

Opaki

Opaki: 1878-Present. Opaki School was originally further North by Mikimiki Road and when Mikimiki School was opened the school was moved to be near the Railway Station. I can find no mention of an Upper Opaki School as I have seen written. A number of references to this are to do with the Original Opaki School and then Mikimiki. 6 kilometres north of Masterton just off State Highway 2



New School Site

1868

10th November 1868 The Wairarapa Mercury gives an approximate estimate of the strength of the various companies of Militia in the Valley, and of the places where they will parade :—Masterton, 70 ; Carterton, 60 ; Greytown, 70 ; Featherston, 50 ; Beethams, 50 ; Tupurupurn, 30 ; Hume's station, 35 ; Tully's station, 26 ; Opaki

Plain, 30 ; Castle Point and Alfredton, 80. Total, 500. The Mercury says :— Calling out the Militia has strengthened the number of volunteers very materially, and many men who object to serve in the Militia hasten to enrol themselves (entirely regardless of the meaning of the word) as Volunteers. The Greytown Infantry has increased the number of its men, owing to a threat that if the company did not comprise a sufficient number, the members would be enrolled as Militiamen; while the members of the Cavalry found they could be independent of Captain Donald's troop, and form one of their own. A similar increase has been noticed in the other Volunteer Companies, and we must agree with a remark made by the Adjutant, that there is no recruiting sergeant for the Volunteers so efficient as the Militia being in the back ground PP

1873

3rd June 1873 In another week's time that great boon to Masterton, the Waipoua Bridge, will be completed, which throws open the Opaki Block, and pedestrians will be able to travel and enjoy the scenery, and visit the various rising farms, where more corn is grown than in in any other part of the Wairarapa- The frontages to the main road near the bridge have already risen in value. The township will soon extend to the other side of the river. PP

1876

3rd August 1876 The new road across the Opaki Plain is progressing rapidly, and will be passable for traffic in about six weeks. Thirteen men are at present employed upon it . PP

1878

April 26 1878. Need to plan a school at Opaki Wellington Education Board PP

29th May 1878. School open. Nearly all pupils are infants NEW School at Opaki. The tender of Mr. Petherick for the erection of a new SCHOOL AT Opaki for £385, was accepted. Opaki (27 scholars), 1st standard, 4; 2nd, 5 ; 3rd, 2. *Rest must be infants* PP

6th August 1878 The rabbit nuisance appears to be increasing on the Opaki. PP

1879

27th Jan 1879 School Committee elections

3rd April 1879 Opaki School Inspector's report This School has improved since my last visit- Most of the children passed the Standards expected of them. The style of reading should improve. The work generally was well presented, and showed careful teaching. The property should be fenced as soon as possible, Report of Inspector Lee PP

30th May 1879 Additions to Opaki School 95 pound PP

10th June 1879 Tenders are invited up to 5 p.m. of Saturday, 21st inst, for erecting a Teacher's residence on the Opaki—labor (sic) and materials. Tenders must enclose cheque for 5 per cent on the amount of their tender as a guarantee of good faith, Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Plans and specifications can be seen at R, and J. Brown's offices, Masterton. Tenders to be marked and addressed to the undersigned, and left at Council Chambers. JOHN HARDING, Chairman Opaki School Committee PP

26th September 1879 Whatever may be the failings of the gentlemen comprising the Board of Education, want of sympathy for the

weaker sex cannot be included among the number. At yesterday's meeting a discussion arose as to providing- a residence for Miss Matthews, the teacher at the Opaki School . A letter from Mr. Tuck was read, offering a four-roomed cottage for the purpose, provided that in the agreement a stipulation was inserted that no dogs, fowls, or any other livestock should be kept by the tenant, as she had had all his grass eaten up on previous occasions. On the letter being read, there was a general opinion expressed that the clause should not be agreed to. Archdeacon Stock asked if Miss Matthews was in the habit of keeping a cat. Mr. Lee replied, she believed she did. Then, gallantly rejoined the Archdeacon, "I will never consent to depriving her of it." Mr. Pharaoh characterised the condition as preposterous Besides, she had yet to learn that cats and dogs, and cocks and hens lived on grass. They would resist any attempt to deprive Miss Matthews of the innocent companions so dear to her sex. This determination was coincided with by all present except Mr. Hutchison, who was understood to withhold his opinion until he had looked up his natural history. He might have added that the illustrations on the walls only gave the members of the Board information on the subject of camels, silkworms, and bumble bees, and have suggested that a few pictures of cats and dogs and outdoor fowls should be added. .PP

1880

3rd April 1880 Last Tuesday was quite a red-letter day for the inhabitants of Opaki. It appears that having made up their minds to make a day of it, they went into the matter with a full determination to enjoy themselves, and they did so. We believe the matter originated on account of the children attending the Opaki School

passing a very creditable examination when the Inspector was up a short time: ago. In-order to encourage the children, the School Committee came to the conclusion that they would go a little beyond the stereotyped plan of giving prizes, and also give the children a treat, Accordingly, a few of the elder scholars were furnished with lists to collect subscriptions from their parents and friends, which resulted in something like £10 being collected. With this the Committee purchased some very excellent books for prizes, and also got a few articles in the shape of toys, knives, &c., for the purpose of getting up sports among the children and visitors, and having decided upon Tuesday as the day for the event to come off, from an early hour, all sorts of vehicles might be seen going in the direction of the school laden with parents and children, and baskets, boxes, etc., loaded with all sorts of good things . Anyone walking about at 11 o'clock would have been astonished at the number of carts, horses, men, women, and children around the school-house. About twelve o'clock, word was passed to fall in, and in a very short time ample justice was being done to turkeys, geese, fowls, hares, beef, and a variety of things besides, and instead of the portions being for one day only, you would have thought it was intended for a much larger time, so plentifully was everything provided. After all from the oldest to the youngest had been supplied a walk was taken to Mr Welch's paddock, where the boys played cricket for a while and afterwards several races took place, The girls also had some, races and other games provided for them, and it was a matter of amusement to see races competed for by married and single ladies,- the veriest dot having something to do.

About 5 o'clock, all returned to, the school, when the Rev Mr Teakle, at -the request of the Committee, presented the prizes to the children, giving a word of advice to each as the presented it. After the prizes had been given, Mr Teakle said the should like to say a word.to the children; The did not want them to go away with a sermon ringing in their ears, but the would entreat them not to relax .in their efforts during the ensuing year, otherwise they might be no further forward at the next examination. The would give an instance-of what the meant, A year or two ago, the Masterton Cricket Club were victorious in almost every match they played, simply because they kept up practice. Now they were nowhere, because they did not keep to work. It would ever be the same with them if they did not persevere. The thought great credit was due to their mistress for -the manner in which they had passed their examination, and they ought to be thankful both to the Mistress and the Committee, for the very excellent prizes which they had received. The been acquainted with them for some time, but circumstances had arisen which would force him to leave them, but the should always retain a pleasing recollection of their kindness, and should always be glad to hear of their success. The asked them to give three hearty cheers for the Mistress and Committee, which was duly responded to. Mr Harding proposed three cheers to Mr Teakle for distributing the prizes. Mr Gossett then requested churchmen to sign a petition to the Synod, praying them to alter the law relating to the qualification of vestrymen, and the Committee requested these interested to sign a petition to the Education Board, urging the necessity for the erection of a residence for the mistress. Whatever need there may be for the former, there is no doubt of the necessity of the latter, at the present

mistress has to walk about two miles and a half to school over some rough ground, with several nasty creeks to cross, Another visit was made to the refreshments, and as it was now dusk, and the moon would not be up for some time, the room was cleared, and the time passed in dancing, &c. When the moon rose a movement was made homewards, and ended the first gathering of the kind held on the Opaki and too much praise cannot be given to these who originated and took part in the meeting. Every attention was paid to visitors, and nothing was omitted to render the whole perfectly enjoyable. PP

1881

16th April 1881 At the late meet of Education Board, in reply to an application for a teacher's residence at Opaki, the board regretted they could not accede to the request PP

18th April 1881 The schools at Tawa, Fernridge, Ohariu, Matarawa, Opaki and Eketahuna have done good work this year; and considerable improvement was shown at Johnsonville and Gladstone. Tawa and Fernridge exhibit the highest classification; and a very good class of Standard IV. candidates was presented at Opaki ten candidates passing out of eleven presented PP

28th October 1881 Carry out following work Opaki residence Master's residence 200 pound

9th November 1881 The Masterton Town Lands Trustees have an income of at least £250 per annum. Deducing from this £50 for management purposes, there remains a balance of £200 for division. These local bodies are the Masterton school committee, the Opaki School, the Park Trustees, and the Institute Trustees. Mr Hare proposed. that the grants to these bodies should for the future

be as follows:—Masterton School, £25 Park £20; Opaki School £10 PP

26th November 1881 Application for work for a teachers cottage 200 pound PP

21st December 1881 That a grant of 6 pounds to repair residence PP

1882

15th March 1882 The examination of the Opaki School children was made on Saturday last by Mr Lee, the Inspector. It had been arranged to it hold the examination on Friday, but owing to having been delayed, Mr Lee got the children to come on Saturday. We were told a few of the children have been in the habit of coming to school at from half an hour to an hour late for some time past, and not only disturbing the other children, but losing what had already been done during the morning; but, on Saturday morning, strange to say, all were to time, and as many of the children brought some very fine bunches of flowers, they were placed about the school, thus giving the place a very cheerful appearance. As soon as Mr Lee arrived, those in the higher standards were sent out while the young ones were being examined, and as each standard was finished, the children were sent home, The following are the names of these who passed

First Standard.—Alexander Smith, Prank Dorset. John King, Arthur King, David Brown. Rose Campbell, Kate Campbell.

Second Standard.—George Douglas, James Douglas, Donald McPhee, Alice Welch, Lillie Campbell, Maggie Campbell.

Third Standard.—Mary Campbell, Margaret Smith, Dolly Welch, Bessie Brown.

These were all that went up for these standards.

Fourth Standard.-Harold Welch, Esther Douglas. Three others went up but not having attended the proper number of days could not be passed.

Fifth Standard, Hugh Campbell, Walter Welch, Hugh Welch, Alex McPhee, Herbert Welch, Sarah Campbell, Amy Welch, Minnie Welch. Two others went up but did not pass.

Sixth Standard.—One went up but owing to irregular attendance was unable to pull through.

The inspector expressed himself as being satisfied with the management of the school, but if parents would not assist as far as seeing their children were punctual in their attendance it was no fault of teachers if no progress was made, We are glad to see the teachers residence is so nearly completed, very little remains to be done, and Mr Turnbull (*Board Architect*) is to be up in a day or two to pass the work. The house contains five fine rooms, and has a very neat appearance We suppose no time will be lost in fencing in the residence. PP

31st March 1882 The resignation of C C Hubbard was accepted PP

31st August 1882 Yesterday afternoon (says the Wairarapa Daily of Wednesday) the police, in consequence of an information laid by a native, Kere Tihi, visited the Opaki School and arrested four scholars on a charge of taking from a deserted Maori whare two venerable eel baskets, a string of glass beads, and a small rat-trap, the lot worth at auction probably at least half-a-crown. The lads were brought into Masterton and made comfortable at the police station till this morning. They spent their leisure time, as good boys should do, in getting up their school lessons. The names of the

culprits are John McPhee, Alexander McPhee, Daniel Smith, and John Kilminster. Singularly enough the parents of the lads were so indifferent to the arrest that they did not deem it worthwhile to come into town to watch the case on behalf of their offspring ; they were, they said, too busy On the boys being brought before the magistrates, Sergeant Price pointed out the inhumanity of the parents in not protecting the interests of their children, and asked for a remand till the following day, when the would summon them to attend. The Court granted the remand, and the boys returned to their books at the Police Station PP

6th October 1882 Tenders are invited up to the 21st for the erection of fencing at Opaki School

25th January 1883 Advertisement Mistress Opaki School Average 28 Residence provided. PP

31 January 1883 Mrs Sait Appointed Opaki School PP

1883

18th April 1883 Inspector Lee's report A high classification for a country school is now reached at Opaki and, considering the fact, that all the children examined were presented in the higher standards, the results are good. Two schools, Fernridge and Waihenga, which for several years past have, produced good work, show a falling off this year. As the teachers are competent, and I believe industrious, it appears, at first sight, difficult to account for this, and such cases are certainly exceptional but I think it arises in the former school from underestimating the work required, and, in the latter, partly from a preponderance of children of less than average ability PP

18th April 1883 A high classification for a country School is now reached at Opaki and, considering the fact that all the children examined were presented in the higher standards, the results are good Inspector Lee's report on country schools PP

7th July 1883 The solemn profession and reception of two young ladies into the Convent attracted a very large congregation at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wanganui, on Sunday night, not a single seat being vacant in any part of it. The ladies who thus entered into solemn obligations were Miss Ellen Matthews, formerly teacher at the Opaki School and daughter of Mr R, Matthews, of Masterton, who made her profession as a novice, and took the name in religion of Sister Mary Rose; PP

1884

March 1884 An application from the teacher at Opaki to be allowed to reside away from the school residence was granted PP

14 April 1884 The following is a synopsis of the examination of the Opaki School of which Mrs Sait is the mistress, and taking into consideration the existence of diphtheria at the Opaki School which thinned the attendance and closed the School for a month, and the long holidays, together with the fact that the examination came immediately afterwards, we think great credit is due to the school mistress, Mrs Sait, who took charge of the school since last year's examination, for the large percentage of passes. 25 were presented for examination, and the following passed

Standard I.—Florence Welch, Maud Welch, Mary Harris, Willie Douglas,

Standard II. Ellen Cade.

Standard III- Rose Campbell, Kate Campbell, David Brown, Arthur Hunt, one failed and one came under the number of half days.

Standard IV,—Dolly Welch, Lily Campbell, Maggie Campbell, Maggie Smith, Ernest Hunt, two failed,

Standard V.—Harold Welch, Effie Welch, Bessie Brown, Mary Campbell.

Standard VI—Walter Welch, Archie McPhee, Esther Douglas PP

1885

27th January 1885 The retiring Committee, consisting of Messrs Everett (Chairman), T. Brown. Hugh Campbell, Robert Campbell, D. McPhee, J. R. Welch, and R. R. Welch were elected unopposed. The report and balance sheet for the past year were adopted

9th March 1885 Friday, the 6th inst., was a gala day at the Opaki in honour of the first entertainment that has ever taken place at the schoolhouse, The object, a most laudable one, was to provide prizes for the children at their impending school examination, and we were glad to see the good people of. the Opaki turnout in force to make the affair a success. A lengthy programme of vocal and instrumental music was gone through. Pianoforte duets were rendered by Miss and Mr Downes, and the Misses E, and D, Welch; a pianoforte trio by the Misses Brown, Herbert, and Bannister, and a solo by Miss A. Welch. The vocal portion of the programme was sustained by Mr T. Brown, in the evergreen "Nancy Lee Adams"; "Midshipmate" by Mr T. E. Downes; "Apart" by Miss N. Herbert; "Silver Threads Among the Gold" by Miss L. Jackson. Duets were rendered by the Misses B. and G. Brown and Bannister, and Messrs T. Brown, Herbert, and T. E. Downes, The elocutionary part was done full justice to by Miss L. Jackson and Messrs Downes, Brown and Welch. We must not omit to mention that Mr H. Jackson proved himself equal to the song the

had selected as his share of the programme. A dance after the entertainment was indulged in and kept up until one o'clock with great spirit. We understand these entertainments are to be periodically indulged in during the winter months and will, no doubt, prove very acceptable to the district PP

20th April 1885 Mr Lee, Inspector of Schools, made his annual visit and examined the children attending the school at Opaki, on Tuesday last, The was engaged the whole day, and did not get finished until about six o'clock, as the was anxious to get through the work without taking up another day. At the conclusion, only a few children being present, the said the intended to have addressed a few words to all attending the schools; however, the wished them all to know the was pleased with the management of the school and the trouble which had been taken with the children, and that the was well satisfied with the result of the examination and work done during the day. The following is a list of these who passed

Infants.—Five presented. Passed, Bertie Campbell, Henry Martin, Jennie Campbell, Sophia Remington, Ada Cade,

Standard I,—Seven presented; passed, Mary Cottle, James Cottle, Alfred Cottle, Maud Campbell, Selina Cottle, Elizabeth Harris, Lottie Campbell was too young to be passed.

Standard II.—Ten presented passed, Mary Harris, Florence Welch, Maud Welch, Ethel Martin, Alice Martin, John Remington, John Campbell, James Martin, Charles Cottle. George Cade insufficient attendance.

Standard III—Two presented; passed, George Douglas, Ellen Cade (insufficient attendance).

Standard IV.—Five presented; passed, William Harris, David Brown, Kate Campbell, Rose Campbell, Alice Palmer.

Standard V.—Three presented; passed, Dolly Welch, Maggie Campbell, Lilly Campbell.

Standard VI.—Five presented; passed, Bessie Brown, Mary Campbell, The breakdown of the other three was a matter of surprise to the whole school

2nd October 1885 On the occasion of Mr Lee's last surprise visit to the Opaki School the jotted down a few suggestions for the Committee, and with regard to the management said Mrs Sait is still in charge doing active work, and the was satisfied the school is faithfully taught, and the interests of the children well cared for. The next examination will be made in accordance with the new syllabus lately issued by the Department

23rd December 1885 The sum of 3 pound was voted for Opaki School PP

1886

30th April 1886 The following school committee has been elected at Opaki Messrs R, Welch, J. Welch , R Campbell, H. Campbell, Brown Hunt, H. Remington, T, Brown.

8th May 1886 Opaki School

the following passes have been made at the Opaki School Mrs Sait is to be congratulated on the result. All present in the First Standard passed, two of the pupils, we understand, being very young for such an ordeal.

Infants—13 presented, all passed: John Douglas, Hugh Russel, Hugh H. Hunt, Bertie Campbell, Gordon Russel, Henry Martin,

May Hunt, Florence G. Martin, Annie McPhee, Ada Duckett, Amy Harris, Jane Harris, Ada Remington.

Standard 1.-Two presented, two passed: Tottie Campbell, Bertie Duckett; 2 absent.

Standard 11.-7 presented, all passed: James Cottle, Alfred Cottle, Willie Douglas, Maud Campbell, Elizabeth Harris, Mary Cottle, Selma Cottle,

Standard III.—3 presented, 2 passed: James Martin and Ethel Martin; John Campbell. Excepted.

Standard IV.—2 presented, 1 passed: Alice Welch; 2 absent; Donald McPhee. Excepted.

Standard 5-3 presented, 1 passed; Rose Campbell,

Standard 6- 5 presented; Hugh Welch, Effie Welch, Dolly Welch, Maggie Campbell, Lily Campbell. All passed. PP

1887

28th April 1887 The following is the return of the Inspector's examination of the Opaki School:—The committee and parents connected with the school are, wo understand, well satisfied with the result.

Preparatory —Twelve presented. Passed, Annie McPhee Jessie Douglas, Ada Remington, Ada Duckett, Florence Martin, Hugh Russell, Six absent.

Standard I. Presented 8, Passed, John Douglas, Harold Hunt, Gordon Russel, Henry Martin Jane Harris, Sophia Remington, Bertie Campbell too young.

Standard II.—Two presented. Passed, Bertie Duckett, Lottie Campbell,

Standard 111.—Twelve presented. Passed, Willie Douglas, John Remington, Alice Martin, Maud Welch, Florrie Welch. Four absent. Ono excepted.

Standard IV.—Five presented. Passed, George Douglas, James Douglas. Two excepted.

Standard V. Two presented. Passed, Kate Campbell, Alice Welch. PP

1888

30th May 1888 Miss Lois Feist appointed assistant teacher at Opaki PP

1889

8th April 1889 The examination of the Opaki school took place on the 2nd of April; 37 presented. The following are the passes:— Standard VI.-Kate Campbell. .

Standard V.—Maud Welch, Florrie Welch, John Remington, Standard IV,— Lottie Campbell, Maud Campbell, Lizzie Hams, Barbara Platt,

Standard III-Bertie Duckett, John Douglas, Harold Hunt, Jane Harris, Emily Blatchford,

Standard II.—Henry Martin, Ernest McLachlan, Bertie Campbell, Amy Harris, Florence Martin, Jessie Douglas, Ethel May Blatchford.

Standard I.—Kate Campbell, Ada Duckett, John Paine, George Paine.

Infants- Fred Blatchford, Leslie McLachlan, John Duckett, Valentine Martin, Robert Douglas, Robert Harris, Willie Paine, Excepted—Sophia Remington, Hilda Remington, Jennie Campbell. Absent —Alice Cotter, Matilda Cotter, No failures PP

24th April 1889 Mrs Sait mistress of the Opaki State School gave the children under her charge a public tea meeting on Good Friday, in acknowledgment of the successful manner in which they passed their recent examination. The youngsters had a thoroughly enjoyable day's outing, and, encouraged by the kindness of their teacher, will now, the holidays are passed, resume work with a new zest in their studies. PP

28th May 1898 Opaki The school has passed a very satisfactory examination. Mrs. Sait thoroughly and conscientiously discharges her duties 26 April 1898 Resigns PP

29th May 1898 RESIGNED Mrs Sait Opaki School PP

1890

2nd June 1890 The inspector's report on the late examination at the Opaki public school is very satisfactory, stating that the school continues to be faithfully and well taught by Mrs Sait. Children who attend regularly always do well, and the result this year shows considerable improvement in the class and additional subjects, the annual percentage of passes being 81 PP

4th July 1890. A presentation of a handsome silver biscuit box was made today by the parents and friends of the children attending the Opaki public school to Mrs Sait, the school mistress, on the occasion of her resigning the charge. The gift, which testifies to the high esteem in which Mrs Sait is held, was selected from the stock of Mr W. Dougall, of this town, by whom it was also suitably engraved. PP

7th July 1890 A tea meeting in connection with the breaking up of the Opaki School was held on Friday last, which, notwithstanding

the inclemency of the weather, was fairly well attended. Prizes were also presented by Mr Cotter on behalf of Mrs Sait, to the successful scholars at the recent examination. A dance, was subsequently held, at which Mr T Welch acted as M C, and the music was provided by Mr D McLachlan. PP

[17th January 1910 Mrs Elizabeth Sait, who died at Johnsonville on Wednesday, at the age of 84, says the "Post," was born in Shropshire, England, and had been a resident of New -Zealand for 59 years. Her husband, Mr Francis Sait, died some years ago. (The deceased was a sister of Mr Llewellyn Smith late chief draughtsman in the Wellington Survey Office)] PP

26th August 1890 The Opaki School Committee have confirmed the appointment of Mr. C. C. Hubbard as master of their school. Mr. Hubbard is at present connected with the Hastwell School, and will leave for his new duties in about a week. PP

26th November 1890 The request that the Opaki School residence should be roofed with iron was referred to the School Committee with a view to ascertain the cost of same. PP

9th October 1890 A shipment of 180 stoats and 120 ferrets is expected by the Wairarapa North Rabbit Board in a few weeks PP

1891

29th July 1891 A grant amounting to 10 pound was granted for a shelter shed PP

1893

28th April 1893 The members of newly elected Committee are Messrs Richard Tankersley (Chairman)re-elected, Robert Campbell,

Walter Harris, Henry Remington, John McLean Duncan McLachlan and John Blatchford PP

1894

28th March 1894 The Inspector was directed to report as to the necessity for painting the Opaki School and providing a new tank PP

7th Dec 1894 SS Wairarapa relief fund Opaki School 10 shillings and 10d PP *Shipwreck on Greta Barrier Island*)

1895

8th October 1895 A committee was formed last week to work up a concert if possible, to be given in aid of the Opaki School Library. A committee of ladies, I believe, have promised to assist, so I hope to see the affair carried out, for there is, no doubt, that a School Library is a grand thing for any of the children who are fond of good reading. PP

20th October 1895 An effort is being made by the Upper Opaki settlers, to obtain a school in the vicinity; of Mr Cook's residence. At present several children have to walk about five miles to the Opaki School PP *This is about setting up a school at Mikimiki*

28th October 1895 The Education Board will at its next meeting consider applications for grants towards aided schools at Upper Opaki and Kakaunui, which places are beyond the reach of existing schools. PP

30th October 1895 From Our Own Correspondent. At a meeting of the Committee formed to work up a concert in aid of the Opaki School Library, it was decided to hold a concert some time in November. Quite a number of ladies and gentlemen have promised songs, recitations, piano solos, etc., and are hard at work practising

for the occasion, so I think we may hope for a success. A meeting of Upper Opaki settlers, convened by Mr Cook, was held on Monday 21st, to consider the question of obtaining a school somewhere in the vicinity. I am informed that nothing very definite was arrived at, No doubt some of the children have a long walk, some of five or six miles, and if the present school was somewhere near Mr W. Harris', it would be in a much more central position. It is a pity that the Education Board does not build their schools on wheels, so that they could shift them to suit these country settlements, for every year settlers get further into the bush which of course alters the position of affairs PP

1896

29 Jan 1896 The carpenter was instructed to do the painting at Opaki PP

19th February 1896 Applications for aided schools have been received by the Education" Board from the following localities :— Dreyer Rock, Upper Opaki, Ngatitipu, Pongaroa, Coonoor, Makuri, Kaipororo, and Kaitawa PP

27th May 1896 Messrs. McLeod and Harris, of the Upper Opaki waited on the Board and asked, it to establish a school in their district. The Board decided to get a report from its carpenter 27th

May 1896 *Mikimiki school takes pupils from Opaki*

24th June 1896 and a school near the railway station at Opaki were left over till next meeting. PP

29th July 1896 With regard to the proposal to remove the Opaki School to a site where there is more population, the Chairman was directed to lay plans before the Board. PP

28th December 1896 As the Opaki School-house is to be removed from its present position to near the Railway Station, there will be no more Church services held there for some time to come. PP

1897

In 1897 the Opaki school was moved from about the Mikimiki Road corner of the Masterton Eketahuna Road to be near the Railway Line and the Mikimiki school was opened on the Kiriwhakapapa Road Corner

27 January 1897 Removal of school and residence 114pound CE Daniell PP

26th April Mr. Geo R Sykes elected to chair of meeting to be held to elect a new School Committee

Mr. H Bannister 8 votes, J Cottle 9, R Kilmister 2, N Millar, 8, James Bourke 4, Albert Welch 9, James Welch 8, Geo Sykes 9, H McLachlan 6

7 elected. Mr. G R Sykes elected Chairman

A subscription list was opened in the room for the purpose of securing an acre of land for the purpose of playground etc.. From Mr. Cottle . The sum of £8. 10 (\$1,488.34 in 2013 terms) being promised

Messrs James Welch, Mr. J Cottle and R Kilmister were appointed to canvas for further subscriptions

The Chairman being instructed to write to the Secretary of Education

3rd May 1897 The following further contributions to the Hawke's Bay Fund have been received by Mr H Brown: Opaki School (Miss Evans) 15s 9d PP *Hawkes Bay Flood Appeal*

17th May 1897 Mr H. Brown acknowledges for the Hawke's Bay Fund, per Miss Evans 7s from the Opaki School and from the Masterton Band £2 8s 8d PP

18th May A meeting of the Committee was convened for this evening to receive reply from Secretary of Education Board in reference to acre of land which Committee propose to secure from Mr. Collie. Messrs A and I Welch, Mr. Millar and Geo R Sykes being present

The chairman read to the meeting a copy of the letter the was instructed to read by the secretary and secretary's reply there to. It was decided not to call in subscription lists until money was required

The advisability of holding a concert for the purpose of raising funds to increase the school library was then discussed. The Committee unanimously expressed their approval of the proposition and decided to hold a meeting at a future date to arrange a programme etc..

The chairman explained that Mr. Tankersley the late chairman has that day handed over all papers in connection with school and the sum of £2-12-4 made up as follows

Balance Capitation Money £1-4-7

“ “ Picnic Fund £1-7-9

The had gone carefully into the picnic fund a/c and found everything correct. The general a/c was audited by Secretary of Education Board

The chairman also reported that he had received cheque from the Education Board for the sum of £2-10 being capitation money for March Quarter So the sum now in hand amounted to £5-2-4

It was decided to procure about 50 feet of timber to break down to carry of refuse water from the school pump

12th July 1897 Our correspondent inadvertently substituted Miss F. Welch for Mrs F. Welch in the account of last Friday's concert in aid of the Opaki School library, as contributing certain vocal items. Mrs F. Welch has a pleasing and well-cultivated voice and it is hoped that she may be induced to assist at some Masterton entertainment in the near future PP

15th July A meeting of the Committee was convened for this evening Cleaning of school June quarter 23/-

It was decided to put the culvert in and metal crossings to keep a strip of gravel from gate to school door.

Mr. Millar, agreeing to do the same for sum of £3 the Committee finding timber.

It was also decided to plant a strip of trees around the 2 acres conditional on Mr. Collie's consent to plant the trees outside of the present fences and on Mr. Collie's ground.

The chairman produced balance sheet of concert held in the school room on evening of the 8th Showing a credit balance of £5-6-3. The said sum to be handed over to Miss Evans for purchase of library books

1898

21st Meeting of School Committee held this evening at 8 pm A complaint was made by Mrs Kilmister in reference to her boy being sent home from school by the teacher because the had no boots on,

After due consideration the following was presented for future reference

The Committee are of the opinion that children if cleanly clad should in exceptional instances be admitted to school barefooted. By exceptional instances is meant. When the child's boots are worn out or met with some mishap rendering them unfit to wear and it is not convenient for the parents to purchase another pair just then or where ill fitting boots cause pain to the wearer. At the same time the Committee required

- 1) That a certain amount of danger is primed by the children coming to school barefoot
- 2) Uniformity is desirable in school The Committee would ask the parents to assist the teacher to attain the latter by sending their children to school with boots on whenever practical

It was decided to take part in the excursion trip to Palmerston on the 3rd if a carriage could be secured solely for the Opaki School Children

A letter was read from the Secretary Education Board to the effect that 4 night soil pans were ordered to be left at Opaki Station

It was decided that cesspits should be filled up with earth and pans substituted before the inspector visited for the annual examination 21st April letter from Secretary of Education Board defining Opaki School District

In reference to emptying night soil pans be left until next meeting

The annual report was read to the Committee and included (Information not included above)

- a) Being of the opinion that a second acre was desirable for school purposes the Committee opined a subscription list with the object of raising funds for the purchase of thereof
- b) The substantial sum of £17 was quickly collected in the neighbourhood. £12 was the sum required for the purchase of the acre from Mr. Cottle
- c) The Education Board kindly fencing the same and as the school is situated in an unsheltered spot, the remaining £5 was spent in helping to erect a ring fence 12 foot from existing fences and some 200 trees were planted for shelter purposes. Owing to the severe drought experienced this summer a great number of trees failed to thrive but doubtless the incoming Committee will replace with fresh trees this autumn
- d) On the evening of the 8th last a concert was held in the schoolroom in aid of the school library fund and the credit of £5-6-3 was judiciously expended by the teacher Miss Evans in procuring good and useful books
- e) During the latter part of last winter the approaches to school and school residence respectively were rendered almost impassable owing to the continued rains. Two culverts were therefore placed in the water table and the approaches thickly metalled.
- f) The water supply at the school is now abundant and good.
- g) Fearing that the cesspits in the W C's would have an ill effect on the quality of the water the Committee have filled with earth and substituted night soil pans. The Education Board kindly supplying same

25th April A meeting was held in the school for election of School Committee Mr. Bourke, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Miller, Mr. Bannister, Mr. H Welch, Mr. G R Sykes

29th June A meeting was held this evening for the purpose of considering the advisability of holding a concert and dance to raise money for a picnic fund

It was decided to hold concert and dance on evening of the 28th July
21st August A meeting was held this evening for purpose of settling accounts in connection with concert held on the 28th inst

The chairman reported receipts of concert to dance £6-5-0 Expended £1-11-0 Balance £4-14

1899

14th February Meeting called to make nominations for Education Board

That the Secretary of the Masterton Excursion be approached in reference to sending a carriage to Opaki Station to take part in

That the picnic be held Saturday week the 25th Inst.

