

## Okautete

**Okautete:** *Closed 2001.* AKA Homewood School. First Known as Kaiwhata School. This school for much of the time was run as a Native School and therefore not under the Wellington Education Board control, records for this part of the school are held in Archives Auckland.. Only from 1962 did it become a normal state school under Wellington Education Board Control. 60 Kilometres East of Masterton on the coast near Riversdale.



15<sup>th</sup> February 1902

Christian	Surname	Age
Paku	Ioii	9
Paku	Ani	6
Paku	Haerenyarangi	5
Paku	Pita	7
Waaka	Tepaea	5
Waaka	Hoani	12
Ranginui	Maukuika	
Ranginui	Tarnawhiti W	7
Himiona	Rere	7
Himiona	Tumorehu	12
Waaka	Tewhitu	14
Paku	Kahu	14
Waaka	Taiawhio M	6
Tohe	Puhara	11
Paku	Hekeria	11
Waaka	Kahu M	8

29<sup>th</sup> January 1902 Letter from Piripi Waaka to Native Schools, Education Department applying for a school. His address is Homewood, East Coast. The boundaries being that of the Rongkako Council Districts

21<sup>st</sup> February G Hogben Secretary of Education in reply. That a school could be erected if three acres of land are offered by the applicants to the crown

18<sup>th</sup> February 1902 Letter written by Mr. Hornsby of Carterton MP

- a) That 1 1/2 acres of land would be given
- b) There are 25 Maori children and some 5 or 6 European School children

Piripi Waaka in a letter to Mr. Hornsby saying he would now give 1 1/2 acres of land to the Government for a school

Letter from Education Department to Mr. Hornsby stating the act said that 3 acres must be given

25<sup>th</sup> March 1902 Letter from Piripiri Waaka asking for a native School for Rongokako I hereby, offer a clear title to three acres of land as a site for a school

25<sup>th</sup> April Another letter from Waaka The nearest school to us on the one side is 13 miles away and School on the other side is 18 miles away

6<sup>th</sup> June List of names of children who are without means of education and would attend. There are some six or seven European children who would attend

12<sup>th</sup> July A long report to Inspector General of Schools included

- a) Kaiwhata is on the coast between Flat Point and Castle point
- b) The distance from Masterton is 46 miles

c) The nearest European School is Te Wharau about 21 miles away

d) I did not see Piripi Waaka, he was at a meeting of natives at Picton

e) The people are very much in earnest in their wish to have a school

f) At present about 12 of the children attend school, some at Te Ore Ore, near Masterton and some at Taueru a few miles from Masterton

g) Mr Tatham of Homewood Station and Mr. F Hales of Flat Point kindly went over the list of names with me and they do not think any were ineligible children

h) Including two Europeans, twenty children of school age are probably available.

i) Alternative sites are offered on a piece of land known as the reserve land, retained by Maoris when they leased the surrounding property to the proprietors of the Homewood Run

j) The reserve is about 1 1/4 miles from the homestead

k) Both sites are fine A is the one shown to Mr. Hornsby

l) That the people are earnest in their wish to have their children educated is evidenced by their sending several children to live with friends

m) It seems to me a school ought to help

- n) I recommend that a school (The site B being a preference) should be acquired and very inexpensive school room and three roomed cottage should be erected.
  - o) That a lady teacher should be appointed and should be paid the colonial scale
  - p) Mrs Tatham suggest that the teacher may board with the family of the Homewood Ploughman about half a mile from the school
  - q) The Department enlarging the house by adding a room to it
  - r) But as Mr. Tatham might at any time engage an unmarried man the arrangement does to seem practicable
  - s) There seems to me to be no reasonable course except to provide a cottage and to let the teacher live in it or not as she pleases
  - t) There are no buildings that could be used as an experimental school
  - u) J T Kirk
- 9<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Lands and Survey stating that they did not have a surveyor for Kaiwhata
- There are several surveyors including T Drummond of Greymouth (Sic) (*Greytown*) North (*There was a Greytown near Taieri in Otago*)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1903 School Site Block V Kaiwhata

22<sup>nd</sup> April 1903 Letter from G Hogben Secretary of Ed asking that plans be drawn up for an inexpensive building

Two of the residence rooms should be 12' x 10' (*3.6 metres x 3 meters*) and the third 12' x 14' (' = 1 foot)

The residence should be inside a fence enclosing 1/8 th of an acre

The schoolroom should be 17' by 15' with 9 dual desks and one 9' form

Also a small school cupboard and a table and chair supplied

There should be two small closets One for the residence and one for the school

The schoolroom would be outside the enclosure

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1903 Letter from Mr. Hogg MP. Mr. T Te Tau of Masterton called upon me in reference to the proposed establishment of a school at Homewood

He stated that the natives interested had given two acres as a school site and they are desirous of ascertaining when the building is likely to be provided

14<sup>th</sup> July Under Secretary of Ed to Public Works Department stating that the plans had not been drawn up because other work was more important

3<sup>rd</sup> October 1903 Plans have been drawn up estimated cost of building £550

29<sup>th</sup> December A title has been obtained and the plans drawn up. During the winter the roads leading to the site from

Masterton are not in a state to admit carting of the necessary materials for the building. Work should start now

3<sup>rd</sup> March Mr. Buchannan MP still asking by telegram what is happening

4<sup>th</sup> March R J Seddon Prime Minister is now sending telegrams What is the position re Kaiwhata Native School? Etc.

1<sup>st</sup> June Letter from Mr. Albert Pitt to Mr. Buchannan. Asking whether the Maoris have agreed to give timber for the school

28<sup>th</sup> June 1905 Piripiri Waaka I don't know anything about that as Mr. Tatham has an agreement with Mr. Buchannan MP to take timber off Homewood for the school

Following several letters re timber

Mr. J Tatham Writes

22<sup>nd</sup> July 1904

I am prepared to off sawn timber in the rough (not plained sic) at fourteen shillings per hundred superficial feet delivered. Totara, Matai and Renui.

I will be unable to saw the timber before January Would fall the trees immediately upon receiving satisfactory reply from you

4<sup>th</sup> September Mr. Tatham to be contacted to supply timber. Nobody guarantees that timber sold is seasoned so that Mr. Tatham doesn't have to delay this

## 1905

Kaiwhata, near Flat Point.—A small school is being erected here.

Native school inspectors

28<sup>th</sup> January 1905 Mr. Hogg MP Telegram to Colonel Pitt Minister of Education When is the school going to be built?.

Timber has not yet arrived

14<sup>th</sup> February 1905 Tenders to be called.

10<sup>th</sup> April 1905 Telegram from WC Buchanan asking what happened with tenders

16<sup>th</sup> May 1905 TENDERS will be received at this office .until Noon- 6th Monday, 29th May,1905; for the Supply and Delivery of Timber and Joinery for the Erection of a Native School at Kaiwhata, Flat Point. Specification and conditions of contract may be seen at the Post Office, Masterton, and at this office. The lowest or, any tender not necessarily accepted. JOHN CAMPBELL, Government Architect. Public "Works Office, Wellington, PP

23<sup>rd</sup> May 1905 Masterton Country Council writing warning that the Councils Wheel Tire bylaw is in place limiting the weight of any load including the vehicle to 30 Cwt (Hundredweight 1.5 tons)

## 1906

Kaiwhata School, near Homewood, Wellington, a small school opened in September quarter, has so far done very well, though I doubt whether it will have a very long life. Native School Inspector  
1<sup>st</sup> May 1906 Letter from John Tatham telling the clerk of works that the building is nearly finished

There are a number of children waiting for the school to open

The school is now finished and only need furniture

25<sup>th</sup> May Letter from Public Works stating that the furniture would be better coming by road from Masterton than come by sea, even though this is cheaper. Problem would be in unloading the material

26<sup>th</sup> July Letter from J Campbell The buildings are now completed the contractor has left the school key with Eli, the Maori who also has the telephone bureaux nearby. The keys of the house and key of gate are hung up in school and labelled

Builders appear to be Robinson and Robinson. Painter Cole

27<sup>th</sup> June applicants for teachers now called for

25<sup>th</sup> June Mr. Buchanan MP asking that a teacher be appointed quickly

Total Cost of building £ 743-16-5

Builder was William Boyd

24<sup>th</sup> July Secretary of Education Teacher for Kaiwhata appointed  
Can you advice me of route and means of conveyance overland and whether roads passable. Steamer may not be available

E O Gibbes Secretary of Education

## MARRIAGES.

19<sup>th</sup> February 1903 THIRTLE—LEMON.—On the 28th ultimo, at St. Peters Church, Hornsby, N.S.W., by Rev. H. Plume, assisted by Rev L. Smith, H. L. Thirtle of Bowral, N.S.W., to Gertrude, fifth daughter of the late John Lemon, of Oamaru, N.Z. (Wellington papers please copy.) PP

1<sup>st</sup> February 1906 H L Thirtle arrived from Sydney on the Maheno  
PP

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1911. H L Thirtle playing tennis in MASTERTON

1935/19479 Thirtle Herbert Lestor 65Y

1952/24978 Thirtle Gertrude 83Y

28<sup>th</sup> July 1906 Letter to Mr. Thirtle Teacher

The furniture for the Kaiwhata Native School comprising 9 desks, a form, book, cupboard, table, chair, two blackboards and two easels goes by the same boat as you under consignment to Mr. G Moore, a local station owner, who pending the arrival of the teacher has arranged to store the it in his shed at the landing place, Uriti Point and cart it to school.

