

Rongokokako

Yet to be edited

1899 and 1900 See Parkville notes above

1901-1982 7 Kilometres West of Eketahuna

Note: There are two commonly used spelling for this Name Rongokoka~~h~~o and Rongokoka~~k~~o.

As the Topo map I use for place names spells it with a k at the second to last letter I have used this for all spellings[A Researcher's Nightmare]

In 1913-1915 The fact the school had a residence for the teacher was recorded

1901

1901	28	Rongokoako	Oxley	Jessie		Female	£110	\$18,570
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30th May 1901 The Board agreed to take over the Rongokoako (Parkville) aided school.

31st October 1901 At its meeting yesterday afternoon the Education Board authorised an exchange of land for a school site at Mangahao-; accepted the resignation of Miss C. M. Weston, assistant teacher at Mitchelltown as from the end of the year ; granted the temporary use of the school at Kakariki as a Post Office; agreed to .purchase two acres as a site for a school at Rongokokako, as well as' a site for a teachers' residence

1902-1904

1902	31	Rongokoako	Oxley	Jessie		Female	£128	\$21,103
1903	27	Rongokoako	Oxley	Jessie		Female	£136	\$22,534
1904	26	Rongokoako	Oxley	Jessie		Female	£124	\$20,550

27th March 1902 The Education Department wrote stating that a grant of £300 was available for the erection of a new school at Rongokokako, just beyond Eketahuna. The Board decided to take the necessary steps for proceeding with the erection of the school

16th May 1902 The Rongokokako householders elected Messrs J. Hare (chairman), J. Farrow, W. Elliott, B. Morris and C. Charles as members of the School Committee. A teacher's residence is proposed to be erected as soon as a site is acquired

26th May 1902 The following is Mr Bakewell's report on the Kongokokako [Sic] school: On roll 37 present 36, presented for standard examination 20, passed 20. Miss Oxley has done a very satisfactory year's work, writing is especially commended. Drawing, very good; science, object lessons, needlework, and instruction of class, good. It is to be hoped that no time will be lost in the erection of the new school, as the present building is crowded to excess. (Signed) F. H. Bakewell.

The following are the passes:—w, Standard V.—Thomas Edwards, Violet Bennett, Telinas Edwards. III.—Petronilla Halfyard, James Amos, Albert Edmonds, Lily Edwards, Maud Edwards. Standard II.—Bert Elliott, Frederick Amos, Herbert Hamilton, James Somersby, Alma Edwards, Elsie Edmonds, Annie Morris. Standard I. Allan Elliott, Jens Olsen, William Preston, Vera Halfyard, Maud Somersby, Passed into Standard I.—Ruby Edwards, Ivy Preston, Cecil Parsons, Henry Farrow. This school is in the heart of the dairy district, and the children are a fine healthy looking lot, such as it would be hard to pick from any town school. And to say that everyone passed is a very good reply to the Post's " little white slaves."

28th August 1902 Miss Oxley, of Rongokokako, was granted two weeks' leave of absence.

7th February 1903 A very enjoyable social was held at Rongokokako, "on Friday evening, in aid of the Piano Fund. There was a small balance owing on the piano, but the proceeds from Friday night's social has paid the debt off', and there is n balance in hand which I believe will be handed over to the Rongokokako Hall Fund. During the evening several songs and recitations were given, which were highly appreciated. Dancing was kept up till 8 a.m., everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. Music was supplied by Mr R. J. McLean, and extras by Misses Bright, Oxley, Edwards and Mrs French. Miss Oxley (piano) and Mr Hugan (violin) contributed too very nice duets. Mr T. Knight acted as M.C.

11th August 1902 Wellington Education Board Tenders are called for building a new school at Rongokokako

30th October 1902 Wellington Education Board Tenders are called for erecting a fence at Rongokoako

4th February 1903 Wellington Education Board An application was received for the erection of a teacher's residence at Rongokokako, but it was pointed out that there were no funds available for the purpose.

11th February 1903 A picnic and dance is to be held at Rongokokako on Friday week in connection with the school. Mr Hogg [Member House of Representatives] is to be present.