18th February 1899 The Mauriceville West Boys play the Opaki School at Opaki today PP (Presumably Cricket)

21st April A meeting was called for the purpose of receiving balance sheet

The chairman reported a net balance of £0-15-4

The following accounts were passed for payment

D McLachlan 2 cords firewood, at 15/- per cord. Disinfectants. WFCA lime 5/- Night soil contract 30/- when due

School Committee elected Jas Bourke, D McLachlan, W Millar, C Wilton, A and I Welch, G R Sykes elected Chairman

19th May A meeting of Committee was held this evening to procure the resignation of G R Sykes as Chairman of Committee

That resignation n be accepted with regret That Mr. H Bannister be elected to the vacancy on the Committee

Moved G R Sykes Seconded Mr. Jas Bourke. That Mr. Jas Welch be appointed to the vacant chairmanship

14th August Regards metalling the school grounds the Education Board giving a grant of £4 for same. Mr. J Bourke agreed to doing it at 2/- per yard

That Mr. Bourke take it at 2/- per yard and it was carried so Mr. Bourke is to cart and spread 40 yards at 2/- per yard

The meeting also decided to hold a social in aid of school funds in September

4th September The meeting that all households find refreshments and the Committee to meet at school on Thursday afternoon after school to get school ready for social

27th October The chairman reported receipts of social £10-10-9
Expenditure £2-13-5 Balance \$7-17-6. Balance form Picnic Fund 15/4d

Total Balance £8-12-10

1900

19th February A meeting was called for the election of 3 Wellington Education Board members

Several accounts were passed in payment

3rd April The chairman reported a Nett balance of 4/-

The Picnic Fund showing a nett balance of £8-12-0

A vote of thanks was voted to the chairman for his passed services during the Past Year

23rd April New School Committee C Wilton, H Bannister, A J Welch, J Bannister, D McLauchlan, J Prentice, J Welch

J Welch was elected as chairman

Friday 4th May the school annual picnic to take place on the Property of Messrs J and A Welch

4th May Opaki School Picnic

Was held on the property of Messrs J and A Welch on 4th May. Receipts from social held 21st September £8-12-10 Special donation from Mr. J Prentice towards picnic fund of 5/-

5th May 1900 The annual picnic of the Opaki School was held on Friday at Willow Park, the properly of Messrs I. and A. Welch. Although the weather was far from being good, there was a fair attendance of young and old. At noon a table was laid in Mr J. Welch's house for the adults, and another was laid in a barn for the young folks; The gentlemen present waiting on the little people, who did justice to all the treats. After lunch all went out into the paddock, where games were indulged in. Prizes were given for racing, jumping, etc., and then another good spread was provided. The children were all called up, and each presented by the Chairman, on behalf of the school with a book as a prize. The Chairman made a brief speech before presenting the gifts and three cheers were given for the teacher (Miss Evans), the Chairman (Mr Welch), and the Committee and everybody went home well satisfied with their day's outing

12th May 1900. At the Opaki School picnic, the little people contributed the sum of 8s 7 ½ d towards the Indian Famine Fund, in pennies and small silver coins. Mr J. A. Welch, Chairman of the School Committee, handed us the amount this morning. PP

9th July That the Committee take 6 dozen bronze medals from the Government @ 1/9d per dozen for the children in commemoration of peace being declared in South Africa.

It was also proposed that a social to be held on Thursday 6th September in the schoolroom in aid of the school fund.

Tickets to be ladies and gentlemen 1/-

The examination report for 6th April was read by the chairman and received with great satisfaction. Also a notice from the Colonial Secretary to the Committee was read notifying all local bodies that Arbor Day would be held on Wednesday the 18th Day of July next 1900

The chairman also wrote to the Education Board asking for a grant of £3 for material to erect a paling fence on road frontage of the 2nd acre and that the Committee find all labour

26th July 1900 F Evans underpaid by 1 pound 5 shillings

1st August 1900 On Monday the pupils of the Opaki School presented Miss Evans with a handsome morocco hand-bag and card case as a token of their respect and high esteem

6th August The chairman read a report from Miss Evans and was received with satisfaction several accounts were passed for payment That Committee engages Mr. and Mrs Franks to play for the social if their services can be had for £1-10-0 with a refund of 10/- to the school, the Committee will meet again on the 6th of September at 2 pm to fix up the school for the social in the evening

11th December The chairman read the balance sheet of the social held on the 6th September showing a credit balance £5-11-5 also a balance of picnic fund for £1-5-10

The Committee pay over to Miss Evans £1-11-0 out of special funds for books bought by Miss Evans for school library

That Miss Stuckey have use of the school on Sunday Mornings.

1901

31st January 1901 Opaki F Evans £123.15 new pay a rise of 10 pound 5 shillings PP

27th February 1901 Opaki Regulation Salary 140 pounds 16 pounds 15shillings short of scale PP

That annual picnic be held on Easter Monday the 8th of April on the property of J and A Welch

The Committee decided to spend about £2 in refreshments and the rest of the balance in prizes for the children and the householders to find the rest of refreshments, it was also decided that Miss Evans should get dusters and earthenware bowl for school which were wanted

The annual picnic of the Opaki School was held on 8th April being Easter Monday and everything went off well. The day was perfect and a great gathering of householders and children being present.

Receipts being £6-2-9. Expenditure £6-7-7 balance from last year's social £5-4-5, Donations Mrs Kilmister 5/-, H Bannister 5/-, F Cotter 5/-, Mr. Henson 3/-, Clara Verry 6d

Balance -£4-10

Donation from Mrs Prentice 3/- Mr. Verry 2/- Leaving a credit balance of 2d

22nd April 11 householders present at election meeting J Bannister, W Verry, A J Welch, W Platt, D McLauchlan, F Cotter, J Welch

24th April 1901 The following members were elected a Committee for the Opaki School for the ensuing year:—Messrs A. J, Welch, J.

Bannister, W. Verry, E. Colter, D. McLachlan, W. Platt. Mr J. Welch was re-elected Chairman, PP

May 30th Meeting called to decided if the Committee would take any steps in taking the school children to Wellington on the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. The meeting decided to take no steps in the matter

The Committee also decided to erect a flagstaff on end of school providing the Government find its share. It was decided at the meeting that the flagstaff be purchased from C E Daniells and the Committee meet at school and erect same

Subscribed by Householders £1-5-0 towards getting flagstaff

Paid C E Daniells £17/6 Leaving a balance of 7/6

13th July 1901 TE ORE ORE School

Application to the Trust Lands Trust,

An application was received at last night's meeting of the Masterton Trust Land Trust for a grant towards the To Ore Ore School It was pointed out that although the school building was outside the Trust's area, forty-three children from Lansdowne and Masterton attended the School

The Chairman thought that the school was entitled to assistance as well as any other school in the Small Farm Settlement,

Mr Feist said the fact that so many children in the Small Farm Settlement area attended the school, strengthened their claim. The did not know, however, whether the school should be assisted on the same basis as the other public schools. Mr Feist moved that a grant of £5 be made.

Mr Renall moved that the Te Ore Ore School receive a grant for the 13 children on the same basis as other schools,

The Chairman said they would have the Opaki School applying next, as some children from Lansdowne attended that school PP
December 1901 Advertisement Opaki SoleTeacher, Roll 36, 135 pound salary increase 11pound 5 shillings PP

1902

23rd January 1902 Bush fires were raging furiously at Kopuaranga and Upper Opaki yesterday PP

10th March The picnic was held over to the next meeting

28th April The School Committee elections were held. The past Committee re-elected

19th April 1902 Opaki School

The following is a list of passes at the recent examination:

Standard VII.—Lewis Welch, Ruby McLachlan, Ivy Welch.

Standard V.—Arthur Prentice, Lawrence Watson, Kenneth Welch, Rupert Welch, Violet Kilmister, Alice Rixon.

Standard IV. —William Bannister, Walter Bourke, Percy Kilminster, Albert Welch, Lizzie Fraser.

Standard III. —Stanley Matthews, Pearl McLachlan, Emma Prentice.

Standard II. —John Bannister, Reginald Henson, Percy Verry, Cyril Welch, Olive Bannister, Ethel Bourke, Madeline Henson, Rose Henson, Ilma McLachlan, Maud Wilton.

Standard I.—Alex. Bannister, Fred Cotter, Elsie Bannister, Clara Verry.

P. I—Vernon Welch.

P. 2 —Stanley Bannister, Spencer Cotter, Stella McLachlan, Lily Welch.

P.3-Joseph Henson.

The teacher, Miss Evans, deserves great credit for the way the children pass every year. This is all the more creditable as Miss Evans has to teach the whole school from the infants to the Seventh Standard, in all branches of the work. The needlework taught by Miss Evans is a credit to any School' PP

1903

28th April 1903 The election of the Committee for the Opaki School took place last night, but there was not a very large attendance of householders. The result of the election was:—Messrs J. Welch (chairman). F. Cotter, A. Welch, W. Platt, W. Verry, D. McLachlan and J. Burke PP

13 June 1903 At last night's meeting of the Masterton Trust Lands Trustees the question of allocation of the Trust's revenue was brought forward. The secretary submitted a statement showing the total income to be £1521 for the year, and besides the usual school grants, the Opaki School is making application for a grant, and there are other applications. The Trustees decided to go into the finances during the next month, and decide upon an equitable allocation at the next meeting. PP

Election of School Committee: J Welch, chairman, W Platt, F Cotter, W Verry. A J Welch, D McLachlan, J Bourke

13th July The chairman read a letter which he received from the Trust Lands Trust in reply to one he sent to them in regards to grant towards school, saying they wished the Committee to furnish them with the names of Children attending school from the small farms block then decided to spend in the names of 11 children

Bannister, 4

Matthews 1

Wilton 1

Prentice 1

Cotter 4

Henson 3

Verry 2

McGrath 4

Platt 1

8th September The meeting decided to forward their resignation to the Education Board as a committee as the Board holds them responsible for accident in connection with the school under the workers compensation act and they do not intend to take the responsibility

The chairman was instructed to write to the Board to that effect which he did and enclosed the resignation of the Committee

1904

26th April Householdors met to elect a Committee J Welch, Chairman, Duncan McLauchlan, W Platt, A J Welch, C B Ball, W Henson, C Bannister

17th July It was also decided by the Committee to have a working bee at school as soon as possible to repair fences etc.

24th October The chairman read a circular from the chairman Masterton School regards forming a School Committee Association in the Wairarapa

That our Committee are in favour of joining a Committee Association

The chairman to write to Mr. Brown and inform him so.

That a picnic be held on the 15th December Friday at Messrs J and A Welch's farm

A subscription list to be taken around in aid of a picnic and prize fund.

It was also decided to give Mr. Murray a free hand to select prizes for the children up to the value of £4 and the School Committee stand security for that amount

11th December A meeting was held to make final arrangements for the picnic

Subscriptions were handed to the Chairman which amounted to £10 so the Committee decided to purchase more prizes for picnic also Fruit, Pastry Cordials etc.. The Committee also received the resignation of Mr. W Murray with regret who is leaving the district. Mr. Murray was then called in and thanked the Committee on the way they had worked with him. He had only a short reign with them but he was pleased to say it had been a pleasant one and the Committee was pleased to know it meant promotion to him and they wished him every success *Probably William T Murray*

28th January 1905 Presentation to Miss Evans.

A Pleasant Little Function.

Miss F. Evans, who for many years has held the position of schoolmistress at the Opaki School and is now leaving to take a position in the Clyde Quay School Wellington, was yesterday presented with a framed address and gold bangle as a token of esteem, by the pupils and their parents. The function took place at the schoolhouse, and there was a large attendance.

The Chairman of the School Committee. (Mr J. Welch), in presenting Miss Evans with the address, expressed the regret which

the Committee felt at her departure. They were, however, pleased to know that the change meant promotion. In wishing her every success in her new sphere she felt sure she was voicing the sentiments not only of the Committee, but of the pupils and their parents as well. The address read as follows We, the undersigned, householders of the Opaki School district, hear with sincere regret of your coming departure from amongst us, and cannot allow you to go without some expression of our gratitude for the manner in which you have discharged your duties to the school and to the community. During the thirteen years you have been here you have endeared yourself to young, and old alike, and anywhere you go we trust you will look back with pleasant thoughts of these you leave behind. Our earnest wish is that you may in the future find every happiness and increased prosperity with health to enjoy them in. Good-bye and good luck.-Yours very truly, C. B. Ball, C. Bannister, W. H. Buick, J. Burke, Mrs Cameron, P. Cotter, J. and J. Coulter, F. Dorset, J. Graham, A. Henson, R. Kilminster, R. Knox, M. McGrath, D. McLachlan, Mrs Marr, A. Matthews, W. Platt, W. Verry, A. J. Welch, C. F. Wilton, A. Wrightson, and James Welch (chairman of the School Committee)."

After the presentation of the address, Miss Pearl McLachlan, on behalf of the pupils, presented to Miss Evans a gold bangle amidst much demonstration. An address from the pupils wishing Miss Evans success in her future career was also read by Mr D. McLachlan.

Miss Evans expressed pleasure at seeing so many of the pupils assembled, and also her gratitude for the handsome gift with which they had presented her. She assured them she would always retain

pleasurable recollections of her term at the Opaki School For their kindly wishes she sincerely thanked one and all. After cheers had been given for Miss Evans and also her mother and sister, an adjournment was made to the residence, of one of the settlers where afternoon tea had been prepared. The address, which is the work of Mr J. J. Guest, of Lansdowne, is on display at Mr R. T. Holmes' shop to-day. PP

30th January 1905 A number of old pupils of the Opaki School met at the Misses Thomas' tea room, on Saturday afternoon, and presented the late teacher, Miss F. Evans, with a handsome silver-mounted hair brush and silver hairpin tray, as a token of their esteem, on the occasion of her removal to Wellington. The gift was suitably acknowledged, .after which cheers were given for Miss Evans. Light refreshments were partaken of, and the afternoon spent in an enjoyable manner.

7th Feb 1905 Mr. W. T. Murray, of the Rakaunui (*Near Pongaroa*) School, has just been appointed head teacher at the Opaki School , in succession to Miss Evans, who has joined the staff of the Clyde-Quay School

The above date sequence may be wrong but I can't see the cause of the error if there is one.

12th April 1905 The Truant Officer (Mr W. M. Easthope) paid an official visit to the Opaki School yesterday, and found the attendance to be very satisfactory. The newly appointed teacher (Mr Murray) is now in charge of the school

18th December 1905 At the "breaking up" ceremony of the Opaki School last week there was a full attendance of members of the School Committee and of parents. Mrs J. Welch, wife of the chairman of the Committee, made the presentation of prizes won by the pupils. Afternoon tea was provided by Mrs Murray. On Friday the annual sports and picnic was held on Messrs J. and A. Welch's property. A most enjoyable day resulted. During the day a presentation of a silver mounted pocket book from the school children was made to Mr Murray, who has resigned from the Education Board to take up a position in the South Island. Mrs Murray was the recipient of a work-basket from the school girls, she having had charge of the sewing class. Mr J. Welch (chairman of the Committee) made reference to Mr Murray's excellent abilities as a teacher, and also eulogised Mrs Murray's efforts in the sewing class.

1906

13th March 1906 Head teacher at Opaki , Miss Florence Marryatt, at present in charge at Makuri PP

23rd April Only 5 householders present The old Committee was re-elected W Platt, C B Ball, A J Welch, W Henson, D McLauchlan, C Bannister. J Welch was again elected chairman

15th July the ordinary business was put through and several accounts were passed

13th December The Committee decided not to hold a picnic this year as so many of the children were going on a holiday with their parents

1907

22nd April Householders meeting

27th April 1907. The following, comprise the members of the Opaki School Committee —Messrs J. Welch (chairman), A. J. Welch, W. Platt, C, Bannister, I. McLachlan.

1908

27th April Opaki That the old Committee be re-elected and carried. The books had been audited and brought before the Committee passed it was also decided to canvas the householders for subscriptions in aid of the Picnic to be held next month

1909

26th April A meeting of householders was held . The credit balance showed 19/9

Mr. Pierce Cotter Chairman, James Welch, Albert Welch, Charles Bannister, Duncan McLachlan, Mr. Cotter

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Welch who had been chairman now for 10 years and always had the lion's share of work to do, and the had always been ready to do anything in regards to the school

Mr. Welch thanked the meeting for all the kind words they had said and the would always help them in any way the could as regards the school although the would not take the position of chairman the would be happy to go on the Committee and work for the school the same has the had always done

14th July The Education Board wrote expressing their regret at the death of the retiring chairman Mr. James Welch who was chairman of our Committee for so many years and always took the keenest interest in the welfare of the children of the school

The school had suffered a severe loss through his death

1910

10th January 1910 Miss M. Cameron, of Fernside, Opaki and Miss Marriott, teacher at Opaki School were amongst these to make the ascent of Mount Egmont last week PP

25th April Householders meeting only 4 present. Pierce Cotter, chairman, Albert Welch, James Bourke, William Mowbray and Duncan McLachlan

Also a vote of thanks to Miss Marryatt for the satisfactory way the school had been conducted during the past year

The following business was transacted

Rifle Range Miniature

That the Committee to see they can do anything in the matter as the school is so small and theres no male teacher to supervise at the shooting

School Committee Association wrote regarding joining them. It was decided to do so and subscription of 5/- was forwarded

Re Bible in schools It was decided that the Committee did not see its way clear to allow any alteration in school hours

The report of the teacher was as follows

- a) Roll 31. Average attendance for quarter 26
- b) The majority of pupils attend most regularly and if it were not for the few irregular attenders the average would be higher than it is
- c) The library fund shows a balance of school had a balance school £3-0

- d) It was decided to get new shelves for the books as the old ones were not large enough for the books
- e) It was decided to write to the Board and asked them to complete some repairs promised by the carpenter
- f) The chairman was authorised to get new ropes for the boys swings and also half cord of firewood
- g) And a fastener for the gate
- h) Mr. Wrightson forwarded school £1 for the damage done by his horses to the school grounds
- i) It was suggested that the Chairman write to the Board to erect new lavatories as the old ones were out of date

1911

24th April School Committee elected

A vote of thanks was accorded Miss Marryatt for the able manner she had conducted the school for the past years

13th May 1911 Opaki School PICNIC.

The annual Opaki School picnic was held at Mr Pierce Cotter's, "Burnside," yesterday. The weather was delightfully fine, and there was a largo attendance of parents and children. The events resulted as follows Nail-driving.—Mrs Bourke 1, Mrs Cotter 2. High Jump for Boys. —Vincent Buick 1 (4ft 8 inches). Sack Race (ladies). —A. Bannister 1, Miss Marryatt 2. Long Jump.— J. Henson 1. Boys' Race.—D. Bannister 1, H. Cooper 2. Ladies' Race.—Rose Henson 1, A. Bannister 2. Three-legged Race. —Monte Stone-Wigg and Rupert Henson 1. Girls Race.--E. Perry 1, Norah Bourke 2. Pig Race.— G. Stone-Wigg 1, Monte Stone-Wigg 2. Committeemen's Race.—W. Henson 1, R. Judd 2. Big Girls' Race.—Norrie Bourke 1,

Alice Buick 2, Lulu Cotter 3. Quarter-mile Race. —G. Mowbray 1, R. Henson 2.

15th November Perry, Bourke, Henson, Mowbray and Cotter attending

The report of the inspector was read and considered satisfactory

That the board be asked to supply bath for residence

The chairman was authorised to get rope for Boy's Swing

The chairman was authorised to write to the Education Board re shelter shed for boys

It was authorised that the chairman to get a carpenter to fix up steps, put a few pieces of the fence and put in a new wire on the flagpole

Miss Marryatt's Report was

- a) Roll 29
- b) 4 candidates for proficiency, 3 were successful
- c) £1-15 has been expended in books for school library

1912

22nd April A vote of thanks to Miss Marryatt was passed by outgoing Committee

W Henson, J Bourke, Mr. J Stone-Wigg, R J Perry, P Cotter, W Mowbray, T Cooper

A G Stone Wigg elected chairman

A vote of thanks for 3 years to Mr. Cotter for his valued service

12th July The chairman reported that the amount of £7-13-0 had been collected for the picnic fund and £5-19-7 expended leaving £1-13-5 which the proposed should be handed over to the school library and on which a subsidy of 16/6 could be obtained from the Education Board

Re Flag pole W T Elliot had presented the school with a tarred rope and it was resolved to get Messrs Hope and Welch to fix same to flagpole

The chairman reported the had let the school cleaning to McCorkey for year at £4-10-0 but after cleaning the school once the had thrown up the job. It was resolved that W Cooper [gap in minutes] and try to arrange with him

The ballot papers for election of members of the Education Board were handed around

The chairman reported a balance of £10-1-1- in hand

1913

28th April Final meeting for the year 7 Householders present

Miss Marryatt's report was read it contained the following

The roll has increased from 28 to 38

Average for quarter was 34

She requested the Committee to apply for some new desks and remodelling of some of the old ones for a new school table

Also a request to purchase a harmonium

The visit of the battle cruiser H M S New Zealand was attended by 16 children on 21st April. Owing to this outing the Committee decided not to have a picnic this year

The funds in hand are now £15-17-7 inclusive of £2-10-0 the Board's unexpended grant

That the thanks of the Committee be passed to Miss Marryatt for the able manner in which the school had been conducted during the past years

Committee elected R T Perry, T Bourke, A J Stone-Grigg, W Mowbray, T Campbell, T Dorset, T Cooper

That W Stone-Wigg be chairman

That the Board be written to for new desks, boys shelter sheds, school to be painted and new table.

That any funds raised by private subscription for purchase of a harmonium be subsidised £ for £ out of the funds for the school. Carried

5th December The fence had been finished and the trees topped at a cost of £7 from which there was an asset of some 4 cords of firewood. The funds to credit of account were £15.00. There was also a social fund of £3-9-0 for which thanks were passed to the social Committee

That subscription list be sent to parents for funds in aid of picnic and Organ fund and that the social grant be added to such funds

1914

5th March The picnic and excursions fund had been collected by the children £7-19-0

It had been arranged to hold the picnic in the racecourse on 6th March at 11.00 The prizes etc. had been purchased to the amount of £6

The chairman requested the Committee to appoint a chairman to carry out the annual meeting owing to his leaving the district

That W Dorset be asked to act

7th May Annual meeting a vote of thanks to Miss Marryatt was passed

J Campbell, A Watson, F Dorset, R Perry, W Mowbray, O Hauau
Credit balance £12-11-3 also a credit balance of Picnic and Organ fund of £6-9-0

1915

12th May Householders meeting A vote of thanks to Miss Marryatt was passed.

A Watson and R Perry to end of May Visit School

1916

17th April Householders meeting Thanks to Miss Marryatt.

School Committee F Dorset, A Watson, A Buick, W Perry, J Campbell

1917

30th April 4 present at Householders School Committee elected

27th October 1917 The Opaki school-house was destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. The teacher's residence was saved through the efforts of the settlers. The outbreak is a mystery. The school building was used yesterday

30th October

Marryatt Florence M

School was opened yesterday in a room at the Opaki Race-course owing the destruction by fire of the school building on the night the 26th October 22 scholars were present. As no desks or apparatus were available the children were provided with forms and work proceeded as well as possible under the changed conditions

At 3.30 a supply of desks and blackboards together with some reading and drawing sheets arrived from the Wangaehu School and this morning the room was habitable. The usual work was carried out

31st October The roll is 31 A supply of registers and stationery came to hand to replace those lost in the fire

2nd November The attendance throughout the week has been good considering the wet weather which has prevailed. Week's average 25

5th November 1917 The chairman informed the stewards that when the Opaki School was burned he had granted the use of the large dining room at the racecourse cottage for the scholars temporarily, subject to the consent of the stewards. It was resolved that the action of the chairman be confirmed, and that, the Education Board be informed that they could occupy the room till the school-house was rebuilt, at a weekly rental of ten shillings PP

5th November received letter from Secretary Education Board stating that an inquiry will be held on Friday next into the circumstances of the fire. The chairman to be notified and asked to arrange place and collect any witnesses who can throw any light on the occurrence

9th November Mr. G L Stewart Education Board Secretary and Mr. A Hogg Board member for the district paid a visit to the school to take any evidence procurable as to the origin of the fire. After questioning the sweepers and interviewing Messrs McConkey and Dorset members of the Committee they declared a half holiday for the scholars and left

15th August The Mason Family having removed from the district Four names taken off the roll

19th November Two hydroplate boards have been sent from Wellington (*Blackboard*)

21st November The two proficiency candidates went to Masterton today to be examined by Inspector Stuckey- Emily Perry was successful and Alfred Garrett gained a competency only as his arithmetic was weak

28th November The schedules for annual examination of Pupils to Standard 5 were filled in and forwarded to Masterton

20th December The school picnic was held today at the racecourse and school broke up for the Xmas vacation

7th December 1917 The report, furnished respecting the cause of the fire that destroyed the Opaki School states that there is no reason to suppose that it was otherwise than accidental. The general impression is that it originated in an old dilapidated porch, where a small tin containing the ashes and embers from a wood fire was deposited. The Education Department has been recommended to make provision for the erection of a new school

1918

1871/39214	Marryatt	Florence Mary	Mary	Edward	-
1873/43490	Marryatt	Arthur	Mary	Edward	-
1864/20731	Marryatt	Edward Charman	Mary	Edward	-
1876/6172	Marryatt	Vincent	Mary	Edward	-
1868/34663	Marryatt	Walter Thomas	Mary	Edward	-
1866/31459	Marryatt	Frederick	Mary	Edward	-
18 th January 1918 SOLWAY SCHOOL					

TO BE OPENED FEBRUARY 5th

Arrangements have now been completed for the opening of a State school at Solway on February 5th. Miss Campbell, formerly mistress of the Opaki School will be in charge, and all standards up to the sixth will be catered for. The school will be carried on in the Methodist Sunday School building for the present. PP

5th February School reopened this morning with an attendance of 12. Harvesting is in full swing and a number of the scholars are helping with this work. It was hoped that the new school would be ready for the opening but the work has not been begun

15th February Roll number 23. The weather has been very hot and the smaller children find the added distance too much. The room is badly ventilated and on several afternoons the school has had to be conducted outside

20th February Wrote to Education Board asking for a school table as present there is no safe place for school records

11th March Inspector Stuckey visited the school at 9.00

12th March A table has been supplied for the school

19th March A stormy morning the sky at an early hour gave indications of some unusual disturbances- a red glare was spread right over the heavens and the sun was quite obscured by a heavy cloud- At 9 O'clock the school room was in semi darkness and 6 scholars were present- A telephone message from Masterton states one of the volcanoes is in violent eruption and the cloud of smoke is getting denser

At 9.30 after consulting Mr. McConkey a member of School Committee the scholars were dismissed as there seemed no prospect of any successful or settled work, and moreover the room was still

dark and without lamps work could not be carried on. A high wind has sprung up too, the smoke is closing in everywhere- There are evidently bush fires raging

5th April School resumed today. The school building is progressing slowly but it will be necessary to get a heater for this room before long, as it is getting very cold in the morning's now

[22nd April Householders meeting at Racecourse](#)

[That the Board be asked to remove the old iron and litter from the school grounds before the new school is open](#)

28th April A note to Secretary School Committee re Heater for School Mr. McConkey the custodian has agreed to lend his Kerosene heater

3rd May The heater has been installed and has proved useful although on wet cold days. The atmosphere of the room is not ideal for either pupils or teacher.

The supply of cardboard for modelling, as recommended by the inspectors has come to hand, but as there is no accommodation here for extra material, The parcels are stored for the time in the school cottage

17th May Term examinations throughout the school

5th June A holiday was observed yesterday. Empire Day and King's Birthday

The school furniture was moved into the new building and work was begun today

12th June First work of cardboard modelling began today- The cube was modelled to illustrate a cubic block measuring 2 inches along its edge

Paper work began in lower standards, halves, quarters eights

19th June No desks have come to hand yet. They are ordered

28th June The weather during these last two weeks has been so inclement as to seriously affect the attendance

Colds are prevalent throughout the school

1st July A very cold wet day. 11 Scholars present

4th July Inspector Stuckey examined the school today- he devoted the greater part of the afternoon to a lesson on Plans and Elevations to the Upper School showing non cardboard modelling can be applied to Geometrical Drawing

Forms were filled in and signed by the inspector To be forwarded to the Board in application for maps, furniture etc.. required for the new building

11th July Mr. J Powell Inspector of Works paid a visit to the school- 7 of the new desks have come to hand and been put in place

14th July A metal mat has been supplied for the porch

19th July A very rough wintry day- only 5 scholars present

22nd 23rd July No Attendance Violent snowstorm School closed

24th July Weather still boisterous- cold and southerly rain- 9 scholars present

6th August 1918 The Masterton Racing Club has handed over to the Opaki School Committee a sum of £15 16s 4d which was paid by the Education Board for the- use of buildings after the Opaki School had been destroyed by fire PP

20th August Miss Marryatt returned from the holiday seriously unwell and was ordered by her doctor to go into hospital immediately. Pending further arrangements I am acting as her

substitute, she being too unwell at present to take the official steps in arranging leave A D Bright

21st August Two families the Campbells and the Buicks have not returned to school

Inspection Report March 11th and 4th July Included

- a) Miss Marryatt Roll 26
- b) Marking of registers in perfect order.
- c) Suitable schemes of work are in use and the quality of the instruction is based on them is highly satisfactory
- d) In classroom work good programmes are carried out with satisfactory results
- e) Drawing and handwork are correlated with the other subjects of instruction
- f) Supervision of games in recess satisfactory
- g) The Schoolroom is a new building put up to replace the room destroyed by fire in October last
- h) There is no fence between the playground and the yard of the Teacher's residence. I recommend that the old board fence at the back be taken down and the best of the material be used to make a dividing fence.
- i) I understand that new furniture has been ordered already. The desks are of an obsolete patterns
- j) From October to the beginning of June school was held in a rented room which was only fairly suitable. Work has been going on in the building for some three weeks
- k) F G A Stuckey

24th August Posted to Wellington 25/- contributed for Christmas Pudding fund

27th August Very Wet Day Only 4 children present

2nd September Catherine Gibson began work as relieving teacher. Received from Mr. Dorset, Chairman of the School Committee the sum of 34/- to be paid over the school sweepers and to those who scrubbed the school and cleaned the windows, also to those who cleaned the outhouses. The sum of 12/- was today paid over to Alfred Garet, that being his share 9/- for sweeping school and 3/- for cleaning outhouses. William Watson the boy to whom the other 12/- is due was absent

3rd September The sum of 10/- was paid today to the girls who scrubbed the school

6th September Copies of the school journal for September were received

9th September The sum of 12/- due to William Watson for sweeping the school and cleaning the outhouses was handed to him on his return to school.

13th September Considering that colds seem to be prevalent among the children the attendance for the week has been satisfactory the average being 22.8

19th September Owing to a very cold, wet and boisterous morning only 5 children present

23rd May The relieving teacher not happening to know that Monday Dominion Day was to be observed as a holiday, did not let the children know on Friday Afternoon

She rang up Mr. Stuckey (*Masterton Headmaster*) to ask what she should do and he advised her to keep the children if many came and to give them Tuesday as the holiday instead

Twenty One came and so the work was proceeded with and Tuesday will be observed as the holiday

30th September Ceased work as relieving teacher today. Catherine Gibson

1st October Florence Marryatt Took charge of the school today attendance 24- found registers etc.. in good order and entered to date

4th October The Dorset children are absent with colds R Campbell has not attended for 6 days having been in bed with influenza

Notice has been received that Monday the 7th will be observed as a holiday to celebrate the Balkan Victory.

9th October Miss Blackwood (Blackbourne?) inspected the Physical Exercise done during the year and gave demonstrations of a new exercise

17th October Race Day 12 children present

18th October A very rough stormy morning- a violent gale- only 6 children present

1st November Turkey's surrender was celebrated by a half holiday

4th November Austria's surrender announced- a half holiday was granted

12th November The news of the signing of an armistice by Germany was received at the same time as a notice from the Health Department that the school is to be closed for one week from date owing to a serious outbreak of influenza in a bad form

1919

4th February School was reopened today after being closed since 12th November

The three candidates for proficiency certificate were guaranteed passes on their work at the Inspector's Annual visit together with

their term marks. Two boys have left school and the third William Watson is still attending

New Scholars Ronald Grantham and Eric Henderson were admitted 17th February A holiday will be observed tomorrow for the Masterton Show

27th February Clarence and Raymond Campbell are absent today helping with the harvesting

3rd March Inspector Stuckey visited the school today at 1 pm

4th March Inspector Powell (Works Department) visited the school and various matters requiring his attention were noted and discussed

13th March Received parcel of Laureate Poetry books

15th April 1919 Opaki School

A meeting of householders was held at the above school last evening. The following were elected a committee for the ensuing year: —Messrs Frank Dorset, B. S. Jenkins, W. Fife, Alex. Buick and J. Campbell. PP

8th April The Minister of Education Mr. J A Hanan, Mr. Sykes the member for the district and Mr. W Forsyth Chairman of the Education Board visited the school this morning.