As it will not now be necessary to store the goods on arrival, you will please take delivery and arrange for carting

6<sup>th</sup> August Telegram to Mr. J Tatham Mr. Thirtle teacher for Kaiwhata will arrive by Kahu leaving tomorrow, Tuesday

Carswells Formans mail brake leaves Masterton post office at 8 a.m. Tuesday and Friday about 5 p.m. Road Bad cannot take heavy goods better send per steamer

NB Order as in file

26<sup>th</sup> August Letter from Secretary Native Schools to Mr. Thirtle Please be so good to submit a sketch illustrating the proposal to add a leanto to the residence with an estimate of the cost

11<sup>th</sup> August 1906 Letter from Mr. Thirtle to Secretary of education included

- a) I enclose statement of expenses incurred in removal and already paid by cheque for £12-10-0 incurred in removal
- b) You will see there is a balance of £2-14-6 due to the Department which I enclose Mr. Tatham's Cheque
- c) I also enclose claim for travelling allowance for Mrs Thirtle and myself for time occupied in land travelling and delay in Wellington
- d) There is no shed of any kind at the residence
- e) Such a thing is very desirable as I have no means of keeping firewood dry

7<sup>th</sup> September Letter to Mr. Thirtle re the inadequacy of the water supply and suggestion a bore be put down

4<sup>th</sup> September Letter from Thirtle stating that a public meeting was to be held in the school re erecting a hall in the district

Cost of leanto approximately £5-10

14<sup>th</sup> September Application has just been called for Divine Services to be held in the school hall every 4 weeks

28<sup>th</sup> September 1906 Letter from G Moore to Mr. Gibbes My man was all day with his team and took another with him to the beach to help load up

I enclose voucher for cost of said service. Loading furniture and carting

Inspectors Report of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1906 included

- a) The ground has been cleared by the Committee, the soil is very poor indeed, a garden has been formed by the master and small plots are laid out by the children
- b) The extremely poor soil, the dry weather and the winds are against success here
- c) The rule is mild and the relations between pupils and master appears to be friendly. One punishment recorded
- d) I have no fault to find with the cleanliness of pupils and I observed one or two cleaning slates in the old fashioned way
- e) The naming of the school is unfortunate. Kaiwhata is quite a different place that at which the school is situated
- f) The advertising of the school as Kaiwhata near Flat Point meant that there were fewer tenders for the building
- g) Okautete is the name of Kainga of bush at which the school is situated
- h) Tumapuhia the ancestor of the Hapu

- i) Mgapuketura the name of the block.
- j) The problem with the first is the similarity with some English words

The small school at Okautete (formerly called Kaiwhata) has also proved very successful. Native Schools inspection notes

## 1907

2nd March .A Picnic will be held at the WAIKARAKA OLD HOMESTEAD EAST COAST, on Friday Next, March 8th.

The public are invited. Sports, Games, Children's Races, etc. Refreshments provided on the ground. In the EVENING, the Kaiwhata Public Hall, at Homewood, will be opened by Mr J. H. Tatham. An Entertainment will be given, commencing at 8 p.m. Songs, Recitations, Minstrels, etc. Tickets, 2 shillings each Children under 12, half price.

To be followed by a DANCE at 10.30 p.m. Tickets, Gentlemen, 2s 6d each Ladies free. Foreman's Coach will leave Masterton on Friday morning, and arrive at Waikaraka about 2 p.m., returning to Masterton on Saturday morning. Hon. Sec. Picnic, E. A. BURNS. Hon. Sec. Concert and Dance, 11. L. Thirtle PP

25<sup>th</sup> June 1907 In deference to the natives, the school will be known as Okautete School

3<sup>rd</sup> August 1907 Re shelter shed. The School Committee have built a shed for 5 pound. It is not usual to have shelter sheds with floors but as the work is reasonable will accept

22<sup>nd</sup> August I don't see how having the floor of the shelter shed wooden will help keep the classroom clean. You are authorised to procure a mixture of grass seed for the school reserve

13<sup>th</sup> August Letter from Mr. Thirtle to Secretary of Education

- a) The road over which the children have to travel to school is ankle deep in mud after rain
- b) Under present conditions it is impossible to keep the floor of the school room and the lower parts of the desks, etc clean
- c) The school ground which when I came here last year was a wilderness of manuka has now been ploughed with a view of putting it down in grass
- d) So far it has been useless as a playground, as before it was ploughed it was studded with manuka stumps and in its present state it is of course too rough

16<sup>th</sup> September Inspectors Report included

- a) Roll 21
- b) School Committee Monte Anaru, Piripi Waaka, Maipuka Kingi, Whitu Pipiri, Rei Paku, F Ford
- c) The school glebe has been ploughed, the teacher has a very neat garden already The fences are all in a good state of repair
- d) The behaviour and manners of the children are very good

e) The work of the past year has been successful. Several pupils of Standard 1 were capable of work much beyond the requirements

f) The results were good

5<sup>th</sup> December Letter from Mr. Thirtle Mr. Tatham informs me that owing to the great increase in the price of grass seed it was impossible to supply enough to sow the school ground for the Committee's estimate of 30/- . I may add he has supplied the seed at cost price

## 1908

7<sup>th</sup> May 1908 Letter from H L Thirtle Head Teacher Okautete Native School to Chief Health Officer asking for some medicines for the district. These were sent

3<sup>rd</sup> April 1909 A letter asking for another bottle of the No 1 Mixture (Cough Mixture) as supplied last year

30<sup>th</sup> July 1908 Letter from Mr. Hornsby MP to Mr. Geo Fowlds Minister of Education

The teacher a married man with one child has to live in two small rooms and I would respectfully will you to grant a sum to provide two more living rooms

Reply. Mr. Thirtle knew what he was going into. Nothing will be done

5<sup>th</sup> July 1909 Letter from Secretary of Education to Mr. Thirtle. I am sorry to hear that you are re-laid up with illness. A fortnight's leave is sanctioned in terms of your application and as I understand that the services of a medical man are not available the medical certificate that is usually required be dispensed with

15<sup>th</sup> November Letter to Mr. Thirtle acknowledging his request for a transfer to a bigger school

2<sup>nd</sup> February 1910 I will arrange to send a portable copper boiler if you let me know how it should be sent

28<sup>th</sup> June 1910 As there is no convenience here for washing clothes I shall be glad to know if the Department will provide a portable copper

I suggest a Unique Portable Copper Boiler capacity about 16 gallons

The copper should be sent to Masterton by Rail to Messrs Pinkey Bros who will forward it per coach'

17<sup>th</sup> February 1910 You are authorised to purchase at a reasonable cost a new pan for the school privy

27<sup>th</sup> May I would like the department to allow me to floor the shed I built three years ago

Rats are becoming numerous and under present conditions it is impossible to keep them out of the shed

11<sup>th</sup> February 1911 Roll 23 and I have only desk space for 18

10<sup>th</sup> February 1911 Alterations to house held over as Mr. Thirtle has been recommended for Waitahanua School



26<sup>th</sup> June Letter to Secretary Otago Education Board Miss Annie Taylor of the Arthurton School has received appointment in the native school service

19<sup>th</sup> June Mr. Thirtle leaves for Waitahanua School (*Lake Taupo*) and Miss Taylor appointed to Okautete

18<sup>th</sup> July 1911 Because Mr. Thirtle was uncertificated his salary was docked 10%

