A Nott resigns

2nd October 1900 Miss E, Hutchens, of Dreyer's Rock School, has been promoted to the charge of the Nireaha School.

11th October 1900 Through the medium of your paper I desire to call the attention of the Education Board to the fact that for a week or so the school at Nireaha has been closed. Each time there is a vacancy, by resignation or otherwise, the same thing occurs. On previous occasions the school has been closed ; once for so long as a month. Cannot this be remedied in future? It was reported in your paper very recently that a parent in Wellington had been fined for the non-attendance of his boy at school. This cannot be considered consistent when compared with the state of affairs at Nireaha. " The schoolmaster abroad" — very much abroad.— I am, etc.. DISGUSTED. Nireaha, 8th October

1901

1901	32	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline		Female	£110	\$18,570
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31st January 1901 Wellington Education Board An application by Mr. Jas. Nicholls for the use of the Nireaha School on Sundays was considered, and the Board decided to inform the committee that it thought the application should be granted

27th February 1901 Amongst much discussion on Wellington Education Board finances was this. E Hutchens Present Salary £130. £20 overpaid. There was a long list of names of teachers being overpaid

28th February 1901 Mr Bakewell to inspect the school on the 20th March

25th July 1901 Wellington Education Board It was -decided to ask Mr Dawson, a local resident, to report on the proposal to remove the Nireaha school.

12th September 1901 The Rev. Trestrail leaves here tomorrow for Taranaki and New Plymouth on a lecturing tour, On his return the Rev. Gentleman will give a lecture on Coolgardie at the Nireaha on the 20th in aid of the school funds.[Coolgardie is a small town in Western Australia, 558 kilometres east of the state capital, Perth. It has a population of approximately 850 people. Although Coolgardie is now known to most Western Australians as a tourist town and a mining ghost town, it was once the third largest town in Western Australia. Google]

25th September 1901 Wellington Education Board dismissed Inspector Lee on a number of seemingly political matters . The Nireaha committee wrote to the Wellington Education Board that they supported their representatives to make the correct decisions. [Robert Lee later became Chairman of the Wellington Education Board who had previously sacked him]

6th November 1901 A road of importance to this district, known as "Youngers," which will short-, en the distance between Eketahuna. and Nireaha by nearly four miles, is about to be opened up for wheel traffic. A grant of £300 is provided by the Government for the purpose

18th November 1901 The erection of the telephone line to Nireaha is proceeding. Settlers are providing polos.

18th December 1901 In regard to a communication from settlers at Stirling, with reference to moving the Nireaha School. Mr Hogg promised to make inquiries when in the district this week.

1902

1902	44	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline		Female	£137	\$22,587
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20th January 1902 the telephone line is now finished to Nireaha and awaits the official authority to be put to use. The district is a very closely-settled one, and is some distance from Eketahuna by road; the telephone should therefore be a great convenience to settlers

27th March 1902 Wellington Education Board A petition was received in, favour of the retention of the Nireaha School in its present position. The Chairman was instructed to visit the locality and make enquiries.

2nd April 1902 Wellington Education Board The Chairman promised to visit Nireaha and inspect certain proposed school sites

4th April 1902 Telephonist Nireaha James Nicholls

29th May 1902 The chairman, who in company with Mr Hogg, M.H.R., and Mr Bakewell [School Inspector], visited the Nireaha district, and got wet through 1 in doing so, reported that the school was five miles from Newman, and that it should be moved : to a more central or more convenient site, or that a new school should be built on another place. He recommended that the Nireaha schoolhouse, which is in good order, should be leased, and a new school built at the junction of the Quarry and Mangatainoka Valley roads. This recommendation was adopted. The chairman stated that the usual grant of the Government would be applied for, and that the leasing of .the present schoolhouse would meet the necessary cost

17th December 1902 petition was received in favour of the erection of a school at Stirling, and a further petition from the residents of Nireaha against the removal of the school from there.

1903

1903	48	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline		Female	£147	\$24,356
1903	48	Nireaha	Smith	Margaret		Mistress	£80	\$13,255

5th January 1903 A peculiar complication exists at Nireaha, a few miles from Eketahuna. The settlers in Stirling Block applied for a school about two years ago, The application was referred to the Inspector, who reported in favour of closing the school at Nireaha and erecting a larger school in a more central position .; After receipt of a protest by certain settlers a committee of the Board was appointed to visit the locality, and the Inspector's report was backed up. Eventually it was discovered that the proposed site had in some mysterious way been applied for as a cemetery, und had actually been gazetted as such. The curious point of the business is that though the cemetery was apparently obtained at the instigation of the Nireaha Ratepayers' Association, none of the settlers appear to know anything about it. The object seems to be to prevent the contemplated removal of the school. A petition, numerously signed, has been entrusted to Mr. Hogg^, M.H.R., who also was' in complete

ignorance of the gazetting of the section for a cemetery, asking that burials in the cemetery be prohibited until the matter has been reported on by the Health Officer, and alleging that interments there will prove injurious to the public health as population increases.

26th February 1903 The Nireaha school question came up again for consideration. The inspector's last report, recommending that the site should be near Stirling block (which the Board agreed to), was read. A petition signed by twenty-one residents of the district was also read protesting against the removal of the school from its present site, and asking, that, an additional class-room should be erected. These views were supported by a deputation which waited on the Board. Mr Hogg deprecated the attempt which was being made to interfere with the Board's previous decision. A few people were afraid the removal of the school would affect the value of their land. It was the purest piece of unadulterated selfishness imaginable. Desperate attempts had been made in this respect before when a site was chosen, and the opposition had caused a cemetery site to be surveyed alongside the section chosen by the school. It was agreed that the inspector, with the chairman and Mr Young, inspect the locality, and report at next meeting

9th March 1903 Relative to the Nireaha School, the following memorial was read at the last meeting of the Education Board:— " We, the undersigned, householders in the Nireaha School District, beg to point out the urgent necessity that exists for additional accommodation in the shape of a class-room at the present school, and to ask that, as the attendance is increasing, the Board will make - no delay in providing the same, rather than spend money in renting suitable premises. "We take this opportunity of protesting strongly against any step being taken with regard to the removal of the school from the present site, or possession being given up of present building until the fullest has been taken of the changes which the next two or three years will bring about in this district. The totara reserve will soon be in the market and settled, and at the same time the sawmill hands, who have been a large factor in the agitation for removal, will be gone. Hoping, therefore, that the Board will move carefully in the matter. . We are, etc." Thirty-two names were attached.

Mr Hogg said he had been interviewed by a deputation from Nireaha consisting of Messrs Andrews, Kershaw and Albertson, who pointed out that as there were sixty-four children with two teachers and only room for half the number of children and one teacher it was imperative that further accommodation be provided. It was suggested that the Public Hall, which was conveniently situated, might be leased temporarily and in the meantime the Board should decide promptly what further action should be taken. Either the present school should be closed, the land and building leased, and a new school erected on a central site about a mile nearer the Stirling settlement, or an additional school in that settlement must be provided. His own opinion was that, as most of these children came from the Stirling side, removal of the school would meet the case.