9th April Received an intimation from F Dorset Chairman of the Committee that the school is required for Polling Booth tomorrow, consequently there will be a holiday

11th April The school key has not been left at the Post Office and the door has been left unlocked. The schoolroom was left in a most disorganised state

14th April Householders meeting in the school. E Jenkins, J Campbell, S Jenkins H Fife, A Buick F Dorset . E Jenkins was elected chairman

That pump be fixed by Mr. Dorset

That Board be written to re school fence

That the chairman order 2 cord of Matai from Mr. Smith

An offer having been received from Mr. Bunny of a tree suitable for a flagpole. My Fife agreed to inspect and report back

It was decided to obtain from Miss Marryatt a list of things required for the school

A vote of thanks was given to the chairman (Mr. F Dorset) for his services over the past few years

Mr. F Dorset reported that there was a credit balance of £11-9-2

It was decided to leave the picnic till something definite was known about the peace ceremony

12th May Admitted 4 scholars today Victor Grantham's name was removed from the roll. His mother wrote to say that the doctor advises his being given outdoor work as his health is bad- The is nearly 15 years old

16th May Term examination completed today. Standard 3 arithmetic is weak

26th May The surplus desks which have been left under the trees have been transferred to the Masterton School

30th May The supply of firewood has not been renewed yet and there is very little left

4th June 2 cords of wood arrived today, also timber for the fence

3rd June Ten scholars have enrolled as members of the Navy League

11th June Admitted Jessie Wingate Aged 7

16th June 1919 Owing to the absence of Mr. W Fife and F Dorset through sickness it was decided to postpone the discussion of proposal to hold a social and dance at an early date

Bills

G H Smith Firewood £ 6.-0-0 Miss Marryatt (Cleaning) etc. £2-4-0

Mrs McKonkey (Cleaning) 12/6

26th June Very cold and wet. Only 12 children present

Zena Pritchard has a poisoned foot and is under hospital treatment- The Fife boys cannot attend as their father is suffering from influenza

1st July The fence between house and school is completed

18th July Received instruction from Education Board to observe Monday 21st as Children's Day in the Peace Celebrations

9 scholars (Boys) who are members of the Navy League are to take part in the Peace celebrations on Saturday 19th. They will form part of the crew of the miniature battleship in the Naval Display in the Procession in Masterton

23rd July Inspector Stuckey visited and examined the school yesterday- 26 children were present

30th July The weather has been cold and very wet all the week. Today only 4 ae present

31st July Heavy rain and cold- No attendance

19th August School reopened with attendance of 27

1st August Received letter from Mikimiki schoolboys asking if a football match can be arranged for Saturday 30th. Referred the matter to the Chairman

23rd August Received a letter from Mr. Jenkins, the Chairman, to say that the Football Match should be referred to the parents of the boys playing, as the as no say in the matters. After talking the matter over with the boys It was decided to give their consent and try to get a match arranged

27th August As it did not seem possible to get the team ready by Saturday, after consultation with Raymond Campbell, The Captain of the team, I wrote to Mikimiki school postponing the match till later

1st September This morning I was rung up at 7 a.m. by one of the parents to ask if it was correct that a match was arranged for 1.30 today and that tea was to be provided. I could only say that I knew nothing of it . I then rang the chairman but he was not at home. Mrs Jenkins undertook to get a message to him and at 9 O'clock a letter was brought to me asking that a half holiday should be given for the match

2nd September Sent a letter of protest to the chairman that a match should have been arranged on a schoolday without first consulting the teacher. One of the team a sixth standard boy was half an hour late and another boy is absent. As a great deal of time has been lost already owing to peace celebrations and wet weather. I am of opinion that football matches should take place only on Saturdays

I have also protested against the unusual action of the chairman in convening a meeting of settlers to promote a social in aid of school funds without notifying me or inviting me to be present an action I consider an unmerited discourtesy

3rd May Received a letter from Mr. Jenkins stating that no discourtesy to me was intended as regards the meeting convened, and pleading ignorance of correct procedure in school matters. The also states his regret that he has connected himself with school affairs as he feels that his efforts are misplaced and that what he has done has been for the good of the school as a whole. The protest

re the football match he says will be brought before the Committee and the trusts someone else will be found to take the chairmanship Wrote to the chairman accepting his explanation failing a more satisfactory one *This message was openly crossed out*

4th May Wrote to Mr. A Buick to draw his attention to the bad attendance of his son Wilfred who has been absent 12 full days since the beginning of the quarter

Forwarded a letter to Mr. J Campbell warning him that his boy Raymond cannot expect to gain proficiency unless he attends more regularly and more punctually. He is frequently as an hour late in the morning and in the afternoon.

8th September The following letter was sent to the chairman Mr. E S Jenkins in reply to his letter received on 3rd September

E S Jenkin's Esq
Chairman School Committee

Dear Sir

In reply to a letter received from you on September 3rd I beg to say that in different circumstances it would give me much pleasure to assist you in every possible way with your dance in aid of school funds. As you did not however see fit to include me when you invited the residents of the district to make the first arrangements, I think it best for me not to take any part in it. I enclose 2/6. The price of one of the tickets you sent me to sell and regret that it is impossible for me to sell any.

You have my best wishes in any efforts you make for the benefit of the school and I trust you will have a fine night for your dance, and that it will be a great success

I am

Yours faithfully

F M Marryat

9th September The school door which has been in need of repair for many months is still a source of inconvenience and discomfort, especially on windy days. The broken window pane also reported many months ago to the Committee has not yet been renewed and is the cause of much discomfort when there is a Northerly

10th September After struggling all the winter with wood in 4 foot lengths, we have at last had it cut into more convenient lengths, which the school boys have no difficulty in handling

11th September Planted annuals in seed pans

12th September The donation from the Racing Club of £15-17-4 to the school funds has been forwarded to Wellington in order to secure the subsidy

This donation was passed for payment many months ago but for some reason has not till now been available. I suggested to the chairman that the money donated might be used to buy some pictures, additional books for the library and a musical instrument

The required form has been filled in and forwarded by the chairman but this was done without consultation with the teacher. It was only by my own inquiries of the racing club stewards that I learned the money had at last been paid over

I rang up the chairman who informed me that he had forwarded the cheque together with the form

20th September Inspector Powell visited the school

23rd September The Health Officer, Mr. Cairns, visited the school and inspected the premises

Physical Education report from M Blackbourne

Teacher Miss Marryatt

Boys 17

Girls 4

Excellent positions taken, children bright and responsive To continue working tables 12-24

3rd October Letter received from Miss Marryatt re football match was read, on the motion that the letter be received

Letter received from Miss Marryatt re Door and Window

That Daniell's Ltd be instructed to repair door and window

A vote of thanks was carried out to those assisted to take the children to Colonel Charters Lecture

That cheque for £15-17-4 exchanged to Bank of New Zealand

10th October Forwarded a letter to the Chairman Mr. E Jenkins requesting him to get the Committee to make the necessary arrangements for keeping the offices in proper order. This work has been done by 2 schoolboys but owing to the representations made by the Chairman in a letter to the Right Honourable Sir Joseph Ward, it was thought advisable to end the existing arrangements and ask the Committee to make their own arrangements

Mr. Stuckey, the school inspector called in at the school and advised that the above be done

27th October School closed for Labour Day

10th November Harold Wilmhurst removed from the register

1st December Examination Schedule filled in

The Standard 6 pupil W Watson who entered for a National Scholarship attended the Technical School Masterton for his examination on 27th November and 28th November

4th December Mr. J Powell accompanied by the Truant Officer visited the school this morning

15th December The chairman to ring up returning officer, asking him to leave school as the found it

NZEI was asking for abolition of Boards

That this School Committee support to proposal of Educational Institute give reasons for abolition of Boards

That two of the School Committee be empowered to purchase a piano should a favourable opportunity offer.

That Miss Marryatt be allowed to purchase pictures to the value of £2

1920

19th February School reopened this morning with an attendance of 9 owing to an outbreak of influenza in a mild form The health Department delayed the opening in the district until today

Mrs Wingate called at the school today to say that her children are recovering from influenza and cannot attend until next week

Received a notice from Education Board that a parcel of readers will be sent to the school

23rd February Roll 23

Received from Education Board 12 Story of Hiawatha, 11 tales from 6 Jack the Giant Killers

William Watson qualified for a free place gaining 415 marks *At a secondary school*)

24th February The new syllabus has not yet come to hand- wrote to Education Board asking that a copy be forwarded- The scheme of work cannot be made out till the syllabus is made out

26th February Received copy of the Syllabus

3rd March That the annual picnic be held in Racecourse on Friday Proposed that any money collected be handed to Miss Marryatt for purchase of prizes not later Friday March 8th

8th March Roll number reduced to 22 owing to removal of Grantham Family from the district

12th March School Picnic at the Racecourse

15th March Received a letter from Mrs Grantham asking me to admit her boys again as she cannot get a home in Masterton and has to remain in the district for a few weeks longer.

Wrote to Inspector Stuckey recommending that Raymond Campbell be granted a free place at the Technical School

18th March Received a reply from Mr. Stuckey endorsing T Campbell's competency certificate

19th March 16 Scholars present, a wet day

Inspectors Report 1919 March 3rd and July 22nd included

- a) Miss Marryatt, Roll 27
- b) The progress of the pupils as a whole is very satisfactory
- c) Attendance Fair 88% for 1917
- d) The programmes approved for 1918 were imperfectly carried out owing to unavoidable circumstances. They are being repeated
- e) The buildings are new and kept clean. The accommodation is sufficient- after my first visit, a recommendation was sent to the Secretary with respect to the position of the shelter shed
- f) F G A Stuckey

19th March The weekly workbook applied for on the 20th February has not yet to come to hand

22nd March Received an intimation from Mr. A Henson that his boy Bob is in hospital with Diphtheria and that his children cannot attend school

24th March Cardboard modelling and paper work begun

31st March Spent an hour outside hoeing and weeding ground around school

School piano has been added to the school furniture- the purchase money was donated partly by the racing club and partly by local effort

8th April Very stormy morning southerly gale and rain- 2 scholars were present at 9 O'clock

The weekly work book applied for has come to hand

28th April Annual Householders Meeting. The chairman read Miss Marryat's report. The Picnic and social had been a success and there was a credit balance of £13-0-7 in the bank. A Piano had been purchased at a cost of £47-10-0 Cartage 15/- Insurance transfer 2.6d. Total £48-12-6

School Committee J Wingate, F Dorset, A Henson, R Perry, E S Jenkins

That Mr. Wingate be chairman

A watering can to be purchased

That the chairman's firewood purchase be confirmed

That the Education Board be written re sanitary arrangements

Mrs Marryatt's annual report was read and a note of thanks passed to her services during the last two years

5th May School closed for Prince of Wales's Visit owing to alteration in dates and time it was not considered advisable to let the children

travel by train, to they went with their parents and assembled at the Park

That piano be lent to dance Committee if all care be taken of it and returned next day

That £2 be spent on exercise books if Miss Marryatt thinks it advisable

That cordials over from picnic be given to social Committee to use for social

13th May School closed for the term vacation a special holiday by request of H R H the Prince of Wales being observed tomorrow

1st June School reopened. The letter sent by the Prince of Wales as a message of farewell to the boys and girls of NZ was read to the scholars after assembly this morning

21st June Primer Class 2 began reading in the infant reader

Bob Henson has been away 7 weeks with Scarlet Fever- this long absence has retarded his progress in arithmetic

May Henson, his sister has also been absent and her arithmetic is much weakened in consequence

18th June No supply of plasticene has come to hand

9th July Influenza is fairly prevalent, The Dorset and Watson family being absent from this cause

The Clerk of Works Mr. J Powell visited the school

15th July The Chairman Mr. J Wingate visited the school to inspect leakages in roof- also the brought the County Council Overseer to see the state of the road in front of the gates

4th July Monsignor McKenna called at the school to ask if it is possible to get the use of the school rooms after hours to give

religious instruction to the Roman Catholic Children attending the school. Referred him the chairman Mr. J Wingate

15th July A Supply of cardboard and plasticene etc.. has come to hand

7 Rose Trees were planted in the school in the school last Friday

A very wet day 14 scholars present

19th July Meeting to discuss metalling for road and school residence door, decided to purchase a pipe for the culvert and as the county overseer offered to put down two loads of metal for the School Committee to help spread it

Also decided to support Mr. Grundy for the Education Board

31st July Influenza in a mild form is still prevalent. The attendance has been affected thereby

2nd August A supply of handwork material including plasticene has come to hand

19th August The attendance this week has not been more than 14 and most of the scholars present today still have bad colds

An aeroplane, which passed over the school at midday, was the source of much interest and excitement among the scholars.

Received from Mr. Wingate the money for the payment of the cleaners and handed it over to them

Four pictures have been hung in the schoolroom. The money was granted by the School Committee for the purchase of these.

During the first week of August I received a notice from Inspector Burns asking me to keep the school open for the first week of the holidays so that the might visit the school then- As it is necessary for me to be in Woodville during that week for family reasons, I wrote to the chief inspector to that effect – No Further intimation of the

Annual Visit having been received I am closing the school according to regulations today.

7th September Attendance 20. Gordon Jenkins is in bed with influenza. Isla Campbell is too ill to attend

15th September Inspector Burns visited and examined the school Roll 21

16th September The inspector's holiday will be kept on Monday the 20th

8th September Received a small supply of Kindergarten Scissors from Education Board

15th September There are now 16 pupils who have become members of the Navy League

21st September Trafalgar Day Scholars assembled in playground to salute the flag addressed on the occasion and its meanings

22nd September A picture entertainment in connection with the Trafalgar Day Celebration will be given to the school members of the Navy League tomorrow in Masterton

26th September Yesterday Labour Day, was observed as a holiday. This morning only 5 scholars were present. The weather was very stormy and wet- 1 4 hour day observed.

27th September The Pit System has now been installed in the offices attached to the school

Measles is prevalent

1st November May Henson came to school today after being absent a week as her brother is just recovering from measles and she has not had them. I sent her home with a note to her parents to inform them that she must not attend school for another week

3rd November Miss Blackbourne visited the school and took physical exercise for an hour- It was so wet that the work had to be taken in the schoolroom- several new exercises were shown and some organised games

11th November Dr Ada Paterson visited the school this morning and examined the children's teeth and tested their eyesight- she pronounced them to be very healthy and their teeth to be in very good order

There are still a number of children absent with measles- Two minutes silence observed at 11 O'clock (*Armistice Day*)

16th December As no suitable arrangement could be made for scrubbing the school etc.. a number of the scholars volunteered for the work and one afternoon was taken up with giving the room a thorough cleaning. The scholars were dismissed at 3 pm for the summer holidays

1921

1st February School assembled at 9 Attendance 26

2 new pupils were enrolled

Kelso Watson who gained his Proficiency certificate in December has entered the Masterton DHS. His brother who entered the DHS from this school in 1920 has won a junior national scholarship and also been accepted for the Public Service, to be trained as a probationer in Wellington

10th February The Henson family have left the district

16th February Rearranged the desks in the schoolroom, to get a better light for the pupils

The easel and pegs promised by the Board have not yet been received

1st March Time Table remodelled

8th March Ernest Garrett has been absent a week owing to illness

Inspectors report 15th September 1920

- a) Order and discipline Tone of the school with respect to diligence, alacrity, obedience and honour Very Good
- b) Supervision in recess, organisation of games Very Good
- c) Schemes are good and work book satisfactorily entered up
- d) A N Burns

9th March Gordon Jenkins (Standard 4) being much in advance of the rest of his class in spelling. Reading has been promoted to Standard 5 on trial. Standard 4 and 3 will require special attention in English subjects, as they were backward

14th March A new timetable is being adopted. The model time table sent by the Education Board is being put into practice

24th March The sum of £9/10/0 was collected by the scholars for a school picnic, which for various reasons has been postponed until after Easter

15th April School picnic held at Racecourse

11th April Mr. A N Burns (Inspector) visited the school at 9.15 am and gave a lesson in arithmetic to Standard 6, also took the 3rd and 4th Standards for reading

18th April School Committee was elected – Messrs J Wingate (Chairman), Dorset, Head, Fife, Watson

The chairman gave a summary of the year's workings The balance sheet showed a balance of £27-3-10 included in that is the sum of £10 for the children's library £5 raised by a dance Committee. And £5 subsidy from the Board for which the Committee passed a hearty of thanks

A vote of thanks be passed to the Senior Scholars who had cleaned the school and handed over their pay to buy something useful for the school

Miss Marryatt's report of the school was read and a vote of thanks passed to her for her services for the year

It was proposed the Committee meet some day at the school and have a look round and attend to several minor things, cutting the grass putting in a culvert at the front gate and a shed for children's saddle and bicycles

4th May Owing to Lita Wingate's state of health, her name is removed from the school roll for the present

6th May Communicated with the chairman of School Committee Mr. J Wingate re closing school a week earlier owing to urgent family matters which necessitated my going to Wellington

Mr. Wingate has authorised the closing of the school for the term holidays today 6th May. F M Marryatt

30th May A working bee consisting of the School Committee have made a culvert in front of the school to carry off the rain water, metalling has been done, a shelter made for saddles and bicycles.

24th June 11.00 The school had to be closed for the day owing to the Teacher's illness

27th June After seeing and conferring with Miss Marryatt and the chairman to write to the Board re insurance of school when being used by outsiders for meetings etc.. also that the chairman see about getting trees on the side of the school residence topped and cut into 4 foot lengths to be used as firewood next year. Charge left as £1 for cord for the doing of it and the cleaning up all tops and rubbish as well

It was also suggested that the Committee meet some day on the school grounds and discuss some improvements to them and the garden

15th July School closed at noon to enable scholars to witness Football Match Springboks V Wairarapa

22nd July £5 has been expended in library books

13th September School reopened attendance of 22

Two names Dulcie and Vera Curty have been removed from the roll and two names added

19th September Received from Education Board a notice re saluting flag weekly and singing national anthem

14th October Opaki races, only 12 scholars present

21st October Trafalgar Day- flag saluted occasion referred to

7th November Standard 6 pupils (6 in number) went to Lansdowne school to be examined for the Proficiency Certificate

Five gained proficiency certificates and one an endorsed competency- The school was closed

11th November The flag was hoisted at 9 a.m. and the scholars drawn up in lines facing it. The anniversary was briefly referred to and the flag saluted by the schoolboys. A verse of the National Anthem was sung. At 11.00 the two minutes silence was observed, by request of the King in memory of the soldiers fallen in the great war.

3rd December That the Committee accepts with regret the resignation of Miss Marryatt and a letter of appreciation of her services be written to her

That the wood left by Miss Marryatt be taken over by School Committee

Proposed that subscription list should be put in circulation for presentation for Miss Marryatt and be taken around by Mr. Watson Amount received £6-4 and presentation to Miss Marryatt at garden party

Also Committee meeting on grounds to discuss the cleaning up of same Decided to engage Mr. Scott to do the same at 1/6d per hour

14th November Dr Ada Patterson visited the school at 10.00 and examined the children as to sight and teeth- she also gave them a short address on the need of taking care of the teeth- keeping them quite clean, also on the best kind of food for growing boys and girls to eat in order to keep healthy

13th December Very wet morning Only 4 scholars present at opening, as no more came a 4 hour day was observed

21st December School broke up for Xmas Vacation- a number of parents and friends including several old pupils of the school assembled after 3 pm. And bid farewell to me who is leaving the district The chairman W J Wingate, presented her with a handsome travelling. Rug and a set of straps. Afternoon tea was dispensed by a Committee of ladies and the gathering broke up.

22nd December My resignation from the charge of this school and will take effect on January 31st

Florence M Marryatt

Inspector 's report of 24th August included

- a) Roll 22
- b) Miss Marryatt
- c) Reading was somewhat monotonous
- d) Colour Work Commended
- e) The teacher is commended for the good tone of the school

1922

7th February Louisa H Burden (Mrs) commenced duties

1867/11737 Burden	Louisa Harriet	Jane Elizabeth	John
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1949/29922 Burden Louisa Harriet 82Y

21 pupils present, Admitted four pupils, removed four names for roll Wilfred Buick, Edna Dorset, Robert Buick, Mary Head

As the residence is out of repair and not ready for occupation i.e., in its present state, have arranged to live elsewhere for the present

I wrote to the chairman with reference to this matter

9th February Received memorandum from Education Board regarding delay to supplying material for handwork this year

16th February Masterton A and P Show. School closed

9th March School visited by Mr. Cumming Instructor in Nature Study and Agriculture

25th March The truant officer and the clerk of works for the Wellington Education Board called at the school

Forwarded to the Secretary of the Masterton Branch of the Navy League the subscriptions of eleven members of the children's branch of the Navy League

29th March School visited by Miss D Buckley, school nurse who examined the sight, hearing, and teeth of the children, and gave a short address explaining the necessity for the proper care of the teeth

30th March The chairman of the School Committee Mr. Wingate called at the school today to discuss with the teacher various matter relating to the school

The oath of allegiance as required by the Education Amendment Act 1921-22 was taken by the teacher in the presence of the chairman and the signed copy forwarded to the Education Board

Report of Instruction in agriculture 9th March included Miss Burden has just taken over the work of the school Lesson given on general lines to show various phase of nature study work and different methods of teaching it

Garden work not previously taken at Opaki but Miss Burden although lacking gardening implements has commenced

C A Cumming

6th April Miss Burden also attended to discuss improvements to the school grounds

It was decided Committee to put in a day helping forward a garden scheme, cleaning up the school grounds

That children be given a list to take around to collect money for their annual sports and picnic to be held on the 28th April

Than an axe handle and blind stick (*For pulling down blinds*) and other necessary's for the school to be arranged for the chairman

12th April Supply of garden tools received from Education Department

24th April A closing meeting of the Opaki School Committee was held before the annual meeting

Miss Burden sent in a report of having 24 children on the roll

Standard 6,2. Standard 5, 4, Standard 4, 4 Standard 3 ,1,Standard 2, 6 and primers 7

Also asking that the Board be written to hurry up school house repairs.

That a set of garden tools had come to hand had come to hand and that the Children's lists to hand showed a sum of £10-14-0 for their picnic and sports

The chairman read letters to Board re Wood and Saddle Shed

And to the clerk of works re School residence

The years working of the school had been very satisfactory a good average of passes for the year out of 5 children sitting their proficiencies 4 secured theirs and 1 a partial pass.

The inspection reports are all very good and there is a bank balance of £13-4

The meeting then closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his years' service

At the annual meeting there were 9 present. The old Committee were all re-elected. After discussing the picnic the householders meeting closed

25th April Anzac day The scholars assembled at 9.00 as usual- a short address was given by the teacher, the flag was hoisted half mast the children's wreaths were placed at the foot and after saluting the flag, the scholars were dismissed for the day. The chairman of the School Committee was also present

28th April School closed for annual school picnic

30th May Repairs to teachers residence not yet completed

14th June The advantage be taken of the board's offer of trees for a hedge be accepted

That the chairman discuss with the teacher re choice of same.

The some of the picnic funds still at hand be devoted to buying a tin of biscuits for the children to be used while at school

That the Secretary write to Mr. And Mrs Roberts thanking them for their kindness on various occasions the racecourse and buildings have been used for the pleasure of the school children and raising funds for their benefit

That the Secretary to the dance club be written to thanking them for their help in raising money for the school library and picnic funds.

The request of an organiser of a Sunday School for the use of the school buildings, be granted

That framing of the Prince's Photograph stand over until more funds are in hand

That a Letter be written to Powell re timber taken from school residence while repairs were being executed

A report from the school teacher was read and the meeting closed.

4th July Mr. Powell Clerk of Works for Education Board visited the school today and inspected the work which he had recently been carried out at the schoolhouse

Received from Secretary Education Board part of Harmsworth's School Atlas

26th July School visited by Truant Officer

27th July Miss Blackburne Physical Inspector and instructor visited the school and gave instruction to the children in Physical Drill and games

3rd August Tree planting and other work in school grounds carried out by Messrs Wingate and Watson. (Members of the School Committee) assisted by the senior boys

14th August Very wet, 15 scholars present out of roll number 26

Inspectors Report 11th August included

- a) L H Burden
- b) Roll 26
- c) Though Miss Burden has not been long in her present position the work of various classes show evidence of careful teaching
- d) The general tone of the school and the working spirit shown by the pupils are good.
- e) The general tidiness of the grounds is praiseworthy and the Committee is making preparations to plant a hedge along one side of the grounds
- f) Miss Burden is to be commended for her cheerful and sympathetic handling of the classes and the good spirit of work is evident
- g) W G Blackie

25th September Dominion Day, School closed

28th August That the spending of the money over from the school picnic be left in the hands of the Secretary to deal with

That the school gates be left in the hands of the Secretary to deal with

That the Board be written to re getting blinds for West windows of school

That Head see the Close (Sic Clothes) line posts

The Secretary write to Board re permission to shift wood shed and to alter it for wood, bicycles and tool shed and re paint for painting same

That 5 cords of pine firewood be cut for school and that not more than 14/- per cord be paid for the cutting

2nd October 12 books added to the library

13th October Attendance 14 out of a roll number of 26. School closed for half day. This was decided upon after consultation with the chairman of the School Committee as there is a race meeting at Opaki on this date which effects the school attendance considerably, many parents thinking it is unsafe to send their children on account of the increased traffic on the roads

20th October Received and read to children a circular from the Post and Telegraph Department relating to damage to Telegraph Insulators by Throwing Stones

1st November Annual examination for proficiency or competency certificates was conducted by A N Burns Inspector of Schools

The Standard 6 candidates from the Rangitumau and the Kopuaranga Schools were also in attendance. Of the three candidates from this school Nolan Dorset and Fred Stowe gained proficiency certificates. Ailsa Watson Endorsed Competency – Handwork

5th December Certificates given to above recipients

7th December General Election School closed Building required as a polling booth

15th December School closed for midsummer vacation

1923

1st February Roll 20 Present 16

12th February Owing to an outbreak of scarlet fever in the home, Lewis, Maxine and Joyce Head will be absent until danger of infection is past.

16th February Average for week is 15. Roll number 22

21st February School closed Masterton Show

22nd February Received circular from Education Board stating that it is not possible to supply the material requisitioned for by the teachers for this year's handwork as the Education Department has not yet delivered the required supplies to the board

24th February That the school picnic funds be still left in the hands of the Secretary to deal with

That Secretary see to getting wood split up

That Secretary see to getting a glass fixed in a picture, that had fallen and broken

Left to the hands of the Secretary to get some weed destroyer for the gravel paths around the school

That the school teacher has the consent of the school committee to getting up a jumble sale for the raising of funds for the school

The school picnic be held on Friday the 23rd March or as near to that date as possible

That the Secretary consult with the heads of the of the High School and Technical Schools re getting ex pupils of Opaki School a day off for the day of the picnic

23rd March School closed annual school picnic

13th April Mr. Brockett Instructor in Agriculture visited the school and addressed the children

16th April Received from Education Board instructions regarding the celebration of Anzac Day

18th April To provide funds for various requirements at the school a Shop Day was held in Masterton. This was organised by the Committee and the teacher, with the help of the residents of the

district and resulted in the sum of £35-12-0 being raised. A dance was also held in the racecourse hall and provided a further sum of £2-10-0 this making a sum of £38.20

24th April received from Education Board a parcel of supplies for handwork consisting of

- a) 7lbs Glystokos
- b) 14 Modelling tools
- c) 1 Box white chalk
- d) 1 Box coloured chalk
- e) 1 dozen rulers
- f) 12 boxes pastels
- g) 400 sheets folding paper
- h) 1 tin gluack
- i) 12 pastel books
- j) 100 sheets brown paper (Quarto)

The school was inspected on this date by Inspector Cowles

25th April Anzac Day The scholars assembled at 9.00. After a short address by the teacher, a wreath was made of flowers brought by the children. The New Zealand Hymn of Empire was sung and after saluting the flag and depositing the wreath below the flag scholars were dismissed for the day

30th April 6 Householders present at Householders meeting

Mr. J S Wingate Chairman

That the Board be written to in regard to the position we now stand in as subsidy for the money raised by the Jumble Stand and Dance, and also what the Board will allow for wear and tear of conveyances of children to school who live more than 3 miles away

After reading a report of the school teacher a summary of the work done by the School Committee for the past year. The meeting closed

7th May First Term examination held

9th May Inspectors report included

- a) Room and grounds very neat and attractive
- b) The pupils work well and earnestly- Tone very good
- c) Good methods are in use. The teacher has provided a good supply of teaching material.

30th May Received Mr. Brockett's Ag report which included

- a) Teacher Miss Burden
- b) Lessons given by Instructor Parts of plants and uses of each part needs and how to study them
- c) Gardens are confined to flower beds a with very good results
- d) A certain amount of work has been carried out with weeds

2nd June That money from Jumble Sale shall not be sent to the Education Board for subsidy until further inquiries are made about it That Chairman write to the Board asking if they would have any objections to the residents combining with the School Committee in making of tennis courts on the school grounds, to be used by the scholars on school days and by the public on Holidays and Evenings At close of meeting the Committee inspected school grounds and it was left in the hands of Stephens and Head to fence off the school from girls playground so that the grounds could be used for the horses to feed on to keep the grass shorter for the girls to play on, and Fife was to confer with Miss Burden re improvements to the grounds to be paid for by her.

4th June Holiday observed for King's Birthday

26th June Mr. Brockett visited. Inspected children's collection of weeds and named them. He addressed the children on the subject of tree planting and a small plot of ground should be used for the planting of seeds of trees such as pinus insignia, macrocarpa etc.

23rd July As the average attendance for the last two quarters has been below 21 this school is now classed in Grade 1. The Education Board has offered to transfer the teacher to a Grade II school, but she has decided to remain at Opaki for the present

13th August Mr. Wingate Chairman of School Committee visited the school

The school was visited by Mr. T Moss a member of the Education Board, his attention was drawn to the need of several small alterations and necessary repairs

23rd School visited by Mr. Brockett, Instructor in Agriculture who gave a lesson on the preparation of a seed bed. He was accompanied by Colonel Austin A and T inspector

29th August Report of the School Mistress was read and also a list of requirements read and recommended to be seen to That Board be written to offering to pay 25% of the cost of a wood shed etc.

12th September School reopened Roll 19. During the holidays the piano was tuned and the entrance gate repositioned.

24th September Dominion Day Holiday observed

12th October Following the usual custom the school was closed for half day as a race meeting is held at Opaki on this date and owing to the heavy traffic the roads are considered unsafe for small children

15th September Roll number 24

22nd October Labour Day Observed

23rd October Received Notice that the Inspectors annual visit will be on Wednesday October 31st October

25th October Received telegram stating that Mr. Burns Inspector of Schools will visit the school tomorrow

Three of the pupils in Standard 3 forwarded specimens of handwriting for competition at the Wairarapa Show held at Carterton yesterday

Eileen Stephen was awarded first prize and Jessie Wingate second

26th October School examined by Mr. Burns. 24 pupils present

29th October School closed – inspectors holiday

12th November Miss Louisa Burden Grading 151 Report included

- a) Order, tone and Discipline Very Good
- b) The general efficiency of the teaching is good
- c) Cleanliness and Tidiness

20th November Mr. Brockett's report Roll 22

Children working in the garden at time of my visit. A very good flower garden has been made in a very short time and is now gay with blooms. The children take a keen interest in their garden and are always pleased and anxious to discuss their little Nature Study Problems and observations

It is always a pleasure to visit the school

14th December The teacher was summoned to Napier on urgent family matters

21st December Miss L Weston acted as relieving teacher from 17th December

School was dismissed on 20th December for summer vacations

All returns (Which have been unavoidably delayed) posted to Education Office

1924

5th February School reopened . Ten new pupils enrolled Number 30 During the holidays a shed for firewood and for garden tools etc. was built at the rear of the school

6th February A parcel with handwork supplies received

20th February School closed Wairarapa A and P Show (Masterton)

22nd February Miss L E Humphreys who is visiting New Zealand on business in connection with Dr Barnard's Homes explain the object of the Young Helper's League. Five of the children intend joining the league

27th February The members of the Navy League for 1924 are:-

Lewis Head, Maxine Head, Joyce Head, Jessie Wingate, Leta Wingate, John Wingate, Eileen Stephen, Ruby Stephen , Isla Campbell, Fred Keats, Donald Stevenson, Norma Warner, Jack Stratford, Owen Wyeth.

3rd March Mr. Cowles Inspection report included

- a) Miss Burden
- b) The grounds have been very much improved
- c) The pupils cooperate heartily with the teacher in this work and in all school activities

5th March School buildings inspected by Fire Inspector

6th March Forwarded to the Education Board requisition for material for handwork in 1925

6th March That the Board be written to re cupboards and failing help from them the Committee do the necessary work and pay for it out of their own funds.