11<sup>th</sup> July Thirtle passenger Auckland Rotorua Express, c/- railway station Putaruru

If necessary stay at Taupo proceeding to Waitahanua at earliest convenience

1911 Mr Thirtle at Waitahanua Licensed. . 1912,-16 at Ranana, Rotorua Two teacher school

7<sup>th</sup> July I have to notify you that I am leaving for Taupo tomorrow. We leave Masterton on Monday and should reach Taupo on Wednesday

I do not suppose my furniture will be there by that time as it will take it two days to get it from Okautete to Masterton which means that it cannot leave Masterton by goods train till Monday and I understand it will take two days from Rotorua to Taupo

21<sup>st</sup> July That Mrs Taylor will be recognised as sewing mistress. As regards cooking, it is intended to be of a purely practical nature suited to the circumstances of the Maoris and involves the Department in little expense for material and appliances

29<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Taylor (*Annie's Mother*) resigns as sewing mistress owing to illness she has been forced to reside elsewhere

2<sup>nd</sup> August Annie Taylor applies to be transferred as an assistant teacher to another native school

So far I have occupied the residence with a friend but owing to the climate not suiting her health my friend is compelled to leave the district

I cannot possibly live alone in the school residence and the nearest place I can get board is half a mile from the school

12<sup>th</sup> December 1912 My address during the holidays will be A Taylor (Miss) Maire Street Mosgiel

20<sup>th</sup> January Miss Taylor has been transferred to another school and will not be returning The new teacher is Miss F L Barnes who has recently been employed as a teacher in the South Island

Miss Taylor appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant at the Tokomaru Bay Native School

29<sup>th</sup> February 1913 E Louise Barnes Starts School

7<sup>th</sup> July Application to purchase one doormat

24<sup>th</sup> July Some arrangements will be made shortly for vaccination of children As regards yourself and child the Department is quite willing that you should take a day off school in order to take the opportunity

15<sup>th</sup> November As I have been struggling greatly from toothache for some time and I have been unable to arrange a Saturday visit could I please take a day off school

3<sup>rd</sup> December You will shortly receive two packages containing 16 pieces of wallpaper and 2 rolls of frieze

15<sup>th</sup> January Mrs Barnes appointed to the Matata School

12<sup>th</sup> March The new teacher for your school is Catherine O'Donnell a young teacher working for the Grey Education Board

27<sup>th</sup> April Miss O'Donnell took charge

She travelled overland from Greymouth to Lyttleton

13<sup>th</sup> July Letter from Miss O'Donnell stating she could not cash her cheque monthly as Okautete is forty three miles from Masterton and the only connexion is a coach twice weekly

14<sup>th</sup> March Mrs M E Moss teacher authorised to procure blinds for school and residence

12<sup>th</sup> July 1916 A teacher has now been found for Okautete. Miss V Ward Assistant teacher Waima School has been appointed

Warning! This is as far as I got up to at Auckland Archives. I finished Turanganui and Te Ore Ore schools and partly finished Okautete and Papawai I will return. The Native School record keeping was far superior to that of the Wellington Education Board

10 September 1917 S. MATTHEWS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND KINDERGARTEN. The Next Term will commence on TUESDAY, September 18th, at 9 a.m. The Principal, Miss Montgomery, will be in attendance at the School to receive Parents on Wednesday, September 12th, Saturday, September 15th, and Monday, September 17th, from 2 to 4 p.m. each day.

S. MATTHEW'S HOSTEL FOR BOARDERS. For particulars apply to Mr H. L. Thirtle S. Matthew's" Hostel, 24 Lincoln Road, Masterton

8<sup>th</sup> August 1911 The average attendance at the Okautete Maori School in the Masterton County, during the past year, was 18. PP

27<sup>th</sup> December 1913

#### SCHOOLMASTERS

Applications which must be accompanied by original credentials will be received up to 19<sup>th</sup> January 1914 for the teachers of the under-mentioned Native schools

Rawhitiroa, Raglan; present grade ii.

Rakaunui, Kawhia; present grade ii.

Karetu, Bay of Islands present grade ii.

Okautete East Coast, Wairarapa; present grade ii.

Salaries as for Public Schools; residences provided; passages paid.

Applicants must be certificated or possessed of teaching experience. Male applicants must be married. Full details as regards age, experience, and qualifications, family, etc. must be given

Two unmarried male assistant teachers are also required for the Boys' Training farm Weraroa, Wellington Salaries £135 with quarters and board PP

The Mayor acknowledges the following:—

WOUNDED SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' AND DEPENDENTS' FUND.

The Mayor acknowledges the following : —

MAYOR'S BEGLIAN FUND.

The Mayor acknowledges the following. -

MAYOR'S HOSPITAL SHIP FUND. The Mayor acknowledges the following

15<sup>th</sup> October 1915 Native **School**, Okautete... 1pound 11 3

MAORI CHILDREN

26 April 1917

ATTENDANCE AT: STATE SCHOOLS.

In the Wellington district 328 Maoris are distributed , among , thirty-seven schools in the following classes, states the annual report of the school inspectors —

P 128

SI 46

S2 55

S3 41

S4 33

S5 19

S6 12

S7 4

338

With the exception of Okautete, which has twelve Maoris out of a roll of fourteen, the proportion of Maoris to the roll is in most of these schools very small. In Gladstone, Kahautara, and Ohau about one-third are Maoris, in Waikanae about one-quarter, in Otaki one-sixth, and in such places as Levin and Greytown less than one-twelfth. The identity of the Maori is thus lost, and it is difficult to report on his progress in such cases. The figures given above, however, show that many of the Maori children leave school before reaching Standard 5., and up to this standard the average age of the

Maori is roughly about one year in advance of that of the European in these classes. Of the Maori in Standard 6. four obtained proficiency and two competency certificates. PP

26<sup>th</sup> April 1917 The Native School at Okautete was inspected for the first time.

14<sup>th</sup> July 1933 SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

The monthly meeting of the Sunday School Union was held last evening. Mr. Alexander Johnston presided. The Tawa Flat Methodist School was elected a member of the union. -The chairman stated that ten teachers and 7 scholars sat, the recent examinations. The honorary extension organiser, Mr. W. E. Howe, reported the addition of two schools to the list of extension schools, namely, South. Featherston Presbyterian and Okautete School Miss Stevenson reported that a meeting of the Hutt Valley Primary Teachers' Association had been held with 28 teachers present. \_

A bit hazy now but still remember class mates, now retired and living in Brisbane Teachers were Will Dunwoodie, Tungiora Paku, Kura Bennett and Mavis Fairbrother

Kia Ora, I attended Okautete Native School, My Parents are Nuki & Hinerau Mason. We were brought up out Homewood, & the life style out there was awesome, & it still is today. My Teacher I can remember was Mr Wihongi & also Mavis Lillian Paku & Mr Harry Liley. Left school at 14 years & went to work for James Akuira, Shearing Contractor as a Shed hand, presser, & have worked as a farmhand for most of the Homewood District. It was

sad to see the closing of the School, It was a School That I will always remember.

Mrs Paku

List of Teachers supplied from memory by John Tatham, of Homewood fame

1. Dunwoodie
2. Fairbrother married Wilson Paku
3. Evan Wood
4. Peter Bruggerman
5. J Lister
6. Maurice Cudby
7. Sandy McCutcheon
8. John Clark (reliever)
9. Robert Cameron Reliever
10. Gael Taylor
11. Sue Smith

15<sup>th</sup> June 1909 Letter to Chief Health officer asking to replenish Ointments nos 11 and 12 as supplied to native schools

11<sup>th</sup> February 1910. Asking for fresh supply of cough medicine and the two ointments (Zinc and Sulphur) as supplied to native schools.

16<sup>th</sup> February 1911 Letter from Education Department The control of native medicines having been retransferred to this Department we will now be dealing in them. Because of shortage of funds we will only be supplying stock medicines except where there is urgent or absolute necessity

## 1936

18<sup>th</sup> August Letter from David Dunwoodie to director of education explaining why the Peneha children come to Okautete rather than then to Ngahape. "Board being available was the main reason though it was only 4 miles further from Okautete to Masterton than it was from Ngahape to Masterton. This school is only 10 miles by horseback from Peneha's home. Te Wharau school is out of the question as there are no roads beyond Ngahape. Ngahape is entirely surrounded by high rugged hills.. Though the distance between Ngahape is only 7 miles (*By Track*) to do the journey by car means a distance of over 80 miles.