21st February 1903 OPENING OF A NEW SCHOOL.

A Successful Function,

Rongokokako is the Native name conferred on a promising plain, associated with the Parkville Special Settlement, about five miles eastward from Eketahuna. Some time ago Mr Edwards, one of the settlers, conveyed to the Education Board a couple of acres at the corner of his holding on the main Eketahuna-Kaiparoro-road. A small school had been established in the vicinity, but as the members increased the Education Board found it necessary to erect, on the new site, a building capable of accommodating fifty or sixty children. This has been done, the school equipped with shelter-sheds and other accessories, everything but the bell being just about completed; and, yesterday, its opening was celebrated by a picnic, distribution of prizes and social. The schoolroom which is well lined and measures 26ft by 24ft, is furnished with a piano for which the residents subscribed £45.

Outside, ladies under an awning of calico served out an abundance of tea, sweetmeats, fruit and other delicacies. The school roll contains 37 names and it is increasing rapidly. An energetic Committee of whom Mr John Hare is Chairman, and a capable teacher in Miss Jessie Oxley, are largely responsible for the progress that is being made. Mr A. W. Hogg, M.H.R., who was kindly driven to the festive scene by Mr Farrow, was asked to distribute the prizes. Mr Hare presided and introduced Mr Hogg in a most complimentary speech, in the course of which he referred to his long association with the Member for the district, who had proved himself a warm and unwavering friend of the small I settler.

Mr Hogg, in reply, paid a high tribute to the energy of the settlers, who, in a comparatively limited time, had transferred the dense bush into smiling homesteads. He made special allusion to the thrift, the courage, and the industry of the settlers' wives, to whose services the existence of so many prosperous dairy farms, and such a well-stocked school, were largely due. He regretted' that he could not speak favourably of the style of the new building, which was totally out of joint with the neat residences of the settlers; but he trusted before long

additions would require to be made, so that it could be relieved of its present unprepossessing appearance. Every child in the school received a gift or prize book. The young recipients were greeted with plenty of applause and following the distribution rounds of cheers were vociferously given for the teacher, Mr Hogg, M.H.R., the ladies, and the Committee. The afternoon was devoted to games of various kinds, races, etc., and the evening to mirth, music and dancing.

3rd June 1903 Wellington Education Board The Rongokoako committee was granted £11 14s for gravelling, etc

3rd February 1904 Opening of a New Dairy Factory In the evening a social and dance was held in the Rongokokako School-room. There was a very large attendance, quite a number being present from Eketahuna. Refreshments were provided by the ladies. Music was supplied by Mr Patterson (piano) and Mr Farmer (violin).....

27th May 1904 Wellington Education Board ho secretary (Mr G. L. Stewart) stated at yesterday's meeting of the Education Board that on inquiry he found that at last meeting an erroneous statement—less than fair to the Education Department—had been made regarding the Parkvale-Rongokokako special grants. The Board had received and expended a grant for the Rongokokako School, but a second grant for the Parkvale School was not expended. On the other hand, the expenditure of many thousands of pounds which had not been covered by special grants had been forced on the Board for the erection of schools in new districts and for additions to schools in growing districts.

1905-1912

1905	27	Rongokoako	Bradstock	L B	Lic	Master	£132	\$20,876
1906	34	Rongokoako	Bradstock	L B	Lic	Master	£144	\$22,379
1907	34	Rongokoako	Bradstock	Leonard B	Lic	Master	£160	\$25,083
1908	32	Rongokoako	Bradstock	Leonard B	Lic	Master	£152	\$23,829
1909	38	Rongokoako	Bradstock	Leonard B	Lic	Master	£156	\$24,814
1910	41	Rongokoako	Bradstock	Leonard B	Lic	Master	£171	\$26,808
1910	41	Rongokoako	Bell	Ruth A	D4	Assistant Female	£100	\$15,677
1911	50	Rongokoako	Bradstock	Leonard B	C2	Headmaster	£185	\$29,258
1911	50	Rongokoako	Bell	Ruth A	D4	Assistant Female	£105	\$16,606
1912	56	Rongokoako	Bradstock	Leonard B	C2	Headmaster	£190	\$29,138
1912	56	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Assistant Female	£100	\$15,336
1912	56	Rongokoako	Linehan	John T		Male Probationer 1	£20	\$3,067