That the Annual Picnic be held at The racecourse on Friday March 21st

That prizes be given in cash, carried unanimously

Fife undertakes to provide wood for the picnic

The chairman to see Dorset re getting Racecourse grounds and crockery for picnic

That children take lists around as usual to gather funds for picnic

That Chairman write to Board re assistance to procure a medical chest

13th March The truant officer Mr. Dineen visited the school

21st March School closed for Annual Picnic

1st April Average roll for quarter 27

25th April Anzac Day. According to custom the scholars assembled at 9.00 bringing flowers to make wreaths in memory of our fallen soldiers. The school flag was hoisted, a short address was given by the teacher and after singing the New Zealand Hymn of Empire and the National Anthem, the wreaths were deposited at the foot of the flag and the children were dismissed for the day

30th April School visited by Mr. Brockett. The workbook and notebook were inspected and the teacher made a request for a pair of hedge clippers and several necessary garden tools

3rd May In order to enable school children to visit the Battleship Hood now in Wellington, Government arranged an excursion by train from Wellington on this date. Although (Owing to the recent

railway strike) the notice was very short. Several children availed themselves of the opportunity given on this date (Saturday)

5th May Four hundred men and officers of the Naval Force now in Wellington visited Masterton. This school was closed in the afternoon on instruction of the Chairman of the School Committee

5th May Meeting of householders held. 6 present

T Wyeth, J S Wingate, H Head, J Stephens, W Fife were elected

J Wingate appointed Chairman

That the Chairman attend to cupboard wanted by the teacher

That chairman make inquiries re a flagpole and that the and Fife will see to the erection of same

That a path be installed down to the girls playground and some metal be put in front of the play shed

Left to I Wyeth to make enquiries re a basketball (*Netball*) ground to be fixed up for the girls

Left in hands of Head to make enquiries as to who provided tea for the School Children on return journey at Kaitoke and also enquiries to be made as to who was responsible for the catering of the children in Wellington so that both parties might receive a note of appreciation from the Opaki School

7th May School closed on the occasion of the visit of the Imperial Squadron to WELLINGTON A school excursion was arranged by the Ed Department to enable the teachers and older scholars with members of the School Committee to visit Moroa School, Hood and Repulse

26th May That Head see flagpole offered by C E Daniell and if suitable, cupboards be ordered to be made by same firm

The shed to be held over until the chairman writes to the board to sanction to shift same and what action will take towards subsidising the same

Wyeth to make enquiries re the girls Basketball ground

3rd June King's Birthday

30th June The Instructor in Agriculture (Mr. Brockett) visited the school and gave a lesson on how to use a spade

1st July Following is a list of garden tools in the possession of the school

3 spades, 2 large digging forks, 1 light digging fork, 1 pick axe, 4 hoes, 3 rakes, 3 long handled weeding forks, 3 short handled weeding forks, 1 pair hedge clippers, 2 long handled trowels, 1 short handled trowel, 2 pairs shears, 1 sickle, 1 watering can, 1 wheelbarrow

9th July That 12/- of library fund be spent in buying 12 copies of Westwood Ho for school use

21st July Very stormy day. Attendance less than half roll number

22nd July Received from Education Officer, camellia plant for school garden also a Rhododendron and Viburnum Carlessi

1st August Three loads of gravel were delivered and spread

12th August A new cupboard and flagpole provided by the School Committee were delivered at the school

14th August Mr. Wingate Chairman of School Committee visited the school in regard to several minor repairs to the premises

15th August The attendance for the last fortnight has fallen considerably owing to the prevalence of whooping cough in the District

18th August Second Term examination held on this date of 24 pupils in Standard 1...6 ,six were absent through illness

Roll 30

The school was visited by Mr T Moss a member of the Wellington Education Board

20th August Dr Helen Bakewell and Nurse Wallace of the School Medical Division and held a medical examination of the scholars. It is to be regretted that owing to the prevalence of Whooping Cough and measles in the district only 17 scholars were present out of a roll of 30

19th September School visited by the Truant Officer Mr. Dineen who addressed the children, pointing out the penalty increased by parents for noncompliance with compulsory attendance clauses of the Education Act

24th September School examined by Inspector Blackie Present 27 Roll 32

26th September School closed for Dominion Day

4th October School teachers report read

The moving of playshed be left over for a while to see if the Board will move on the matter

That the chairman go into the matters of cricket set for boys and basketball for girls will however to purchase same if satisfied with prices

Left in hands of Head over fireplaces to boil the children's billy on wet days

Stephens sent word that he was going to resign from the Committee, his resignation was accepted

10th October On this date a race meeting is held on the Opaki Racecourse which is near the school Owing to the danger caused by the unusually heavy traffic it is customary to close the school at Midday on these occasions. In spite of this many parents are unwilling to send their children on race days and the attendance is therefore lowered considerably. Today there were only 19 scholars present out of a roll number of 32. It would be advisable therefore in future to close the school for the whole day

16th October Received scholars medical record cards for the 18 pupils who were medically examined on 20th September

20th October Received a supply of tablet Pot of Iodine for goitre treatment as prescribed by Doctor Helen Bakewell . it is requested that one tablet be given weekly

24th October Two Scholars Jack and Dick Dorset have been absent since the beginning of the week during the outbreak of measles

28th October A Cricket set for the use of the scholars has been supplied by School Committee

4th November Inspectors Report included

- a) Miss L H Burden, Grading Number 146, Sole Teacher
- b) Order and discipline Very Good
- c) Buildings and grounds are in good condition, the attractive appearance of the front portion of the grounds being highly creditable to all concerned
- d) W G Blackie

11th November Armistice Day Two minutes silence observed at 11.00 and brief address given by teacher

26th November The three Standard 6 pupils attended an examination at the Central School Masterton Jack Dorset and William Life gained certificates of proficiency

1925

12th March Owing to the an epidemic of Infantile Paralysis throughout the Dominion, schools did not reopen on the appointed date after the midsummer vacation. The Education Department has instructed teachers to carry on the school work by correspondence. The teacher therefore attended at the school in the date in order to distribute the necessary books and material to the scholars

15th April Reopened school for the first time since 19th December 1924. Roll 30

20th April The school roll is now 33. Owing to lack of desk accommodation it was found impossible to enrol two pupils who applied today for admission

25th April Anzac Day was celebrated as in previous years. The children brought flowers for a wreath which was made by the teacher, and after a short address the flag was hoisted and the wreath placed below. After saluting the flag, the scholars were dismissed many of them attended the memorial service held in Masterton

27th April Enrolled 21 pupils in Navy League (Listed)

30th April Forwarded my resignation to the Education Board the same to take effect on 31st May

4th May Forwarded to the Education Office, requisition for two dual desks, those in the school at present not being enough for the requirements of the pupils

4th May Miss Burden tendered her resignation which was received by the Committee with regret as her care and instruction of the children has been much appreciated and during her period of 3 ½ years service

The school and grounds have much improved. With thanks to Committee men for their help and courtesy. The chairman closed the meeting and the Committee vacated their seats

A Bullock, W Fife, P S Ousey, T Wyeth and J S Wingate were elected as Committee for the coming year

J S Wingate elected chairman

That Mower and scythe be purchased from Miss Burden when she leaves and £1 for the mower and 15/- for the scythe

8th May Forwarded requisition for two dual desks in addition to those already applied for. There are now six pupils awaiting admission when the necessary desk accommodation is available

11th May By request of the Education Board school was closed on the date in respect of the memory of the Right Honourable W F Massey, Prime Minister of this Dominion, who passed away at his residence yesterday, The children assembled at the usual hour and after being addressed by the teacher were dismissed for the day

13th May At a meeting of the Committee called to discuss more children coming to the school

That the Chairman write to Mr. Sullivan and say that school is at present fully seated and that it would be wise of him to keep his children where they are.

That the chairman see to having the girls and boys Lavatory be washed with lime and the seat of the Girl's lavatory be fixed shed moving and window mended

14th May The funeral of the late Prime Minister took place today, all schools being closed

25th May Forwarded return A23 to the officer in charge Defence Office Masterton

29th May Received from Mr. Brockett, Instructor in Agriculture Syllabus of work in Agriculture and Nature Studies for Sole Charge Schools. Forwarded requisition for supply of necessary apparatus and material

1st June At the request of the Education Board the teacher is remaining in charge of this school until June 8th as a relieving teacher will not be available until that date

3rd June King's Birthday School closed

5th June My term as teacher of this school has now closed. L H Burden

9th June Eric Sholto Campbell Burchett Arrived to take charge temporarily Roll 33 Present 30

29th July Annual visit by Inspector (Mr. Irwin)

31st July Succeeded by Miss Shand Roll 43 Number Present

3rd August Miss Florence Shand took Charge of school this morning. Roll number 43 Attendance 24. Very wet day

4th August Find Pupils (Standard 5 and 6) have little knowledge of Geometrical Drawing and No mental arithmetic seems to have been done. In most classes arithmetic is taken from different exercises to correct. In a school of this kind work is impossible under those conditions

31st August Reopened school this morning Attendance 39. Removed names of Stuart and Jean Fife from roll as they have left the district

7th June Received from Department six dual desks, old

28th September Closed for Dominion Day (Found that I should not have done so)

5th October That chairman write to the board re First Aid Outfit

That we get 5 or 6 cords of wood cut and stacked at 14/- per cord 4 foot lengths or how much extra for 2 foot lengths

That there should be no holiday for the races this year

A bag of sawdust and disinfectant to be procured for the school

That a charge be made for use of school for any meetings that may be held in it to cover cleaning etc.

10th October Received from Wilton and Co One spirit Lamp

13th October That L Palebs price of 18/- per cord fir cutting 2 foot pine wood, stacking and cleaning up rubbish be accepted

Chairman still to negotiate getting a subsidy for First Aid Kit

The school clock to be left in the hands of the Chairman to deal with

It was agreed after discussion that the Committee could not see its way to more than 2/6 per week for school cleaning

23rd October Received one clock

26th October Closed school for Labour Day

4th November Closed for Election

11th November Armistice day Observed 2 minutes silence at 11.00

12th November Received exam schedules from Department also notes on Diseases of Potatoes from Mr. Laughton

Inspectors report of 29th July included

a) Roll 43

b) The general efficiency of the school is very satisfactory in the Upper Standards, less satisfactory in the lower standard and only fair in the Primers

- c) Special attention requires to be given to the teaching of Mental Arithmetic, composition, science, history and geography
- d) The roll has increased during the last month, several desks are necessary. The regular attendance of the pupils has also improved

20th November Mr. Gibson took charge of the lower classes today

23rd November Mrs Pall sent word that Joye has measles so the family is not able to attend

30th November Removed Gwen Miller's name from roll as she has been seriously ill and intends going to Solway College later

4th December Received new cheque book (1751-1775) from Education Board

7th December Enrolled Reginald Miller as pupil of this school

10th December Richard Dorset attended Lansdowne School today to sit for his proficiency examination and gained his certificate

Received First Aid Outfit from Department

1926

Removed Richard Dorset's name from school roll

Reopened school today. Miss Weston has been appointed as assistant and took charge of Standard 1 and primer classes. Roll number 41

Removed the names of Isla and Rata Campbell from school roll as they have gone to live at Mt Bruce

Received from Education Board 30 boxes crayons, 3 pairs scissors

12th February received cheque Book

17th February School closed for Masterton Show

28th February The school picnic be held the first Thursday after the races if the ground is available. Chairman to see about it.

That lists should be given to some of the scholars to collect funds for picnic and sports and School Committee funds

That cakes and sandwiches be provided out of the funds, sandwiches be made on the grounds

5th March received from Department pamphlet on Speech Training

16th March Enrolled Nancy Beetham as pupil of this school

25th March Closed for Annual School Picnic

30th March At the meeting to audit the picnic account. Feelings of satisfaction were expressed with the way that the picnic and sports passed off and the arrangements made

Subs received £16-5-6 Expenditure £15-9-6. Balance 6/- and with sale of butter and cake over 6/- in hand Total 12/-

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the racing club or the use for the racecourse picnic

15th April Miss Weston, assistant transferred to Solway

22nd April School visited by Mr. Hobcraft, Drill Instructor

23rd April An address on Anzac Day was given by Mr. Daniell of Masterton

30th May 1926 Resignation F J Shand PP

30th April Removed Willie Miller from roll

3rd May H J Cooper, T Wyeth, J Bullock, P S Ousey

J Wingate chairman

The loss of our assistant teacher was discussed but nothing further was done about it until we know who will be taking Miss Shand's place

The chairman read a letter from Miss Shand stating that she had sent in her resignation as from the end of the month

11th May Dr Prior gave a short address on Empire Trading

31st May Enrolled Phyllis Heaven as pupil

25th June Removed Ted Dorset's name from school roll as he has left the district

28th October Received from Medical Officer 1 bottle of Goitre Pills

2nd August Removed from roll Winnie and Dorothy Bullock

17th – 20th As I was confined to my bed with bronchitis the school was closed for four days

6th September Reopened School Today Attendance 31

Removed names of Les, Frank, Eric and Joye Pahl from roll as they have left the district

As Charles Beetham is leaving for Croydon Private School, (*Wellesley College Day's Bay, Wellington*) his name has been removed

9th September Letter from Miss Shand received. School pump and leak in porch be attended too

That Garnet Ousey cart the firewood that is cut up into woodshed and stack same for 5/-

That we increase the pay for school cleaning in correspondence to extra pay from Board. 3/3 for school cleaning and 15/- for term cleaning

That Committee meet on a day appointed to employ a carpenter to shift the playshed and tidy up the school grounds, Make a girls basketball ground and fix the boys football ground

8th October School inspected by Mr. Burns

Inspectors report included

a) Teacher Miss Shand

b) Roll 34

c) There are many cases of retardation evidently of long standing. The large number of pupils in the school has not permitted Miss Shand to give very much extra attention to this matter

d) Management Very Good

e) Attendance Satisfactory except in the case of some pupils that travel long distances

f) The work of this school has been very strenuous for the teacher owing to the backwardness of many pupils on the roll. Nevertheless the general progress is satisfactory

g) Standard 6 is doing good work

h) Miss Shand who is retiring at the end of the year after long efficient service has earned commendation for her good work in the interests of the school

i) A N Burns.

25th October Closed for Labour Day

26th October Enrolled Harold and Les Duckett and Becky Westhead.

Removed Eunice Stove's Name

28th October More than half the pupils were absent, being at the Carterton Show

15th November Enrolled Donald Keats

22nd November Enrolled Charles and Iveleuah? Bell

22nd November Report from inspector received. Letter from Miss Shand requesting Lawn Mower and hinge of gate be repaired and also notifying that a number of the children wish to attend sports in Masterton on the 8th

That the sports meeting arrangements be held over until we get more information

That Mr. Cooper take lawn mower in to be set and sharpened

That 4 light bats and 2 soft balls be procured for the children for them to use after the holidays

29th November received copy of 2 ships and their story from Navy League

7th December Enrolled Harold Cooper

8th December School closed for M D P S Sports some of the pupils were competing

14th December Results of sports meeting favourably commented upon

That the action of the chairman in connection with the appointment of an assistant teacher for this school

17th December School closed. I am giving up charge of this school today

1927

2nd February Mrs Hocquard Opened school today Roll Girls 19 Boys 19

Miss Costello appointed assistant and took charge of primers and Standard 1 and II

Monty Beetham gone to town school

4th February Head teacher Mrs Hocquard absent influenza

7th February Miss Burdes appointed as relieving teacher

11th February The chairman referred to the breakdown in health of Mrs Hocquard and the appointment of a relieving teacher

16th February All day holiday for Masterton Show

3rd March Carpenters repaired playshed and roof

4th March School picnic lists received £15 collected 12/- over from last year

Picnic to be held at Willow park Sandwiches to be cut at school the night before, the same quantities to be ordered as last year

7th 8th March Holiday for Annual Picnic

15th March That cash on hand over from picnic £2-12-9 to be held to pay for any extras for the year and the balance held over until next class picnic

That Mr. Keats be compensated by a tin of benzine for taking the children into the sports meeting

Firm	For	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
Nannies	Small Toys	1	15	9
Styles	Bread		4	4
Neill and Wotton			10	
Menton	2 cases Fruit		17	
Allan and Co	Groceries	2	0	6
Hawksworth		2	2	3
Wingate	6 lbs Butter		6	
And	4 lbs Tomatoes		1	4

That Wyeth be asked to attend the next Committee meeting of same to forward the country school interests

21st April That we should get a lorry out to take the children and parents that wish to go to the Anzac service on the 25th Inst and the cost to be on par with last years

25th April Children visited Masterton for Anzac day Celebration

6th May I terminate my temporary appointment today I Burdes

24th May Took Charge of this school today C M H (Cecelia Marguerita Hocquard)

Enrolled Harry Somers

2nd May The old Committee were re-elected

That we get 5 cords pine for wood cut from the trees round the School Ground. The matter be left in the hands of the chairman

Proposed to have a days work on the grounds on next Monday

8th June School inspected by Mr. Boden

Inspector's Report Received included

- a) Mrs C M Hocquard Standard 3 -6 19 children
- b) A health scheme should be included in schemes
- c) A relieving teacher has been in charge of these classes for the greater part of the year
- d) There is no record of what was done by this teacher
- e) The diagnostic tests revealed several weaknesses
- f) There is a good working spirit in the school and I feel confident that the standard of work will show a considerable improvement before the end of the year
- a) Miss M E Costello Standard 2- Standard 1- primers
- b) Good modern methods are being employed
- c) The children are working well
- d) Miss Costello has entered upon her duties with energy and enthusiasm and is making good progress

12th September Admitted Raymond Gordon and Gordon Buick. Attendance poor owing to epidemic of severe colds and whooping cough

8th June That Slight be paid sixteen shillings a cord for cutting 2 foot firewood

That the teacher be allowed a cord of the firewood at the price it cost

Letter from C M Hocquard in regard to electric lighting of school residence, asking the Committee to support her application to the Board

That the chairman write to the Board in support of the application

That the Committee supply cocoa and sugar for a while until we find out how expenses mount up a supply a billy 2 gallons and 1 mug

After considerable discussion the Committee decided to answer a query from the teacher re homework that the Committee agree that homework be given to the children in moderations

12th August That we supply two more lbs of cocoa and 4 lbs sugar to carry us over the holidays and for odd cold days

Left in the hands of the Committee and bring some of the firewood to stack in the shed

Mr. Bullock tendered his resignation from the Committee as he is leaving the district and the Committee in accepting it expressed regret at losing his services and hoped he would have success in his next place of abode

12th November That the chairman write to the Board and ask if they will pay for delivery of school mail to the school if we erect a box That Carterton Show day be recognised as a school holiday unless something unforeseen occurs to prevent it.

That a letter be written to Mr. Walker re fowls if they still trouble school gardens

17th November Took proficiency candidates to Technical School, Masterton to be examined

30th November That the Committee contribute half of the mail delivery cost

That the school children be sent to the industrial exhibition on Thursday 8th and that the rail tickets be purchased out of special funds

That list of material for school be procured, the piano tuned and books suggested be purchased as far as funds will permit

That we have a social evening at the close of the school for summer vacation in which the children should take part, the ladies to provide a basket and the men pay a cheque of 1/6 at the door

5th December Carried out Northumberland Standardised tests in English, Arithmetic and Intelligence for examining children of 10 years and over

16th December School closed for annual holidays, Social held in the schoolroom in the evening

1928

1st February Roll 40

Undated The school picnic discussed and left in the hands of the chairman to find out if the racecourse will be available in time for us to have picnic come to hand

The lists to be out about a fortnight before the date of the picnic

2nd April Meeting to discuss school picnic

£12-10-6 collected by the children much the same arrangements to be carried out as last year

£8 be allotted to providing provisions trophies for adults, and prizes for small children. The remainder be spent in cash prizes on day of picnic

That the purchase of a Graphophone be held over until the next meeting and further information be procured on the subject

That teacher pick half of the most appropriate books from list submitted to us for purchase for the younger classes

17th April Proposed that a letter of thanks be written to ? for his services as a handicapper for the different years he has held office

That the matter of a Graphophone be held over until the householders meeting

Re Anzac Day the chairman being permitted to try to get someone to come out and speak to the children on that day

23rd April 8 present at Householders meeting Colquhoun, Wyeth, Ousey, Cooper, and Wingate elected

Wingate elected to the chair

That Picnic Funds on hand should be held over as a reserve for a bad year

Phonograph purchase held over until such information as other Committee's give as discord expenditure for the year is contacted when phonographs are in use

14th June That a graphophone portable model price £2-12-6 for the school.

That Cocoa be purchased with sugar for school use

12th July A letter received from the teacher reporting that the roll and average has fallen to 36 and 32 respectively

Undated Meeting Roll is 38 and Average 31

Approval of the Committee for chairman's action re Firewood and Insurance

Agricultural school plots discussed. The school is the likely centre for the competition if the children who are likely to benefit will be approved

That we hold a dance at Mt Bruce to raise funds for our share for the dental clinic rooms

Messrs Wyeth and Colquhoun to find out if everything is in order for the dance, a meeting of Opaki Householdors should be called to forward the movement

8th October Received Columbia Portable Graphophone

15th November Mr. Watson paid Examination visit Examined Proficiency Pupils
Report included

- a) Mrs C M Hocquard Graded 131 Roll 17
- b) M E Costello Graded 200 Roll 22
- c) Although 2 teachers are working in the one room, their quiet manner of teaching and judicious use of the porch enables them to carry on effectively
- d) A very pleasant feeling exists between teachers and pupils. The teaching is very efficient
- e) Building and grounds are in very good condition

16th November Five plots have been taken for Mangle Competition, Wyeth, Ousey, Rollo, Retter, Wingate

A dance was held to raise funds for dental clinic at Mt Bruce a very successful and pleasant night was held that result was £14.14.0 was taken at the door, £3 for musicians and £2-5-9 for provisions

£10-2-3 paid to the dental clinic

The amount of one pound ten shilling's be spent on records for school gramophone

Mrs Hocquard's letter read showing 40 names on the roll and asking that the paths round school and house school be remetalled, left in hands of Chairman to deal with

1929

4th February Reopened School

7th March Mrs Hocquard reports 42 on roll and attendance of 36 for the quarter

The matter of picnic discussed, decided a change from the Racecourse, the place of the picnic be decided later

18th March Colquhoun and Wingate separated, visiting different picnic spots and favoured Payton Place

That picnic be held at Payton Bush on Friday 22nd inst.

That provisions be left in the hands of the chairman to order on the same scale as last year

25th March The Committee suggested that there be slightly more provisions next year

The proposal of a Junior High School was brought up and discussed from different points

That the chairman write a letter to the proper authorities protesting against the present proposal of the Junior High School and stating the reasons why

22nd April That a letter of sympathy be written to Mr. Wyeth on the death of his sister

That a vote of thanks should be passed to our teachers for their care and instruction of the children

7 Householdors present

Roll 39

The Board's proposed to alter the primary school system debated from various points

That the chairman write to the department protesting against any alteration on the system at present in use but recommending the advisability of smaller classes and efficient teaching

That Anzac Day left with the chairman to get some out to speak to the children on that day

A Wheelbarrow was discussed, Committee to keep an eye open to pick up a light one

The Committee then adjourned to inspect grounds for repairs to fences etc. and it was decided to put on a man for a day to clean things up

24th April School visited by Inspector. Roll Number 29. Miss Costello absent

25th June That we pay the same donation as last year £4 for Dental Clinic,

10th August A letter received from our pupil teacher tending her resignation from this school. That the children should collect to give her some small gift on the night of the 25th inst. and that the Committee add to the collection to make the gift suitable and also that a letter be written to Miss Costello accepting her resignation with regret

A letter be written to Miss Costello accepting her resignation.

A proposal to take children up to Te Nui for a game of football discussed if everything is in order to go up there next Saturday for a game

That we hold another dance for Dental Clinic funds

20th August It was decided to purchase a clock for our departing teacher the price not to be past 37/6 raised by the children

At the social gathering The ladies to provide a basket, crockery probably at Mt Bruce hall. That an invitation be sent to Mr. And Mrs Costello to attend our social in 23rd

23rd August Closed school for term holidays Miss Costello concluded her duties as assistant teacher

10th September Miss Smith took charge of Lower Classes

Inspectors report included

- a) Roll 43
- b) Mrs Hocquard 19
- c) Miss T E Smith 24
- d) This is a school of a very nice tone
- e) General standard of work almost good. Written work is neat and well displayed
- f) Speech work requires careful attention to eliminate monotony of utterance
- g) Physical exercises are well done
- h) The teaching conditions are rather difficult but good use is made of the corridor
- i) Jas McLraith Senior Inspector

20th November Dental clinic dance mad £1-4-6, Opaki's Share

That a map of maps of both islands are not excluded be purchased for the school

That the lamp brought from MT Bruce Hall be purchased for five shillings

21st December 1929 Miss M Whiteside Infant Mistress PP

1930

3rd February Roll 33

26th February That the school picnic be held on March 14th that the children have lists as usual. That the chairman see Payton to see if his paddock is available and the ground suitable.

11th March Bread Cutter to be procured, sandwiches to be cut up at Mr. Wyeth's the night before the picnic

Mrs Colquhoun moved that the action of the chairman in writing thanks to Mrs Pohi and Mrs Mitchell be endorsed

That the incoming picnic be held on a day convenient near the summer vacation in future

That the Rugby Union be written to provide a football for the school boys

28th April Chairman reported football had been received from rugby union

Mrs Hocquard's letter received showing Roll 34

That matters of boys lavatory and school wood be left for the incoming Committee to attend to

That a hearty vote of thanks and appreciation be passed to Mrs Hocquard and Miss Whiteside for their work with the children during the year

As no householders turned up at the meeting the old Committee were re-elected

The Committee to cart the wood and see to the boy's lavatory

18th June Mrs Hocquard's letter received Roll 34

That the letter from the Railways traffic manager be received and placed in the hands of the teacher to find out how many children would like to avail themselves of the opportunity of going to Wellington Winter Show

That the Chairman and Buick form a Committee with Mt Bruce and Rangitumau Committee's to arrange a programme for school games during the year

2nd August The school children having been laid up with chicken pox .the school football has been much interfered with

Chairman to find out if wood cutters are covered by the board's insurance

Axe, pump out of repair, 2 records required

18th August We have finally been notified that our teachers are leaving us as our school has gone down a grade so we have to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs Hocquard and Miss Whiteside

Colquhoun moved that a subscription list be sent round to raise funds to give a presentation to the teachers by the children during an afternoon tea provided by the parents at the school on Friday afternoon viz 22nd August at 2.30

5th September The subscription list raised £5-1-6 and a tea set for Mrs Hocquard and table set for Miss Whiteside which was presented at the afternoon tea at the school

Letter from Board stating that Mr. T Glasson had been appointed to the school as a permanent teacher and Miss Bishop as relieving teacher

That 5 ½ cords firewood had been cut from the school trees into 2 foot length blocks for 16/- per cord

8th September Reopened school and took charge Edith M Bishop. Roll 27

25th September 1930 Miss I Harris ST PP

6th October lady Doctor and Nurse visited and conducted a thorough examination of all pupils

7th October Received 2 parcels of seeds (Vegetable and Flowers)

Inspectors report included

- a) Roll 28
- b) Edith M Bishop. Sole Teacher
- c) The relieving teacher is conducting the school quite capably
- d) Order, tone and discipline very good
- e) Quite a good level of achievement has been maintained, the fundamentals in the various subject have been well taught
- f) The accommodation is ample.
- g) The flower gardens are in good order, much remains to be done in the vegetable garden
- h) The flagpole has rotted and fallen
- i) G H Stubbs

27th October Labour day is being observed on Friday 31st instead of today.

30th October Closed school for Carterton Show

31st October I terminate my charge of this school today

3rd November Mrs I Harris took charge of the school today

Enrolled James Harris and Aubrey Moor

A window cracked and 3 broken in residence

2 windows broken in school

17th November A letter received from Dental Clinique (sic) re Mr. James a member of the Clinique board being no longer a school committee man. Chairman to write to this Committee has nothing against Mr. James but think the members of the Dental Committee should come from School Committee men

That we pay £2 into the Dental Clinique this year as we are holding £1-4 from last year there will be 16/- to raise

That we get a cheap cricket set between the boys and girls

19th November Mr. Brockett visited school Outlined work to be done and new portion was marked off for the garden

22nd November Proficiency examination conducted today according to instructions received. All work posted in Masterton at 4.00

Both candidates gained proficiency certificates

1931

2nd February Roll 11 girls 19 boys

10th February John Pritchard aged thirteen years and five months reading readers for Standard 1 and 2, Good at drawing and handwork. Cannot do sums where there is any reading. Idles his time away has so upset the discipline of the school that it has been suggested to his parents that they take him away at the end of the week. Parents are complaining of his bad influence on their children and he seems incapable of learning anything and is so disobedient the must be taken away

16th February John Pritchard asked by me to take all his books home and stay there. Mother reports as above to Education Board and School Committee. I Harris

23rd February Letter from Mrs Harris stating she had to suspend John Pritchard, the action had the backing of the School Committee The boundary fences and school plot to be seen to a coil of netting and barb wire to be procured for the plot That we hold the school picnic on Friday 6th March. That lists be sent round the ordinary way and a meeting be called when the lists are closed

2nd March Lists showing £10-6-0 collected. That the children be given the option of giving their prize money or part of their prize money to the Hawkes Bay Earthquake Children's Relief Fund. Buick wishing to record his vote against

28th February Letter from G L Stewart Secretary of Wellington Education Board to Mrs I Harris included

- a) The suspension of John Pritchard is sustained by the Board, he will not enter Opaki School again
- b) The Board is anxious to see that the has better education
- c) You have no doubt had a visit from Child Welfare

4th March Further discussed disposal of picnic funds. That the children be asked to vote if they were willing to give half instead of the whole of their sports funds to the Hawkes Bay Relief Fund

11th March That balance of area from the Picnic Fund £8-7-2 be donated to the Hawkes Bay Relief fund and that the chairman sees that it gets into the right hands to be spent on the most nessitious cases children preferred and that we get a detailed account as to how it spent

A letter to Mr. Gibbs thanking him for preparing the racecourse building in case we needed it and also the racing club for giving us permission to use the grounds if we had wanted them. Make arrangements to allow our children longer time to get in for the woodwork lesson at the Masterton Central School

16th March Further letter from Mr. Stewart included

- a) John Pritchard has been admitted to a special school at Otekaike, Near Oamaru as a means of giving him a better chance of future useful citizenship
- b) I am sorry you had trouble in the management in this case.

27th April As the chairman had not been able to get anything done in regard to the children's having longer time at dinner on Wednesday and it is suggested that something further be done on the matter

At a Householder's meeting the old Committee was re-elected

That a football be purchased for the school boys

That the two delegates appointed for this school last year act again this year in connection with the cup presented for the schools for competition

7th August More an entertainment to be given by Davin's was discussed and approved

12th November And the money collected from an entertainment that did not come off be provided to the Dental Clinic the amount £2-9-4

The Department of Health paper received and the Committee consider that the present system of cleaning and sanitation quite sufficient and it be left in the hands of the teacher to make a suggestion for any improvement

Mrs Harris be paid 10/- for carting in the school wood and stacking in the school

Left in the hands of the chairman to see about procuring a flagpole

11th June Half holiday teacher attending refresher course

30th July Mr. Darroch, Navy League visited the school and presented a statuette of Lord Nelson

August Received 2 hoes, 3 rakes, 2 spades from Education Board

2 Hoes, 2 rakes. Mr. Brockett

11th September Mr. Fletcher Inspector from Queensland visited the school today

Inspectors report included

- a) Roll 24

- b) Mrs I Harris
- c) Overall rating of school Good
- d) The school is well managed very good order prevails and the children are working industriously
- e) Some aspects to the teaching show distinct improvement
- f) Speech Training (Including reading, recitation, and dramatisation) might be further developed along artistic lines
- g) The grounds and garden are kept in good order. A new vegetable garden has been enclosed
- h) A N Burns

1932

1st February Six pupils withdrawn Roll 26

9th February Chairman to write to Board re the fence in front of the school the posts are badly rotted

17th February School closed Masterton Show

23rd February For the picnic after discussion it was decided cut down provisions slightly and also to make trophies as cheap as possible

That Mrs Buick and Mrs Wyeth procure the trophies for adults and the little children

Chairman reported seeing Mr. Payton re Picnic Ground and the was quite willing that we should use it but the weather being too wet and dull since arranging for it

That we procure the racecourse

That we accept Mr. Wyeth's invitation to cut the sandwiches on Tuesday Night at his place. Ham, tomato and fish be procured for them

As the racecourse was not available Mr. Wyeth kindly let us hold the sports and picnic at his grounds

18th April Tenders for road fence had to be sent to the Board but no sound has come if they had been successful or not

6 Present at Householder's Meeting

A paper from the Auckland Primary School Committee Association received for the purpose of acquiring cheaper text books by a petition to the House of Representatives and have tenders called for the printing of same

That the old Committee be re-elected

30th May Health officer Reports Mary Sullivan suspected diphtheria. Other members of the family to stay at home this week

27th May A special holiday granted by the Education Board to enable teacher to attend a refresher course in Drill

5th September Roll 18 boys, 10 girls

29th September Dr Anderson examined all children today

14th October Chairman commented on the length of time between meetings bus as there was no business to transact the Committee agreed it was not worthwhile.