The children are at present receiving excellent treatment and I am pleased with the progress they are showing

26<sup>th</sup> September Letter from Director of Education That a boarding allowance be paid to H Reihana to enable two children of K Peneha to board with him in order that they may attend your school

5<sup>th</sup> November Application made for boarding allowance Me Dunwoodie states that the boys attendance is 100% and they are being well cared for

Tamaiti Kingi Peneha and Taura Kingi Peneha. Payment 5/- per week per child

## 1937

6<sup>th</sup> May Application for board for Richard David Power of Coast Road Pongaroa of Pongaroa on Correspondence. Child will board with Mrs Pane Waaka  
Child has been attending Okautete School for 2 years

## 1945

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1945 Letter from M Fairbrother for horse allowance for the Donaldson children (Donald and Greta) These children ride 5 miles to school paid at 8d a trip or 1 shilling and 4d per day

## 1948

17<sup>th</sup> February Authorised to dismantle and rebuild chimney, installing a new range and renewing pipes Okautete Native School  
13<sup>th</sup> April only one quote from Alfred Wallis  
31<sup>st</sup> May Tenders declined by Public Work Department as tenders were excessive

## 1952

15<sup>th</sup> September Tar sealing completed

## 1953

10<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Paku Head teacher , The erection of a fence approved and the necessary materials should be on site soon  
11<sup>th</sup> June That the community can take water from the school well  
All correspondence went to Newmarket in Auckland

## 1962

2<sup>nd</sup> June Note from Okautete Maori School had a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> June and they were happy for control to go to Wellington Education Board  
3<sup>rd</sup> October Mr H M Liley to Wellington Education Board asking to be transferred to Okautete School from the Maori School

## 1963

9<sup>th</sup> May As one of the children of the school dies in hospital the school closed for his funeral  
8<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Mrs Nicola Bamford Secretary of School Committee asking for a part time assistant to be appointed. The roll is 30 with 18 infants  
If the school had been a Maori school it would have been eligible for a part time assistant when the roll reached 25, which it has been all this year  
19<sup>th</sup> December A junior assistant would be appointed next year

## 1964

26<sup>th</sup> June A Junior Assistant was a position in Maori Schools and a transition period of two years was adopted before the position ceased. (Mrs Liley assistant)

## 1965

8<sup>th</sup> March Letter from Mr Liley to Wellington Education Board When roll dropped to 24 the Junior Assistant position was lost. The roll is now 28

8<sup>th</sup> April Another letter to Wellington Education Board asking what decision had been made about a Junior Assistant

## 1966

22<sup>nd</sup> February Terry Tatham resigns as Junior Assistant  
Letter from P Bruggeman teacher Roll is now 34

8<sup>th</sup> March P Bruggeman Sole Teacher writes to Wellington Education Board stating that there were 27 pre-schoolers in the district

5<sup>th</sup> April Vacancy for a Scale 1 assistant to be placed in next gazette

4<sup>th</sup> April Mr P Bruggeman was granted Leave of Absence to visit his mother in Holland who is very sick. Leave from June 1966 to May 1967

9<sup>th</sup> June E Andrews Head teacher Miss Huia Cecilia Slater is the uncertificated junior Assistant

19<sup>th</sup> August E Andrews writes that Mr Peter Bruggeman will be returning to Okautete during Christmas Vacation

## 1966

5<sup>th</sup> September Roll 26. During the holidays a sperm whale washed on the beach. The school went down to look at the whale. It measured 50 foot long Several of the children extracted a whale's tooth, while others were reluctant to go too near because of the smell  
7<sup>th</sup> June Bill Farland(*Rural Adviser*) came and helped. He started off a course of Sheep Farming which will take about 5 weeks to follow up.

14<sup>th</sup> September East Coast Teachers meeting at Castlepoint

19<sup>th</sup> October Mr Farland came and brought the film projector with him We saw a film about Japan. He also showed us a film about experimental work in teaching arithmetic. Although this second film was not much use to the children, it was of particular use to me.

21<sup>st</sup> October. Shopping Day was held today.

25<sup>th</sup> October. A standards athletic meeting was held today at Memorial Park Masterton. This school showed particularly fine performances From comments from parents I would say that this was the first time for many years.

5<sup>th</sup> November A bonfire was held at the school tonight

14<sup>th</sup> November Today I brought a new softball bat and ball on School Committee grant. I also wanted to purchase some gloves but none were available in Masterton

23<sup>rd</sup> November Inspectors report: Roll 26 Included

- a) In view of the large proportion of Maori Pupils the more generous staffing scale enables an uncertificated teacher to be employed
- b) It is pleasing to note the lively school tone and cooperative spirit in the school
- c) The Homewood Station baths are used in summer.
- d) Since the last inspection a new classroom block has been completed
- e) Cleaning is done by the teacher

8<sup>th</sup> November Today we had the carpenter to repair the window in the new school. However when he stripped the old glass he found the new window pane would not fit because it was not cut square. He will repair it next week when next in the district

21<sup>st</sup> November 6 children and myself went with a group of children from Awatoitoi to Wellington, We left on the 6.52 train and returned at 7.30, A ride on the police launch finished off a rewarding day.

23<sup>rd</sup> November. Mr Wilson School Inspector made a triennial visit. Mr Wilson was satisfied and pleased with some of the efforts made in this school

10<sup>th</sup> December. Children's Xmas Party

12<sup>th</sup> December. The plumbers came to school today and fixed the underground pump adjacent to the new school. The pump is now sitting above ground level.

16<sup>th</sup> December Roll closed at 27

## 1967

2<sup>nd</sup> February Roll 29

Next Entry 22<sup>nd</sup> May

16<sup>th</sup> July Winter Sports at Wairarapa College this afternoon

15<sup>th</sup> August. Today the new typewriter arrived but as I cannot open it without the servicing agent being present so I have to send it into town again by tomorrow

8<sup>th</sup> September Dr Roberts (*Mrs Rona*) spent most of the day in the staffroom examining the pre-school children

19<sup>th</sup> September. Today received record player from the Wellington Education Board Tonight the children went into to view the Musical Festival in the Town Hall which proved a huge success for our school

24<sup>th</sup> October. The old toilets which were dangerous for the children have been demolished. Two of the big pines trees have come down

7<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Hargreaves arrived at 1pm to show flower arranging for the girls. She was still here at 3.00

9<sup>th</sup> November At 11.30 the carpenters arrived!

17<sup>th</sup> November Pet Show day. The first ever to be held at the school was highly successful. All floral displays as well as sewing and art and craft work was displayed in the new school

After lunch judging of pets began in the school grounds.

18<sup>th</sup> November I have received a bottle of concentrate for Mr Tatham's swimming pool

20<sup>th</sup> November Letter from Nicola Bamford to Wellington Education Board

- a) Miss Slater has resigned

- b) The grading roll is exactly 30. This school seems to have a genius for never exceeding a roll of 30 in the third term
- c) The School Committee would like a trained assistant to help Mr Bruggerman
- d) 17/30 are Maoris

Note at bottom another certificated teacher would mean another classroom. Would rather have a fulltime Teacher Aide from Mr Hickey, Staffing.

29<sup>th</sup> November A letter from the Wellington Education Board saying that the record player will not be here until February 1968

16<sup>th</sup> December Miss Slater resigned her position and was bid farewell by the School Committee who expressed their regret at seeing her go.

## 1968

5<sup>th</sup> February Roll 28

27<sup>th</sup> February Country School swimming sports in Masterton The school didn't distinguish itself in any of the events

11<sup>th</sup> March Electricians arrived to fix the electric range in the Residence Later they said they would be back to put a new oven door in.

18<sup>th</sup> March Mr Summer Power Board Electrician came to survey the pole on which the outside light is to be put.

21<sup>st</sup> March A power Board Electrician came and installed the outside light on the power pole. He also wired up the water pump in the pumpshed so that both light and pump register over a check meter

and the ----- where the teacher supplies the school with water at his own expense, has at last come to an end

22<sup>nd</sup> March A power board inspector connected the check meter.

This afternoon two traffic officers called at the school (One a very senior inspector) looking for inspector Yule which I thought was a rather lame excuse for spending an afternoon's drive.

30<sup>th</sup> March Today Mr Piotrowski plumber came repaired the drains of the bathroom and emptied out the septic tank so that the "high" smells at the back of the residence are now a thing of the past.