27th May 1905 Wellington Education Board Resignation of Miss Jessie Oxley Rongokokako

1st June 1905 A very successful entertainment was held here on May 19th, on the occasion of the distribution of the special prizes won by the children attending the Rongokokako School. The programme consisted entirely of items given by the children, under the direction of the teacher, Miss Oxley The Musical Drill was very warmly applauded. Two short plays, entitled " Matrimonee" and " How the Fence was Whitewashed," caused much amusement. The action songs, " A Japanese " and " Sleep Little Ruffly Fluffy were sung very sweetly by the girls' A recitation, entitled " A Good Boy's Troubles," by Bert Elliott, was considered by many the best item on the programme. Recitations by Allan Elliott and Richard Farrow were

also well given. Two dialogues by the girls and one by the boys, and a pianoforte duet by Annie and Elsie Morriss, were all much appreciated.

During the interval the prizes were presented by Mr Hare, Chairman of Committee. The prizes for sewing and best pass had been given by Mr Jewell, and those for composition and highest marks for general excellence by Mr Elliott and Miss Oxley. Keen interest was taken in the awarding of two handsome gold medals for good conduct, presented by Mrs Thos. Parsons. These were won by Elsie Edmonds and Jens Olsen, and Mrs Parsons had had their names inscribed on the medals. After the supper (kindly provided by the ladies) games and dancing occupied the remainder of the evening. Miss Oxley was complimented on all sides, with reference to the way the children carried out their respective parts, which did credit to children and teacher alike. Miss Annie Morriss officiated at the piano and played the accompaniments during the evening.

19th June 1905 A farewell social was tendered to Miss Oxley (who is resigning her post as schoolmistress) on Friday night. There was a large attendance of settlers. Mr J. Hare, on behalf of the settlers, presented Miss Oxley with a framed illuminated address. The address was a work of art, having been executed by Mr J. J. Guest of Masterton. Miss Annie Morris also presented Miss Oxley, on behalf of the school children, with a tea set of 40 pieces. After the presentation, dances were indulged in till the small hours. Mr E. French made a capable M.C. and Mrs French kindly supplied the music. The Misses Morris also played some extras. Mr T. Parsons (the popular local baritone) sang three songs. Altogether an exceedingly pleasant evening was spent.

18th July 1905 At the social, held in the Hall on Friday in aid of the school funds, about thirty couples put in an appearance, and spent a most enjoyable time. The catering was done by the local ladies and was in the usual lavish and dainty manner. A new school teacher has been appointed in the person of Mr Leonard Bradstock, that gentleman having taken the place of Miss Oxley. The new teacher takes up his duties on the first of next month.

24th July 1905 The Chairman and members of the School Committee had a day planting trees around the school on Thursday. Altogether over one hundred cabbage trees, twenty-two pines and a walnut tree were planted. Mr L. Bradstock, who has been appointed school teacher here, takes charge on the 1st of August.

31st August 1905 Mr Bradstock [Teacher?] was appointed auditor of the local cheese factory

4th September 1905 Miss Jessie Oxley, second daughter of the late Mr Robert Oxley, of Reefton, was married at Eketahuna on Friday to Mr Adam Hughan, eldest son of Mr Alexander Hughan, of Carterton.

9th September 1905 Part of a long article on Rugby included: One enthusiastic supporter of the Martinborough team, it is said, offered a mounted deer's head, valued at £5, to the first player who crossed the opponent's line, but a Tuhirangi supporter went one better, and offered as a special inducement to his "boys" a free gift of an acre of land. The Tuhirangi's won the day, and Bradstock, a young schoolmaster, gained the land title. ' It will be surprising if the New Zealand Union fails to make searching enquiry into these circumstances.