The chairman referred to the school football and the honour of getting one of the boys Daniel away as a rep for the Wairarapa

Letter from Dental Clinic received asking for funds

That we use two pounds from the special fund in our books to pay them and raise some funds at a dance next week to refund same

18th December School closed for Xmas Holidays. Eric Wingate given his Proficiency Certificate

1933

1st February Freda Garard admitted. Roll 28

23rd February The teacher's report received and the report shows a very satisfactory state in the school and grounds and children's behaviour

Left in the hands of the chairman to get the wood carted and stacked

That we hold school sports on Friday 17th inst.

That we hold picnic at racecourse

Lists to be made out and left in the hands of the teacher to distribute to the children to collect

Two medals received from Mr. And Mrs Wyeth for school championship in boys and girls events

That a letter of thanks be sent to the donors for their handsome gift

13th March The Wyeth medals, the conditions in regard to the competition in regard to the completion are 3 ½ yards start for every year in child's age and the distance to be run 100 yards. The child winning the medal to be penalised the next year

The sports funds collection of The Department of Health paper received £6-19-3

That catering be much the same as last year except that there is less pastry ordered

The Committee accepted with pleasure the proposal of Mr. Wyeth that we cut sandwich's at his house on Thursday Night the arranging of butter etc. left in Mr. Wyeth's hands

That the handicapper be the same as last year

The Committee to supply milk

24th April Dance to be held at Mt Bruce came up for discussion

May 11th was suggested as a suitable date

The chairman moved a very hearty vote of thanks to be forwarded to Mrs Harris for the way she has conducted this school. For the year

she has been. Here. It is with a feeling of regret that the Committee have to accept the resignation

The chairman passed a hearty vote of thanks to the Committee and also to Mrs Harris for the many little jobs she has done about the school

Only three present at Householders meeting. Mr. N Wyeth was election in Mr. Colquhoun's place

1st May Enid Wingate admitted

2nd May 1933 Mr C W Lambert ST PP

4th May That Mr. Wingate and Mr. T Wyeth be delegates for the Opaki School in connection with the Buick, Wilton Football Cup The Wyeth's Championship Medal Handicap came up for discussion but any discussion about the matter was left until later on.

Dance at Mt Bruce for Dental Clinic funds was discussed

Music etc. to be provided locally

Cakes, sandwiches to be bought by certain ladies admitting them free

Ordinary charges to be 2/- for gents, 1/- for ladies also several competitions, A lucky Spot, Monte Carlo dances to be held for trophies. 30 Dozen cakes to be ordered.

Mr. N Wyeth, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Buick proposed as door keepers

Mr. Buick to get trophies at value of 6/-

5th May I terminate my charge of this school today I Harris

22nd May Mr. E N Lambert 27 pupils present

23rd May 2 McDonald Boys left for Mount Bruce (*Mikimiki*) today

1st June Mt Bruce dance came up for discussion One pound Seventeen Shillings and 6d profit was shown

That this amount be forwarded to the dental clinic

That a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Donald on the death of his son

Also a letter was received from the teacher stating some repairs wanted for the house left in the hands of the chairman to write to the board

Also a list of requirements for the school, door mat, broom, chair and answer books by procured by the chairman

30th June 5 children, 4 Coopers,, 1 Remnant left today for Lansdowne school

3 small dual desks left sent to Kopuaranga

6th July A paper received from Donald, the first petition to the Board to erect the Opaki School signed by most of the residents that day 1875

Undated meeting Mr. Cooper resigned and the chairman Proposed Mr. Gibbs

School master reported that the roll number is now 24

That a cricket set be procured for the school

Mr. Lambert to enquire about spring for gramophone and if not too expensive the Committee have it repaired

Three cords firewood be cut for the school from the pine trees, cut into 2 foot lengths at not more than 16/- per cord

19th December Wyeth gave a summary of the dental Clinique meeting that the was appointed to as delegate from the Committee

That two proficiency students Molly Johnston and Chris Park got through and Ron Johnston and Elsie Beltie got their competency

Upto

1934

Inspector's report included

- a) The work of the school is proceeding smoothly under new teacher
- b) Mr. Lambert who is making earnest efforts to raise the general level of attainment
- c) In several directions the work is very good
- d) Relations between teacher and pupils being very cordial

5th February Roll 20

13th February The teacher reports that the roll number has fallen to 20, 11 Boys and 9 Girls

That the picnic be held at Payton's Bush if permission is granted and weather suitable ant that the racecourse Officials be approached to us having it at the Racecourse if the weather is damp

Left with Mr. Lambert to give the children lists to take around to raise funds for the sports and provisions

That the ladies of the district be granted the use of the school for a meeting on Saturday to discuss the forming of a branch of the Women's Institute

Left with the chairman to see that school wood is carted to the wood shed

21st February School closed for Masterton Show

5th March The catering for the picnic same as last year, except the cakes be reduced to 40 dozen

The Wyeth Championship medals came up for discussion and it was decided to leave the handicapping the same as last year

That we accept the offer of Mr. Wyeth to cut the sandwiches at his place

25th April Anzac Service held in schoolroom at 9.00 Address by Mr. Reynolds RSA on Anzac

30th April The balance sheet for the sports was discussed and confirmed

Boys collected £ 6-4-0

Over from last year £1-2-3

Total £7-6-3

Sale of cakes 0-11-1

Expenditure £6-7-7

Wyeth's championship medals handicap came up for discussion and it was decided that a child winning this medal will carry 3 ½ yards for next year and a further penalty of yard in the event of winning again in the following year The penalty to lapse if the child is not successful in winning

Householders Meeting The Committee re-elected as last year

12th July Admitted Johnnie and Peggy Logan from Masterton Central

1st November A proposed concert by the school children came up for discussion proposed to hold it at the racecourse on 16th November

Also a proposal to make a swimming pool for the school children at Mr. Rountree's paddock

After his comment and people's interested in the Waipipi Creek is procured a Householders meeting to called for ways and means of making said pool

The Chairman asked for permission to to purchase two cricket bats and also for letting the cutting of 5 cords of wood of storm damaged trees at 14/- pe cord into 2 foot lengths

And all fences and rubbish to be included

The school concert proved a great success about 100 present and £3-13-6 taken at the door

£1-11-0 expenditure

1935

5th February Reopened School with an attendance of 17. Admitted three new pupils from Mount Bruce School

14th February Mr. Lambert present for first time.

That we put half the sum raised at the concert to the special fund in our school and to pay back money drawn from the fund for the dental clinic 2 years ago and the other half be paid to the clinic

That the Committee meet Saturday morning to forward the movement of a swimming pool somewhere in the Waipipi Creek

That we hold the picnic on 8th March

Picnic to be at Payton's Bush

Mr. Lambert reported 20 children attending 10 boys and 10 girls

5th March Mr. Lambert present

Letter from dental clinic discussed and decided to send out pamphlet to has each parent who has children being taken

Decide to reduce number of cakes for picnic to 30 dozen

18th April Discussion re King's Jubilee Celebrations held. Mr. Lambert is putting on a concert with the children and it is proposed to give the children some small package of sweets and nuts to celebrate the occasion

Letter received from Wilford School (Petone) Committee re Art Union tickets. Mr. Lambert to take charge of book of tickets to see if children's patents will take same

Dental Clinic discussed as there had been a poor response to the circulars sent to the parents and it was decided to ask the children as a whole to take over the sweeping of the school and allot the school cleaning money for that term to the dental clinic

10th May I terminate my charge of this school today

27th May H J Winter Began duties as relieving teacher

28th May Start made on renewal of weather boarding of the Porch

6th June Wet day and very poor attendance 12 present out of 20

25th June Relieving appointment ceases today

1st July R C Hunter Attendance of 19

5th July As the children have done the school cleaning for the term and handed over the funds to the Committee Mr. N Wyeth proposed that we should pay the dental clinic our quote of £2-10 and pay back to our special fund money that has been taken from that fund to pay the Dental Clinic before

That we appoint Mr. Keats to represent our Committee at the meeting of the Masterton Group Calf Competition

23rd September Received from Briscoe and Mills Wellington 2 garden hand forks and two pairs of grass clippers

1st November Mr. Watson officially inspected the school

27th November The school closed being used as a polling booth

1936

1st February Miss Hunter asked that the Piano be seen to the matter to be left in the hands of the chairman to be fixed

School picnic came up for discussion. That Miss Hunter give lists to the children to take round

School reopened Roll 19

19th February School closed for annual show

16th March Miss Hunter not at meetings

The cakes for school picnic to be raised to 40 dozen

N and T Wyeth to procure trophies and small gifts for young children

That 25/- be placed at their disposal

The chairman to enquire if the racecourse is available if so to hold the Picnic There

20th March School closed for picnic

4th May the old Committee only present and were duly elected

That Board be approached about building a bike shed

Re Wyeth School Medal. That a child has to be attending this school 3 months before the Xmas holidays to be eligible to compete in the event

24th September received new fire grate and rain gauge

12th December That we meet on the Thursday 17th to hear a small entertainment provided by the children arranged by Miss Hunter and also to provide a Xmas tree for the children to provide a Xmas Tree for the children a grant from our special fund to be devoted for that purpose

After considerable discussion it was left in the hands of the chairman to consult with Miss Hunter about making arrangements for prizes for the children

14th December School closed for Accession of George VI

15th December School closes early owing to outbreak of infantile paralysis in South Island

1937

Attendance of 25 Reopening of school

15th March As a result of the infantile epidemic all arrangements of school entertainments were postponed and the school did not open until the 1st of March

Chairman gave information about bicycle shelter, of fixing gate posts and fence in front of school house

Left in the chairman's hands to see about arranging for something to be done for the school with the three pounds granted by the Board

That we hold school picnic on 3rd April

That we have the picnic at the Racecourse

22nd March Montefiore nurse from the Dental Clinic visited the school and inspected the children's teeth

9th April Dr Anderson and Nurse Hodges visited the school and medically examined all children present

19th April The school closed owing to infantile paralysis epidemic

16th July School closed for one week for Education Conference

24th July The Committee sanctioned the price of £20 for 323 foot of paths and a 10 x 7 slab in front of school (Concrete)

And a price to be asked for connecting bicycle shed concrete and playshed paths as the contractor is doing one path for £2-10 he should do the other

The Committee also sanctioned sending £1 to be subsidised by the Board for library books

6th October 5 members of Education Board visited the school today

30th November School closed for half day. Children attend exhibition of handwork from the Training College Wellington held in Central School

11th December School cleaning came up for discussion as the school teacher wants the extra work done with this term's cleaning, proposed to pay the cleaner £1 for the cleaning

A scrubbing outfit came before the Committee from Kitchener Sales Agency. That we buy this outfit

Dental Clinic account came up for discussion Proposed that we take £1-7-0 from our special fund to subsidise £2-3-0 raised by the children by cleaning the school for the last term. To pay the Dental Clinic account of £4 for attention to 16 children. The said £1-7-0 to be raised by some means and paid back to the special account during the year

Xmas Tree for the children discussed. As Miss Hunter is giving an entertainment at the breaking up of the school the Committee think it would be an opportune time to give the children a Xmas Tree on Thursday evening.

Miss Hunter to be approached about procuring gifts for the tree and also for younger children not attending school. The sum of £2 to be placed at her disposal from the special fund

Miss Hunter to be asked to ask the children to tell their parents to bring a plate for supper

Committee to meet at school at about 4.00 on Thursday

17th December School closed for Christmas vacation

1938

1st February Attendance of 26. No new pupils

The school buildings were painted during the holiday

16th February Masterton Show

2nd March Picnic to be held on 11th March If the weather is suitable and Mr. Payton agreeable it is proposed to hold the picnic at Payton's Bush otherwise the racecourse.

Lists to go out with children

The provisions for the Picnic to be the same as last year except that we cut out soft drinks

Mr. Bourke having donated a trophy to the Young Ladies, there will only be trophies to purchase.

Miss Hunter be asked to select trophies and small prizes. One pound Ten shillings to be allotted for that purpose

The sandwiches to be cut at the Racecourse buildings on Thursday night at 7.30

2nd May Mr. Wyeth gave a very pleasing and entertaining resume of the dental clinic meeting to which he went as a delegate from our school. It seems that the country schools are contributing to the support of the dental clinic better than the Town Schools

That a vote thanks and appreciation be passed and forwarded to Miss Hunter for the very capable way she has conducted the school for the year

The amount of work she has put in painting the desks and cleaning and staining the floors

2nd April (Order as in minutes) Householders meeting. Mr. Wingate still chairman

Ground cleaning came up for discussion. That we get someone to mow the playing grounds with a horse mower and clean up the cut grass. The amount for the work £4

The school wood. 4 cords to be carted to the wood shed. That £2 for that

Entertainment to provide dental clinic funds. That we hold a dance in the Mount Bruce Hall on Thursday 12th May. Left to Mr. T Wyeth to provide musicians to see about catering, and drinks and trophies for novelty dances

14th June School closed for Palmerston Show. 12 children were taken to the show

3rd August Miss Lawrie inspector of Infant Department visited the school. Unfortunately owing to sickness less than 50% of children were present

5th August Attendance continues to be very poor 10 children out of 24 present

24th October Holiday for Labour Day

27th October Holiday Carterton Show

1939

1st February Reopening of school An attendance of 14. Several children have not returned from holiday

9th February Picnic and sports and all things considered the Racecourse will be the best place if the ground can be procured

Lists to be drawn up to be given to Miss Hunter for the children

15th February Masterton Show school closed

Total raised for picnic approximately £7-0-0 with £1-9-0 over from last year

Catering for picnic to be same as for last year

Mr. Bourke has donated the ladies and young ladies trophies. Miss Hunter to procure the small trophies for children and trophies for nail driving, young men's and married men's races

Allowed £1-10-0 to procure them

The School Committee to meet at the races on Thursday night to cut sandwiches.

24th February School picnic racecourse

3rd March Nurse Hodges visited the school today and tested the children's eyes

9th March Dr Mulholland together with Nurse Hodges medically examined the children

14th March 18 children visited Mauriceville for purpose of hearing a lecture given by Traffic Inspector Stringer of Wellington

25th April School closed for Anzac Day

20th May The Children attending the West Coast Show at Palmerston came up for discussion. The Committee do not see their way to take the children up by car. Left in the hands of the chairman to discuss with Miss Hunter matter of the children who wish to go.

22nd May Roll 19

28th July School closed Heavy Snowfall

4th September Roll 17 Attendance 16

26th October School closed for Carterton Show

1st November A C Payne commenced duties as relieving teacher

Mr. Brockett delivered a framed picture of the "Kings" message to his people which was duly hung on the wall

24th November Relieving appointment ceased today

27th November R C Hunter resumed duty after leave of absence

That we accept the resignation of Miss Hunter with regret and the chairman to write a letter to her showing our appreciation of her work done here and that the children should be asked to bring a small donation from the parents. The amount to be subsidised by the Committee to present to her a small present at the close of the term.

That we have the usual Xmas tree for the children, the amount of £2 from the special fund to be spent

That we come to school about 3 o'clock to fix up tree. The children to come about 7.00 and the ladies to provide supper later in the evening

15th December I conclude my duties as teacher as Opaki

1940

2nd February A paper containing the progress for the centennial celebration came up for discussion and the Committee thought a good opportunity of using one of our school holiday days for the children to attend the same

March 22nd was considered best day for school picnic

Our teacher stated (Not at meeting) stated that Mr. Brockett required the back garden to be dug up for cereal experiments. The chairman made arrangements with Meads to dig it up for the children

Electric Installation for the school That the chairman make enquiries regarding same. And also for a plug for a wireless

6th February M S O'Callaghan began duties as sole teacher. Roll 14
1 new pupil Malcolm Webber for Primer 1. Roll now 15

14th March Centennial Celebrations in Masterton- School closed all day

15th March 4 children taken to exhibition

28th 29th March Special holiday on account of the death of Prime Minister. The school flag was flown from 27th to 31st at half mast

3rd April Catering the same except we get 5 loaves cut up by the baker

Mr. O'Callaghan be asked to procure trophies for picnic. The Committee to be at Racecourse at 9.00 on Friday morning

Connecting up Electric Power to the School. That we accept the Tender of the Wairarapa Power board of Eight Pounds to install and complete the connection of electric lighting and hot point to the school

5th April School picnic held at Opaki Racecourse

22nd April Passed picnic account. Householders meeting. Present the old Committee . Mr. Wingate still chairman. Mrs O'Callaghan present

25th April Anzac Day The pupils brought flowers which were made into a wreath. The chairman of the School Committee later deposited the wreath at the foot of the Masterton War Memorial

22nd April The meeting called to discuss school concert in aid of funds

Decided to have concert with a dance to follow. Mr. Cooper's Barn with an entrance fee of 1/- for ladies 1/6d for Gentlemen on 25th inst.

27th June School concert for patriotic funds £6-12-2 to hand over to Red Cross Fund

17th September Sweeping of school came up for discussion. That the Committee try to procure someone to sweep the school on Friday and that Mrs O'Callaghan tests the children to see if they will be willing to sweep the school for the other 4 days of the week

Electric Heaters came up for discussion but nothing was decided upon. Fence between playgrounds to be seen to also gate at the gate next the road

18th September Concert given by ex-pupils for patriotic purposes

The concert was the direct result and encouragement from the children's concert in June. The present school children did so well that a group of ex pupils asked could they use the school for dramatic work and would I assist in coaching them. With the chairman's permission the school was used twice a week at nights

19th September Four prizes by the following pupils in the British and Colonial Industries Competition- Enid Wingate, Fay Jenkins, Jean Keats and Maureen Weston

1941

3rd February Roll 23

21st February That we pay our sweeper 2/6 for sweeping the school on Friday night

Mrs O'Callaghan drew attention to leak in roof and it was recommended that carpenter who came to repair the school house have a look at it. Watering Can and axe to be taken into Daniell's to be repaired

Mr. Weston offered to come and mow the lawns and the chairman offered to rake them after so as to burn the rubbish

Letter received from the Queen Carnival asking the school to support the Navy Queen. The teacher asked to encourage the children to collect bottles etc. and buy badges

The picnic to be at Racecourse

4th March Mrs O'Callaghan reported that the Barnardo's Home Representatives had called into school and the chairman moved that the children should be encouraged to take boxes

The teacher reported that the school needs skipping ropes, Basketball, Cloth to make team colours and 4 tennis balls to the amount of £1-4-9 and as the teacher had procured these the chairman proposed that her action be approved

For Picnic Purchase 15 small toys, trophies for married ladies, single ladies, married men, single men and ladies nail driving

Mrs O'Callaghan kindly consented to procure trophies and small prizes

The Committee allowed one pound ten shillings for same

28th March The following pupils won swimming certificates Patricia Holmwood, 220 yards, Joyce Holmwood 50 yards, Ngaire Spackman 25 yards, Fay Jenkins 25 yards, Helen Lipp, 25 yards.

25th April Anzac Day The children brought a fine collection of flowers which were made into a wreath and deposited at the foot of the local war memorial

9th May The attendance has suffered badly by the Whooping Cough epidemic the following pupils being absent

Murray Hodgins 8 Weeks

Laurie Keats 9 weeks

Larry Parker 8 ½

Jean Keats 8 ½

Maureen Weston 6 ½

Edith Weston 4 weeks (Whooping Cough and other illness)

Darragh Weston 4 weeks

Tottie Meads 7 ½

Nancy Keats 8 ½

Dorothy Waring 4 weeks (Run over by a car)

21st May Mrs O'Callaghan attended.

Trees shading house came up for discussion. Chairman proposed that the trees that area shading the house be cut down and cut into firewood for school and school house use

Left in the hands of the chairman to get the job done. The chairman to see Meads re oiling the floor again

1st May Dental Clinic fees came up for discussion

That the Board install for experiment (A Heating system that they are trying out in the school. The Committee were quite agreeable for the experiment

1st August Today I commence sick leave till the commencement of the first term 1942

Special notes on pupils:

- 1) Raymond Rogers is a new pupil who cannot do the standard 5 arithmetic. He tells me the is backward on account of 6 months in hospital with peritonitis- He is working at the moment partly from the Standard 5 text book and partly on the standard 4 book with the Standard 4 class
- 2) Both the pupils in Primer 4 are ready for Standard 1 but as both are highly strung children (See medical cards) I advise keeping them in Primer 4 a little longer
- 3) Donald Lipp and Edith Weston both need keeping up to the mark in tables

I wish the relieving teacher who takes over my work every good wish and hope she will enjoy her stay in Opaki

Special note On Doctor Forsyth's advice I have not taken football or basketball or physical exercises for the last four weeks

4th August I J Norman commenced duty as relieving teacher

26th September Special holiday given by Governor General visiting Masterton

1st December The chairman gave a report on the Electric Heating proposition the matter to be left in abeyance until we know more about it

Received a report of a meeting at Lansdowne School, That the chairman interview Lansdowne School Committee re Opaki school coming in with them

That we pay 10/- to the Boys and Girls Agricultural club as usual

1942

2nd February I commenced work again today after leave of absence from 1st August. Roll 21

I have found half the mercury in the barometer is missing and the rain measure broken, also several records have not been kept up to date, namely no entry stating whether the children have passed or failed, no progress cards completed for 1941, and most of the final examination missing

10th February Roadside walk Class found 46 different plants

23rd February Gathering Ergot at Wingate's farm; excursion to observe river action

24th February Visit to Hansell's jelly factory, Daniell's sawmill, The Masterton Hosiery factory, the Masterton Printing Works, The Park and The Times Age newspaper plant

11th March Meeting discuss arrangements for school picnic

The chairman reported having interviewed the Lansdowne School Chairman re Dental Clinic and we are to be notified when they have next meeting

The chairman's action in having the wood cut at school and letting the school mistress buy what is over for her own use at the price it cost us to cut it up endorsed

Decided to have school picnic at Chairman's residence as we cannot get the Racecourse and if not at the school

List for the procuring of funds to be taken round by the children.

24th March . Mrs O'Callaghan not now attending meetings

Picnic as last year

27th March School picnic held in school grounds

16th April The apples received so far this year have all had the cases tampered with – with the exception of the last box

24th April Anzac Day observed at school- Flag ceremony- wreath made for town ceremony

29th April That a portion of the Girls Playground be fenced off for a horse paddock

That the pine trees on the North Side of the girls playground be cut down as the playground in its present state is too cold and draughty for the children

New Committee R C Hodgins, R Weston, W Webber, V Buick, A Keats appears to be Committee

25th May Roll 12 boys 10 girls

The school was unable to fly ceremony for Empire Day as it occurred in the holidays

1st June King's Birthday- As the holiday occurred on a Monday we were unable to perform the flag ceremony the day before. Talk about

the King taken. The flag ceremony has now been performed for Treaty of Waitangi Day and Anzac Day

8th June Today the chairman came to see me about two new pupils Ray Rogers and Trevor Buick. It seems that after school with a contingent of small boys watching, they went to a parent's house (Mrs N Lipp) to complain that her small boy had cheeked them at a distance where they couldn't retaliate and had taken advantage of his size to annoy hem. I understand quite an argument and a scuffle with a broom took place with Trevor Buick and Mrs Lipp. The Roger's boy had (Was sent back added later) come back by his mother and apologised for his part in the affairs

Tonight the School Committee had a meeting about the Lipp- Buick affair

- 1) Decided faults on both sides
- 2) Mrs Lipp's complaint was not in writing
- 3) The affair came outside of school matters and was really a personal affair between Mrs Lipp and Trevor Buick's people

I was present at the meeting and did my best for the boys, who so foolishly got into this trouble, and because I knew the Boy Buick did have a grievance. I had previously warned both boys to ignore the other child when the cheeked then on the road, but they were not sensible enough to heed my advice it seemed *No minutes of this meeting recorded*

22nd June The chairman reported on a complaint laid by a parent relative to the conduct of two of the older boys. After a discussion it was found that the Committee had no power to act in this matter. The chairman undertook to interview the parent accordingly

That Mr. Keats represent the Opaki School on the boys and Girls Agricultural Committee (Masterton Group)

23rd June I went after school today to see Mr. And Mrs Rogers about Ray playing the wag from woodwork yesterday afternoon. I found out tonight when Trevor Buick was sweeping that Ray did go with him to woodwork yesterday. Both Mr. And Mrs Rogers were annoyed with Ray. The father threatened him with Boarding School. I also told them that I had just found out that last week he played the wag from school here also- and that he had tried to cajole a jockey into writing an absence excuse to me. Last week he hung around Jenkin's racing stable and Monday afternoon he spent in the guardroom of Opaki Military camp. Ray Denied not going to woodwork to the three of us- his father, mother and myself. Mrs Rogers burst into tears and complained that he was too big a boy for her to deal with

25th – 27th June School closed on account of earthquake damage: top of chimney came off leaving a large lump of cement casing behind which fell down the chimney blocking it half way down: the well was shaken up causing the pump to bring up very cloudy water: The electric heater sprung a leak

On the 27th a demolition squad of soldiers cleared the chimney
In regard to the school residence the following damage was done- the whole three chimneys came down, one water tank burst, a pipe to the second tank burst, the kitchen stove was wrenched out, and the ridging of the kitchen roof lifted. Also the living room chimney destroyed several sheets of iron and part of the roof woodwork when it fell

1st July This morning I sent Ray Rogers home for impertinence and followed him immediately to tell his mother how he was so cheeky when I reprimanded him for throwing stones. She suggested sending him to Lansdowne School where he would have a man over him

27th 28th July The bricklayer repaired the school chimney in the morning of the 27th and fitted a new grate with holes in the afternoon. He asked me not to light the fire on the 27th and again on the 28th

Both days were bitterly cold days so I had to send the children home
5th August Arbor Day Three trees were planted by the children today- a camellia, a kaka beak and a flannel flower bush- the correct methods of planting trees was explained to the children as they proceeded with planting

16th September A discussion took place relative to the dispersal of the children in the event of a war emergency, a plan being agreed upon. The chairman undertook to interview Mrs O'Callaghan re instructing the children in air raid drill

A report was also given to the Committee of the measures taken to deal with a case of meningitis in the district as it affected the Opaki School, one of the children being a contact

21st October The chairman advised that the teacher Mrs O'Callaghan had tendered her resignation and was retiring at the end of October. It was decided that a list be drawn up, the children to collect a small sum from each family and a presentation be made to the teacher by the children

30th October Re Ray Rogers – when he was sent home on July 1st I meant to see the School Committee about him, but when the mother herself suggested sending him to Lansdowne I left the matter there.

I saw the mother again on the First Sunday after school resumed in September when she said she hadn't realised it was so long since he left, that he had been ill and she had been waiting to read in the newspaper that Lansdowne School was being used again

The following Wednesday I saw Mr. Jones the Lansdowne headmaster about the boy. He in turn spoke to Mr. Donald, the local Board Member about him

Later I saw Mr. Donald, wrote to the Education Board and saw the Chairman of the School Committee about the boy

I tried to do my best concerning the trouble and found Mr. And Mrs Roger most approachable about their difficult son, each time I went to the house. I am sorry that they delayed so long in sending him to Lansdowne and so unconsciously made further difficulties for themselves

In my letter to the Board, which both the school chairman and Mr. Donald first read I had to point out to them among other things the following- That Ray had been in the habit of following small boys to the lavatory and when they went to pull their pants up, he had pulled them down again. This last fact I found out since he had left
31st October Today I relinquish my duties as sole teacher of this school

2nd 3rd November Z Mollgaard commenced duty as relieving teacher

11th -14th November School collected rubber for patriotic purposes

20th November Friday morning Calf and Lamb Club judging at school Judges, Mr. Brockett, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Meads

Friday afternoon holiday granted by the School Committee

2nd December Two sharp earthquakes were registered during the luncheon recess

15th December Three pupils have completed their primary course and have been given school leaving certificates

Today I relinquish my duties as sole relieving teacher of the school
Z Mollgaard

1943

1st February D V Sutton teacher. 14 children present

12th February Jean and Nancy Keats returned as their mother had taken Joan Keats a cousin to Christchurch under Doctor's orders to stay away three weeks, they were left to look after the house

15th February Joan Keats arrived back today. Petronia Meads has left the district

5th March School closed as Physical Instructor Classes were held in Masterton for teachers

[A letter from the Lansdowne Dental Clinic was read asking for a donation of not less than £2 towards the furnishing of the clinic](#)

[Picnic to be held on the 12th March at Opaki Racecourse](#)

[Mr. Sutton was present and met the Committee he reported on the state of the school gardens it was decided to dig and manure same as soon as possible, arrangements re the vegetable garden be left to the chairman](#)

12th March School Picnic Held

April An electric pump and hot water service have been installed in the residence

7th May A jumble sale was held by the children in the afternoon in aid of their Junior Red Cross Fund. This was a very successful affair adding £14-2-6d. The children are very enthusiastic and have about £19 in hand although the branch has been formed only during the last six weeks

24th May Basil Sutton enrolled. D V Sutton

22nd July Final visit of Mr. Brockett, Instructor in Agriculture for many years

[26th August Mr. D V Sutton present Mr. Sutton advised the school roof was leaking, decided to write to Board re same](#)

[A discussion took place re school library, it was decided to procure additional books for same, was left in hands of Mr. Sutton to go into the matter](#)

[Mr. Sutton was advised of certain recommendations made by the inspector re Text Books and teaching aids for children. Left in his hands to go into the matter of the most suitable equipment during the school holidays and advise the Committee later re cost](#)

6th September School reopened six new pupils being admitted Roll 26. Phyllis, Mavis, Alan Rutherford, Russell and Robin Empson and Colin Lawrence. Russell Empson appears to be very backward as he is 12 years of age and in Standard 2 only

£1 was subscribed from the Red Cross Fund to the Children's health camp

The children have purchased a spinning wheel with some of their fund and hope to spin and knit garments to be forwarded to European Countries when the war ends

The School Committee was very willing to allow me money to purchase infant material reference books, library books etc., as recommended by Mr. Stubbs. Some material I purchased but could not obtain reference books and decided as library books were scarce and expensive it would be better to hold money for the present

10th September Holiday to celebrate the surrender of Italy in the war

21st September School closed teacher absent at appeal board sitting

22nd September Admitted 4 children Joy, Roy, Lorraine and Colleen Fisher making roll now 30

4th October Marion Lawrence admitted

7th October New Primer Stanley Weston

25th October Labour Day

28th October School closed for Carterton Show

19th November Calf Judging. 5 calf entries and one lamb. Judge was Mr. Wellington of Masterton. A number of the public were present

19th November Children are still taking an active interest in Red Cross activities and have decided to donate £2-10-0 to each of the following. Home of Compassion (For Children) and Leper Fund and also 10/- to the Health Camp Fund

6th December School closed to allow children to attend the group judging of calves and lambs at Masterton

16th December A School concert was held on this date. Parents showing their appreciation by turning up and converting an estimated loss by School Committee into a profit of £1-18-6 which will be added to the special funds of the School Committee

1944

1st February School reopened Three children Jean Keats, Dorothy Waring and George Presow gained their school certificates and left. Don Lipp has left the district. Patricia Brabant was admitted. 29 children on the roll

9th February Visit of Dr Mulholland and Nurse Craig for examination of all children

16th February Holiday for show at Carterton (Masterton Show)

21st February A number of children have been absent since the beginning of the year

Murray Hodgins whose parents were unable to go during the holiday as it was necessary to make business trip later. Maureen Weston with a badly cut foot. And Laurie Keats has been ordered a fortnight to three week at the seaside (suitable accommodation being unavailable before and as parents are going to Nancy has to be taken also

16th March That the Masterton Racing Club be approached for permission to hold the school picnic

24th March School Picnic held at the racecourse

25th April Anzac day, No service was held as children have long distances but a wreath was laid at the foot of the Masterton Memorial

22nd May School reopened with 32 children. Murray Hodgins attending St Patrick's Masterton

15th June Present Mr. Keats (Chairman), V Buick, L Rutherford, L Fisher (Secretary). Apology R Weston

That a letter be forwarded to the Education Board in favour of consolidation of Mikimiki school on Opaki

1st August Visit by Mr. Maloney new instructor in agriculture. Talks on Compost Heap and Soil Conservation

14th August That a vote of thanks be put in the minutes for the generosity of Mr. And Mrs Fisher for the use of their home for card and social evenings which were held for the school social club

That Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sutton appointed to interview the Education Board re the installation of Septic Tank and hand basin etc.