Mr Lee deprecated haste. The Board should do nothing without the fullest inquiry. He knew the district, and the bulk of children did not come from the Stirling side.

Mr Hogg replied that if anything had received full consideration it was the Nireaha School. Years ago the parents had applied for an extra school, and the Inspectors were asked to report on the subject. Inspector Bakewell reported very fully. Then a committee comprising the Chairman, Inspector Bakewell and himself visited the place and reported in favour of a central school at the junction of Mangatainoka Valley-road. The opposition to that appeared

to be based not so much on the welfare of the children, most of whom had to travel two miles unnecessarily every day, but on pure unadulterated selfishness on the part of a few landowners, who thought that the removal of the present school would affect the value of their properties; They had gone so far as to get the proposed new school site proclaimed a cemetery, and now that they were baffled in that direction, they were doing all they to prevent a good strong Central School being established.

The Chairman thought the Board might get a further report before starting to build. Inspector Bakewell's report was read. It was in favour of removing the existing School and establishing a Central School. The Inspector said that at the time of his visit, most of the children at Nireaha came from the west side of the Mangatainoka.

Mr Hogg said he had no object but to study the welfare of the families. He moved that the Chairman (Mr Bradey) and Mr Young, with the Inspector, visit and report on the matter to next meeting. The resolution was carried with the understanding that the report should be furnished not later than at the April meeting of the Board.

30th April 1903 The committee appointed to visit the Nireaha district recommended that the school should be built upon the site previously chosen by Messrs Blair, Hogg and Bakewell. This was agreed to, and it was decided that plans of the work should be prepared.

29th May 1903 Part of a long article on Education Board finances was this: At Shannon, Nireaha, Kereru and other places, the children of the settlers, although prepared to walk five and six miles to school, could not find accommodation. The health authorities very properly insisted on proper space, and in order to comply with other requirements, a large expenditure had to be incurred. With a heavy bank overdraft the Board was quite unable to meet the urgent demands of the parents and committees, hence the interview. '

1904

1904	56	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline		Female	£149	\$24,673
1904	56	Nireaha	Smith	Margaret		Mistress	£80	\$13,247

24th August 1904 Mr James' Nicholls, postmaster of Nireaha whose death is attributed to the effects of the recent earthquake, was a well-known and highly respected settler. About fifteen years ago he took up a considerable area of land in the locality which was then known as Bulltail. This land he was required, by the conditions of settlement, to clear and grass. It contained a lot of valuable timber, and had Air-Nicholls, like some of his neighbours, ignored the conditions, and contended with the Land Board, instead of incurring a heavy expenditure for bush felling, he might have made a competence from sawmill site. Mr Nicholls, however, took his wife and family into the bush, and proved himself a valuable and exemplary settler. It was largely due to his efforts that a school, church, public hall, creamery, and post and telephone office were established at Nireaha. Although over sixty years of age, Mr Nicholls was of robust and vigorous health, and for years, in all kinds of weather, executed a journey of over twenty miles on foot, over fairly rough roads, every day, carrying the mails, including letters, books, papers, and parcels from Eketahuna his residence. Mr Nicholls was an ordained clergyman, but being afflicted with deafness, had to relinquish his calling. He held services, however, on Sundays, in various schoolhouses in the district, and a year or two ago succeeded in getting sufficient money subscribed to erect a church. About a year ago Mr

Nicholls had the misfortune to lose his wife. He leaves a family of sons and daughters, some of whom reside in Auckland. For a considerable time Mr Nicholls was a Commissioner of the Peace. His death is attributed to the earthquake shock causing a rush of blood to his head.

26th August 1904 Wellington Education Board Air Hogg drew a gloomy picture of the needs of Nireaha (eight miles from Eketahuna), where the children, he said, were being taught in a dark and dismal public hall under the most difficult conditions. He had written to the department about it, and he thought of bringing the matter up in the House.

Mr Field proposed that the members of the Board should wait upon the Minister of Education and represent to him the necessities of the Board with regard to new schoolhouses and increases to existing schoolhouses. They had seen lately in the “ Times ” the report of a gentleman who had examined some of the schools; and that report, so far as they could learn, was not by any means exaggerated. The chairman; Not exaggerated at all.

27th September 1904 The discreditable conditions under which the children receive education at Nireaha is beyond the toleration of the parents. Mr. Hogg's repeated appeals to the Education Board for an alteration of the existing conditions having proved futile, the settlers intend presenting a petition, in the hope of moving the powers that be. The site for the school selected by the Board has been cleared by the settlers, but no steps have been taken to provide the building

28th October 1904 It was resolved to draw up plans and specifications for the Nireaha School, which is to be built on the site already acquired. The plans of the Newman School will probably be used.

28th November 1904 The sum of £475 has been provided for the erection of a new school at Nireaha, Plans for a school to contain a hundred children have been prepared by Mr Turnbull and tenders will be invited forthwith. The building will have large windows after the style of the schools at Mangatainoka and Newman.

29th November 1904 General satisfaction is expressed at Nireaha at the calling of tenders for the erection of a new school in that district. The structure is to be built on a site near the corner of Mangatamohia Valley road and the Quarry road and will be built after the model of the Newman and Mangatamohia schools. The school will contain two large rooms, each capable of accommodating fifty children

9th December 1904 With regard to a valuable corner property of the Board's at Nireaha, it was decided, on the motion of Mr Hogg, “That the department be informed that the old building and five acres of land might be leased advantageously, and that the department be asked by the Board to accept that course.

9th December 1904 The tender of Mr W. Proctor, builder, of Pahiatua, to construct a new schoolhouse at Nireaha for £538, has been accepted

1905

1905	57	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline	E1	Head Female	£153	\$24,197
1905	57	Nireaha	Smith	Margaret	Lic	Mistress	£85	\$13,443

6th February 1905 Last Monday a start was made with the new school here, and it is expected it will be finished about the end of March. It is situated about a mile from the present one. On Friday next the annual school picnic is to be held here, and a large gathering is anticipated.’

16th February 1905 The school picnic was held on Friday and was a decided success. There were about three hundred persons present, the day being beautifully fine. A social was held in the evening. Dancing was kept up until two o'clock in the morning. Measles are prevalent in this district, which is rather a pity for the school children, as the examination is close at hand. Bush fires were started on Sunday and are still in evidence. On Tuesday morning the wind sprang up for a while, and the school, hall, church, store, and surrounding buildings were in danger. The fire soon spent itself, and by four o'clock all danger was past.