2<sup>nd</sup> April Today a grader and loader began to repair the damage done to the drive to the school, caused by last spring's rain. A new water table was cut on both sides of the road. In the evening Mr Kerse local county member arrived for supervision, He suggested approaching the School Committee for terracing the playground as the county were looking for a dumping place for good soil when the new road is being pushed through

10<sup>th</sup> April A rather severe storm hit the area during the night No damage to be reported. Barometer 28.4

19<sup>th</sup> April Shortly before lunch the school dental nurse arrived. She was here to well after 2 O'clock to check teeth of the children and preschoolers.

The District Health nurse came. She intended to show a film but a power cut made this impossible.

Mr Kerse came to hand out a box of poppies for the children to sell.

30<sup>th</sup> May Mr Yule Traffic Inspector visited the school showed two films and handed out colouring sheets

17<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Wallis Wellington Education Board building officer came with Mr Porter (Carpenter) he examined the residence re new



windows, porch, new electric range, shelter over back door, new windows in kitchen, chip heater in kitchen, other windows flashings in classroom. All to be done shortly. When??

18<sup>th</sup> September School Cleaned floors waxed and polished.

2<sup>nd</sup> September Roll still 27

5<sup>th</sup> September The radio with extension speakers has at last arrived in good order.

7<sup>th</sup> October The health nurse made an extra visit with a Miss Hope from the Welfare Department the latter to check up on the Gilbert Family.

30<sup>th</sup> November. A very successful day was spent in Masterton at the Wairarapa Country Schools Sports day A special mention was made of our school.

14<sup>th</sup> November Mr Fellingham new Wellington Education Board carpenter came to look at the residence.

3<sup>rd</sup> December. Received from Wellington Education Board 50lbs CHO<sub>3</sub>S disinfectant for the school swimming baths at Homewood

8<sup>th</sup> December. Mr D Bamford came today and took away the TV aerial which was left behind on the roof of the residence by the previous teacher.

## 1969

4<sup>th</sup> February School reopened Roll 27 Miss S Kerse who replaced Mrs Tatham as uncertificated teacher commenced duties

20<sup>th</sup> February Mr Gordon Tarrant Art Specialist visited the school all today

27<sup>th</sup> February School closed by School Committee in the morning. Children attended country school swimming sports in the afternoon  
3<sup>rd</sup> March Mr Fellingham took four days to make repairs to residence.

6<sup>th</sup> March Letter to Mr Bruggerman saying that Miss S Kerse of Hukanui Station appointed teacher aide.

7<sup>th</sup> March Health Nurse checked the health of the pupils.

13<sup>th</sup> March Mr Dunwoodie who years ago was head teacher in this school visited. His recollection of the early day situations were most interesting and revealing

23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> April Teacher attendee a language course in Masterton

11<sup>th</sup> June As Wellington Education Board could only use Miss A M (Sally) Kerse as a teacher Aide she resigned.

18<sup>th</sup> July Standard 3 and big children went to Masterton on bus to see the Governor General.

6<sup>th</sup> July The children spent the day in town for the 7 aside football and basketball (Netball) tournament

12<sup>th</sup> August Mr Wallis building officer of Wellington Education Board came to inspect work done by the carpenters in the Xmas holiday!!!!

15<sup>th</sup> August I checked the growth of 17 trees sent by Mr Ngata, science adviser. Most appear to be growing.

18<sup>th</sup> August With the warmer weather the ants have entered in the staffroom

21<sup>st</sup> August Schools cleaned, floors polished, lawns mown old school tidied up. Leaving the school these holidays

New Teacher Mr P F Gray relieving assistant. Mrs Gray could have teacher aide position

22<sup>nd</sup> September. Letter to Wellington Education Board Roll is now 29

24<sup>th</sup> September Japanese doll making Mrs M Beresford and daughter instructed.

1<sup>st</sup> October Ants! Blades fumigation came and sprayed house, school and woodshed.

8<sup>th</sup> October Mr D Bamford commenced training the children for the athletic sports.

1<sup>st</sup> October School inspector – Mr Boocock (Ex Featherston Head Master)

23<sup>rd</sup> October Shopping Day.

30<sup>th</sup> October Interschool Athletic Sports. Helen Morris came third in the long jump. Ruth Taylor, fourth in the shot put. The school came third in their heat of the relay

5<sup>th</sup> November Mr Gray to Wellington Education Board Roll is now 37 pupils

Note suggesting that a permanent teacher be appointed as getting relievers was difficult.

6<sup>th</sup> November Guy Fawkes night was celebrated by the community in the school grounds. The children gathered wood from down the gully. A large guy was made and contributed to an enjoyable evening concluding abruptly, due to rain at 9 pm.

10<sup>th</sup> November School visited Masterton Mrs Henricksen, Owen, Trass and Topp assisted with the organisation and transport.

19<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Moore relieving. Music course and head teachers meeting.

16<sup>th</sup> December The school presented a Christmas pageant in the local church. Eighty people were present and they seemed to enjoy the unusual finish to the year.

17<sup>th</sup> December Mrs B F Golding appointed assistant teacher. On maternity leave until 25<sup>th</sup> May 1970 Declined job

J J Fleming??

## 1970

15<sup>th</sup> February Letter from Mrs Bamford What is going on?

- a) Have not been told Mrs Golding is not coming.
- b) Have not been told that Mr Gray is continuing to relieve
- c) If you don't know how long Mr Gray is staying then please say so
- d) We are very happy with him but we do want a permanent teacher

25<sup>th</sup> February The Wellington Education Board is waiting for the resignation of Mr and Mrs Golding and the position can be readvertised

Followed up by a letter to Mr Golding who had accepted a position as long term reliever at North Shore Training College the position was to be readvertised. But Mr Golding had to resign first 1<sup>st</sup> October Mr J Nimmo Principal Mrs Henricksen Scale 1 assistant Roll 26

20<sup>th</sup> November Letter from Les Bayley District Adviser for Physical Education recommending that a portable (Read Para

Pool) be accepted for Okautete School in letter to Wellington Education Board  
School roll 29

## 1971

18<sup>th</sup> February Class trip to Castlepoint

The senior school spent the day visiting the lighthouse and associated buildings. Mrs D Topp assisted with supervision and arranged for an extra visit to Castlepoint station where the bell taken from the Edwin J Fox (*Edwin J Fox is on display in Picton*) hangs. Her grandfather brought it ashore in the 1860's

The day concluded with games against Whareama on the way home.

22<sup>nd</sup> February Okautete and Whareama held a swimming sports meeting as a final try out before the sports. Results Senior win for Whareama 56-32 and a Junior win for Okautete

25<sup>th</sup> February Town swimming sports. Julie Tatham, Paul Morris, Tom Bamford, David Moore and Piri Morris did well

Thanks were expressed to Mrs D Bamford for the time she has devoted to coaching.

4<sup>th</sup> March Swimming finished for the season because of an early cold spell and indifferent weather.

22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Music course. Mrs Nimmo relieved in the junior school and Mrs Henricksen took charge.

24<sup>th</sup> March Visit from local scout leader recruiting for lone scouts.

8<sup>th</sup> April Mid term comments on how children have settled into school and how well they are working sent home. No Comments!  
No Complaints!

14<sup>th</sup> April The dental nurses arrived to inspect teeth. Only 4 children needed to go to town for treatment

18<sup>th</sup> April "School duck shoot" Eighty shooters 65 men and 15 women turned out to get some early season practice, Ammunition, clays and alcohol incurred bills of \$400 against the taking of \$570 approximately.

19<sup>th</sup> April School Committee election A large gathering of householders (25) met to discuss many aspects of community concern and among other things to elect a school committee

- A) It was decided not to build a school baths because of a declining roll and the Wellington Education Board is reluctant on the part of the board to either grant a subsidy or give reasons why they shouldn't
- B) After 3 years of fundraising the outcome of this decision has been disappointing to many
- C) The local hall is going to be brought up to County standard using some of the baths money.
- D) The remainder of the money will go into trust to be administered by a trust committee of 6 including the resident school teacher
- E) New Committee. John Tatham Chairman. Secretary Nicola Bamford. Colin Simpson, Neal Trass and Michael Owens
- F) Meeting concluded at 10.45 am
- G) A decision was even made to have a working bee to chop firewood for raising funds!!!!

28<sup>th</sup> April Trip to space afternoon in Masterton The senior school seemed to enjoy the display but found it too complex and not as exciting as they thought it might be.