4th September School reopened 1 new child Khylyre Gill admitted. Flag flown to celebrate liberation of Paris

14th November That letter from the Education Board be put in the minutes

Letter reads as follows Opaki Residence re Various Works I have pleasure informing you that the Board has accepted the tender of Messrs Newman and Son for the carrying out of the following works at the Teacher's residence

1. Demolition of chimney in kitchen and making good to wall, floor, etc.
2. Erection of cupboard in kitchen Installation of new basin in bathroom
3. Renewing floor to washhouse

That it be left to Secretary and Chairman to employ somebody to dig a large hole in grounds for the burying of substances

That Mr. Keats be appointed representative to the committeemen's Association Masterton for Opaki

V Buick be asked to Judge the school lamb and calf club competition to be held on 23rd November at 2 pm

That school picnic be held at Racecourse on the 14th of December at 9.00

14th December That Mr. R Weston be left to procure germ's for the closets (Closets) at school

1945

5th February Phyllis and Mavis Rutherford and Joan Keats and Maureen left having completed work in Form II and gained PSC

Allen Rutherford left to go to Nelson and Vincent Keats to Kopuaranga. Donald Longworth admitted

23rd March That the chairman be responsible to get in touch with the Education Board member and health officer and go into the position of the school conveniences

That Mr. Sutton be given permission to get assistance to re-varnish the school desks

That the chairman and Secretary interview the Board at their convenience re the necessary works to be carried out at the school

4th May Holiday to celebrate unconditional surrender of German Army in Italy. School closed for term holidays

9th May Surrender of all German Armies

21st May Joy Fisher and Hilary Smith at Health camp. Dick Presow is away with a broken collar bone. Stanley Weston readmitted

5th July That the time cleaning of the school be fixed to 2 hours for school week

16th August School closed to celebrate victory over Japanese

3rd September Robert Jones away with influenza. Colleen and Vera Fisher to stay in Wellington for the meantime

21st September Colleen and Vera fisher are to attend the Whatman school for about 1 month

Attendances have been poor owing to colds and influenza making it difficult to give continuous work so necessary to keep up standard of primer work

12th November Edith Weston sent home suspected case of measles

12th November That Mr. Keats gets in touch with the plumbers to see about the overflowing of wash hand basin

That school picnic be held at some date in February 1946

19th November More children away on account of measles

26th November 13 children only in attendance

20th December School closed for Christmas vacation. Attendance during term has been very poor owing to infectious diseases and colds. D V Sutton

1946

4th February Roll 25

15th February School picnic held at Mr. Maunsell's property

20th February Masterton Show

22nd February School closed for annual meeting of NZEI Wairarapa

28th -29th February School closed as teacher indisposed

7th March That Mr. Longworth be elected as School Committee member

That the Committee offer the Education Board the sum of £20 towards getting a septic tank system

And ask why we have not heard from the board in connection with same

30th April 10 Nominations for School Committee Elected R A Bunny, J D Lochore, A Williams, J G Lawrence, H Jones

A Williams be chairman.

L A Keats was defeated

That Mrs Sutton be appointed Needlework Instructress

That accounts be pasted (sic) for payment

27th May The school cleaner (Mr. Smith) being ill it was decided that the Committee carry on cleaning the school in the meantime

That the Secretary make arrangements with the Sunday School for Sunday School to be held from 9.30 until 10.30 so that the Committee can clean the school out on Sunday Mornings

That the old lamps be sold and Mr. Sutton be authorised to buy books for the children.

The chairman tendered his resignation and it was received with regret. That R A Bunny be chairman

8th July Phyllis Gray admitted increasing the roll to 26

17th July The Committee decided to run a raffle for school funds

Also to have a fancy dress dance at the Barn on 7th September

24th July Half holiday to allow children to see the Kiwis in action against Bush Wairarapa

23rd August Over the last month attendance has been effected by colds and influenza due to prolonged spell of wet weather

3rd September The Committee made final arrangements for the dance. Also drew the raffle which was a great success

3rd October parade of School Children in Masterton in honour of visit of the Governor General

4th October Holiday granted by General Freyberg (*Governor General*)

7th October 13 children out of 26 present due to epidemic of chicken pox

29th October J Lochore Chairman

A programme was arranged for the calf and lamb judging and it was decided to make the prizes 3/-, 2/-, and 1/- in all classes and also to get Mr. Stuart to do the judging

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Board re the Septic Tank System

27th November School closed election of members of parliament

13th December A Fancy Dress Ball was held at Opaki, children and parents from Mikimiki and Rangitumau being invited. A very enjoyable evening was the result

19th December The school picnic was held but it was found that owing to seasonal work many parents were unable to attend

Christmas Vacation

1947

3rd February 18 children present. It was a damp day after a spell of very hot weather. D V Sutton

18th February That A Sutton be appointed school cleaner at a wage of 11/8d per week

20th February Children taken to see various factories at work. Seniors Dairy, Daniels timber mill etc.. Bradley's electrical equipment, Times Age

Juniors Dairy, bakery, Printcraft , cordial

28th February Attendance this week poor, colds and sore throats.

Visit of Miss Steptoe – physical instruction

24th March Lorraine and Vera Fisher attended Brooklyn School from 3rd February to 21st March. Progress cards were not applied for

April The Secretary was instructed to ring the Board regarding

- a) The early records of the school
- b) That if the school is used for public functions do we have to take out insurance on the building
- c) It was decided to cut down a tree for firewood and to do the work on the following Saturday
- d) Mr. Weston offered to cut the grass in the school grounds

5th June The Committee accepted the Education Board's price for boundary fence and it was decided to get the fences repaired immediately

The Secretary was instructed to advertise a meeting of the Old Pupils with regards to the Jubilee Celebrations

21st August Combined fancy dress held this year at Rangitumau . A very enjoyable evening spent by children

18th September The Committee decided to have a working bee on Saturday 27th at one o'clock to repair the boundary fence

The Secretary was instructed to write to the board with regards to the septic tank system

10th November David Clark contracted Diphtheria, brother and Fisher family in quarantine till 16th November

19th November School closed for local body elections

1st December All North Island Schools closed on account of outbreak of poliomyelitis in Auckland District and cases in Taranaki Teacher in duty completing registers, annual reports etc..

1948

2nd February School still closed, teachers on duty- work of tidying cupboards, repairing library books, continue rewriting of schemes and preparation of work for the year

1st March School reopened to children. 2 primer Children, Pamela Young and David Weston admitted and also Claudia Hodgins Standard 1 from St Bride's

11th March Messrs H Jones and J Lawrence did not seek re-election R A Bunny Chairman, J D Lochore, Secretary, H O Bunny, D T Young, R Thompson

The Committee was congratulated on the way they had built up the school funds during their two years of office

The Teacher (Mr. Sutton) reported that it was impossible to buy exercise books and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Board re same

It was brought to the notice of the Committee by Mr. Thompson that the Wairarapa AA be written to and see if they erect sign posts at each end of the ramp so the public knows there is a school there

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Board if and when a septic tank is going to be installed

24th May School reopened Moira Jones readmitted- has been away some time with affected hip

22nd June The Secretary was instructed to get six concrete posts for the school. Also get 25 trees to be planted on the North Side of the Girls playground

It was decided to get the pine trees around the playground topped if possible

6th September Roll 24

27th September School closed as teacher not well

23rd 24th 25th September Celebration of Jubilee of Opaki

1949

February 1949 The Committee decided to have the playground mowed. The Secretary was asked to see Mr. Nicol about the septic tank system

That we do not let the piano leave the school in future other than for school functions.

1st February New girl Colleen Fisher readmitted after about 2 years in Hospital

7th March School picnic

8th March School closed for polling on closing hours and off course betting

18th March Teacher indisposed

20th April One case of measles (Thompsons) in district

6th May Relinquish duties as transferred to Dalefield

23rd may F J Scott as relieving Sole Teacher

30th June Completed relieving duties F J Scott

July 1949 The chairman welcomed the new teacher Mr. W J Taylor

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Board regarding the appointment of a needlework instructress

Also write to the Education Board to be made for a Female Cleaner, the Secretary now pointing out we have a male cleaner

4th July W J Taylor Roll 9 Boys 6 Girls

Two families effected by measles

5th July Slight earthquake recorded last night. School Committee meeting at night Teacher invited

6th July Short visit by Mr. Drummond Board's Architect re Septic Tank

7th July Interior decorators commenced work in school house (Completed 14th)

12th July Pupil (Brian Lochore) was slightly injured on way to school. Dragged by pony. Knee slightly abraded and first aid administered by Mrs Taylor

16th July Boys (5) attend 7 as side football tournament in Masterton 2 boys borrowed from Rangitumau won 1 lost 1

22nd July Yesterday afternoon 1.45- 3 Organised sports instruction. Football and Basketball in conjunction with Rangitumau school fortnightly interchange of school to be arranged if possible

3rd August School closed for referendum on Military Training , School used as a polling booth

4th August School attend at Rangitumau for fortnightly sports afternoon 1.30- 3.00

8th August Heavy rain blanketing district 1 School drain blocked and considerable leak in school roof (peak)
11th August Heavy rain continued and flooded lower area of playground
17th August Mt Bruce (*Mikimiki School*) attended here for sports afternoon
29th September Groombridge and Sons plumber mended school and residence drains
30th September Average roll for month 15.25. For grading purposes
20th October Sports and Folk Dancing at Mikimiki 1.30 – 3.00
4th November School closed 2.30 to enable Navy league members to attend State Theatre at 3.30 for pictures, presentations etc. 80% of school in Navy League.
17th November School closed. Boys Standard 3-4 attending Waingawa Freezing Works for lamb judging- Freezing works Films on sheep industry care etc. under Secretary Mr. J D Lochore
Teacher attending urgent private business in town
22nd November School Committee meeting at night
1st December School attended at Mikimiki 1.30 – 3 Rehearsal for Fancy Dress Ball. Folk dancing
8th December Ditto
12th December On account of fancy dress ball at night school dismissed 12 noon to enable children to rest
13th December School resumed 10 p.m. after fancy dress ball, Closed 2 pm
15th December Pets parade and sport's afternoon
16th December School closed for Xmas Vacation at 1.45 pm
Roll 12 boys 7 girls

1950

1st February Roll of 19 School gardens and grounds show evidence of dry spell and heat. Water supply good but water tainted
13th 14th February School closed teacher indisposed One case of whooping cough reported on school roll
17th February Second case of whooping cough reported
27th February Afternoon spent at swimming baths Masterton 1.30 – 3. Infants excepted
2nd March Ditto
13th - 17th March School closed teacher attending military training course School work continued by assignments
Whooping Cough still prevalent in district 5 absentees
29th March School attended Country Schools Sports Day held at South Park
25th April Anzac Day No school celebration
[May Householder's meeting There being a very poor attendance](#)
[R A Bunny \(Chairman\) J D Lochore \(Secretary\) P T Wyeth, D Young, R Thompson](#)
[That the school picnic be held over and that we take them to some other entertainment](#)
14th June Boys Standard 2-5 attended representative Rep Football match British Isles V Wairarapa Bush at Masterton as guests of School Committee in the afternoon
Remaining pupils on restricted Timetable and dismissed early 2.15
19th June An eye infection has attacked quite a few pupils and affected attendances lately
29th June Visit of School to Mikimiki- sports afternoon combed with Rangitumau

31st June 7 aside tournament at college grounds Opaki Rangitumau
7 stone lost

Combined 7-9 stone lost

July 1950 The chairman reported on the progress of the topping of
the trees

10th August Visit to Rangitumau Sports Afternoon

4th September Roll 14 Boys 7 girls

11th October Sports day at Opaki. Mikimiki and Rangitumau
attended, summer programme

27th October School dismissed early owing to depleted classes due
to Wairarapa Show at Carterton

9th November Visit and Film exhibition by school nurse 9-10

Agricultural Club and Pets Day at school 1.30 – 3.00

10th November This week a severe flu has been prevalent in the
district and has affected the attendance of the school considerably

This afternoon at 3.30 the school attends the Navy League
presentations and movie show at the State Theatre Masterton. There
is 100% membership from the school

14th November Agricultural Club Masterton Group judging day at
Rangitumau School closed. Entrants and others able to travel
attended Club day

20th November The Secretary was instructed to arrange to meet Mr.
Cooksley MP regarding the septic tank system

The transport arrangement to the Calf Club was to be arranged
between those with calves and lambs for the day

The meeting decided to have judging next Thursday at 2 pm and ask
Mr. Stuart if he would kindly judge same

The Secretary was instructed to procure Tea, Sugar Ribbons and
prizes for the pets days

23rd November Full scale dress rehearsal for Fancy Dress Ball at
Kopuaranga 1-3

26th November Ditto at Mikimiki

29th Mikimiki and Opaki Schools rehearsed at Opaki 1.30- 3.00

31st November School dismissed 12.00 in preparation for Fancy
Dress ball at night and opened at 10.30 a.m. after ball

6th December Visit of school nurse for Diphtheria Injections etc. 2
pm

15th December School dismissed 2 pm for Xmas Holidays Roll 14
boys 7 girls

1951

5th February No new entrants

12th February Visit of school nurse Eye tests

14th February School work nil School inspection under Doctor M
Kendrick 9.30 – 12.00. 1.00 to 1.30 Anti Diphtheria injections and
preschool children under Nurse Wilson (School nurse) – 2.30

16th February School closed Wairarapa A and P Show at Masterton .
6 pupils entering ponies, 1 stock exhibitor, 2 attending with parents

March A meeting was held at Mr. Young's to arrange the school
picnic

The Committee decided to get

- a) ½ gallon cordial
- b) Sweets for scramble 15/-
- c) 1 case of apples
- d) 40 Dozen cakes
- e) 4 large breads

- f) 2 gallons ice cream
- g) 1 small case of tomatoes
- h) Toys for small children
- i) Book
- j) Butter, tea etc.
- k) Nails
- l) Ladies Prizes
- m) Cash Prizes for Pupils

The Committee are to be at the racecourse at 9.30 to cut sandwiches and prepare for the day

It was left to the Secretary to get the above members to bring tyres, covers, ropes etc.

12th March 2 pupils entered today. One new entrant and one form 1 from Cashmere School Wellington

14th March 2nd Diphtheria injections Nurse Wilson

16th March School picnic held at Opaki Racecourse

31st March School attended Country Schools Sports Fixture at Masterton

30th April Visit of Mr. Harbutt School savings bank officer

4th May Roll 22,12 Boys and 10 girls

18th June A start was made in the weekend of a small swimming baths at the Memorial Grounds. The baths will be public but schools have full use of them

4th July Visit of Rangitumau School for sports 1.30 to 3 Practice for 7 aside tourney at Masterton

One Boy (Ian Wilton, Rangitumau) broke his arm (Forearm) during practice

6th July Very heavy rain overnight 2 leaks in school ceiling- 1 very bad reported approximately 12 months ago

14th July 7 aside tournament held at Wairarapa College. Opaki Rangitumau participated

25th July Visit of Opaki and Rangitumau schools to Mikimiki for sports afternoon

31st July One pupil slightly hurt while assisting in preparing for tree planting on Arbor Day (Knock on bridge of nose with back of axe)

15th August Country Sports winter sports day at Memorial park

3rd September School reopened for 3rd term with roll of 13 boys, 10 girls. Visit of school bank officer 1.20-2

4th September Visit of school bank officer 9.30- 10

5th September Boys attended Country V West Taratahi School football match at West School, 1-3

6th September Visit of School Dental Nurse 9. 9-45 Primers to Standard 2 inspected

12th September Visit of School Bank Officer 11.15- 11.30

24th September One correspondence pupil (Gavin Cameron) will attend for three weeks- not enrolled at school

November The Annual combined fancy dress dance at the Mt Bruce Hall on Thursday 29th November and the Committee meet on 22nd November and make final arrangements for same

8th November At Rangitumau 1-3 Rehearsal for Fancy Dress

23rd November Agricultural Club Field Day at School. Very successful, 7 calves, 4 lambs, 6 vases flowers, 6 collection of grasses and 3 collection of weds

Mr. D Stewart of Rangitumau acted as judge both for livestock including heifers- 10 varied entries

26th November Rehearsal for fancy dress at Mikimiki 1-3

27th November School closed to attend Masterton Group Agricultural day at Te Whiti 5 Exhibitors

OPAKI WAR MEMORIAL

This project advanced considerably on 21st November with the pouring of the concrete for the swimming baths- a full community effort

Mr. D Young merits mention for his handsome donation of cement, reinforcing steel and metal. The baths when completed will be a definite asset to the district and school and also the neighbouring schools

17th December Sports Day Combined School at Mikimiki 1-3

19th December School closed for Christmas Holidays 13 Boys 10 Girls > Robert Jones issued with Primary School Certificate

1952

School reopened with a roll of 19

7th February It is with regret I record the passing of our King George VI After a good and successful reign of 15 years

School closed in accordance with a National Directive affecting all schools and colleges

11th February The school listened to the proclamation of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II as broadcast from 2YA and read by the Governor General Sir Bernard Freyberg VC from Parliament House 11.20 -12.00

School recommenced at 1.30 in accordance with directive re holiday from 11.30 to 1.30 in honour of the Queen's Accession

New Entrant M J Morton enrolled ex Martinborough

15th February 2 minutes silence observed at 11.00 after short flag salute in honour of the King's Funeral

As over 50% of the school were attending the Masterton Show, School closed 1-3

14th March School closed for picnic held at the Racecourse

18th March School Closed Inspector Teacher conference at the Te Ore Ore School. School Committee met in the evening

Proceeds from the topping of trees (Approx. £24) in school area to be added to the Special Account

8th April Mr. Hemi Bennett gave a Lantern Slide Lecture on the Maori Race Origins- Immigrations- life etc. 1.30 to 3

9th May Roll 20

29th May Short visit of Board's Architect re septic tank

5th June Meeting in School of Opaki War Memorial Committee re swimming bath project. Finance being low ways and means are being sought

25th June All Day visit by Mr. P G McMillan- Inspector of Schools. A meeting of Inspectors and Teachers was held at the residence last Night Present Messrs Woodleigh, McMillan and Hill, inspectors and representatives from 9 country schools

27th June 11 tables and chairs received for Standard 1- primers group
14th July Visit of Traffic Inspector Horsfall- Safety Instruction taken outdoors 2-3

17th July At night a meeting of the combined School Committees of Opaki, Mikimiki, Rangitumau, and Kopuaranga was held to consider the combined Fancy Dress Ball of the Schools

It was decided to

- a) Carry on for this year with Rangitumau as host

b) Reconsider next year to split up in 2 sections because of crowded halls

c) No advertising to be carried out in an attempt to keep number of adults down

21st August Visit to Mikimiki for dancing rehearsal for fancy dress

22nd August The Board carpenter is on the job erecting a a new lavatory block and septic system

8th September Roll 12 Boys and 8 Girls. There are three absentees because of mumps

11th September The annual combined fancy dress has been postponed indefinitely from 25th September

23rd September During Play Robert Young ducked in dodging a ball and cut his lip rather badly on a desk (outdoors) Sent home after treatment

17th October 2 cases of mumps are reported One sent home from school

28th October School Dental Nurse examined Standard 1 – Primers this morning

20th November School Agricultural Club Field Day held 1 -3 6 Calves, 1 lamb, 12 sand trays, 8 vases, 6 collection of flowers, grasses and weeds, 2 model houses, 10 baking entries

21st November Kopuaranga School present 1-3 for fancy dress rehearsal

24th November Four pupils attending Agricultural Field Day at Matahiwi with their stock 4 calves

Brian Lochore won the cup for grade calf. Peter Wyeth won cup for care and handling

26th November Full rehearsal for fancy dress dance held at Rangitumau 1-3. 4 schools attended

29th November A successful combined fancy dress dance was held at Rangitumau Hall Combined School Rangitumau, Opaki, Mikimiki and Kopuaranga

10th December A combined school Committee meeting and teachers was held at Rangitumau last night. It was resolved to hold a combined Fancy Dress Dance early in April 1953

18th December A highly successful concert and Xmas Tree was held in the school at night as a break up ceremony from 6- 8. All parents and friends attended Roll 22

1953

4th February School reopened with a roll of 22. The delayed opening 2 days was due to a bereavement in the Teacher's family. W J Taylor

26th February School Committee meeting last night. Projected purchases 1 lawnmower 1 radio

26th February The inspectors report was read and the teacher Mr. Taylor was congratulated on the very good report

That we increase the insurance on the piano and have the same tuned The Secretary was instructed to write to the Board seeking a subsidy on a lawnmower and radio, also get price for same

Also to ask the board to have the roof repaired as soon as possible as the slates were leaking badly

The School Committee decided to put a path from the road gate to the school and inquired if the Board would supply gravel and cement, the Committee doing the work

Profit from Picnic £12-5-2 Profit to be used for lawnmower and radio

19th March School picnic held at the Racecourse

26th March School closed to allow Teacher to attend a Teacher-Inspector discussion group at Te Ore Ore School

27th March School attended combined school sports at Masterton Park

27th April Householders meeting Attendance only fair. Mr. J D Lochore did not seek appointment as Secretary

R A Bunny (Chairman), D J Young Secretary, N T Wyeth, , J D Lochore, H Miller

That Mrs Taylor be appointed needlework instructress for the year ending 31st December 1953

8th 25th May During the holidays the Radio and Lawnmower were delivered to the school. The committeemen also laid a concrete path from the school gate, refenced the horse paddock and shifted the flagpole to a central position in the playground

The election of the School Committee Chairman R A Bunny, Secretary Mr. D Young, Members Mr. Lochore, Mr. N Wyeth, Mr. H Millar

29th May School attended film Royal Heritage, Coronation Theme. The framed picture was presented by Mrs D A Bunny, Flag salute in honour of the Queen's Coronation on June 2nd which will be a holiday

17th June Mr. Keats, Mt Bruce has presented a cup (silver) for the Opaki Calf Club

12th August Visit of Mikimiki and Rangitumau sports day

7th September Roll 24

23rd September visit to Rangitumau 1-3 Fancy Dress Rehearsal

21st October It was decided to have calf and lamb day on Thursday 12th November at 2 pm and ask Mr. Stuart to Judge. The Committee to supply ribbons, for the winners and soft drinks, ice cream and cakes of chocolate for all the children

It was decided to only allow 2 cups for the school, 1 for calves and 1 for lambs for the best care and handling only

The Secretary to write to and thank Mr. L A Keats for the cup which he gave

It was decided to buy two books for the school. Masterton Centennial and Whites?

The district group judging is to be held this year at Opaki School

Mr. J D Lochore was instructed to borrow a ramp to unload the calves

The Committee to get and cut bread for approximately 30 officials Also forms for the spectators to sit on

It was decided that a working bee held on Sunday 15th Morning

The Secretary to write to the Board for material for the fence round the horse paddock and repairing the boundary fence

23rd October School closed for Labour Weekend Tuesday 7th Governor General Sir W Norrie declared a holiday on occasion of his first official visit

12th November School field Day 5 calves, lambs 7

16th November School Masterton group agricultural day held at school An excellent day for entries and attendance. 135 calves and lams entered, a record

A precedent also established – Local pupil Kevin Lochore gained champion honours in both Dairy Type and Care and Handling Calves so winning both cups

17th November Visit of school nurses for inoculations and examination of pupils 1- 2.40

28th November The Opaki Memorial Societies Swimming Baths were opened. Arrangements are that all four schools of the area may use them The visiting schools in school time in an organised body only. The school will use them every day as weather permits

14th December The school attended the film The conquest of Everest 1.30 – 3.15

That a donation of 20/- (20 Shillings) be given to the Masterton group of the Boys and Girls Agricultural Club to assist with the running of group day

That £5 be donated to the Memorial Society to assist them with the Maintenance of the baths

It was decided to leave the arrangement for the Christmas Tree to be left to the ladies of the district

17th December School closed for Xmas Vacation with roll of 28

On January 14th it is proposed for the school to assemble at Wairarapa College on occasion of the Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh. W J Taylor

Ten came

1954

Roll 26. Three pupils left for secondary education

During the vacation the school attended the Royal Visit at Wairarapa College and later on Queen St near Central School (*Near 2014*

Warehouse Store). There has been a severe drought during the holidays and the school area is very brown

19th February Half holiday Show

25th February It was decided to hold the school picnic at the Racecourse on Friday 5th March if possible

25th February Inter school swimming sports- Opaki, Rangitumau, Mikimiki, Kopuaranga, Mauriceville West. A very successful day The children show greater confidence and water skills since the baths were opened. Eleven new certificates have been gained this year

22nd March T Section student posted to this school for 1 month to enable teacher to attend a refresher course in town from 5-5 April (Mr. N Pye) (*T Section were students on a shortened course who had already a degree and wanted to teach*)

5-9th April T section student in charge Visit by Mr. Keith White from Training College WELLINGTON

27th April Full inspection visit 9-3 by Mr. Forbes- Staff Inspector Roll 31

3rd May The teacher asked the Committee if it would be prepared to purchase more apparatus for the infants and a "Jungle Jim" for the outside

Was there a possibility of procuring a projector or slide projector? He was instructed to make enquiries about what was available and the price

10th June The teacher showed some infant apparatus and books which he wished to purchase

That the Committee purchase £10 worth of these and apply to the Board for a £5 subsidy

That a Jungle Jim purchase be rejected was also carried
The Committee asked the teacher to arrange for a demonstration of a strip projector in the school in school hours so that they could decide whether the purchase of one was worthwhile
The Secretary was instructed to purchase a load of small wood for lighting the coal fire
1st July A meeting was held at D Young's residence
That we purchase a slide projector for the school if funds could be raised
That we canvass the parents for support
Mr. A B Maunsell donated £5 towards school swimming It was proposed to purchase 2 cups in trophy for best boy and best girl
15th July Visit of School nurse Full inspection of pupils
22nd July Visit of School Nurse. Diphtheria injections for 4 pupils
26th July School roll 33, 15 Boys 18 girls
11th August 10-12.30 Visit and film by Mr. Horsfall Traffic Department
12th August 1-3 Visit to Rangitumau Fancy Dress Practice
20th August Roll 14 Boys 19 Girls
5th October To hold the Fancy Dress Ball in the Mount Bruce Hall on Thursday 21st October
Mr. Taylor was asked to find out the number of children to be catered for and admission charge
It was decided to ask some of the ladies to purchase suitable prizes and chocolate to the value of £6 and to arrange for a judge
The Committee to meet in the afternoon to cut sandwiches
Cash prizes were not favoured for calf and lamb day

21st October School closed 2 pm Reopened 10 a.m. Friday after combined fancy dress dance and party at Mikimiki Hall- Opaki were hosts
29th October early closing because of Wairarapa Show
1st November Short visit of Miss Murison- National library Service
2nd November Visit to school by 15 pupils of the Ngaio School. Wellington Standard 5-6
Upper group of school (Standard 3-6) escorted visitors to Mr. J D Lochore's farm for study of shearing- pressing- dairying- club calves and lambs
9th November The Secretary was instructed to make a record of the details of the fancy dress dance for future reference
It appeared much more satisfactory without cash prizes
The bread had to be increased from 6 to 7 ½ loaves
Corn Beef was slightly short
11th November Opaki school Agricultural Club at the School. Entries 4 calves, 13 lambs, 4 home gardens and 100 other entries
13th November The school room was used as a polling booth for the General Election
15th November School closed Masterton group Boys and Girls Agricultural Club at Mauriceville West
Opaki Entries 4 calves and 2 lambs. Graham Buick (Standard 3) won the Care and Handling Cup for Calves
16th December A successful concert, Xmas Tree and party was held in the school last night. School closed at 12 Noon for the Xmas Vacation

1955

1st February Roll 31 18 Girls and 13 Boys

2nd February Full use is being made of the District Swimming Baths by this school- visits regularly arranged for Kopuaranga and Rangitumau schools. Half day closure for Masterton Show

One boy (Standard 1) fell from pony a sprained his wrist last night

23rd February Combined swimming sports held at Memorial Baths- Opaki Rangitumau Mikimiki- Kopuaranga- 102 pupils- a most successful day

The Committee met at night to arrange school picnic

28th February School closed 2 pm to allow teacher to attend annual X ray examination

3rd March visit of agricultural Inspector checking of tools etc.

10th March A very successful picnic was held at the Opaki Racecourse in glorious weather

Item	Cost £
10 Dozen ice creams	1-6-8
20 Dozen Cakes	
7 ½ 4 lb cut bread	2-11-0
4 small tins of Salmon	0-8-6
2 large drink extract	0-3-6
Corn Beef	0-13-6
1 Dozen hard boiled eggs	-
10 lbs Tomatoes	0-6-0
Sweets/ Chocolates	3-10-0
Presents	3-5-0
1 lb tea	-
1 case Apples	0-12-6
Butter 5 lbs	0-10-0

Nails 1 lb 4 inch 1 lb 3 inch	0-1-6
	13-8-2
Donations	27-14-0
Profit	14-05-10

The school calf day to be held on the 11th November and it was decided to issue ribbons for the animals and certificates for the sand trays etc.

And to provide ice creams, cakes of chocolate and soft drinks for the children. The ladies to supply afternoon tea

23rd March The Wairarapa Country School Sports were held at the Park Oval School closed

P Young at 3 foot 11 inches was beaten by 1 inch in the Senior Girls High Jump

28th March Roll 33. Six pupils are absent with Chicken Pox- 3 others have been affected

28th April Chicken Pox is still affecting attendances

2nd May Householders meeting

R A Bunny Chairman, D T Young Secretary N T Wyeth, A Williams, H Miller.

At the meeting after the Householder's meeting

Mr. Taylor authorised to purchase two sets of Lets Read to Mother books and £1 worth of filmstrips

With regard to the £5 donated by Mr. Maunsell for school swimming it was decided to put up a board in the school with the names of the best boy and best girl swimmer each year.