21st February 1905 NIREAHA. Nireaha-named after the well-known Native rangitira—formerly called Bulltail, is in a transition state. At one time under the care of the late Mr Nicholls, it threatened to become a fine little township, It comprises a school, public hall, post and telephone office, creamery and store and last, but not least, a prettily built little church. But the "line old English gentleman," revered and respected by all who knew him, who was its clergyman, magistrate, postmaster, and mail-carrier, perished with the last notable earthquake, and now the little centre seems to be becoming dismembered. A fine new school is going up on a site that was intended for a cemetery, at the junction of the Stirling and Mangatainoka Valley roads, about a mile away, and as soon as tins is ready the present school, which is not half big enough, will be closed. Then the milk that used to supply the Nireaha creamery, is divided with a co-operative cheese factory erected near the new school. The factory, which is equipped with a good manager and furnished with an excellent plant, is doing good work. Since it was opened early in the season, about 500 cases of cheese, equal to 35 tons, have been turned out, and the quality of the cheese is bringing it into eager demand for local as well as foreign consumption.

25th March 1905 The teachers and scholars of the Nireaha school had rather an exciting time on Wednesday afternoon. During the luncheon hour the whole of the bush immediately behind the school caught fire from sparks from an adjoining mill. The wind was rather strong, and seemed to chop about in all directions, which made things a bit warm. All the younger children who could be sent home with safety were packed off, and the older ones, armed with buckets and cans, were set to watch the outside of the building and out-houses until help arrived. Once the main building caught but was noticed and extinguished before any damage was done. School could not be resumed during the afternoon, as several of the things were removed from the building. A watch was kept until about 10 o'clock, when rain came on, as it always seems to do in this district when a climax of this kind is reached. Last Friday a little girl named Una Griffith, while in the act of jumping over a horse trough, fell and broke her arm. The little sufferer was driven in to Eketahuna, where she was attended to by Dr Chadwick, and is now progressing favourably.

The new school here is to be formally opened on the 13th of next month. The inspectors annual visit taking place on the 5th.

14th April 1905 (Special to Daily Times.)

The formal opening of a fine country school, which has just been built at Nireaha, near the junction of the Mangatainoka Valley and Quarry-roads, attracted a numerous and well-dressed gathering of settlers and their families, yesterday afternoon. The new school, erected by Mr Proctor, of Pahiatua, in accordance with the plans of Mr Turnbull, the Board's architect, is designed to accommodate a hundred children, and comprises two large well-lighted rooms and a fine wide hall. Although destitute of anything approaching superfluous

ornamentation, the building, which has lofty ceilings and windows, and is well-ventilated, resembling very much the school at Newman, is regarded on all hands as one of the best country schools "of its size yet erected in the Education District.

Mr Kershaw , chairman of the School Committee opened the proceedings by addressing the assemblage, numbering about three hundred, and reciting the steps taken to secure the new structure. The agitation for a new building to take the place of the old school which had become far too small for the families, had commenced between three and four years ago when there were 30 on the roll. Now the number was 71 and owing to ,the opening up of the land and influx of residents it was destined to increase. Mr Hogg, M.H.R., and Mr Edwin Feist were present representing the Education Board and he asked the former to declare the school open.

Mr Hogg expressed much pleasure at, performing the duty entrusted to him. He was delighted to see so many settlers present and to find from their cheerful appearance that they appreciated the new school. At one time there was a somewhat exciting conflict of opinion. Some of the residents objected to the. closing of the old school and any change of site and others wanted a new school near their homes, in the Stirling Block. The Inspectors were asked to visit the locality and report, and they recommended the construction of a school on the present site so that a good central school might be established, instead of two small schools. During the agitation that followed members of the Board visited the locality, and they supported the inspectors. They had now got a school of good dimensions in a fine central position, and though not addicted to prophesying he would predict that before long it would be taxed to its utmost, if, indeed, it did not require enlargement. He had travelled all over the education districts of the colony, and he believed, as regards such essentials as lighting, ventilation and air space, the school just opened was second to no country school in New Zealand. (Applause.)

Mr Edwin Feist followed, congratulating the residents on the fine building they had got for their families, and referring to the advantages of the national system of education as constructed, with the methods that prevailed at a former period. Mr Proctor dealt with the desirability of placing secondary education within general reach, and other speakers followed. The school-children, marshalled by their teacher Miss Hutchins , assembled in one of the rooms where they were presented by Mrs Hogg with a large collection of handsomely bound books, being the prizes for good attendance, Mr Hogg taking advantage of the opportunity to complement them on the way so many had travelled long distances, braving bad weather and muddy roads in order to help their teacher as well as themselves. Tea and refreshments were provided in abundance and served out to all present by the ladies ; after which the school and the assemblage were photographed. A social and dance in the evening terminated one of the best and brightest celebrations that the rising and progressive settlements spreading over what a few years ago was the chief totara forest of the Forty Mile Bush have yet witnessed.

3rd May 1905 The teachers and scholars took possession of the new school on Tuesday for the first time.'

27th May 1915 Wellington Education Board Nireaha Fencing £15

27th October 1905 For the erection of a residence at Nireaha the tender of H. H. Godfrey at £187 15s was accepted. The lease of the old site at Nireaha was granted to the Hall, trustees for seven years at £7 per annum

27th October 1905 The 'old schoolhouse at Nireaha' is to be removed to; the vicinity of the new school and transformed into a teacher's residence. ;

8th December 1905 Notes from Putara he settlers here have been trying for some time to get an aided school in the district. Children have to walk from here to Nireaha, a distance for some of the children of four and a-half miles, and for others up to eight miles. The settlers find that they would have to provide a school which would cost them £22 for material, labor given free. There are only at present eight children of a school age,

1906

1906	66	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline	E1	Head Female	£180	\$27,974
1906	66	Nireaha	Smith	Margaret	Lic	Assistant Female	£90	\$13,987

20th March 1906 Mr Kershaw, of Atea, has disposed of his farm to Mr S. Smith, late of Kakariki. Ever since Mr Kershaw came up to this district. he has taken a great interest in public matters, and everything that made for the betterment of the district. He was one of the leading agitators for the Stirling bridge —a bridge that gave a large number of farmers an outlet. In fact, had there not been a strong agitation for this bridge, numbers of good settlers would probably have abandoned their holdings. In local education matters, Mr Kershaw always took a lively interest, and he has for years been chairman of the Nireaha School Committee; also, a director in the Nireaha Co-operative Dairy Factory. Regret is expressed on all sides that the district is losing one who took such a deep interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement of Nireaha.

24th March 1906 The local school was examined on Tuesday, and the scholars all passed with great credit to themselves and to Misses Hutchins and Smith, their teachers.

12th April 1906 The presentation of prizes in connection with the Nireaha Public School took place, to-day, in the presence of several members of the School Committee and parents. The presentations were made by Mr A. H. Vile, a member of the Wellington Education Board, every child receiving a prize. At the conclusion of the presentations, Mr Vile called for three cheers for the teachers and the School Committee. Mr Kershaw, Chairman of the Committee, acknowledged the compliment, paid the Committee. and said that staunch opposition had been given the project to place the school on its present site. .But, said Mr Kershaw, those who had been instrumental in having the school removed could see by the increased attendance, that their agitation had been justified, the roll number now being 86, whilst before it was only 56. He then called for cheers for Mr Vile.