L B Bradstock was at Pirinoa school in 1903 and 1904 and didn't for the Wellington Education Board again after leaving Rongokokako

1906/1149	Lizzie Avison	Leonard Ballard	Bradstock
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The couple only had one child registered

1908/13461	Bradstock	Marianna Avis	Lizzie	Leonard Ballard
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Deaths

1945/20373	Bradstock	Leonard Ballard	67Y
1937/26746	Bradstock	Lizzie	62Y
1988/50644	Bradstock	Marianne Avis	28 July 1908

Miss Marianne Bradstock resigned from Teaching at Caversham School in Dunedin in 1949
 21st September 1905 The Rongokoako School Committee are a very energetic body. In addition to planting the grounds with shelter trees this season, they have erected a shelter fence of galvanised iron from the school to the main road. The school-master and boys are busy making a flower-garden under the shelter of the fence. The site of the old garden is be utilised for a vegetable garden. On the afternoon that the girls are having their sewing lessons, the boys are to receive practical lessons in gardening.

6th March 1906 The Rongokokako school children were very successful at the Show held at Eketahuna last week, as the following will show. In the best collection of flowers grown by a school, both first and second prizes were obtained ; bouquet made of wild flowers, Ruby Edwards took first prize ; bouquet, button-hole, Alma Edwards second prize, and Winnie Hare highly commended ; best collection of grass heads (named), Tom Parsons first prize ; composition, Eileen Hare first and Cecil Parsons second ; penmanship, under the age of 15, Jens Olsen, first ; penmanship for school children, Elsie Morris, second ; hand sewing, Eileen Hare, first ; hemmed handkerchief, Winnie Hare, second.

As the classes were well filled, the headmaster (Mr Bradstock) should be well pleased with the practical results of his teaching.

13th December 1905 Rongokokako- Nov., 26. Dear Uncle Robert, —My father and mother take the "New Zealand Mail" every week. I often read the children's letters to you, and I thought I should like to write one to you also. I am nine years old to-day, and my father gave me five shillings for my birthday. I have three sisters and two brothers. We go to the Rongokokako school. I have a little pet lamb. Will you please give me a name for it. I am in the second standard, and my sister Eileen is in the fourth, and Earnest is in the first. I had some nice arum lilies in my garden and the heavy winds broke them down last Friday night. Your loving niece, WINNIE HARE. Though a little belated let me wish you many happy returns of your birthday Winnie, You should call your pet lamb "Avoca." You will see from the answers to the riddles published this week that you have given .three answers correctly

9th February 1906 The annual school picnic is to be hold on Thursday, February 15th. A strong committee has the arrangements well in hand. This is the event of the year here, everyone turns out, and old and young enjoy themselves. Visitors are- usually at our picnics in force. A hearty welcome will be extended to them again this year.

19th February 1906 The annual picnic was held on Thursday and was an unqualified success. There were sixty-two of the Rongokokako settlers' children in attendance, together with a large gathering of parents and friends. Every child received a prize, and an abundance of cakes, fruit, lollies, etc., was provided. There were, several events for the adult section. The married women's race was won by Mrs Adamson, with Mrs Farron a good second. The last lady also received a valuable trophy presented by McKibbin and Co. In the married men's race, Messrs A. Smith and G. Edmonds tied. The ladies' nail driving competition (Wise and Knight's trophy) was won comfortably by Mrs Adamson. The success was principally due to the ladies, who all did their best to make the picnic a pleasant one. Messrs Hare and Morris were indefatigable in their efforts in getting oil' the children's races, etc. The usual dance followed and was largely attended, and as usual with Rongo. socials was very enjoyable,

17th February 1906 . The Rongokokako School Committee are making application to the Wellington .Education Board to build a school master's residence at Rongokokako.

6th March 1906 The Rongokokako school children were very successful at the Show held at Eketahuna last week, as the following will show. In the best collection of flowers grown by a school, both first and second prizes were obtained ; bouquet made of wild flowers, Ruby Edwards took first prize ; bouquet, button-hole, Alma Edwards second prize, and Winnie Hare highly commended ; best collection of grass heads (named), Tom Parsons first prize ; composition, Eileen Hare first and Cecil Parsons second ; penmanship, under the age of 15, Jens Olsen, first ; penmanship for school children, Elsie Morris, second ; hand sewing, Eileen Hare, first ; hemmed handkerchief, Winnie Hare, second. As the classes were well filled, the headmaster (Mr Bradstock) should be well pleased with the practical results of his teaching.