The juniors went to see the local Police Station. The climax was a spell behind bars for some of the boys.

7<sup>th</sup> May Roll 20. Mrs Henrickson left and was given a farewell attended by children, the local mothers and ex pupils

24<sup>th</sup> May Mrs S Moore is to be teacher's aide for 15 hours per week. The school is now a sole charge and is likely to stay that way for years to come.,

24<sup>th</sup> May Letter to Wellington Education Board from Mr Nimmo Roll Now 20. Mr Nimmo wanted to be placed on Dominion Transfer List.

6<sup>th</sup> June Winter sports in town. A roster has been drawn up so that most mothers will only have to go twice (Peace perfect peace!

11<sup>th</sup> June Queen's Birthday. School polisher smoked and fumed, Jonquils sent to town and will continue weekly from now on.

26<sup>th</sup> July A very successful day was held at Wairarapa College. The East Coast A rugby teams won all games in the seven asides, The girls did not compete in the netball as none of them were old enough.

The social value of the trip was probably more important than any competitive result

10<sup>th</sup> July Table Tennis Club social. Even though it was not a school function it was the first time for many months that the whole community got together. The evening was well attended (50) and was well worth the organisation put into it.

12<sup>th</sup> July School was closed for education day. The time, personnel expense and school time lost did not justify the day. It was largely directed towards the city classroom and therefore the benefit was limited. I feel country teachers day is of far more personal benefit

14<sup>th</sup> July Afternoon school was closed for Lions V Wairarapa match All children attended and seemed to enjoy it. It was a very wet afternoon and children's seating was poor. However the experience of being in crowds and group discipline was of benefit to them.

17<sup>th</sup> July. The School Children and I held a bottle drive to raise funds for School Committee funds. We had a successful morning collecting 360 dozen beer bottles worth \$40 and numerous soft drink bottles yet to be sold. A mornings fun for the children

24<sup>th</sup> July Wood chopping working bee. Most parents (Male) turned out and with 10 chainsaws and several axes 20 chords of firewood were stacked for school funds. Unfortunately in the panic the school firewood was forgotten. However patience being a virtue and all things equal the teacher and children will survive the winter freeze

6<sup>th</sup> August Letter to Wellington Education Board from Mr Nimmo asking whether he had been placed on the Dominion Transfer list

1<sup>st</sup> September Miss S Morris teacher aide has been overpaid and could the Wellington Education Board have \$26.60 back please

6<sup>th</sup> September Roll 18. David and Craig Sheilds have shifted to Whareama School

21<sup>st</sup> September Rodney Trass started school

30<sup>th</sup> September Return Roll 20

5<sup>th</sup> October Plumbers arrive to clean out septic tank and replace spouting in the house

18<sup>th</sup> October Sports at Tinui. A good day of games and social experience was had by all. Pru Morris was placed in the ¾ mile and the cricket ball throw, Mrs L Bamford, A Bamford, S Owen P

Tatham S Jensen and A Moore took cars and assisted with the children

5<sup>th</sup> November Guy Fawkes was held at school. Three truckloads of wood were collected to make a large blaze. The evening ended abruptly at nine thirty just in time for the Friday Night horror film.

15<sup>th</sup> November The children cleaned out the Homewood pool in preparation for the school swimming season. Mrs Tapp and Mr and Mrs Tatham assisted in the task.

19<sup>th</sup> November Swimming commenced

19<sup>th</sup> November Pets Day The displays and pets were of a good standard

Tom Bamford won the cup for the champion pet, The day concluded with afternoon tea. The food being the children's delicious baking.

8<sup>th</sup> December The children visited Whareama School for a sports cultural and farewell to Awatoitoi school, Swimming Sports, Softball, musical items and junior games provided a full afternoon's entertainment.

The afternoon conclude with cakes, soft drinks and farewell speeches

11th December Teachers from the area meet at Castlepoint for final family get together. The weather stopped planned activities however it was a good chance to let off steam and talk shop!!

15<sup>th</sup> December. The school breakup went very well. The children presented 3 recorder items, 2 folkdances and a selection of songs and carols After a sumptuous tea Father Christmas arrived with a bag load of goodies for the children. The evening concluded at 8.30 pm and thus school was closed for the year.

## 1972

2<sup>nd</sup> February School opened

a) Roll 16

b) Two children who were coming have been enrolled at correspondence school

c) Three Standard threes from 1971 have gone to boarding school (*Hadlow?*)

d) Roll is more depleted than expected.

15<sup>th</sup> February Long awaited assurance that some action will be taken on cleaning up the boundary was given

Some compromise was reached on how the main paddock should be mowed.

The school firewood for the year was sorted out.

The School Committee was in a good state of mind and should be ready for some more positive action soon.

Ideas of an adventure playground was not received with favour.

23<sup>rd</sup> February The speech therapist came to see Mark Owen. She explained that he was not bad enough to warrant trips to town

24<sup>th</sup> February The afternoon was a great success. Despite heavy rain at times 62 events were run in 1 ½ hours Several children got certificates and the school came fourth in the relay.

25<sup>th</sup> February The sink in the kitchen was replaced by the school plumber

1<sup>st</sup> March Scripture instruction began for the year. The children were pleased to see Mr Tisch. Back

3<sup>rd</sup> March Letter from Mr J J Nimmo to Wellington Education Board My rent has gone up \$3.40 . The rent should not have gone

up unless the value of the house was over \$500. The house was built over 67 years ago and is 40 miles from the nearest centre of civilisation. What is the valuation on the house? Reply from Wellington Education Board that the house is valued at over \$5000 . Wellington Education Board to write to valuation department to see if the valuation is correct. On the 21<sup>st</sup> march the Valuation Department value the House at \$4450. Rental is now \$6.00 per week not \$6.80 has previously notified.

9<sup>th</sup> March Mr Trass began to clear the fence line and the heap of dirt from the bottom of the playground. The committee's ploughing and resowing of the area is yet to come

15<sup>th</sup> March. School visited Tinui The Juniors had their swimming sports with Tinui and Castlepoint while the seniors played cricket, softball and rounders

17<sup>th</sup> March Swimming ended for the year. All the children from Standard 2 had their 220 yd certificate at least. Mrs Bamford has been a tremendous help and is a very competent coach.

18<sup>th</sup> March The school drinking fountain now working, was returned from the plumber. It appears a teacher is a man of many parts.

27<sup>th</sup> March School Committee meeting.

- a) A proposed trip to Christchurch was discussed
- b) The School Committee showed interest and agreed with the form of fund raising suggested.
- c) All charges for fares will be charged to already collected funds.
- d) The subsidy system is to be dropped from March 30th and because of the short notice given a School Committee

holiday will be granted on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> to enable the teacher to buy school equipment in Wellington. This has caused an unavoidable short week because shopping day is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> The School Committee had granted \$50 and the children \$30 from their account.

28<sup>th</sup> March. Problem over Piri's age. The Mother was very aggressive when approached about the boy's need to go to high school as he is fourteen

It appears she has miscalculated the whole situation and rural adviser and senior inspector help will sort out immediately

29<sup>th</sup> March I visited Wellington to purchase subsidy materials. Because of the general rush there was not a great deal left in the shops. Most ordering had to be done from catalogues with the aid of untrained shop assistants

\$140 was spent on maths equipment and reading material for the junior school

Mr Henderson (District Senior Inspector) was informed of the Morris situation and the action to be taken was discussed.

12<sup>th</sup> April Personal grading Mr Blair called in for the day, The children worked well and he was pleased with reading and mathematics

4<sup>th</sup> September. School started The school being closed for Education Day in Masterton which provided time to meet neighbouring teachers

5<sup>th</sup> September Roll is 20 E R L Wood Sole teacher

Mrs Sutherland visited the school to test for hearing and sight in the new entrants and the Form 1 and 2

21<sup>st</sup> September Bob Hopkirk Rural Adviser spent the day here helping me sort out programmes and equipment.

25<sup>th</sup> September The whole school travelled to Tinui to attend a play presented by the CAT Group

10<sup>th</sup> October School was taken by Mrs Wood while I attended an art and craft course in Masterton

17<sup>th</sup> November Shopping day Many of the children attended the inter schools athletics day in Masterton

## 1973

3<sup>rd</sup> March The District Senior Inspector Mr Hanna and Senior Inspector Mr Forsman called in this afternoon to see if there were any problems they could help with.