At the school prize presentation, to-day, Mr A. H. Vile said that a good deal had been heard of child slavery in dairying districts. But, continued Mr Vile, such a charge cannot hold good if Nireaha is to be taken as an example, for the passes here show a percentage of 100 at the recent examination [This is the first time I can remember in researching over 300 schools with a roll of over 50 children attending has 100% pass rate by visiting school inspectors]

28th April 1906 Wellington Education Board Nireaha Fencing £1

5th June 1906 Mr and Mrs Kershaw have removed from Nireaha to Eketahuna, writes our correspondent, where they intend starting in business. Mr Kershaw has been a very prominent settler here. Besides being vice Chairman of the local branch of the Farmers' Union, he has for many years been Chairman of the Nireaha School Committee, also a director in the cheese factory. The residents wish him prosperity in his new undertaking.

13th September 1906 A school social was held in the Nireaha Public Hall, on Thursday evening last, in aid of the School Garden Fund. A large number of, parents and others turned out. The Committee expect to have a credit balance from the function of £8.

15th September 1906 I notice the plot of land round the Nireaha School has been prepared for the pupil's garden. The Committee expect a visit from the Agricultural Superintendent shortly, when the ground will be laid off

19th December 1906 The. children's gardens, at the Nireaha School are looking well and reflect credit on teachers and scholars alike

1907

1907	67	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£195	\$30,570
1907	67	Nireaha	Smith	Margaret	Lic	Assistant Female	£95	\$14,893

7th February 1907 The local school opened on Monday last, after the holidays, and the annual picnic in connection with the school will take place on Friday.

16th February 1907 Last Friday the animal school picnic was held at Nireaha. The weather was perfect, and old and young folks spent a most enjoyable day. In the. evening a dance was held, and a very large number of residents were present. Music was supplied by Misses Smith and Waterson, and a few extras were given by Miss Andrews. Mr Styres acted most ably as Master of Ceremonies. the , charge for admission was extremely low. the amount taken at the door amounted to between £3 and £4.

22nd February 1907 I hear that a movement is on foot to close the Kakariki School, on account of the low attendance, and if this is done a brake will convey the children to the Hukanui School. [Kakariki school didn't close until the 1950's]

28th February 1907 The number of children attending our school at present is 76. At the last examination, it will be remembered, there were 100 per cent, of passes.

7th March 1907 A movement is on foot to secure a new school for Putara, the children from which district are at present being conveyed to the Nireaha School.

22nd April 1907 On Friday last a pleasant ceremony was given in the Nireaha School, when the school children were presented with their prizes. Mr Alberthsen, Chairman of the School Committee , occupied the chair, and spoke a few words of encouragement to the children. The prizes were very handsome books indeed and were presented to the successful ones by wives of the members of the Committee. Two rather interesting prizes were two books presented by Messrs McLean and Co., Eketahuna—one each to the boy and girl who resided over three miles from school and attended most regularly. These prizes were won by Hugo and Elsie Holstein. At the close of the meeting cheers were given by the children for the members of the School Committee and also for Miss Hutchins and Miss Smith, the school teachers.

16th July 1907 Miss M. Smith, infant mistress at Nireaha school, has been confined to her room, through a severe cold, during the last few days. Her many friends will be pleased to hear that she will be able to resume her duties in a day or two.

11th August 1907 Wellington Education Board authorised metal be laid round the residence

1908

1908	71	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£195	\$30,570
1908	71	Nireaha	Armstrong	Mary C	D4	Assistant Female	£95	\$14,893

21st January 1908 At Nireaha the fires are at their worst now . and are within 20 yards of the store and post office-. The smoke is .so thick that it is impossible for the settlers to communicate with each other and consequently the damage is indescribable . It is known that a house owned by Mr Hansen has been destroyed.

21st January 1908 As we go to press, news comes to hand of the destruction of the public school at Nireaha and of the teacher's residence, also of Mr Busst's house, and of the creamery manager's residence at Nireaha.

30th January 1908 In the recent fires in the Forty-mile Bush the Nireaha (near Eketahuna) School was destroyed. Arrangements have been made by the Education Board for the opening of a school at the Public Hall at Nireaha next week.

1st February 1908 was resolved at the meeting of the Wellington Education Board on Thursday that application be made to the Government for grants to replace the schools at Nireaha and Maku, which were recently ' destroyed through bush fires. Referring to the destruction of these schools, Mr Buchanan remarked that when a fire was approaching a building the best thing to do was to start a fire close to the structure. When this was done, he said , it invariably happened that the building was saved.

7th February 1908 School furniture that has been in temporary use at Ohau [Near Levin] is being taken to Nireaha, where it will be used to furnish the public hall in a manner that will fit it for use as an emergency school, pending re-erection of the school building that was destroyed by fire recently.

14th February 1908 The Public Hall at Nireaha, which is being used as a temporary: schoolhouse, had a narrow escape on Monday. All the school furniture sent by the Education Board last week had to, be hastily removed. But for willing hands, a serious loss would have been sustained.

21st February 1908 the schoolhouse at Nireaha having been burned to the ground by the bush fires, the school was opened on Monday in the public hall, near the site of the old schoolhouse. No fewer than sixty-four children turned up, a most satisfactory attendance considering that the roll is eighty-two and the average attendance before the holidays was seventy-two. Mr Hogg, M. P., who visited the school, ascertained that a considerable number of children present had crossed the Mangatainoka River, and must have travelled over a couple of miles. After briefly addressing the children on the value of the education they were receiving and complimenting them on the way in which they had rallied after their late experiences, he congratulated the teaching staff. Miss E Hutchens and her assistant, Miss M. Smith, on the fine testimonial the state of the school conveyed. The hall is well furnished with seats and desks, and it will answer its purpose well while the new school is being erected. Most of the children have lost all their books and slates by the fire, and Mr Dowden,

the secretary of the Committee, was advised to apply to the Board for authority to assist the parents in having them replaced.

21st February 1908 It is not intended by the Wellington Education Board to hold an enquiry concerning the destruction of the Nireaha School by fire, as there is sufficient evidence to show that log fires were the cause.

22ND Feb 1908 NIREAHA SCHOOLS.

"Your school has gone through the fire, but I am glad to see you alive and vigorous," said Mr Hogg, M.P., addressing the children assembled on Monday in the Public Hall at Nireaha. " You have lost a nice building, but that can be replaced. When I can count sixty-four bright, happy, intelligent, and healthy boys and girls, I feel that the Nireaha School is alive and active. I am glad to see such a good turn-out It seems that you value education: And education is wealth. It is of more value than gold or precious stones; because it gives you power, and nobody can take it from you. It enables you to speak so that you will be listened to, and to write so that the community will read your thoughts. The platform and the press become your working tools, and you can advise, protest or command with a reasonable hope of success. Unlike your purse or your watch, it takes up no room and needs no care. Your presence here to-day, after your rough experiences, and seeing that many of you have long distances to travel, is a fine testimonial to your teachers."