The Secretary was asked to price an urn for the school and to purchase same if price was acceptable to the Committee

He was also instructed to purchase one ton of coal

Mr. Bunny was to send along a load of firewood

30th May R A Bunny proposed that Mr. N T Wyeth act as chairman while the was in England

The Secretary was instructed to apply for the urn for the school

31st May School Committee meeting last night- the Chairman Mr. R Bunny had to arrange for a deputy (Mr. N Wyeth) because of his projected tour to England. Mr. Young Secretary Other members Mr. H Millar and A Williams

A 3 gallon electric urn has been purchased for school cocoa

28th June Roll 35

5th July Combined meeting of School Committee (Opaki, Rangitumau, Mikimiki met to discuss Fancy Dress party- decided to do away with Fancy Dress this year- Rangitumau Hosts

13th July Mr. R A C Selby- District Coroner- gave the school a short address on his work

14th July Owing to the blocked septic system- after last week's exceptionally heavy rain- the Committee has closed the school from 1 pm today until Monday (1 ½ days)

8th, 9th, 15th 22nd September Inter school practices for Children's evenings

Rangitumau Hosts

22nd September Mrs Johnson tested the hearing of Standard 2-6 with electrical equipment 9.45-10.30

30th September The combined school party was held at Rangitumau last night. A very successful evening of Folk Dancing and Indoor Athletics. School opening was delayed until 10.30 today

18th October Mr. Keith Morgan (Agricultural Instructor) visited school from 1-2.45, a film slide lecture on calf and lamb rearing

1st November A motor mower for the school was discussed and also the inscription on the swimming honours board and it was decided to leave both in abeyance until the chairman returned

The calf club day was set as November 10th and Mr. Stuart again be asked to judge

It was decided to save up the tunnel (*Rimutaka*) for a more suitable occasion

10th November The school agricultural club held its field day at the school There 147 entries in the various club competitions (35 pupils) David Amundsen won the Keats cup for Care and Handling

14th November The Masterton Group held its agricultural Field day at the Solway showgrounds School closed as majority of pupils attended . This school showed 2 calves and 12 lambs

15th November Visit of Board members 1.50 to 2.25. No School Committee members present

16th November Visit of Miss Pemberton 10.30 to 12.0 Resuscitation by Holgar Neilson method was taken

16th December School closed for the Xmas Vacation School leaving certificates to P Young and B Bragg and D Drysdale

Mr. J Holmes Millar Masterton member of the Antarctic Expedition visited the school before leaving for South America

1956

20th February It was decided to inscribe the Honours Board The Maunsell Honours Board for Swimming or something similar that would fit in and it was left to Mr. Bunny to get this carried out

The Motor mower for the school was again discussed and it was decided to see Mr. Bunny's demonstration before going any further

The question of applying for an extra room is to be reconsidered when the roll gets over 35

The Secretary was ordered to purchase 1 ton of coal and ½ ton of coke

The Committee decided to put up the curtain track when Mr. Taylor has purchased it

It was decided that the Racecourse was the most convenient place to hold the school picnic

23rd February Combined Schools (Rangitumau, Mikimiki, Kopuaranga, Opaki) swimming sports at Memorial Baths

5th March Mr. J Beauchamp (T Section) Student attached to the school for the month to allow Teacher to attend refresher course in town from the 19th to 23rd March

7th March Country School sports (28 Schools) at Queen Elizabeth Park

Opaki won the 16 certificates 12 ½% of total

16th March School picnic held at the Opaki Racecourse in glorious weather. The Maunsell Honours Board for swimming has been received. In 1955 Mr. H B Maunsell gave £5 for the encouragement of swimming in the school This board recording the farthest swimming and Boys and Girls in the result

Mr. J Holmes Miller (Masterton) wrote from Shackleton (The British Base for the Antarctic expedition 1953-56) to the school

23rd March Mr. Doyle Newly appointed (From Wellington) Traffic Officer for the Wairarapa spoke to the children about his job. Future visits every 6 months. He left Happy Holidays” 4 copies and Road Safety (1 Copy)

27th March Standard 2-5 (21 Children) under charge of student teacher, visited the following during the hours 1.15 – 3.00

Stony Creek Pig farm Mauriceville (Mr. Hymans)

Kopuaranga Apiaries (Mr. Bubb)

21st May Roll 34

13th and 25th June Visit to Kopuaranga standard 2-5 Selection of teams for Basketball and Football (7 aside) tournament on June 27th

Combined teams from Opaki, Rangitumau, Mikimiki, Kopuaranga, Mauriceville. Mauriceville West and Matahiwi

27th June School closed for Tournament

5th July Visit of Mr. H Barker, Works supervisor re School residence, The Committee attended 8.45 to 10

Extensive remodelling and modernisation was discussed

A meeting was called at 8.30 in order to discuss with Mr. Barker (Wellington Education Board Maintenance officer) the condition of the buildings. The whole Committee was present Included

- a) It was decided to press for a pressure pump at once as the tanks and tank stand were falling to pieces.
- b) The school had not been painted for at least 10 years
- c) The school house was found to be in a very bad state, requiring to be repiled, reroofed, completely interior redecorated and the outside walls burnt off and repainted
- d) It was decided not to press for a new house as most of the timber was very sound and appeared to be worth repairing

31st July Upper School attended Springboks – Wairarapa Match at Solway

3rd September Reopened roll 19 boys and 17 girls

12th November School closed for Masterton Group Boys and Girls Agricultural Club Field Day at Solway

Room 3 Ngaio School came upon the special train to meet Standard 2 -5 Opaki who have been corresponding

31st October Because of the large number of pupils the teacher said it was impossible to hold a concert at the end of the year so it was decided to discuss an alternative at Calf day

26th November Upper classes went on an educational trip to Wellington as guests of Ngaio School Visit to Wharf, Ship Maori, Ngaio School and Tip Top Ice Cream Factory

13th December ½ day school

18th December School Closed for Xmas Vacation with Roll 23 Boys and 17 girls. W J Taylor

During the year the school club from their concert and jumble sale and cockerels have made a profit of £25. £22/3/9/ will be spent on a Banda Duplicator (*A banda duplicator used special stencils and methylated spirits to provide liquid.*)

1957

4th February Roll reopened with a roll of 41

Miss M Tweedie (Relieving) has commenced duties

Additions to the school are being prepared by the Board. In meantime we will carry on under cramped conditions in school and remove to racecourse when building commences

11th February In jumping practice Allan Clark (Standard 4) broke a ligament in his knee no doubt due to the hard ground- a jumping pit is a necessity

The Secretary was instructed to apply to the Board for the subsidy on the Banda duplicator

It was decided to hold a working bee one evening to dig a jumping pit and to get some sand to fill it

The Correspondence re the new room was read and discussed and it was decided to leave the shift to the racecourse until the building alterations had actually started as it was going to be very difficult to get the children to school

In the meantime it was decided that the porch would have to be cleared out and used as a temporary classroom to relieve the congestion

20th February A combined athletic sports at Rangitumau – Opaki, Mikimiki, Kopuaranga, Mauriceville and Mauriceville West attended

3rd March Miss Tweedie transferred to Bideford today and Miss H Smith has commenced duty as relieving teacher

8th March School picnic held racecourse

11th March Nurse Cass inspecting all the school 9-3

12th March Nurse Cass called 2-3 for anti-diphtheria injections

13th March The overcrowding in the school was discussed and the Secretary was asked to write to Mr. Wallace the Board Member and the Board to try and hurry up the new classroom

11th April The school attended a softball afternoon at Mauriceville School. Seniors 2 games Won one, drew one

Junior 3 games won 3

19th 22nd March Easter Vacation, Anzac Day In lieu of opening Wednesday 24th and Friday 26th The school opened on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th

15th April Thirteen present at Householders meeting

Special meeting was made to the improvement of school grounds as a result of the purchase of a mower

Mr. Taylor presented a vacuum cleaner to the school The gift is much appreciated

That a cup of tea should be given at the next meeting

1st May A pupil (A Clark) suffered a broken collarbone today when tackled during Football practice. The grounds is exceptionally hard for this time of the year

2nd May Mr. Robinson (Inspector) visited the school today at the Head teacher's request to study a report on overcrowded conditions

3rd May A Comet Transport (jet) passed over the school today

6th May Football Basketball Combined practice at Kopuaranga
Seven schools participated

9th May The head teacher reported that the installation of tubs at his residence was underway. It was decided to write to the Board that the verandah floor was in a dangerous condition

Two basketball standards were requested

It was noted that a ladder was available from Mr. Barker for cleaning the spoutings. The chairman offered to check over the spoutings to see if they were clean

It was observed there were several broken window panes in the schoolroom and it was decided to leave these over until the redecoration of the present room

The head teacher was permitted to purchase 6 bags of coal

The offer by Mr. R A Bunny of a room with a bathroom and W C Facilities attached and use of kitchen facilities was accepted. The room to be used for the Junior Section of the school, the rental to be £2 per week

The Committee accepted the offer.

The purchase of basketball laws authorised. The money to come from the POSB School Savings Account

27th May Roll of 43

The infant Standard 1 group moved down to Mr. Bunny's Nursery Wing. 18 pupils involved leaving 25 at the school The arrangement will last for the winter term. Extension is due in September

Working Bee. The desks and other equipment for the Junior Department of the school comprising of twenty children were transferred from the schoolroom to that Portion of Mr. Bunny's residence to be used as a temporary classroom

The Secretary was directed to get a small brush and shovel and two electric light bulbs

It was reported that a blockage in the sewage system had been repaired

Mr. G Colquhoun offered to donate seven jerseys in school colours for the use of children representing the school in games

7th June A Fencer started work on the gates and fence of the school today. The North boundary fence in the horse paddock has already been repaired by the farmer (Mr. D Bunny)

14th June Mr. W J Kennedy (builder) is at present erecting a concrete milk stand at the gate

17th June It was noted that an order for the residence verandah had been issued and that the water for the school water supply was to be analysed by the Health Department.

It was also noted that the rental of the temporary accommodation is 30/- per week. That plans etc. were nearly ready to be calling tenders and that a space heater would be installed in the new classroom

The school had entered the festival of song to be held in Masterton
An offer for films and equipment for a film evening free of charge was accepted. The evening to be in the racecourse. The charge to be collection at the door

The fence repairs had started and a new milk stand was being erected

19th June Mr. Linford (Health Inspector) took a sample of water from the well for analysis re installation of a pressure pump system
There is a district epidemic of croup just now. Absentees today 17

20th June 15 Absentees. 21st June 17 Absentees

25th June Mr. Price, Builder inspected school re tenders for extensions. The plans and specifications are completed

24th June 9 absentees. It appears that the 'Flu epidemic has waned

3rd July The new milk box at the gate has been completed (£55!!)

The school attended the Primary Schools Winter Sports day- Football (7 aside) and basketball held in town

Water samples had been taken for analysis

It was decided to hold the film evening on Thursday 11th July Starting at 7.00 and finishing at 9.00

The Head Teacher reported the milk box had been finished at a cost of £55 and the repairs to the verandah for the residence have not been started

The head teacher advised that the Post Office was going to put their money earned in the bonus account

The 7 aside won 1 drew 1. The basketball drew 1, lost 2. This is the first year the school has entered its own teams

10th July An electrician in the course of inspecting the school re pricing the electrical work in connection with the proposed school

extensions reported as dangerous hazard regarding the downpipe to the roof passing over the electric wires above the school entrance. The power Board advised

11th July The Power Board effected temporary repairs to make the downpipe safe

A fencer has spent another afternoon tightening the school fencing

17th July Visit from Kaipororo School for football and basketball

30th July Plumbers have installed a Romesse heater in the school

The Board carpenter has renewed the verandah at the residence

19th August The film evening held at the racecourse earned £ 4-11-6

The repairs to the floor of the verandah at the residence has been fixed The Committee noted with pleasure that the space heater had been installed and was operating successfully

23rd August Several visitors as builders, Board Supervisors etc. have been at the school regarding the new extensions

School closed with a roll of 43

The school nurse has attended to arrange polio Immunisation for the 9 years and under. All affected will be attended to at the Kopuaranga School next term

The school has entered a group in the Primary School Song festival to be held in October

Rehearsals have been held in town and Mrs J Welch has spent several periods with the school accompanying them on the piano

9th September Roll 43, 26 at the Upper School and 17 at the Nursery. During the holidays the builders commenced work

14th September There have been three slight earthquakes in the last seven days. In an emergency drill the room was cleared in 15 Seconds

27th September 27 pupils from P1 to Standard 5 immunised at Kopuaranga against polio

30th September 2nd, 3rd, 4th October Rehearsal of music festival 9-12 Matinee 1-4. And 2 night concerts 7.15 to 10.15

A very successful venture

11th, 14th 15th October Packing up and shipping of both schools to the Racecourse. School settled comfortably into members bar

25th October Polio immunisation carried out at Racecourse 1-3 Rangitumu, Mikimiki and Kopuaranga schools were done

30th October The school shifted to the temporary accommodation at the racecourse on 14th October

If it was necessary for the Committee to dig the channel for the underground electric cable to reduce costs the Committee agreed to do so

It was decided to pay one years subscription to the Central Wairarapa School Committee Assn, the position to be reviewed at the end of the year

The Head Teacher advised that the concert and bring and buy netted £22 of which £14-2-6 was to be half the cost of a set of the children's encyclopaedia on a subsidy basis

It was decided to hold the School Agricultural Club Day to be held at 1.30 It was noted that D Stuart was prepared to act as judge. It was decided that ladies be asked to bring a plate for afternoon tea. Committee to provide Tea and Sugar, Ice Cream, soft drinks and sweets

As Senior Committee member Mr. Williams to be requested to deputise for the chairman in his absence

The Head teacher advised that for the two days the school was closed because of a race meeting it was intended to carry out educational visits to factories etc. in Masterton

7th November a very successful school Agricultural Club day was held There were 2 calves, 12 lambs and 140 entries in the Displays Messrs Robinson and Burt of the Inspectorate paid a short visit

12th November Owing to inclement weather the Masterton Group Field day at Solway Showgrounds was postponed one week

13th November Because of the Trotting meeting the school had to pack up this afternoon. We stored our tables etc. in the Luncheon Room under the main stand

14th 15th November Educational Visiting by the Whole School was organised by the school

Thursday Hansells, Fire Station, Waco (*Fizzy Drinks*) and Plastic factories

Friday Dairy Factory, Telephone exchange and Times Age

18th 19th November We unpacked!! School resumed at 10.30

19th November School attended the Masterton Group Agricultural Club held at Solway Showgrounds. Opaki acted as host to Te Aro School (120 pupils!!)

22nd November Miss Pemberton (Phys Ed) demonstrated Holgar Nielson Resuscitation in connection with water safety week. 2 parents attended

W J Taylor

26th November Head teacher W J Taylor Assistant Miss H R Smith (Relieving)

26th November Coincidence: The other log book commenced in 1917 at the Racecourse and ended almost 40 years to the day later at the racecourse

Yesterday a violent storm winds up to 93 miles per hour struck in the afternoon

The members bar “rocked and rolled”. Children had an exciting view of trees and tops falling in the Racecourse Drive and beside the Bar

About 20 tree tops came down. We evacuated about 2.30 pm. Several sheets of iron came off the roof. The storm caused widespread damage in the district

Dust from ploughed paddocks 4 miles away covered the area

20th December School commenced the Xmas Vacation today after the school concert last night

Five pupils were issued with their Primary School Leaving Cards and one other left for college

All books etc. were packed in the hopes of returning to the school next year

School closed with a roll of 44

Miss H R Smith has relinquished her relieving appointment and Miss D M Smith has been appointed to the Permanent Position

1958

3rd February Roll 36 Standard 3-6 20. Primers – Standard 2, 16

It appears we will not be in our new school for at least a month.

Miss D M Smith has taken up a permanent position as Infant Mistress

6th February At 7.30. The meeting was held early to permit an inspection of the grounds etc.

- a) Hedge in front of school Decided to remove same and put up a lattice type wooden fence in front of junior school to provide privacy for the residence and at the same time not lose light in the rooms
- b) Concrete paving in odd corners
- c) Digging of ditch for electric power cable
- d) Frosting on window in senior room Left to Secretary to find easiest method of removal
- e) Shifting of furniture etc. to allow painters to get on with painting. Left to head teacher

Masterton Trotting Club gave donation of £2-2-0 for school children cleaning up racecourse

It was decided to pay Mr Taylor for 16 hours of mowing

It was decided to punch the nails in the floor of the senior room at the same working bee as the digging of the cable ditch

The nails have to be punched in preparation of sanding of the floors

The question of putting castors on the unit was held over till after the room is in use

The Secretary advised that the school would be shifting out of racecourse buildings for a race meeting on the 19th

It was decided to use these two days for Swimming Sports and annual picnic to be held at Rathkeale

Comments following list of supplies for picnic

- a) Explore possibility of getting a lesser number of plain cakes and buying biscuits as well
- b) Have a larger proportion of salmon filled sandwiches and buy small tomatoes to be cut in half and eaten with bread and butter

- c) Tomato sandwiches tend to be soggy
- d) Bags of lollies should provide a good assortment (Jubes, toffee minties, liquorice allsorts)
- e) One gallon of cordial provided 6-7 gallons of drink which was not enough
- f) 4 ½ - 5 gallons of cordial drunk at lunchtime
- g) As picnic held at Rathkeale sandwiches made at Mrs Williams home and table tops and trestle borrowed from Racecourse
- h) A Copper borrowed from racecourse
- i) Milk cans for water borrowed from milk man
- j) Provision should be made for ladies toilet also gents

7th February School closed Board Holiday granted on the occasion of the Queen Mother's visit to New Zealand The itinerary does not include Masterton

26th February Packing up and remove of school effects from Members bars to load boxes because of race meeting on Saturday 1st March

3rd March Reassembling of school in bar

28th February School picnic held at ideal weather and surroundings at Rathkeale

3rd March Inter school swimming sports at the memorial baths Mikimiki, Matahiwi, Kopuaranga, and Rangitumau attended

11th March School closed Teacher's inservice training day held in Masterton for Country Teachers Group

14th March Country School Sports at Queen Elizabeth park 23 children and 650 children participated. Opaki gained 25 certificates

17th March Donations for picnic totalled £29-1-11 The Picnic cost £18-13-10

The ice cream for the swimming sports cost 18/-

It was decided to ask if the painting of the saddle room had been overlooked when the rest of the buildings were being painted and also enquiring about progress towards a new teachers residence

The Head Teacher advise that D Taylor and A Clark were the two names to go on the Maunsell Honours Board for Swimming

It was left in the Secretary's hands to try and procure more material for the singlets for the athletic colours

The Head Teacher advised that on completion of the additions to the school there would be quite a lot of cleaning up work to do.

It was decided to have a working bee

31st March In connection with the shift back to the school from the racecourse arrangements were made to provide transport for 9 a.m. on Wednesday 9th April

On reopening the school will comprise two rooms, one to be called the senior room and the other junior

The Secretary ordered 10 football jerseys in the school colours of red and white

It was decided to celebrate the opening of the enlarged school with an evening to be held on 24th April

4th 8th April Easter. Thursday Packing Up again! Last time we hope.

9th April Our last move- we shifted back to our own "new" school with the greatest of pleasure

Four truck loads of furniture etc.

Painting is still incomplete but we are in residence

Committee supplied new chrome coat hooks for the Old Porch; shelving in place of old fireplace punching of nails on all old floors for sanding and sealing, painting of fiddly window frames and scrapping of old windows in the old room

14th April Polio immunisation for under 6 and under 10 carried out today (7 preschool and 7 School)

Pin Oak The Committee have been trying to check on history of the American Pin Oak in front of the school Mr. Watson (Visitor on 13th register No 8) informed me that the tree was planted at the end of World War 1 by some important person

23rd April Flag Salute in lieu of Tomorrow's Anzac day which is a holiday

The District opening of our extended school and hall was held at night. A very good attendance of the district. The evening was a social one with a one hour show by Mr. G Hansen, magician, followed by dancing and supper

The Committee have done a lot towards cleaning up the grounds but more bees (working) are needed yet

The horse paddock fence has been shifted to give the school a good playground

26th May Roll 39

Class	Girls	Boys
Form 2	1	3
Form 1	3	2
4	2	3
3	5	1
2	1	4
1	1	2

Primers	6	6
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11th June The chairman reported on the meeting for the proposed group grass cutting scheme using tractor drawn mowers. The Education Board to meet half the capital cost and pay the operator's expenses

On current costs Opaki school would have to provide £7 for its share of capital cost and £2 per year sinking fund

It was decided that Opaki School Committee participate in the scheme

Those present stood for a brief period in memory of Mr. H B Maunsell who passed away recently

Four goal posts (Tubular Steel) had been purchased and the matter of their erection was left in the hands of the chairman to arrange

The Head Teacher was authorised to purchase a basketball same to be paid for POSB Bonus A/c

2nd July Seven aside and basketball tournament in Masterton

Opaki entered 1 team in midgets and 1 team in D Grade (Under 5 feet)

Basketball practices were held on fine Tuesday's for the month prior between Rangitumau, Mikimiki, Matahiwi, and Opaki

Football at Opaki (with its new red and white goalposts erected this month)

Basketball and Matahiwi and Mikimiki

The Committee and Mr. G Colquhoun have supplied nine football jerseys

8th July Inspection of school by new works supervisor prior to handing school over to Maintenance Branch, Faulty Doors, sticking windows and badly drained corner by store room is now complete

15th July Opaki V Kopuaranga Football at Opaki Basketball at Kopuaranga. Opaki won both

31st July Visit of Miss Pemberton Physical Education (Folk Dancing)

28th July It was reported that nine school jerseys (red and white colours) had been purchased and Mr. G Colquhoun offered to contribute £5 to the cost. It was decided not to proceed with the erection of a front fence

The Committee decided to take out a public risk policy to cover social functions etc. the cover to be £5000

The sum of £8 was passed for payment being the Committee's contribution to the group grass cutting scheme

It was noted that the goal posts for the football field were erected on 14th June

The school colours had been registered as red and white

That as from the 1st July Mrs R Taylor would be school cleaner

The Head Teacher reported that the school piano was in need of repair and tuning this was authorised

It was decided to purchase castors for the teachers unit in the Junior Room

It was reported that a Mr. Gigg Taylor from the Australian Young Farmers Club had given an interesting talk on Tasmania and also the school had been invited to play Harley Street at Soccer on Monday 14th August

The chairman offered to donate an electric clock for the senior room provided the Committee paid for the installation The offer was gratefully accepted

That this Committee approves the letting of the school for district functions

That the social club be granted the use of the hall free of charge

That the charge for district functions be 10/- per night

That the charge for functions outside the district be 30/- per night

That all people hiring the hall shall leave the buildings clean and tidy, lights turned off, fires extinguished and the Partition replaced

If the cleaning tidying and replacement of partitions cannot be conveniently be carried out at need of function, same to be done before the next time school meets

1st August A new electric clock donated by Mr. R A Bunny, chairman has been installed in the senior room

14th August School visit to Harley Street School for football, basketball and soccer

6th August After a previous visit by Board Supervisor and Builder the builders have been back correcting doors and windows and re-concreting one area etc. . Sub-contractors have repaired spouting etc.

Arbor Day 1958. The present Standard 6 pupils planted a walnut tree in the bottom of the playground

7th August Mr. Ewing senior Inspector spent day in Junior Room. Good report on layout of grounds and atmosphere of school

30th September School attended matinee of the 1958 Primary Schools Singing festival

3rd October Hearing tests were conducted throughout the school

Picture The School Club (pupils) have presented a framed series of photos depicting the three schools on the present site

6th November Meeting started at 8.30

WEPB stating that meter would only be read 4 monthly over winter
It was decided that the calf day would be on Thursday 13th at the school

Ribbons and certificates to be provided and Ice Cream, Soft Drinks and sweets to be purchased

Ladies to be asked to bring a plate

It was noted that the front fence had been removed and the look of the grounds thereby been improved.

Refencing between the school and residence. It was decided to discuss the matter further on calf days when the site could be inspected in daylight

15th November Opaki school club agricultural day Entries 7 lambs, 1 calf

Indoor exhibits approximately 120

17th November Polio Immunisation 9.30-10.30

Older pupils and pupils from Mikimiki

20th November School closed Pupils attending the Masterton Group Agricultural Day field day at Solway

11th December Visit of Form 1 Central School from 10-2.30
Programme of sports, concert and swimming

12th December School inspection 9-12 by Mr. Robertson and Mr. Deacon

15th December It was decided to do nothing about the boundary fence between the school and residence but the gum trees are to be cut down and a small hedge planted on a new line

It was decided that Mr. W J Taylor (*Mr. Clark resigned*) be minute Secretary until the Householders meeting in April and all correspondence be addressed to the chairman

In connection with the end of year breakup the head teacher reported that Mr. Kebble had donated £5 towards the expense of sweets, balloons, ice cream etc. and this amount along with the amount collected at the concert would cover expenses

The Committee was asked to arrange staging and the wives of the Committee members to decorate the Xmas Tree

The question of curtains was left to the Secretary and it was decided to borrow forms from the racecourse

The Head Teacher reported that the school inspectors had visited the school on Friday 12th and were favourably impressed with the buildings, appointments and grounds

18th December School concert 7.30, School was dismissed at 12 noon for rest period

Concert was very well attended Proceeds £4-3-0 (Silver Coin)
School club 1st raffle £3-4-0

19th December Standards only attended 9.30-11.30

General cleaning up

Roll 42

1959

2nd February Roll 32. During the vacation the motor of the motor mower went up in flames. It has been repaired at a cost of £15

5th February The removal of the Trees is now to be expected to be Board responsibility

An excellent report from the Board's Inspectors was read. The work of the Committee came in for special mention

It was left to Mr. Clark to pursue the make of the motor mower with the Board

The school picnic was arranged for February 27th

A picnic list was to be sent round district

It was decided to send the radio in for repairs

18th February Combined swimming sports were held in the Masterton Memorial Baths from 2-3 Schools participating Opaki, Rangitumau, Kopuaranga, Mikimiki, Matahiwi and Te Wharau (Who happened to be at the baths) Opaki performed creditably winning both senior and junior relays

The latest school inspection report was received- an excellent report especially for work done by the Committee

27th February School picnic held at Rathkeale in fine weather. Seasonal work curtailed attendance of men. A full programme of games and sports fulfilled

Picnic Collection £27-11-0

6th March Country School (Northern Wairarapa) held at Queen Elizabeth Park 60 children in overcast heavy drizzle setting in at 1 pm curtailed the programme

19-20th March School closed Wairarapa teacher's Refresher Course at West

27th March Board Building staff visited re erection of new school residence

13 April School Committee election 14 attended. Mr. R A Bunny retired after 13 years as school chairman

A Williams (chairman) M R Hodgkin, G Buick, D Buick, G Colquhoun, W J Taylor

14th April School Committee met Board Architect re siting of new residence at 2.30 pm Mr. Bunny was not agreeable to allowing more land available to Board. No firm decision was made. Mr. Stohart visited school from 9.00 – 10.30 Physical Education

25th May Exceptionally heavy rain for past 3 weeks

June The 5 schools have been meeting for practices for 7 aside basketball and football

Kopuaranga, Matahiwi, Mikimiki, Opaki, Rangitumau Opaki is entering 1 basketball team and 1 junior football team with 4 boys playing in the midgets team for Matahiwi. Bob Walker (Form 2) in trial

The last Opaki Trialist (Brian Lochore) now represents the Wairarapa in first grade rugby

The Masterton Young farmers are meeting regularly at the school

An aerial photo of the school has been ordered by the school club (pupils). 15th July Football (7 aside) and basketball tournament was held in Masterton

The Opaki football team (Junior) won their section with 5 wins and a draw out of 6 games Hadlow was second with 4 wins

The basketball team won 4 of 6 games

17th July School Doctor checked infant room and some standards

17th August This school is again participating in the Northern Wairarapa Schools music festival Practices commenced today (thence every Monday)

7th September Roll 35

14th September Visit by Mr. N Barnett, Shaw Saville line with film and talk on shipping. Very good. Proposed to visit a Shaw Saville Line ship later in term

24th September 2-3 Dancing Practice with Mr. S Pickett Piper

1st October Music festival held in Masterton Town Hall School items

1. The highland Fling (13 dancers) danced to the festival choir
350 voices

2. Double sword dance 12 dancers

21st October Board surveyors were here measuring up for new school residence to be erected on site of the present school residence. The old school residence was originally built in 1876? 5 miles north on Colquhoun's farm. In transporting it to the present site it beat the Traction Engine (Daniell's) down the Tarpot Hill

22nd October School visit (Senior room) to Wellington on the invitation J M Barnett of Shaw Saville Ltd. Time spent on wharves and going over the Dominion Monarch. Very instructive

22 children and 7 adults comprised party

31st October The St Andrews Society invited the Upper room to its Halloween party The highland dancers performed the Highland Fling and the Double Snorts. A very pleasing party for the children

4th November The School Committee met to arrange for the School Agricultural club day. The resignation of the present teacher to take effect from the 1st February 1960 and the appointment of the incoming sole teacher were received

8th November The resignation of the Head Teacher was received with regret due to his being appointed as second assistant at Masterton Intermediate

The school calf club was set down for 12th November. Mr. Keats to judge entries

The Teacher to purchase ribbons 6 dozen 4d ice creams and 5 dozen aerated cordials for calf day

Ladies requested to bring a plate

The Schools district calf day is to be held at Solway Showgrounds on 17th November

12th November School Agricultural Club Day. 6 Lambs. Ms R Kebbell judged indoor exhibits 173!!!

17th November School closed- Masterton Group Agricultural Club held at Solway Showgrounds

Janice and William Buick only Opaki exhibitors won 2nd and 3rd place in store lambs

9th December The school attended the film "The Lion and The Kiwi" in the afternoon

15th December The school concert very successful and district presentation to out going teacher was held in the evening

16th December Roll 35. Miss D M Smith is retained as infant mistress for the ensuing year

I relinquish my duties as Head Teacher

W J Taylor

Miss Smith resigned her position as infant teacher

1960

1st February School opened G F Richards, Relieving Head Teacher. Miss A Williams Relieving Assistant Mistress

8th February R D Hopkirk Head Teacher Richards transferred to Mangatainoka

17th February Visit of John Macdonald Visiting teacher

18th February School Committee meeting arrangements for picnic authority given to purchase 2 Cuisenaire sets and pencil sharpener also book on Chatham Islands

The new teacher Mr. R (Bob) Hopkirk, Chatham Islands was appointed as head teacher and began duties on 9th February, Mr. Richards was relieving first week

A letter was received from the Board to advise that a tender of B D Taylor had been accepted to rebuild school house at cost of £3804

That Picnic be held at Opaki Racecourse

Ladies were to purchase 1 gift for each school and preschool child.