8th March 1906 The local teacher is working wonders at the school garden. The flowers are looking very nice. The children are also taking a great interest in the practical course of instruction

26th March 1906 At a meeting of the School Committee, held on Monday last, a resolution was passed congratulating the master, Mr Bradstock, on the success of his pupils at the recent Eketahuna Show.

The School was examined by Inspector Bakewell, on Thursday last, and excellent results obtained, and two children obtained certificates of proficiency and one a certificate of competency, besides which thirty four passed their standards.

28th March 1906 The Rongokokako school was examined by Inspector Bakewell on Thursday last, with very satisfactory results.

Standard VI— Bert Elliott, Elsie Edmonds (Certificates of Proficiency), Alma Edwards (Certificate of Competency).

Standard V.—Allan Elliott, Erno Olsen, Elsie Morriss, Annie Morriss.

Standard IV. —Cecil Parsons, Harry Farrow, Thomas Parsons, Ruby Edwards. Eileen Hare, Elsie Hunt.

Standard III.—Louis Edmonds, Stanley Edmonds, Richard Farrow, Allan Hunt.

Standard II.—Murray Morris, Frances Morris, Mary Parsons, Winnifred Hare, .Mary Hunt.
Standard I.—Jessie Edwards, Eric Charles, Len. Charles, Ernest Hare, Harold Nicols, Doris Hunt, Inez Hunt, Adele Farrow.

Primer I.—Ronald Joblin, Mary Leese, Leslie Edwards.

Primer II.—Elsie Priest, Constance Leese, Laughley Joblin, Florence Hare and Colin Campbell.

The schoolmaster, Mr L. Bradstock, is to be congratulated on getting every child in the school passed.

A school concert is to be arranged for about the end of April.

Mr J. Farrow has given eight books for first prizes for each class, and Messrs Morriss and Hare eight books for second prizes. Special prizes have been donated by Messrs E. French, A. Smith and L. Bradstock. The prizes will be for the most points gained at the examination and will be presented at the school concert. Prizes will also be presented for cleanliness in the school books, sewing, etc.

2nd April 1906 An Appeal by Mr Hogg,

In urging at the meeting of the Education Board, on Thursday, that a further application be made to the Minister for a residence at Rongokokako, Mr Hogg submitted that the Department could hardly be expected to realise the position of teachers in a number of the country schools. The young teachers, who were content to make a start in small schools, would, in many instances, be satisfied with their salaries, even if they only averaged £2 a week, but they had the utmost difficulty in finding board and lodgings. Dairy farmers and their families were at work early and late, and they would not be troubled, on any account, with lodgers. It was no common thing for teachers to find every door locked. To some of the young men and women that were prepared to do good service in these places the want of any kind of accommodation was an insuperable difficulty. A lean-to attached to the school, with a couple of rooms, that might be used for storage, or where the teachers could "bacherolorise," would often be a God-send. Occasionally teachers had asked him to get them permission to sleep at the school. He submitted that if well-constructed moveable huts could be provided for the men working on the railway line, the Education Department should be able to find at least equal accommodation for the country teachers. It was due to this absence of accommodation that teachers could hardly be found for certain schools. The force of Mr Hogg's remarks were exemplified when the selection of teachers took place, the vacancies in a few instances remaining unfilled because no certificated applicant could be found for them.

19th April 1906 We have had quite a crop of inspectors hero recently, Mr Cullen, Inspector of Machinery, paid his annual visit to the Choose Factory and Creamery ; Mr Burton paid a visit to the school and addressed the children on the advantages of a regular attendance and coming to school clean and tidy. The Sheep and Noxious Weed Inspectors have also paid us visits.