29th February 1908 Wellington Education Board LOSSES BY BUSH FIRES. Various letters were received from country schools in regard to losses sustained by bush fires. In the case of Nireaha, it was stated that the head teacher had suffered loss through noninsurance to the extent of £122, and the assistant teacher £52, whilst the children had lost school material. Assistance from the Board was asked for. The matter was referred to the chairman, secretary, and chief inspector to report,

29th February 1908 We regret to learn that the fires Nireaha and Rongokokako have restarted, and yesterday were raging almost as fiercely as before.

2nd March 1908 Fires are still raging in the Nireaha. district. The gale- on Thursday fanned, the smouldering fires to' a. great extent. The Nireaha Hall, which, is being used as a temporary school house, was in danger, and a watch had to be kept

3rd March 1908 The Education Department; has granted the necessary funds for the rebuilding of the schools and teachers' residences at Nireaha and Maku, which were destroyed by the recent bush fires. For the former the grant amounts to £1232, and for the latter £350

5th March 1908 On Friday night a dance was held in the Nireaha Public Hall. As usual there was a big turn-out and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

14th March 1908 The Nireaha Valley has probably benefited more than any other part of the Forty Mile Bush district by recent rain. There is an abundance of green feed everywhere.

14th March 1908 tenders are to be invited immediately by the Wellington Education Board for the erection of a school at Nireaha in place of the building destroyed by fire. The new school will contain two classrooms and will be an improvement upon the original building.

27th March 1908 Miss M Smith resignation accepted by Wellington Education Board

1st April 1908 The school picnic is fixed for April 10th. It was a pity the affair could not have been arranged, earlier, but residents have had too busy a time this summer to think of festivities.

Miss Smith, teacher at Nireaha, has tendered her resignation as a teacher to the Wellington Education Board. Miss Smith, during her five years' residence in this district, has endeared herself to the children and been respected by the residents

14th April 1908 Tenders are invited by the Wellington Education Board for the erection of a new school at Pahiatua and also for the erection of a teachers' residence at Nireaha.

15th April 1908 The annual school picnic was held here on Friday last. The day was nice and warm, and a large number of people assembled. The refreshments were lavishly provided, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

29th April 1908 The contractors have made a start on the new school in place of the one burnt during the recent bush fires. The new school will be built end on to the road and will have concrete foundations and will be concreted up about four or five feet. These plans commend themselves to all for the future safety of the building and show wisdom on the authorities part.

6th May 1908 On Thursday evening last the Public Hall had a record attendance of settlers and residents, the function being a social to bid good-bye to Miss Smith, teacher here. Dancing was engaged in to the music of piano (Mr Waterson) and violin (Mr S. Smith). Mr James Daysh acted as M. C. During the evening Mr Dowden, secretary of the School Committee, spoke of the regret the residents felt at Miss Smith's departure, and spoke of her many good qualities. At the conclusion of his short address, he presented the guest of the night with a handsome dressing-case, on behalf of the residents. Mr McKenzie suitably replied on behalf of Miss Smith. Songs and recitations were rendered during the evening by several ladies and gentlemen. Although the accommodation of the Hall was taxed to hold the number present, an excellent supper was served to all, which was supplied by a number of local ladies.

In the afternoon the scholars presented their teacher with a handsome set of salt-cellars and a solid silver sugar-scuttle. Miss Hutchins, senior teacher made the presentation on behalf of the children. Miss Smith thanked them with marked emotion. Miss Smith was very well liked by the scholars.

7th May 1908 J J Mead Eketahuna won tender for Nireaha residence

13th May 1908 Miss Armstrong appointed assistant teacher Nireaha

20th May 1908 Miss M. Armstrong, successor Miss M. Smith, has assumed her duties in the Nireaha School.

21st May 1908 The amount of the tender of Mr J. J. for the erection of a teacher's residence at Nireaha, which was accepted, was £331..

26th June 1908 The Nireaha School is fast approaching completion. Timber is on the building site for the teacher's residence, and also the, Nireaha Dairy Company managers house

20th July 1908 Nireaha School is now completed, but as yet I have heard no particulars regarding the opening

31st July 1908 Wellington Education Board Putara asked for a school. Mr Hogg stated that the distance was about five miles from Nireaha, where he had attended the school opening the other day. Nireaha was one of the best country schools he had seen, having an average attendance of 82. The settlers were well satisfied with it. Putara's request was left in the hands of the Board's officer

31st July 1892 Wellington Education Board r Hogg, at the Education Board, yesterday, paid a high compliment- to Mr McDougall, Clerk of Works, on account of the new school at Nireaha, which was formally opened on Monday. He described the building as one of the most complete, well-finished and conveniently arranged that had been erected in the country district.

27th October 1908 On Friday night, in the Nireaha Public Hall, the School Committee gave a dance, the object being to raise funds for the school gardens The arrangements were splendid, but unfortunately the weather was wretched ; but, notwithstanding, a considerable number of residents turned out, and a most enjoyable evening was spent, during which a tempting supper was supplied.

11th December 1908 Wellington Education Board Metalling around Nireaha School £7 10 shillings

Mary C Armstrong had a long teaching career for the Wellington Education Board. She started at Featherston in 1903, then in 1905 at Carterton and Nireaha in 1908. [I presume she spent 1906 and 1907 at Wellington Teachers Training College] After 1 year at Nireaha she taught at Parkvale until 1914. Starting in 1915 she was still teaching at Carterton in 1923 when my records cease

1909

1909	67	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£200	\$31,782
1909	67	Nireaha	Ainsworth	Lil. A J	E3	Assistant Female	£90	\$14,302

13th February 1909 NIREAHA SCHOOL PICNIC.

(From Our Own Correspondent). The annual school picnic was held at Nireaha on Thursday. Owing to heavy showers of rain which fell on and off all day, the attendance, although large was not what it would have been had the weather been fine. There were, however, besides local residents, visitors from Eketahuna and Kaipororo present. The committee were able between the showers to get off all the boys and girls races after which the other events were held inside the hall. The Kaipororo Brass Band are deserving of thanks for their attendance at this picnic. The music under the conductorship of Bandmaster Mr Hansen was much appreciated by all- Great; credit is due to Mr McKinley, the energetic secretary of the School Committee, for the way all arrangements were made and carried out. The ladies of the district also deserved especial mention, having provided refreshments.

The following are the winners of the different events: —

Boys' Race, under eight years— L. Busst 1, Petersen 2, Drysdale 3.

Boys' Race, under ten years—J. , Mason], T. Busst 2, Wainwright 3.

Boy's Race, under 12 years—P. ; Olsen 1, F. Mason 2, N. Udy 3.

Boys' Race, under 14 years—R. Hercock 1. F. Connor 2, M. Rundle 3 .