10<sup>th</sup> March The East Coast Teachers held their meeting here this evening to discuss reading and work out topics for the years meeting

1<sup>st</sup> May The school pupils visited Mt Bruce bird sanctuary where they viewed the rare bird species.

29<sup>th</sup> May 1<sup>st</sup> June I attended a course in Masterton on Maori Culture an the school was taken by Mrs Wood who acted as reliever and Mrs Hunter came in as teacher aide.

12<sup>th</sup> June Girls went to Tinui for Netball and boys going to Whareama for Rugby.

7<sup>th</sup> August School closed for the afternoon while the senior children attended the winter sports tournament at Wairarapa College. Everyone seems to enjoy it

14<sup>th</sup> August Some of the children went to Masterton to see a ballet that was being put on for the school children.

25<sup>th</sup> September The pupils of the school visited Masterton today to visit various places that serve our needs. The Bakery, Times Age, Milk Treatment work, Post Office, Hansell's, the police station and fire station'

25<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Wood relieved at the school for me today while I sat the first paper of the Diploma in Teaching Examination- Administration Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> paper on 31<sup>st</sup> October

16<sup>th</sup> November Our pets day which was to be held today was disrupted by hthe first rain for some time.

19<sup>th</sup> November A large number of pets arrived at school with parents children and friends

3<sup>rd</sup> December. The school was closed for a committee holiday to allow pupils to get Christmas shopping done

19<sup>th</sup> December Christmas party

20<sup>th</sup> December. School closed for the year A Miserable wet day.

## 1974

6<sup>th</sup> February School closed for first New Zealand Day

27<sup>th</sup> February Mr Robinson and Mr Piper (*Inspectors*) called in briefly to discuss mainly the falling roll in relation to the problems at Whareama. Met with Teacher and Mr John Tatham One of the reasons is that children travel free of charge on mail bus to Whareama School. Okautete needed a school bus. Current roll is 16

28<sup>th</sup> February The school was closed today while Mrs Wood took me to the doctor in Masterton

4<sup>th</sup> March .The pupils went to Wellington by Minibus for a visit to the Port

17<sup>th</sup> March (Sunday) Great Activity in the community as Piri Morris has left home. Many men including some police from Masterton have been searching. Reported sighting at Taueru

17<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Prior Board Member rang to enquire about the roll in relation to Whareama School and the possibilities of taking our Prefab building or supplying a bus run.

26<sup>th</sup> March Mr Bill Hedley (Wellington Education Board building officer) paid a brief visit to assess the possibilities of moving our prefab classroom.

19<sup>th</sup> April Mr Hunter came to shear our pet lamb as part of our fibre study.

24<sup>th</sup> April Mrs Topp came and spun some of the woollen fibres and let the older girls try too.

18<sup>th</sup> June Mr Robinson inspector visited the school for the triennial (E 12/1) inspection and my personnel grading

4<sup>th</sup> July. The audio visual technician from the health Department tested some of the children today

18<sup>th</sup> July The 4 senior girls represented the school at a vice regal visit to the Wairarapa

9<sup>th</sup> September Mrs Hunter opened school for a day Roll 16

10<sup>th</sup> September New Teacher relieving

17<sup>th</sup> September Saw a hare on the school lawn after school

7<sup>th</sup> October T Parry (Upper Hutt) arrived to start moving the prefab classroom to Whareama Jacked it up.

8<sup>th</sup> October. Prefab classroom out on side road, waiting until morning before starting its journey. Several mothers who had come

to pick up children after school had to drive across ditch to get round trailer holding the classroom

5<sup>th</sup> November Guy Fawkes held at school Huge bonfire no wind. Daylight saving made darkness rather late,

6<sup>th</sup> November. The big girls buried a hare fond dead.

2<sup>nd</sup> December First swim in Homewood Pool Not very much water in pool.

16<sup>th</sup> December Left key to school in town. Broke the broken window in the staffroom door with an axe. Mr Brian Jensen (School Committee member came in the evening and fitted a reinforced pane of glass.

## 1975

25<sup>th</sup> January Maurice Cudby

Arrived today, Found section and school surround a maze of long grass and weeds. Spent week of holidays grass cutting. Found house lovely to live in. Have received friendly welcome from whole district and have had many gifts of food stuffs.

4<sup>th</sup> February Roll 12

12<sup>th</sup> February Board rang to say Mrs Cudby has been appointed teacher's aide Type B from 3<sup>rd</sup> February'

14<sup>th</sup> February Children made a raft today and launched it in the Homewood baths.

19<sup>th</sup> February Jack Ennis from the inspectorate called. I thought he was an insurance man. He was particularly concerned about primary children by passing this school to attend Whareama- Bus travel from here approximately 21 miles.



20<sup>th</sup> February Whole school went to Tinui to view children's art theatre. I was disappointed with the performance particularly the language. Standards on our screen and stages etc are certainly dropping.

26<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Cudby took the first of her Religious Instruction lessons today- a very good response.

Nu further log entries until

## 1978

February During the working bee Lee Mason Smails fell off the old bomb and cur his leg rather deeply. Fortunately .... Smails was out for the weekend and she attended Mason and took him to hospital where he received stitches. A request will be made to the School Committee to remove the rusty old car.

Swimming programme in action- by bus to Homewood pool. Mrs Cudby and I are driving the bus for the first part of the term whilst swimming is on as this saves double running of bus and use of my car at lunchtime to go to Homewood Station to pick up the bus.

March Whole school visited Mt Bruce Bird Reserve.

March Homewood Station Centenary

Seven of the Okautete children at our local hunt

22<sup>nd</sup> May Local Hunt at Waironga (Mike Moors property). Committee gave permission for whole school to attend as there would be 12 children riding all from the local school and pony club All other children went on the back of Mrs Tatham's Land Rover. The children had a marvellous time. Mrs Pat Tatham displayed some

superb driving skills whilst negotiating a particularly muddy, slippery and what I thought a dangerous track. (children walked here)

Good social value was had at the afternoon tea in the woolshed where Lynda Merideth made a short speech to the visitors on behalf of the Whareama Pony Club.

The master of the hunt Geoffry Nutting commented on the behaviours and the riding manner and spirit which the children displayed.

Mrs Cudby rode her hack and accompanied the Okautete school children. Mr Tim Tatham was overall supervisor of our section

7<sup>th</sup> June New radio and infant woodwork tools arrived.

9<sup>th</sup> June Whole school visited ballet in Masterton Peter and the Wolf. Bus Transport. Parents Lyn O'Neale, Roger and Lesley Smailes, Janet Tatham and Mrs Cudby

15<sup>th</sup> June Group sports day at Whareama.

16<sup>th</sup> June Country Teachers Meeting at Taueru. Ian Snook Top cricketer and HT at Taueru had organised an interesting meeting with June Melser

21<sup>st</sup> June Bottle Drive 2.05 p.m. Boys and teacher while girls did sewing with Mrs Cudby

22<sup>nd</sup> June Pre-school health check held in staffroom by Dr Banks.

Received \$30.75 from load of bottles which boys and I collected

26<sup>th</sup> June 1080 poison laid on Bob Tatham's and Jim Morris's place Caution children of this. Six week danger period

29<sup>th</sup> June Girls to Tinui for hockey Boys to Whareama

Mothers sewed up sports skirts for girl's hockey and netball teams.

Official colour we are adopting is gold.

3<sup>rd</sup> July Construction on the additions began today. Library and storeroom

18<sup>th</sup> June Mr Burt Religious Instruction Stayed for lunch.

24<sup>th</sup> July Roll 23

25<sup>th</sup> July Ted Bray school's transport officer visited

4<sup>th</sup> August Winter Sports Tournament at Wairarapa College. I took girls hockey area. Our girls were unbeaten in every game at both hockey and netball. A credit to the children and Mrs Cudby who coached them. Lynn O'Neale also helped with netball. Many girls commented on our girls and asked which club they played for, This gave food for thought on the organisation of a team for Saturday Tournaments next year. *(Carol Cudby was an excellent hockey player who played in the Bush Rep team when Bush were one of the top teams in the country)*

14<sup>th</sup> August Rural Adviser visited school Brought Museum *(The Dominion Museum had a set of cases like a diorama of a topic)* and changed art prints.

15<sup>th</sup> August School trip to Masterton to see film Storm Boy. A very good film Even some of the Mothers were near to tears. School bus trip

18<sup>th</sup> August Carolyn Cudby Teacher Aide

12<sup>th</sup> September Roll 21

School library and bookstore completed

The lawn has been sown

Regular visits by the Board's building inspector Bill Hedley continued throughout the works. Curtain rails have been erected in the new library. *(Strangely enough Bill had a house at Riversdale and on retiring lived for a long time at Riversdale Beach)*

21<sup>st</sup> September Health nurse films, Walt Disney. Very good.