30th April 1906 The retiring School Committee have much pleasure in making the following regarding the progress of the school during the past year. The roll number, at the beginning of the year, was 28, this falling oft was owing to families leaving the district, but the roll number has now increased to 40, and the average attendance during the summer months, has been very satisfactory. For the month of February it was 37. Mr Bradstock, the present teacher, took charge of the school at the beginning of August last, and at once began the teaching of

agriculture, which lead up to the establishment of a flower garden in front of the school. The sum of £6 5s 9d was expended in erecting a fence to shelter the garden, £3 of which was granted by the Board, the balance being subscribed in the district. A number of ornamental trees have been presented by members of the Committee and planted by them in the grounds. An additional 400-gallon tank has been provided by the Board and erected for the use of the girls attending the school. There have been thirty pairs of clubs and poles provided for physical drill. The Committee have been for some months past endeavouring to obtain a grant for the erection of a teachers' residence and are now very hopeful of obtaining it. The receipts for the year were —Capitation, £10 9s 6d; grant from Board [Inksplot] Ss 9d ; subscribed in the district, £4 14s 10d; making the total receipts £15 13s 10d. The expenditure was £15 18s 6d, leaving a credit balance of £2 11s 5d.

The Committee very much appreciate Mr Bradstock's methods of teaching and his efforts to improve the whole tone of the school, the results of which are shown in Mr Bakewell's report of annual inspection of the school.

30th March 1906 Wellington Education Board The schools already recognised and drawing capitation for classes in agriculture are Mauriceville West, Kaiparoro, Rongokoako, Makomako.....

1st May 1906 The Education Board have decided to erect a residence at Rongokokako for the schoolmaster.

9th May 1906 A conceit was held in the Rongokokako Hall, on Friday last, in connection with the distribution of the prizes to the school children. The first part- of the concert was given by the children, who acquitted themselves very creditably, winning rounds of applause for their excellent rendering of the various items. Mr John Hare (chairman of the School Committee), during the interval, presented the prizes to the winners, and also the prizes won by Rongokokako children at the Farmers' Union Show held at Eketahuna recently.

The takings at the door amounted to £3, which will be devoted to promoting the technical education of the scholars in the agricultural and chemistry branches.

22nd May 1906 Newman On Friday evening a farewell social was tendered by the residents of the district to Miss Avison. During the evening Mr Calton, Chairman of the Newman School Committee, presented Miss Avison, ' on behalf of the settlers, with a solid silver cruet. In making the presentation Mr Calton referred to Miss Avison's many sterling qualities. Mr Bradstock, headmaster of the Rongokokako School, replied on behalf of Miss Avison. Mr Anderson, head teacher of the Newman School also paid a tribute to Miss Avison's capabilities as a teacher. Songs were sung by Miss Avison and Messrs Bradstock, Calton, and Loudon. A number of selections Were played by an orchestra composed of Miss Avison (piano), Mr Calton (flute), and Master Calton (violin). Dancing was kept up till an early hour in the morning, the music being supplied by Mr Ogden. Mr T., P. Keam was. M.C. Refreshments were provided by the ladies..

11th June 1906 Last Monday the Rongokokako school boys presented Mr L. Bradstock (who is about to be married) with a silver-plated butter-dish, and on Friday the girls presented him with a cheese-dish.

30th June 1906 The local school is closed for a fortnight, owing to the schoolmaster having gone away to get married.

22nd August 1906 The School Committee are having a good bit of fencing done around the school grounds, which will greatly improve the appearance of the school site

28th September 1906 Wellington Education Board Rongokokako, the stumping, draining, and fencing of the new section proceed, the site for the residence to be determined later

2nd November 1906 The contractors for clearing, stumping and fencing the site for the school-master's house have finished. We hope to see the house up soon. The number of children on the roll at the school now numbers forty.

30th November 1906 The members of the School Committee held a working bee, last week, on the school grounds, and finished clearing the section. This is a great improvement, and reflects much credit on the Committee for the energy and the time they have devoted in making the school ground a picture of neatness from a log-bestrewn paddock.

1st February 1907 It was decided to proceed with the erection of the Rongokokako residence on the site purchased from Mr Hare.