Three-legged Race, boys—Hercock and Connor 1, Olsen and McMillan 2, Udy and Biddle 3.

Girls' Race, under eight years— M. Olsen 1, J. Udy 2, .A. Goss 3. ;

Girls' Race, under ten years—E. Olsen 1, M. Riddle 2, B. Petersen 3.

Girls Race, under twelve years— L. Flett 1, M. Narbey 2, M. Olsen 3;

Girls' Race, under fourteen years —E. Petersen 1, E. Holstein 2, Narbey 3.

Girls' Skipping Race— L. Lett 1, M. Olsen 2, M. Narbey 3.
 Boys' High Jump—B. Hercock 1, E. Biddle 2, F. Lett 3.
 Small Boys' High Jump—T. Busst 1, L. Cadwallader 2, J. Mason 3.
 Drawing Pig Blindfolded—Mrs. Flett 1, Tom Flett 2, O. Falkner 3.
 Ladies' Guessing Competition--Miss McMillan 1, Mrs O. Petersen 2, Mrs Watterus 3.
 Ladies' Nail driving—Mrs Busst 1, Mrs Ashdown 2, Mrs Rout 3.
 Bandsmen Guessing Competition E Hansen 1, L. Parker 2, O. Falkner and R. Falkner tied for 3.

Towards evening the weather cleared up, and the social and dance in the hall was largely attended. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr Dohnt was a capable M.C. The music was supplied by Mr John Day's piano and Mr and Mrs Hall violin and piano. Recitations were given by Mr McKinley, and phonograph selections by Mr Hans Larsen. Supper was handed round shortly before midnight, after which dancing was continued and kept up till the early hours of the morning.

3rd May 1909 Miss G. Armstrong, from Nireaha, will replace Miss Smith at Parkvale. [Carterton]

15th May 1909 Messrs J. Rundle and J. A. Daysh have been elected to fill the vacancies on the Nireaha school Committee

12th October 1909 Miss L Ainsworth appointed assistant at Nireaha

11th December 1909 Miss G Ainsworth appointed Sole Teacher Putara [New School]

11th December 1909 Miss L Ainsworth appointed to Rakanui [Pongaroa]

11th December 1909 Miss I Stace appointed Putara

13th December 1909 Miss Ainsworth appointed Rakanui

In December 1910 Miss L Ainsworth was at Rakanui. There was no G Ainsworth who taught for the Wellington Education Board and I think this is actually L Ainsworth and Miss Ivy M Stace was at Putara

In 1914 Lilian Ainsworth was teaching for the Hawkes Bay Education Board at Waipatiki School which was only a few miles North of Horoeke in the Wellington Education Board both South of Weber.

1950/19506	Ainsworth	Lilian Ada Jane	80Y
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1910

1910	65	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£205	\$32,138
1910	65	Nireaha	O'Sullivan	Elmyra		Assistant Female	£90	\$14,109

23rd March 1910 Wellington Education Board The truant-officer: (Mr. J. Dineen); in his report, referred to chicken-pox and whooping cough as causes of a good many absences from the schools.: When visiting some of the houses in the country, he found that milking was responsible for a very unsatisfactory attendance in the case of at least six families at Mangarama, Nireaha Mangamaru, and Hamua.

29th June 1910 the Lands Department requested that the old school site at Nireaha be granted for recreation purposes.—On the motion of Mr Vile, seconded by Mr Hogg, it was decided

to inform the department that the board was prepared to approve of the exchange of the land at Nireaha for land required for school purposes at Silverstream. [Southern Upper Hutt]

12th July 1910 On Friday night a dance was held in the Hall, in aid of the school funds. Several vocal items were rendered during the evening. The School Committee might do well to follow the example of their "Rongo" friends and induce some of the children to take part in an evening's entertainment. At Rongokoako the children, about once a year, give a most enjoyable performance, but here they do not take part in entertainments organised in aid of the school funds.

Miss O'Sullivan only taught for Wellington Education Board for this time

29th July 1910 There is some talk of closing the school now instead of September, as so many children are compelled at present to be absent on account of sickness.

4th August 1910 Owing to sickness among the pupils the Nireaha school has been closed for a week.

6th September 1910 Notwithstanding the inclement state of the weather, the Nireaha Hall was well filled with settlers at the social organised by the school teachers in aid of the school library funds. About forty of the children took part in several items. Considering that the young performers had not before taken part in any entertainment, they acquitted themselves very well indeed, and now they have made a start it is to be hoped that they will appear in similar performances in the future. The writer would suggest that the School Committee arrange an entertainment to raise funds for close boarding parts of the road fence, for the purposes of a break wind. A certain amount of shelter from the northwesterners would thus be afforded the children, and gardening could be carried out to advantage.

30th November 1910 Library subsidies were approved for, the schools at: Nireaha, £2 16s. 3d.; Kaiparoro, £2; Mauriceville, -£2 12s.

[I could find no mention of an Elmyra O'Sullivan in New Zealand. There were other women with this unusual Christian name in the South Island]

1911

1911	61	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£210	\$33,212
1911	61	Nireaha	Compton	Winifred		Assistant Female	£90	\$14,234

17th January 1911 The people of Nireaha, beyond Eketahuna are anxious that the school reserve in that district should be converted into a recreation ground. The Wellington Education Board has offered to dedicate the land to the district provided that the Land Board will give an area of land at Silverstream, required for school purposes, in exchange. Negotiations have now been proceeding for some months, and, it is hoped that finality will be reached at an early date.

31st January 1911 Miss M O'Sullivan resigns

1st February Miss A O'Sullivan resigns. Actually E

2nd February 1911 Our assistant teacher (Miss O'Sullivan) has severed her connection with the local school and is, going to take up a similar position in Blenheim. Since Miss O'Sullivan came to the district she has made herself very popular with both old and young, and she will be greatly missed

22nd February 1911 The annual school picnic is to be held next Thursday in the Hall grounds, and a dance is to be held in the evening.

3rd March 1911 Education Department subsidises library by £6 4s 10d

6th March 1911 Owing to numerous counter attractions, the school picnic was poorly attended, but the dance in the evening surpassed expectations.

14th March 1911 Miss W Compton appointed to Nireaha . Winifred Compton after 4 years as pupil teacher at Masterton School

15th April 1911 Miss W. Compton (says the Masterton headmaster in his report to the School Committee) retired from the pupil-teacher staff on the 31st ult., to take up the position of assistant at the Nireaha school. She completed her pupil-teachership at this school in a very creditable manner and developed good teaching ability during her four years' apprenticeship.

26th April 1911 Nireaha. —C. Brown (chairman), E. Ireland (secretary). J. Hardymont, H. Hansen, J. Spring.

10th June 1911 The settlers of Nireaha are still anxiously inquiring about their Domain. The Education Board has been negotiating with the Land Board for months past over an exchange which would enable the reserve to be handed over to the settlers .For some reason or another, however, the negotiations have not been completed.