26<sup>th</sup> September Ted Bray visited for the day. An interesting day though I felt Ted was too formal with the children.

29<sup>th</sup> September. Group Teacher's tea meeting at Taueru

30<sup>th</sup> October Maurice Cudby Principal Roll 21

4<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Sherriff has assisted Mrs Cudby with book repairs  
Septic Tank cleaned by Harringtons. This so far does not appear to have relieved the smell.

11<sup>th</sup> October Cross Country at Whareama Shelley and Quentin won their age group. Shelley also caught and passed the boys in her group.

22<sup>nd</sup> October. Load of water delivered to school from Dalefield Dairy Factory. The pumping system from gully failed to work properly

16<sup>th</sup> November Pets day Results in log book

Cup won by Michael McGimpsey with his dog Tiger

13<sup>th</sup> November John Falloon visited the Homewood District. *(MP for Pahiatua and Cabinet Minister for National)* Mrs Cudby attended a tea and scones gathering at Homewood Station, where she gave John information about cuts in Education. He had not seen such material before and was very pleased to receive it.

15<sup>th</sup> November Group Teachers visit to other schools in Masterton  
Mr Axton (Whareama), Mr Mirams (Castlepoint ) Mr Snook (Taueru) and Peter Braithwaite rural adviser.

27<sup>th</sup> November Wrote to Wellington Education Board explaining Mr Tatham's preference to use baquacil instead of the chlorine provided by the Board. The chlorine apparently been responsible for continuous trouble with the filter system and maintenance is

becoming rather expensive as the plumber has to come from Masterton.

14<sup>th</sup> December. School and District Xmas party held in the Homewood School

The children presented a play from a Journal The Visiting Hour from a part 2 journal This was hilarious and a tremendous success

Following this the children sang songs playing their ukuleles and other musical instruments.

Christmas carols were sung to the accompaniment of Mrs Tatham on the piano.

## 1979 UPTO

30<sup>th</sup> January Roll 17

27<sup>th</sup> April Health Inspector visited school to inspect septic tank problem. He mentioned that he had not been notified of the building additions as he should have,

The inspector said he did not know how the Wellington Education Board had got away with such an unsatisfactory septic tank disposal system for so long and was aghast at the appalling conditions we had put up with so long. He quoted. This is against all regulations there must be no effluent exposed.

23<sup>rd</sup> May Pony Club Mrs Cudby and Mrs Bowie

25<sup>th</sup> May School bus transported children to the ballet

6<sup>th</sup> June Pony Club

11<sup>th</sup> June Visit by Mr Hedley (Wellington Education Board), Health Inspector and Ministry of Works re septic tank

13<sup>th</sup> June Visit to Masterton "My Fair lady" Theatrical Show

2<sup>nd</sup> July Rang Health Inspector re septic tank.

3<sup>rd</sup> July Mrs Cudby rang Mr Gosse Wellington Education Board re septic tank

4<sup>th</sup> July. Wellington Education Board officer, John Morris and Neil Groombridge (plumber) arrived to inspect septic tank

18<sup>th</sup> July Pony Club in Bob Tatham's paddock

19<sup>th</sup> July Plumbers arrived today to begin work on the septic tank.

20<sup>th</sup> July. Plumbers are working on the school tank despite my request and the knowledge of their boss to complete the resident septic tank first as that is the problem at present

3<sup>rd</sup> August Winter tournament at Wairarapa College. Mrs Cudby made another set of sports skirts for Standard 3 and 4 team.

6<sup>th</sup> August Conservation week for school unit starts this week

9<sup>th</sup> August School trip to Castlepoint Lighthouse and weather station Lunched with Castlepoint school and interactive games of hockey on the beach

Our children had marvellous fun here. I have never seen such totally happy children

10<sup>th</sup> September Children and teacher spent afternoon painting and staining fence and doing gardens and edges.

Ginny Bamford took juniors for their X country over course on Jim Morris's farm

11<sup>th</sup> September Board Maintenance Officer John Morris came to inspect plumbing progress on the septic tank and to fit door latch on back door of residence

The lock fitting which he brought out would not fit so he improvised by removing the fitting from the kitchen corridor and he left such

unable to close. We now use a piece of Swandri sleeve material to suffice in holding the door shut.

## 1983

24<sup>th</sup> February Residence report Maintenance is shocking, Outside washroom with hole in floor. Washing machine being supported by old door this past 5 years

Walls at shed completely rotten

Crack in lounge wall Leaking and split panels in architrave front door.

Dark kitchen which requires light on most of the time

28<sup>th</sup> March. Inspectors report Roll 13 A good positive inspectors report

## 1985

3<sup>rd</sup> may Letter from Peter Brindle Kummerstein to Wellington Education Board

a) Writing on Own Behalf

b) Mr Cudby is injured.

c) I feel that to expect Mrs Cudby to adequately perform the combined duties of acting principal, school bus driver, School caretaker while maintaining a house household under stress because of Mr Cudby's injury is unreasonable

27<sup>th</sup> June Letter from Nicola Brindle to Wellington Education Board

Until recently I have felt unable to write a letter to complain about the attitudes and behaviour of our school teacher Mr Cudby.

Our chief cause of complaint is Mr Cudby's aggressive uncompromising attitude whenever matters re school are raised. This therefore precludes

any constructive discussion. With most encounters ending with personal abuse.

We are concerned with the lack of progress in our eldest child (9) this year and hence feel compelled to send him elsewhere. Mr Cudby's attitude and response to this is "send him to Hadlow and he'd come right.

Surely this is a sadly negative attitude from a teacher with only 10 pupils

A note from John Lelliott Secretary of Wellington Education Board Mr Cudby has been a source of complaint for a long time. I think he should be transferred to a position in a larger school under firm control

Reply from Wellington Education Board complaints must go through School Committee. All visits have been positive

*Last Notes of this school. Maurice Cudby was found guilty of sex attacks on children at Okautete and later on further cases at Whanganui The school closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2001 and there was subsequently a lot of discussion about the buildings and land with the Maori People of Okautete*

1903		Kaiwhata	Not Yet Open					Native School
1904		Kaiwhata	Not Yet Open					Native School
1905		Kaiwhata	Not Yet Open					Native School
1906	44	Kaiwhata	Thirtle	H L	Male	£93/7/9		Native School
1906	44	Kaiwhata	Thirtle	Mrs G	Sewing	£9/30		Native School
1907	21	Okautete	Thirtle	H L	Male	£110		Native School
1907	21	Okautete	Thirtle	Mrs G	Sewing	£5		Native School
1908	18	Okautete	Thirtle	H L	HT	£110		Native School
1908	18	Okautete	Thirtle	Mrs G	Sewing	£4		Native School
1909	18	Okautete	Thirtle	H L	HT	£125		Native School
1909	18	Okautete	Thirtle	Mrs G	Sewing	£5		Native School
1910	23	Okautete	Thirtle	H L	Male	£130		Native School
1910		Okautete	Thirtle	Mrs G	Sewing	£4/10		Native School
1911	20	Okautete	Taylor	Miss A	Female	£108		Native School
1911		Okautete	Taylor	Mrs M J	Sewing	£4		Native School
1912	13	Okautete	Taylor	Annie	Female	£112/10/0		Native School
1913	16	Okautete	Barnes	Mrs. Ellen Louisa	Female	£108		Native School
1914	14	Okautete	O'Donnell	Kate	Female	£108		Native School
1915	16	Okautete	O'Donnell	Kate	Female	£108		Native School
1916	13	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£117		Native School
1917	15	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£126		Native School
1918	15	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£126		Native School
1919	12	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£160		Native School
1920	15	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£190		Native School
1921	10	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£200		Native School
1922	16	Okautete	Ward	Violet	Female	£185		Native School

1923	13	Okautete	Owen	Mary M	Female	£160	Native School
1924	13	Okautete	Owen	Mary M	Female	£160	Native School
1925	23	Okautete	Owen	Mary M	Female	£160	Native School
1926	23	Okautete	Owen	Mary M	Female	£170	Native School
1927	23	Okautete	Owen	Mary M	Female	£200	Native School
1928	22	Okautete	Owen	Mary M	Female	£210	Native School