23rd February 1907 The annual picnic of the Rongoikokako [Sic] School was held yesterday in splendid weather and was a decided success. Various races were run off, and games indulged in during the -afternoon. Mr Bradstock, the Schoolmaster, presented Mrs T. Parsons' gold medal for the best behaved and most diligent scholar, to Miss M. Hunt. Mr J. Hare -was the recipient of a handsome case of pipes from the members of>the School Committee in recognition of the good work he had done on that body. During the afternoon the Eketahuna Mounted' Rifles' Brass Band contributed a programme of music, which was highly appreciated.

14th March 1907 he local school has taken seventeen first prizes, fifteen second, five very highly commended, and four highly commended at the various Shows this year, for which congratulations are due to the teacher, Mr Bradstock.

3rd April 1907 All the timber is on the ground for the school-master's residence, for which Mr Mead was the successful tenderer.

24th April 1907 Writes our Rongokoako correspondent —A scare was occasioned here on Monday when a little girl, a daughter of Mr F. Lease went to fetch the cows in, and upon her not returning, the parents instituted a search without finding the child. The news soon flew round the settlement and all Rongokokako turned up and searched the country until midnight, when the child turned up at home. It appears she fell asleep by a log, and on waking up, toddled off home. Great pleasure was felt at such a happy ending to what at one time looked like a serious calamity.

24th April 1907 School Committee RONGOKOKAKO, Messrs Hare, Parsons, senr., Parsons, jnr., Joblin, Charles, Dew, Hastie. Mr Hare was elected Chairman.

1st July 1907 An innovation in educational methods has been decided upon in connection with the Teachers' Training College at Thorndon by the organising of a winter School for teachers from small schools in outlying ' country districts. The Steven Education Boards in what is known as the Middle District were invited by thee Committee of Advice to nominate teachers for the three weeks' course of the Winter School, beginning on the 23rd inst. It was stipulated that the teachers chosen should be the most deserving, and those who were least likely to come into contact with city methods. Participants included Mr. L. Bradstock, Rongokokako;

UPTO 1908 K

23rd January 1908 Eketahuna Mounted Rifles, under the command of Captain Page, went into camp to-day and had just got their tents erected when urgent messages were received from Rongokokako and other districts asking that help should be sent to check the bush fires raging. Captain Page immediately ordered a troop to leave for Rongokokako under command of Lieutenant Prendeville, as the position there seemed most serious. On arrival at Rongokokako, which was not reached without some little difficulty owing to the dense volumes of smoke almost blinding the men, it was found that the schoolhouse and the house of Mr Bradstock were in great danger. The men, however, under the leadership of Lieutenant Prendeville, immediately set to work and after about two hours dangerous and exciting work were able to pronounce both places fairly safe. The next move was to the surrounding farms, and after visiting them and offering assistance, which, fortunately, was not required, the troop turned about for camp.

24th February 1908 Leonard B Bradstock passed in one subject for Class C

9th January 1909 The following is the list of successful candidates in the Masterton district at the science and art examinations of the Board of Education (South Kensington), that were held in June last:— Painting Ornament—George Irvine, second class pass. Freehand Drawing, second class passes—Edythe G. Waddington, Eveline McCormack, Nellie Frost, Maude A. Wagg, Leonard B. Bradstock.

12th January 1909 The school garden is looking very well this year, and credit is due to the headmaster (Mr Bradstock) for the trouble he has taken to keep the children interested in the work. A feature is eighteen experimental plots of grasses which contain some new varieties to the district, and which should prove very valuable to farmers as well as scholars. The vegetable and flower garden are also manured in a systematic manner. The plot was found to be too small, and a further plot has been laid out behind the school for potatoes, four varieties having been planted with various kinds of manures. Word has been received that the schoolmaster (Mr Bradstock) has obtained a pass in freehand drawing in the science and art examination held in June last by the Board of Education, South Kensington.

22nd February 1909 Passed in 2 subjects L S Bradstock Teachers' examinations

10th March 1909 Mr L Bradstock appointed to the Hutt school as assistant master

13th March 1909 Mr L. B. Bradstock, our popular headmaster, has been appointed assistant teacher at the Hutt. The School Committee are stamping and ploughing nearly an acre of ground to provide a football ground for the boys

20th March 1909 The average attendance at the school is now 41. The prizes won by the school since Mr Bradstock has been teacher are as follows :—34 firsts, 24 seconds and 5 v.h.c. ; 3 certificates of merit, first for best garden plot at schools in Masterton electorate; second for best garden plot. These prizes include firsts at Palmerston and Eketahuna for penmanship, composition, mapping and sowing, and firsts at Eketahuna for collection of vegetables and flowers.