1912-1913

1912	63	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£210	\$32,206	
1912	63	Nireaha	Compton	Winifred		Assistant Female	£90	\$13,802	
1913	68	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£210	\$31,500	Provided
1913	68	Nireaha	Wilton	Rubina W	D5	Assistant Female	£90	\$13,500	

Provided means a school residence was provided for the head teacher

9th July 1912 Mrs Anderson, sister of Miss Hutchens, who is the mistress of the Nireaha school, died at Sandon on Saturday

30th January 1913 Miss W Compton resigned as assistant

11th February 1913 Miss R Wilton appointed assistant Nireaha

30th April 1913 School Committee Nireaha.- — Messrs F. H. Dowden (chairman), G J Connor (secretary), C. Brown, H. Hansen, J. Tafeita, E. E. Goss, A. Woodley

14th June 1913 Talk about amalgamating the country schools into bigger schools included Suppose some central point were fixed—even if only the Mangamaire, Marima, and Nireaha schools were grouped—a. school could be established at that point to which with its larger attendance, and consequent elevation in grade, the appointment of headteacher would carry an attractive salary. The result would be obvious. Part of a long article

1914-1915

1914	67	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£210	\$30,066	Provide
1914	67	Nireaha	Wilton	Rubina W	D4	Assistant Female	£100	\$14,317	
1915	72	Nireaha	Hutchens	Emmeline E R	E1	Head Female	£220	\$29,469	Provide
1915	72	Nireaha	Loughlin	M G		Assistant Female	£110	\$14,735	

Winifred Compton taught at Masterton School from 1907 to 1910 and didn't teach again for the Wellington Education Board after her two years at Nireaha

Rubina Wilton taught 3 years at Masterton School then 2 years at Nireaha and 1 year at Koputaroa

1917/6209	Rubina Martha Wilton	Andrew Ballantyne	Shearer
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M G Loughlin only taught the one year at Nireaha for the Wellington Education Board

M G Loughlin obtained in 1911 a Partial Pass in Class D at Christchurch

In 1914 M G Loughlin was teaching at Upper Sherry School for the Nelson Education Board

23rd September 1916 The Nireaha School has been closed for a time, owing to the prevalence of measles

24th February 1914 The school children held their annual picnic last Thursday week hi a pretty piece of native bush on the bank of the Mangatainoka River. Both adults and children gathered in large numbers and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves

26th November 1914 Miss Hutchens receives Leave of Absence from Nireaha

26th November 1914 Eketahuna DHS In the secondary department, under Miss Lazarus, there are 24 students coming from schools surrounding Eketahuna as far distant as Nireaha, Hukanui, Hamua, Ihuraua Valley, and Alfredton. That this department is doing excellent work is evidenced by the result of the annual examinations.

2nd August 1915 Miss Davies, who has been relieving at Belvedere, goes to Nireaha, Eketahuna

1st December 1915 Wellington Education Board The foreman was instructed to visit the Nireaha School residence and arrange for tire necessary drainage work.'

There was no farewell to Miss Hutchens by the Local committee or any mention of her leaving after such long service to the Wellington Education Board which was strange .

1946/25861	Hutchens	Emmeline Emma Rosetta	79Y
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When she left Nireaha Emmaline would only have been about 48. Electoral Rolls show her in the Palmerston North Electorate in the 1930's

1916-1917

1917	71	Nireaha	Hall	Henry G	C-56	Head	£220	\$24,6
1917	71	Nireaha	Morrison	Margaret		Assistant	£117	\$13,1
1917	71	Nireaha	Martin	Nora P		Probationer 1	£30	\$3,36

12th February 1916 Head Teacher Mr. G. T. Hall.

23rd March 1916 A fresh case of infantile paralysis — a boy of eleven years of age, from Nireaha—was admitted to the Masterton Hospital yesterday afternoon.

19th April 1896 School Committee Nireaha. —Messrs W. G. Drysdale ; (chairman), L. Yelverton (secretary), Jno. Daysh, H. Hansen, F. R. Bluett

18th April 1917 Miss E Chamberlain appointed

16th June 1917 Miss M Morrison appointed

4th December 1917 Mr H G Hall recruited into the army

In 1919 Mr Henry G Hall was at Fernridge School

Nora P Martin only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Nireaha

1918-1919

1919	70	Nireaha	Gordon	Charles S	C-66	Head	£305	\$27,554
1919	70	Nireaha	Kissell	Elizabeth		Assistant	£150	\$13,551

Charles S Gordon taught at Rongomai in 1913 and then at Lansdowne before coming to Nireaha where he was teaching at the end of 1919

The Only Charles S Gordon teaching in State schools in 1921 was teaching at The Hook School Makikihi for the Canterbury Education Board, Makikihi is south of Timaru near the coast

24th January 1918 War appeals The teachers concerned were :—Henry George Hall, Nireaha; Ernest W. Russell, Waione; and Sgt. Stuart Duncan, Waikanae.

_In the case of Mr. Hall, exemption sine die was granted conditional on' his remaining in his present occupation, and it was explained that Mr. Russell has been classed as unfit for service abroad. An unusual position was disclosed in the case of Sgt. Duncan. Mr, Stewart said that he had enlisted, gone to the front,' and subsequently became unfit for active service. At present it is understood that Sgt. Duncan is doing clerical work in London, and the request of the Education Board was that, in view of the shortage of teachers, he should be brought back to New Zealand and given leave to take up his teaching work again.

5th April 1918 the school gardens competition at the Eketahuna horticultural show, at the Eketahuna horticultural show, with 258 marks, Nireaha second with 249 marks.

11th August 1919 Mr Hall, headmaster of the Nireaha school, takes up an appointment at the Masterton school next week. [Fernridge?]

5th September 1919 Mr C S Gordon appointed Head teacher

1920-1921

1921	53	Nireaha	Scott	William W	E	Head	£330	\$28,410
1921	53	Nireaha	Morrison	Sybil D N	C	Assistant	£240	\$20,662

15th June 1921 W W Scott appointed head teacher

William W Scott Started in 1900 as a pupil teacher at Greytown. Then he was at Karori side school for 3 years before coming to Mangamaire for another 3 years. In 1908 he went to Pahiatua School until coming to Nireaha in 1921 where was still at in 1923

Sybil Morrison was at Kilbirnie in 1914 and Roseneath in 1915 and then at Te Aro infants before coming to Nireaha where she still was in 1923

1922-1923

1923	56	Nireaha	Scott	William W	E-115	Head	£335	\$30,790	
1923	56	Nireaha	Morrison	Sybil D N	C-182	Assistant	£233	\$21,415	

Post 1923

8th May 1925 School Committee Nireaha: Messrs. J. Spring (chairman), W. Scott (hon. secretary), W. S. Terry, C. Goss, L. Scowan, G. Butler.