Also provisions for meals at picnic

Senior school children to take around list for donations to picnic expenses

The Cuisenaire blocks and Book on Chatham Islands requested by Head Teacher be obtained by him

25th February School swimming sports. A successful afternoon with various novelty events. Maunsell Shield events won by Anne Welch girls and Ian Wyeth boys

7th March Two day visit from John Macdonald organising teacher who gave a great deal of helpful advice

14th March Miss P Young commenced duties as relieving assistant. Reduced lower class to 7 pupils

24th March School Committee meeting Approval for purchase of remedial readers and further spelling lists

24th March. Miss A Williams had been appointed as infant mistress Pam Young is taking class at the moment while Miss Williams is on sick leave

It was suggested that for the picnic the selection of cakes be specified

A letter be sent to Masterton Young farmers Club to advise that they may rent school room again for 1960 for meetings

That Head teacher buy 50 remedial readers he requested

Miss Williams is now doing school cleaning

The question of children crossing railway line was discussed and it was decided they use it for a month

30th March Heath test given by Mrs Thornton of Health department

6th April Visit of Mr. McMillan to test for special class pupils. No successful candidates

8th April Last day of Miss Young's relieving term

11th April Miss Williams recommences teaching duties

22nd April Observed ANZAC DAY ceremony in the afternoon

22nd April Discussed siting of workshop with Mr. Morgan- clerk of works

22nd April Exterior of new school residence completed except for minor details and painting

28th April Visit of Mr. Munn, publicity officer for school savings bank. Short talk to children

4th May School Committee meeting: approved given for purchase of percussion instruments, portable Graphophone (electric) and Basketball

The question of children crossing the railway line was discussed and the Head Teacher was requested to stop the use of the crossing

That we purchase a record changer from the Board

That we purchase a set of percussion instruments

That we have radio repaired If not fit we purchase new 6 valve

That we purchase Basketball

Towels for children's use were discussed and it was agreed parents should supply children with same suitably equipped with hanger

Mr. Williams offered his old sewing machine for school use if it could be reconditioned

6th May Four lavatory cisterns altered to be a more satisfactory type

25th May Mr. R Stothart brought new issue of Phys Ed Gear, small balls, ropes, large balls

7th June Inservice training Wainuioru School- Cuisenaire Workshop

23rd June New school Graphophone used for first time

7th July The teacher reported lock was repaired on back door of school

He requested a sewing Machine and scales for school use. The chairman had a machine which he gave to school and Mr. Hodgins gave set of dial scales

That teacher be authorised to place shed on school property under conditions set down by board. Maintain It in keeping with other buildings it will be removed at request

That we write Board re assistance with extra concrete 50' x 8' to enlarge basketball court

13th July Inter school sports at Masterton. Our football and Basketball teams did reasonably well. The chief value of these winter sports is the working together with the other country schools in preparation for the Big Day

25th July Music festival practice at Opaki with Opaki children only – a valuable visit by Mr. Faulkner- conducted

17th August Matinee Performance of music festival

18th August Music festival is a big success 15 children from Opaki taking part in the massed choir

31st August Opaki Memorial Society decided to install baths filter

5th September Roll 31

7th September Visit from school health nurse (new Entrant). Visit from Mr. Macdonald Organising teacher re textbook use and suitability

30th November School Committee meeting Approval to purchase Wendy House £9.00 and Guillotine £5-0-0

5th December Guillotine purchased

That we pay £5 to Recreation Society for Motor Mower

Teacher reported that piano had been tuned. He was authorised to buy 2 handles for spades and begin evacuation and work to concrete extra area basketball

A Wendy House has been built by the big boys for woodwork

Plans were made for concert on 4th December Stage loaned by Caledonian Society. Limit of 4/- for Xmas tree parcels which parents provide

Bill Taylor to be Father Xmas

7th December Children presented a framed aerial photograph of the school to be hung in the corridor. Paid for with proceeds of 1959 school concert

15th December An excellent school concert was presented by the children. The usual type school concert items were presented with great gusto

Programme included

Pip Meets the Convert – A play lasted ½ hour Charles Dickens

Various choral items

Short Plays

Solo and Group Poems

Folk Dances

Recorder Items

The concert was followed by the distribution of presents from the Christmas Tree

16th December School closed Roll 30

Miss Williams ceased duties as Assistant. She intends leaving for overseas in the new year

1961

30th January No children until 1st February. All classes to use large room. Old room for activity room and library room

1st February Roll 27

9th February Approval given for purchase of timber for Nature Study Table

14th February New Boy (Welfare) ran away- found him up a tree at Opaki Railway Station waiting for the railcar

21st February School closed. Dr Arvidson conducts course on Learning to Spell

27th February Swimming Sports Opaki School

Committee meeting in evening Arrangements made for the school picnic

27th February A circular was received and questionnaire for parents re views of milk in schools. The teacher sending a copy to each parent

Teacher reported on Manual Training available at Masterton Intermediate, 1 hour per week. Decided too difficult to use this facility- Teacher now takes boys for woodwork. Mrs Hopkirk begun sewing period for girls. March

Teacher contact maintenance man re blocked chimney

That we purchase 2 more sets of Cuisenaire blocks

A 1 day trip to Christchurch by night ferry each way was discussed

The plan was not proceeded with due to divided opinion . The expense for some pupils and its short stop in Christchurch

The Picnic was set down for 13th March at Opaki Racecourse

Moved that no collection list be sent round

2nd March Country School swimming sports

28th February A proposed trip to Christchurch has had to be cancelled because of lack of support

Matahiwi and Mikimiki teachers were also interested in making up a party but once again the idea received only half-hearted support

2nd March Milk in Schools Survey was conducted. In spite of the fact that the impression gained was that the Committee was against it, only two parents voted against

6th March Roll 29

20th March Baths closed for season

22nd March Distance Swimming at Masterton

50 yards Vivienne Buick, George Walker

100 Yards Judy Bragg, Mark Bunny

220 yards Stan Brunning, Shona Lochore, Tiane Williams

440 Yards Ann Buick, Ross Colquhoun, Wayne Lochore (640)

880 Yards Michael Wyeth

21st March School picnic at the Opaki Racecourse

6th April Visit to Matahiwi for tennis

14th April Visit of Traffic Officer Doyle used memorial courts to set up his traffic trainer

Children from Rangitumau and Kopuaranga also used the trainer

17th April Chairman A Williams, Secretary M R Hodgins, Committee D Buick, G Buick, G Colquhoun

Attendance was disappointing -5

26th April School party attended Beautiful NZ at Regent
18th April 12 Ukuleles purchased with proceeds from 1960 end of year concert
24th April Opaki team 3rd in Masterton Cross Country
3rd May Four boys strapped for throwing objects at passing traffic after repeated warnings
8th June Trees to the North of the school were felled by the Committee. These trees were shading the school badly in the winter afternoons
12th June Concrete laid to enlargen basketball court by Committee
15th June Visit by children in Standard classes to Ngaumu State Forest. Infants taken by Mrs Hopkirk for normal work
16th June Pinus Lorita (Corsican Pines) planted on the Western Boundary
21st June Planting of Douglas Fir on the South boundary
5th July Primary School football and Basketball competition in Masterton
10th July Arranged for School Health Nurse to inspect Marilyn's baby rash which her father quite emphatically said was not to be covered. Nurse confirmed my suspicions and went to see the parents, impetigo case
11th July Mrs. Walker rang to say that 4 of her children have scabies. Confirms my suspicion of two months ago when I suggested she take Stanley to the doctor. Doctor evidently gave wrong diagnosis
13th July School inspection by Mr. Skiffington 9.30 to 3.45
12th July Two boys from here travelling to Greytown with North Country Senior Football team involved in a car smash. Nobody injured. Team won 3, lost 3 and drew 2 matches

24th July School Committee meeting. Committee agreed to purchase of Tape Recorder from the Ed Board for £25 (Our share)
That we buy N Z Junior Encyclopaedias at £1-0-0 also other books for library requested by teacher
That we purchase Phillips tape recorder from Board for cost £25 to Committee and take district collection towards same
School Photographer (Winter) donated £1-12-0 to social funds from his sale of prints to pupils
Need of Broom Cupboard was discussed and decided to try Maintenance man to have it provided
7th August Considerable storm damage throughout the Wairarapa over the weekend. School football ground ½ to ¾ under water
9th August Boys urinal flooded and no run off because of flood water
4th September 35 on roll
26th September Spray Periwinkle 1st Application
14th November Agricultural Day Judges Stock Mr. Keats. Flowers etc. Mrs R Millar
A very good day with a good deal of useful hints given to competitors given by Mrs Miller
Mrs R Bunny showed a series of slides on Canada taken during her trip
15th November The Phillips tape recorder arrived and was examined by committee but it is not working well so are returning to makers for repair
We buy 600' heavy duty tape and 2 small blank reels for frequent replaying

That 2 jack plugs be fitted to radio for 30/- to run extension speaker and record off it with tape recorder

The Head Teacher presented a request for 15 books in set of Readers Digest reading skill builders

New pencil sharpener for infant room

A parents afternoon was held on 10th October with 5 mothers present

The annual agricultural day was held on 14th November and was a most successful day with 2 calves and 6 lambs and pets shown

Drinks and ice creams were provided for the children

There was a discussion about children attending District calf day at Solway and it was decided that only children with animals should attend with their parents

R D Hopkirk reported for annual grading period of September the average roll was 34.3 and qualifies for an assistant. Mrs Bennie has been appointed as a relieving assistant and commenced duties on 7th November

11th December The arrangements for concert were entered into Staging borrowed from Caledonian Society

Sweets 50 1/- bags, 50 balloons

Curtains. Long green ones used off windows

Ice Cream 8 dozen tubs. Tip Top

No children will be taken to manual training next year

Father Xmas Laurie Keats

31st November Mrs Bennie commenced duties as relieving assistant mistress

11th December Mrs McIvor commenced duties as relieving assistant mistress

14th December School concert An excellent school programme presented by the children and well received by the audience of parents and friends

1962

5th February Roll 32. Mrs M Street Relieving assistant commenced duties with Primers and Standard 1 1 new Entrant, 2 transfers from Kopuaranga

Infant Room floor has been oiled over the holidays (Boiled Linseed Oil)

Baths scrubbed, heavily treated with chlorine and vacuumed over last week of vacation. Visit by grass cutter mowing only

New Pencil sharpener bought and installed

6th February New Zealand Day

14th February That picnic next year be held early in February

Picnic This Year to be held at Payton's Bush

2 tables and trestles Racecourse. Wood for Copper, Hopkirk

Mr. Hopkirk reported that the 15 Reader's Digest Readers had been in use since beginning year and are very popular

A pencil sharpener was purchased for the infant room

Mr. G Clarke has supplied material for horse paddock and he and Mr. Hopkirk repaired it last Thursday

The floor in the infant room was oiled with boiled oil and can be polished when it soaked

23rd February School picnic held at Mawley Park (Motor Camp) in Masterton

Originally the picnic had been arranged for Payton's Bush but had to be changed at the last moment. Mawley Park proved to be a much

more convenient place and good time was had by all, Tankersley's pool was in demand

8th March Messrs Logan and Chappell visited the school- Mrs Street applying for a provisional grading

20th March Standard 2 to Form 2 attended Peter and the Wolf a very enjoyable time

26th March Opaki School swimming sports Continued poor weather has necessitated the abandoning of the sports this year

Today those who wanted to swim distances were taken to Town Baths 4 swam ½ mile, 1 swam 1 mile

29th March Maunsell Honours Board swam in town baths

Boys Wayne Lochore Girls Diana Williams

30th March Philip Roberts – Broken Arm – Rugby Football !!. report sent to Board

17th April Visit by Standard 2 – Form II to Wellington for the day Airport, Museum, Shell House and trip on the Cable Car to Wellington

4th May End of term Mrs M Street ceased relieving teacher duties

21st May Mrs Henderson commenced duties as Permanent assistant

4th June new basketball poles made by self and D Young completed Last record in this log

30th August The annual school picnic was held at Mawley Park and was most satisfactory. We suggest it is most suitable for further use Mr. Hopkirk reported that the Form 1 and 2 remedial readers purchased with library grant were very good

4 entries by Opaki Pupils in literary week competition were published in Times Age, a very gratifying results

The school is to take part in annual music festival this year

That we buy a set of folk dance records on subsidy

We decided to apply for subsidy for new basketball goalposts

Mr. Hopkirk was authorised to buy timber for infant room equipment which boys will make up

16th December The Toyota sewing machine purchased from Farmers was in use and going well

The hand mower was repaired at a cost of £2-15-0 which was needed for edges and corners, not done now by tractor

The children visited Masterton Art Exhibition of local paintings held in September

That a stapler be bought for use of teachers and children on subsidy

That participation in Wairarapa Schools art prints exchange scheme was discussed at length and it was moved that we do participate in same at cost of £2

The plans for children to see the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at Fraser Park Taita on her visit there 11th February As the amenities and train timetables were poor for smaller children it was agreed that school would close that day each parent to take their children if they desired

1963

11th February Picnic A circular to go home with children and big ones to take picnic list and collect from parents and others

Mr. Stoddart (Physical Ed) suggested a class set of 4 flutter boards at 6/9 each would be valuable for swimming

The teacher's purchase of these was authorised

A reading survey in this school shows good progress by all children Jack Cox (Organising Teacher) coming to give reading test to lower standards

The roll at beginning of 1963 -28

A one day excursion on Aramoana to Picton for Standards to be investigated

22nd April

9 Householders Present

G Clarke, L Keats, M Hodgins, G Buick and P Jones elected

The head teacher Mr. Hopkirk wished to have recorded his thanks for Committee's assistance in past 2 years

That a vote of thanks be given to retiring Chairman A Williams

Mr. Hodgins, Chairman, L Keats Secretary

Mr. Hopkirk requested we use Music festival money this year towards the purchase of some chime bars at 14/- each

Levelling of ground at side of school was discussed. To do it at early date with tractors

16th July A letter from NZEI asking for funds for improvements to headquarters (Old West Side School in Victoria Street) That 10/- be forwarded

Messrs Clark and Hodgins offered Kowhai Trees for Arbour Day

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Hopkirk on his interest in the school library and the way that it was being run by children

24th September That the Board will supply a new incinerator

That the Education Board had subsidised the pupils Picton Trip by £11-15-0

That this money be put in a social fund and be used for a future trip

A lengthy discussion took place on the transport of pupils into town for various activities After hearing quotes from 2 bus companies it was moved that we engage Maxwell's Bus to transport the children

and that the cost be 1/6d per head with a maximum of 6/- per family per trip

4th November That pupils to not take part in group agriculture day

Mr. Hopkirk then told the Committee of the Education Department action in halving the number of Physical Education specialists. This could have quite an effect on rural schools

3rd December School concert arrangements are well in hand

1964

20th February That the Committee purchase ½ dozen cups and saucers for staffroom

That the tentative plans have been made for the school children to go and see over a tanker and perhaps installations

It was decided to hold the school picnic on Friday 28th February

Roll 28

5th May That Mr. Hopkirk be reimbursed £4-15-0 for out of pocket expenses

That we purchase set of Learn at Home dictionaries

That we contribute a further £2 to the art print scheme

13th August That we purchase a further 8 chime bars and that the money be taken from the school bonus account

5th November At this stage a lengthy discussion took place regarding a school bus, finally it was moved that the Committee apply to the Department for a bus

1965

1st February School re-opened today (Teachers Only day. Both teachers are new My appointment as head Teacher becomes effective from today forward as does that of my assistant Mrs Walmsley Mr. I J Davidson

Mr. R Hopkirk was the previous head teacher and was in the position for approximately five years. Mrs Henderson was the assistant Mistress

2nd February Roll 28 20 children in senior room and 8 in Junior class Baths were organised so as to be ready for tomorrow

5th February Country Teachers Sports Association meeting in town tonight Central Committee plus representatives from each group to discuss swimming spots

6th February Last night's meeting set up a subcommittee to run the swimming sports and suggested ways of improving previous programme Sports to be run on two consecutive afternoons

8th February Sub Committee on swimming met at Opaki . Mapped out programme and made suggestions for circular

12th February School Committee last night. Salient points

- a) Approval of £6 Junior School reading books
- b) Approved approval of Flomaster Felt Pen
- c) Setting up a school class fund
- d) Talked about ground improvements
- e) School picnic agreed to hold school picnic at Mawley Park

Mothers of the school came along in force to welcome Mrs Davidson , Mrs Walmsely and myself. Quite well attended and a most enjoyable gathering

16th February Visit from Mr. Clarke child Welfare re Aporo Twins and Mr. W Farland Organising teacher

16th February The Chairman reported progress regarding a school bus and it was resolved by the Committee to carry on with the intention of getting a bus

That the Committee dispense with gifts at the forthcoming picnic

That the picnic be held at Mawley Park

Mr. Davidson reported on roll and staffing

Roll 28

18th February First newsletter to parents sent out today

23rd February Inter School Swimming Sports in town memorial Baths Opaki did exceptionally well this year wining many sprint races- championship events and the interschool relay

25th March School Picnic at Mawley Park tomorrow. Children collected today for Picnic. Approximately £19.00 collected in a house to house collection

27th March The Picnic was a real success with children, parents and teachers mixing- playing games and eating together (a real getting to know each day)

1st March Mr. L Doyle Traffic Instructor at school today (afternoon) practical instruction in safe crossing of main road (dangerous ramp) Andrea Hodgins enrolled

After he had left school and with his permission I painted safe crossing lines on the roadway

Mr. Doyle also appointed two safety wardens, issued badges of office and inspected cycles

8th March School swimming sports held this afternoon at the Opaki Memorial Pool. Small attendance of parents. Informal afternoon-novelty events etc.

Maunsell Honour Board Winners Boys G Colquhoun and D Clarke. Girls P Jones

9th – 12th March Head Teacher absent at an inservice training course on Phys Ed

Main aim was to make us more familiar with the new Phys Ed handbook

Advisers present J Mataira and Barry Church

Mrs Clarke relieved for me at school

12th March Visit to Senior classroom of Mr. Evans, Welsh Shearer here for Golden Shears

15th March James Babington ex Clyde Quay School admitted

20th March Head Teacher Assistant returning officer at Country Ratepayers Poll held at school today. (Poll to raise loan for new building)

23rd March Mrs Walmsley attended an afterschool course on Nature Study and Science at Central School 3.30 – 5 p.m.

26th March Mr. Griffiths at school this afternoon- district nurse. Left T B Test consent cards for issue to New Entrants

29th March Mrs Griffiths at school to give TB tests also checked Aporo twins for T B injections

Personal visit by me to Mrs Babbington re Jame's behaviour in school

30th March Power Board men at my request. Top and trim Oak Tree away from live wires

6th April Shop Day (Children's) at school today- very successful. Parents attended in quite large numbers. Children organised and ran all the stalls. Netted just under £11

13th April School Committee meeting at home tonight

[That the Head teacher arrange a suitable speaker for Anzac Day](#)

[That a working be held on various aspects of school grounds](#)

14th April Committee last night agreed to purchase materials for an exterior sandpit (12' x 8') Concrete block construction with a

concrete floor. Also agreed to purchase a half set of Multiplex Bars for the infant playground

23rd April Working Bee School Committee delivery and spreading of topsoil over hollow in the lawns

School Anzac Day Ceremony- poppies sold. Guest speaker provided by the RSA was Mr. Blumenthal (9.00 to 9.30)

27th April Miss Laywood present to test Junior Classes with the audiometer

28th April Householder's meeting held last night Six householder's present. New Committee elected Chairman M Hodgins, Secretary L Keats. Member A Buick, P Jones, R Hayland

5th April Mr. Woodley- Science Adviser visited the school this morning to drop in 1 Maximum and Minimum Thermometer, A rain gauge and some insect bottles. Gave children a lesson on the Praying Mantis

24th May School reopened today. There have been two working bees during the holidays. The new sand pit promised has been finished and filled with sand ready to use. The shed had been filled with firewood

25th May A Mrs Harper visited the school this afternoon. A representative from Encyclopaedia Britannica

26th May Fire at school yesterday. Apparently lit by a pupil. Fire was discovered before any damage was done. Reports to be sent to Education Board and School Committee

[A discussion took place on religious instruction in schools and it was resolved that no action will take place](#)

[That we purchase a half set of Multiplex bars and that the Money form the Opaki School Bonus Account be used for this purpose](#)

31st May Attended the first part to an infant number course run by Miss Lenihan at local NZEI rooms 4 – 9 p.m.

1st June Education Day for Country School teachers NZEI rooms today

A continuation of the number course begun last night by Miss Lenihan. Also attended a gymnastic course at Central School. School closed

2nd June Gymnastic Committee meeting at Central School tonight-purpose to arrange this year's competition

4th June Last night's meeting made final arrangements for local winter sports to culminate with the annual seven aside rugby and basketball tourney in town

Also made tentative arrangements for a country schools cultural evening to replace representation in Music Festival in town

7th June Queen's Birthday- School closed

12th June New shelving has been put in my room during the weekend

14th June School to attend local production of Brigadoon this afternoon

15th June Children (18 Standard 2 – 6) Decided on a venue for North Group Cultural Evening

23rd June Visit by Miss Patullo (Barnardo Homes Organiser) to arrange time to visit and talk to children

25th June Miss Patullo visited the school and spoke on the work of the Barnardo's Homes 12 Children have joined the organisation

28th June Miss Nilson- speech therapist (Masterton Central School) 9.30 -11.30 visited school for annual check (couldn't get through to

Eketahuna which was original destination because of very heavy snowfall here and further north of Mount Bruce)

8th July District Nurse at school this morning to test eyes. Tested all children in junior room and standard 6 and a few others whom I wanted a check carried out on

15th July Gymnastic meeting after school. Tonight School Committee meeting at the Chairman's Home

[The Secretary reported on general arrangements for a general householder's meeting concerning a secondary school bus](#)

[That this Committee strongly oppose any suggestion that Opaki Standard 5 and 6 attend intermediate school](#)

[That the Committee approve a trip for older pupils to Christchurch on condition that the cost per child does not exceed £1-15-0](#)

16th July Committee approved in principal the visit of the senior school class to Christchurch Approved order and purchase of coal and fixing of radio set

Arrival today of a ½ set of multiplex bar for the Junior Playground-purchased on subsidy by the Committee.

Dr Roberts (Mrs) visited the school today to check on the buildings and grounds for the Health Department. Congratulated us on our clean and tidy schools

20th July Children Standard 1 – Form II in town for afternoon of Rugby and Basketball- All Masterton North Group Together purpose to select graded ability teams for Seven aside Tourney on

3rd August
28th July Local group here for sports practice Visit of the Indian and Fijian dancing troupe

40 Minute performance to Opaki, Mikimiki and Rangitumau Schools Talented performers and children enjoyed it very much

30th July Absent in town afternoon for local gymnastic competition

20th August Note Lawns haven't been cut by mower man at all this term

6th September Roll 31

17th September Cultural Festival rehearsal St John's Hall Massed school- practised community songs and movement onto stage etc.

22nd September Opaki Mothers Cake stall held in town today early everybody has got behind this £16-16-9 raised for trip to Christchurch

Opaki School went to St John's hall for private practice if item this afternoon

Mrs H Davidson and Mrs Welch present to assist

Mr. Farland Rural Adviser at school and borrowed our school scheme today

Children and myself delivered pine cone orders in town £5-3-9

Meeting of Rangitumau householders Amalgamation on Opaki

23rd September The Secretary reported on arrangements for the fund raising day

The chairman reported on a meeting held at Rangitumau school concerning the possible closing of the school and the likely consolidation of the Rangitumau school in Opaki. General discussion followed on various aspects of the situation

It was resolved that in view of the efforts of the pupils, the Committee would underwrite the trip to Christchurch

Roll 33 Predicted drop of 8 at end of year

24th September Amalgamation was the main topic of last night Committee meeting and a full and comprehensive report was given on the meeting at Rangitumau by our chairman

Arrangements were finalised for the fund raising effort (Shearing) to be held Saturday and Sunday

25th September Last night's show was well received by the 350 or so adults present. It involved approximately 150 children and the programme totalled two hours and shearing today

26th September Finished shearing this morning- will nett about £33-0-0 for School Committee funds (Sunday Opaki Tennis Club's opening day today)

28th September Visit from Mr. Frethey Child Welfare Officer re Terry Aporo taking sum of money from my car. Matter settled to everyone's satisfaction

30th September Mr. Blake here to mow lawns second time this term but he didn't come out at all during 2nd term

7th October Mr. Hedley Board Maintenance Officer delivered two new blankets and pillow for use with sick children in our staffroom

9th October County Elections held at school today

11th October Mrs Davidson began relieving today in Mrs Walmsley's room (Sudden death of Mrs Walmsley's mother)

14th October Opaki Country Teacher's Group met here today with their children for trial and organisational run through of Standard's Athletics Sports Meeting – approximately 150 children including infants present- highly successful afternoon

Miss Dodson – School milk board here to check milk was being delivered correctly etc.

15th October Last night's meeting held here discussed the sports afternoon, the cultural evening and School House Rents.

18th October A sub Committee set up the other night by our Country Teacher's Group meets tonight here to bring down proposals for action on School House Rents

19th October Special NZEI meeting in town to Discuss School House Rents

25th October Labour Day holiday- group of teachers from our group to Memorial Park to mark out grounds for Tomorrows Athletic Sports

26th October Standard athletic meeting at Memorial Park

27th October Large crowd of parents and friends. 700 children taking part in all day athletic meet A good day all round as blessed with fine weather

3rd November We leave (Standard 2-6) with 10 children from Mikimiki for an educational tour tomorrow

Tour takes in Lunch at Island Bay and seashore science trip- visit to Broadcasting House- tea- Overnight trip to Christchurch on Hinemoa

Visit to Glassworks, Railway Station, Museum- Cathedral, American deep Freeze HQ, Harewood Airport- site of first house in Canterbury- drive over Cashmere Hills Tea and return to Inter Island Ferry

We will arrive back here late on Friday morning. Primers to Standard 1 School as usual

5th November Arrived back today after an a- interesting but exhausting two days and nights- Children behaved splendidly and were a credit to their teachers, parents and district

8th November School agricultural day Reasonable and representational crowd here – stock entries up on last year but inside entries down- reason trip and foul weather over weekend

9th November Town Group Agricultural Day- nobody from here went this year

11th November Three Colombo plan students from Sabah (Malaysia) to be here today. To be billeted with farmers in district

15th November Absent in morning for Diploma of teaching Exam

17th November Absent in afternoon for Diploma of teaching Exam

23rd November Mr. Hardie and M Savage presented a puppet show for children. Children from Matahiwi, Mikimiki and Kopuaranga schools also attended

24th November Mr. Brown Board Psychologist present for the morning in answer to a request

1st December Mrs Walmsley's last day as assistant teacher her for this year- she has leave until the end of the year as her father is very ill

[2nd December The Secretary reported on the shearing day which netted £32](#)

3rd December Last Night's School Committee meeting mainly concerned with end of year show

10th December End of year reports issued to Children today

15th December Last night's show of 1 ¼ hours duration was much appreciated by a very large crowd of parents and friends who attended The accent was on variety and items included choir, gymnastics, dance and musical items

Two visitors of special interest were Mr. Frethey (Local Welfare Officer) and his wife

1966

28th January South and West Boundary Fences repaired by contractors over holidays

1st February Teacher's only day held Our new assistant mistress Mrs Rowley Placed appointee (Mrs Walmsely has left both she and her husband to teach in Taranaki Board)

2nd February Roll 34 Includes 7 new pupils who previously attended Rangitumau School and one new

8th February Three inspectors at school this afternoon. Wanted a clear picture of just what was happening between Rangitumau and Opaki Schools

10th February School Committee meeting tonight Main item is discussion on picnic

- a) Venue changed from Mawley Park to Castlepoint
- b) No district collection
- c) Lunch- each person took enough for their own family
- d) Bus to be hired

Teacher delivered proposed list of major purchases for the year. These included possible purchase of SRA equipment (*An independent reading scheme, very popular and successful*) and Gymnastic Mat and Beat Board

Nurse Wenn (District Nurse) Routine visit _ Jennifer Walker to go to the Health Camp

Venue for next year's picnic Castlepoint that each family bring their own lunch but all eat together

23rd February Yesterday's picnic at Castlepoint was an unqualified success. It was attended by a large number of parents and friends.

Our chartered bus was filled and proved a popular method of transport

Everybody joined in the games- inspected the lighthouse and swam 25th February Education Day. Children a holiday s school closed. A worthwhile day at the Intermediate School

3rd March Our afternoon at the Interschool Country Swimming Sports. Opaki again did very well taking Senior and Intermediate Boys championships

8th February A class from Epuni School visited our school today. This has been arranged on a return trip basis

They were guests of our Junior School who will journey to Wellington next Tuesday

Arrived 9,30 Walked to Mr. Hodgins's Sheep farm where they stayed till 12.00

The afternoon was spent at school where among the activities a group of senior class children spoke about themselves and their family

After school they went for a swim and then were taken by bus to Mr. Stuart's Town Supply farm. They returned to town at 5.30 and left on the 5.50 railcar for Wellington

9th February Householder's meeting at Rangitumau School tonight to decide fate of school Indirectly effects us as if this happens we could get more children here and possibly a school bus

10th March Quite a large party of the children from the school will go to Memorial pool tonight to represent the north Country Group of School at the new interschool swimming sports

11th February Visit New Entrants T B Testing new entrants

15th February Junior Classrooms return trip to Eponi School (The present Standard 2 included) Visited School, museum, cable car Fire Station in Wellington Arrived back at Masterton at 5.30 All thoroughly enjoyed themselves and according to Mrs Rowley were well behaved and a credit to their school

17th February Opaki School Swimming Sports

29th March Attended an after school Art Course in town. This course run in preparation for Arts Week

2nd April Annual Cross Country Harrier Race . One team finished 8th in field of 16

13th April 3 Babbington Children moved to town

18th April Visit of Mr. Roly Hazelwood school photographer 9.00 to 10.00 Class, School and individual photos

19th April Local meeting at Wellington Education Board Every member of our School Committee in attendance plus myself

20th April Visit by Education Board member and some staff to Opaki School All School Committee members present

22nd April Short informal ceremony and raising of flag held at school today in honour of ANZAC. Poppy Day also Speaker Mr. Burns- District Engineer in Post Office

26th April Worth noting as this was one of the few schools open in the Wairarapa today Most others closed for Queen Mother's Visit to Wellington

Our School Committee requested that our school remain open as they could see little point inclosing it as only one child was going to Wellington to see the Queen Mother

28th April Letter of resignation from Mrs Rowley Infant Teacher received with regret

It was decided to hold a working bee to get firewood for the school.

Roll 29 New teacher Mrs McFarlane will bring 4 children with her

29th April At last night's meeting I showed the School Committee a Reading Laboratory SRA. Much interest exhibited possible purchase for 1966. Okayed purchase of Mat and Beat Board for Gymnastics-Working Bee for firewood arranged for first Saturday of Holidays

5th April Mower Man today

6th April Last night's meeting which was reasonably well attended decided to hold another Cultural Evening similar to last year- Mr. Farr Headmaster Wainuioru spoke on Italic Writing. School closed today. Mrs Rowley's last day- a presentation to her by the children,

16th May Rangitumau school a letter from Board stating that no further action re Rangitumau School would be taken

The Committee sponsor a shop day for school funds

22nd May School Committee working bee- holiday- Provision Firewood

23rd May Roll 30

Mrs Macfarlane the new assistant teacher began her duties

Miss Donney a visitor from Queensland spoke to the children and showed slides

13th June District Nurse and Dr Roberts present (Late morning)

Purpose to check a possible positive reaction to T B injections

17th June Major decision at last night School Committee meeting

To hold a shop day to raise funds

Book YMCA for 20th July Advertising in Times Age

20th June Party of children from Senior rooms went to see Showboat (16 children) local production children enjoyed it

22nd June PE course at NZEI Gymnastics 8 teachers at 2 day course

27th June Survey Week at school
6th July Third sports afternoon
7th July Group meeting (Teachers) at Fernridge School tonight- Spelling- the teaching of- to be item under discussion
12th July Meeting of Central Sports Committee at Te Ore Ore tonight. Business preliminary discussion on rugby and basketball 7 aside
18th July Afternoon at Memorial Park and St Pats- North group School- trials for composite teams to compete in 7 aside tourney
19th – 21st July In Service Art Course NZEI rooms. Mrs MacFarlane to attend. Arrival of P E Gear, Mat and Beat board bought by School Committee
20th July School Committee shop day fund raising held at local YMCA morning only
Senior children assisted by selling raffles and assistance at various stalls. Profit of £63-0-0 to delight of School Committee
Visit of Mr. Wallis new Wellington Education Board Maintenance officer
21st July Majority of Library Grant purchases arrived today (approximately £20 worth). Both large tumbling mat and beat board now here
27th July Afternoon annual 7 aside tournament Standard 1-6. Infants half day only
Successful tournament with all divisions playing at least four games in the afternoon
29th July Took Standard 4- 6 to visit gymnastic competition in Masterton this morning. They also spent some time in the static art

display. This has been open to the public in the last three days and all our children's work has been displayed (Issued half year reports)
2nd July Party of 14 children attended rugby match Lions V Wairarapa – Bush. Children well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the match School remained open under Mrs Macfarlane till 3 pm
3rd August School Committee meeting tonight Business, wind up of shop day. Decided to make this an annual fundraiser
Sanctioned purchase of new SRA reading laboratory.
[That the Committee purchase a S R A reading laboratory](#)
16th August Blocked septic tanks
17th August Further to yesterday Mr. Verwood Health Inspector arrived- Decision to dig a new pit
Mr. Keith Woodley Science Adviser present at school from 9.00- 1.00 spoke to children about energy and worked with two experiments with them
Junior room held a most successful parents afternoon specifically directed towards fathers. Very well attended
18th August Septic tank now uncovered- seen by Mr. Wallis maintenance office- Decision to effect that new soak pit not necessary. Trouble in piping of tank
19th August Miss Allan to take my place today
5th September Roll 31. Septic Tank still not fixed
7th September Mr. Pink present to fit grate to Wonderheat in junior room
Mr. Verwood (Health) to check on cleaning of septic tank
10th September Septic tank cleaned today – arrival of new SRA reading laboratory

12th September Mr. Piotrowski Plumber present today to put in “square Junction” in septic tank

Health inspector has inspected the job over the weekend

15th September Health Inspector has taken a water sample from the school and house supply for lab testing

15th September Opaki Tennis Club. Annual meeting tonight in the school

16th September Cultural Show rehearsal in town this afternoon

17th September Roll now 33

19th September Ihuraua school and Mr. Keen here for an additional practice for Cultural Festival (Afternoon)

21st September Mrs Mollie Welch at school, Mr. Keen took rehearsal of music of music for cultural festival. Mrs Welch to substitute as pianist for Mrs Stringfellow

22nd September Mr. Banks Traffic Instructor present at school (1.30-3.00) Demonstrated use of microwave speed detector- lesson to reinforce the point concerning danger (to pedestrians of Opaki School) of speeding motorists

23rd September cultural Festival night

24th September Festival a successful one- good performance by our children- many appreciative comments

29th September Discussion took place on school milk supply and decided no action would be taken

5th October Mower man at school today Mr. Blake

25th October Athletic Sports Standard’s meeting. Most successful day. 700 children taking part from 25 schools

1878	Opaki	Mathews	E	Female	£120
1879	Opaki	Mathews	E	Female	£127
1880	Opaki	Mathews	Ellen	Female	£127
1881 23	Opaki	Mathews	Ellen	Female	£127
1882 28	Opaki	Mathews	Ellen	Female	£112
1883 27	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Female	£120
1884 29	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Female	£120
1885 27	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Head Female	£120
1886 25	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Head Female	£120
1887 25	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Female	£120
1888 17	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Female	£116
1889 23	Opaki	Sait	Elizabeth	Female	£116
1890 21	Opaki	Hubbard	Charles C	Master	£155

1891	26	Opaki	Hubbard	Charles C		Master	£145
1892	34	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£116
1893	29	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£131
1894	26	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£146
1895	39	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£146
1896	31	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£123
1897	25	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£123
1898	25	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£123
1899	31	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£123
1900	35	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£123
1901	35	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£140
1902	34	Opaki	Cooper	Ethel R		Female	£140
1903	29	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£139
1904	26	Opaki	Evans	Fanny		Female	£136
1905	26	Opaki	Murray	William T	D2	Master	£132
1906	23	Opaki	Marryatt	F M	D1	Female	£144
1907	23	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£144
1908	22	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£130
1909	24	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£135
1910	28	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£140
1911	26	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£150
1912	27	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£155
1913	32	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£160
1914	28	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£170
1915	25	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	D1	Female	£180
1917	22	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	Sole	D-69	£180

1919	24	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	Sole D-68	£260
1921	23	Opaki	Marryatt	Florence M	Sole D	£320
1923	19	Opaki	Burden	Louisa H Mrs	Sole E-151	£263