19th November 1929 Miss L M Wadsworth infant mistress Nireaha

National Archives Nireaha Records

Nireaha

1905 Change the old school into a residence Shift it from its current site and additions to convert it into a residence

Cover all the walls and ceilings specified to be rough sawn in scrim to the value of 5 ½ pence per yard well stretched taped and tacked/ Cover scrim with papers to average one shilling per roll

All wood finishes are to be oiled and twice varnished

1908 erection of New School

Heart of Kauri or heart of Rimu framing

Builders Sykes and Harwood Lower Hutt for £748 . There was a lot of concrete foundations all walls and chimney piles and porticos.

Nireaha 1902 -1970

19th June 1902

Letter to the Hon. The Minister of Education signed by at least 32 names

Included:

- 1) We all live within a radius of 3 miles of the Nireaha School
- 2) We find through a few agitators that the Wellington Education Board is to shift the school from its present central position which is 5 miles from Newman School
- 3) And that the board is about to apply for a subsidy to shift the school
- 4) We earnestly beg the Government to not grant for such purposes as it would be a wanton waste of money
- 5) Closely adjoining the school now are a public hall, Creamery, Library, Post Office and Telephone Bureau and a site for a church to be built
- 6) The total of the children including Putara and Atea is 81 miles and will Walk 76 miles to the proposed site Thus showing that there is no practical gain only five miles divided amongst 60 pupils.
- 7) Then the school being next to the creamery makes it convenient for many of the children to come in the milk carts and being close to the Post Office makes it convenient to take the mails home after school
- 8) Any enquiry from the Inspector has been entirely one sided. Those opposed have not been consulted
- 9) Personal interests other than educational are having a large sway in the matter
- 10) We endeavour to retain the school where it is.

A copy to Minister had been typed up and a stencilled copy perfectly made

23rd June No claim has been made to the Department to remove the school

There is a list of 10 children who are not attending Nireaha because of distance

McMillan R 6 & C 7. G Kershaw 10, A Thompson 6, W Bell 7 ½ R Bell 6. Holstein E 8 ½ R 7

Brown L 8 and N 6

There are between 40 & 50 children in the district under age

1904 A beautifully written note

Present building is 480 square feet with a low stud. Classes Primer Standard 1 and 2 are taught in a room attached to the Oddfellows hall/ The roll is 65 and an average attendance of 45 for the December quarter

Miss Huchen (Head Teacher) states there are between 40 and 40 children under school age

A committee of the Board has already reported and recommended that a new school in a more central site be selected

F Bakewell Inspector writes

- A) the stud is only 11 foot high
- B) Temporary structure in 1896 for £92. It is badly lighted
- C) The Standard 2 to Primers are accommodated in the Public Hall which is also badly lighted
- D) I recommended this school be shifted so another school is not agitated for from the Stirling Block
- E) The school roll for March is 71
- F) I may say that the low average attendance is partly due to the unsatisfactory accommodation

Application for new School Nearest Newman 6 miles, Rongokokako 5 Miles Kakariki 5 miles

In 1896 census 107 returns. 1901 194

Furniture required 40 Desks teacher's tables, chairs, Blackboards and easels

Total Cost £600

10th May 1904 Wellington Education Board to Chairman of Board written by F H Bakewell Inspector included

- a) Temporary structure built in 1896 at a cost of £92. It is badly lighted and ventilated
- b) Floor space of 480 feet the stud is barely 11 ft [3.35 meters high
- c) S2 to Primers are accommodated in the Nireaha Public Hall which is also badly lighted
- d) For some time there was agitation for a school in the Stirling Block 3 ½ to 5 miles from Nireaha and to stop another school being built I recommend moving the Nireaha School a mile further
- e) Roll no for March is 71 and there should be about 80 if the school is moved
- f) Low average attendance is partly due to the unsatisfactory accommodation

Children to be provided for who are not now attending

B McMillan 8, C McMillan 7, G Kershaw 10, A Thompson 6, W Bell 7 ½, R Bell 6, E Holstein 8 ½, R Holstein 7, L Brown 8, N Brown 6

11th March 1904 Wellington Education Board apply for a new school to Department

- a) One room 30 foot x 16' [9.1 x 4.8 metres]
- b) Roll: 1901 22, 1902 44, 1903 48
- c) Newman 6 miles away, Rongokokako 5 miles Kakariki 5 miles
- d) Population 1896 107. 1901 194
- e) New school 25 foot x 22 foot porches, shelter sheds and latrines

f) £ 550 for building, £50 for furniture

g) Some furniture is in present school

26th Nov a sum of £475 for new school the school to be at the corner of Nireaha Road and Quarry Road the old building to be sold and the proceeds to go to the new one

ORDER is as in the file

20th July 1904 Letter from Mr Hogg MP for a new school to the Mr Seddon

26th January 1905 Letter from G L Stewart Secretary of Wellington Education Board stating they would rather lease out old site than selling it and asking the Department for permission

8th February 1905 Department want to see plans and specifications of new school

8th February Wellington Education Board write to Department

The £475 falls after short of the lowest tender for Nireaha School £538-17-8

23rd May Department writes to Education Board stating the old school could be turned into a five room residence for the teacher

9th May 1905 Wellington Education Board propose moving the old school to the new site and used as a residence . Department allocate £233 for the removal of old school to new site and adding a room for teachers use

19th July 1905 New school in occupation

27th March 1906 Education Board to Secretary of Department .Housing allowance may be discontinued and though the house is not finished it is sufficiently advanced for occupation

24th April The residence was not ready to occupy at the beginning of March. I was wrongly informed. It was not ready until April 1st

28th June 1906 Archibald McDougall tells Secretary Education Board that the residence is built at a cost of £206:15:0

	Feet		Feet	3.35	4.75
Room	11.6	x	15 .6	Metres	Metres
Room	11.6	x	15 .6		
Room	11.6	x	11.6		
Room	16	x	11.6		
Scullery	12	x	7		
Washhouse	18	x	8		
Closet	5		4		

21st January 1908 Telegram to Wellington Education Board School house [School] and teachers residence at Nireaha destroyed by bush fire also other houses

24th January Wellington Education Board notifies Department

7th February 1908 inquiry into school fire

a) Mr Chew manager of Nireaha Cheese factory was only witness

b) The fire came from the South he entered the school but it was already alight

c) Mr Chew had to shelter in a hole he dug 2 foot deep for between 2 and 3 hours in the space between the school and residence

8th February 1908 Letter from Wellington Education Board to Department included I may remark that the lady teachers who were absent on holiday have lost all they possessed as they had nothing insured

7th February Plans for new school and residence presented

19th February applying for rent of temporary accommodation for school

26th May 1908 New school and residence being rebuilt

18th June 1909 Final residence and school rebuilt

This time house has a washhouse with pipes and tuns connected

1937

1934 Roll 42, 1935 37. 1936 39

Removing 3 windows on north wall in Western Room and Put 3 new windows in Easton Classroom 19th August 1937 After the MP wrote changes to Lighting by improved windows improved at a cost of £104

1952 Improvements made to school residence