21st September 1909 Mr Bradstock headmaster of Rongokokako school, intends to deal more extensively this season at the school with technical agriculture.

16th December 1909 The garden at the school is looking very well this year. The teacher, Mr Bradstock, and scholars are making a big effort to win the A. and P. Society's shield for the best kept school garden.

17th December 1909 Eketahuna meeting on forming a boy Scouts group included the committee A committee comprising Messrs Bradstock (Rongokokako), Anderson (Newman), Pendray, Dempsey and Dr Jamieson(Eketahuna), with power to add to their number, was appointed to consider ways and means of furthering the movement.

7th January 1910 The successful candidates at the examinations on the Board of Education (South Kensington), held at Masterton in June last are as follows: —Building construction and drawing: John A. Duffill, first-class pass (stage I.). Human physiology: Leonard B, Bradstock, second-class pass (stage II.).

29th January 1910 The annual school picnic was held on Thursday and was characteristically successful, the secretary (Mr B. Morriss) and the School Committee doing all in their power to make the gathering enjoyable. The Kaiparoro Band played a number of selections during the afternoon, which were much appreciated. Refreshments were provided in abundance in the schoolroom, thanks to Mesdames Morriss, Farrow, Edmonds, Hare and Elliot. In the evening a dance was held in the Hall, which was about packed, and much fun naturally resulted. Music was provided by Mrs Edmonds, Miss Annie Morriss and Mr Daysh. Messrs Graham Bros contributed a number of popular songs during the evening. Following are the results of the competitions held at the picnic :—

Boys' Races—Under fourteen: D. Ryan 1, E. Ryan 2. Over nine: L. Pritchard 1, J. Henderson 2. Over thirteen: M. Morriss 1, A. Caseley 2. Over twelve: H. Nicols 1, V. Caseley 2. Over eleven : E. Hare 1. W. Caseley 2. Over ten: A. Edmonds 1, L. Pritchard 2; J. Henderson 1. R. Caseley 2. Boys' Boot Race, over nine: P. Nicols 1, M. Morriss 2.4

Girls' Races.—Over nine : F. Morriss 1, T. Elliott 2. Over ten: Q. Priest 1. L. Henderson 2. Young Ladies': A. Hare 1, E. Morriss 2. Over thirteen, W. Hare 1, F. Morriss 2, Over twelve: M. Henderson 1, J. Henderson 2. Over eleven :E. Pritchard 1. L. Flett 2. Over ten: F. Hare 1, Q. Priest 2; E. Priest 1, V. Joblin 2. Boot Race, over nine. :D. Farron 1, F. Pritchard 2. Girls' Race, open: I. Hare 1, E. Morriss 2,

Bandsmen's Race.—Bandsman Falkner.

Cigar Race.—Mr L. Bradstock 1.

Threading the Needle. —J. Hassell 1, L. Bradstock 2.

Girls' Nail Driving.—Miss Flett 1.

Ladies' Nail Driving.—Mrs Joblin 1.

Young Men's Race.—R. Falkner 1.

Married Women's Race.—Mrs Priest 1.

Men's Race.—Mr Pritchard 1.

Two boys, J. Ryan and D. Farrow, who were unable to compete in races on account of sickness, were also awarded prizes.

4th February 1910 Masterton Technical School The Inspector-General of Schools wrote stating that John A. Driffill had passed the stage I. in the drawing examination for building construction, and drawing, and that Leonard B. Bradstock had passed stage III. in the examination in human physiology.

11th February 1910 The number of scholars on the roll is now forty-nine, and the headmaster, Mr Bradstock, has been allowed an assistant. Miss Bell, of Ohau, has been appointed to the position.

22nd February Passed in four subjects for Class C. L B Bradstock

12th November 1910 The writer understands that Mr Bradstock, the head teacher, and his assistant, Miss Bell, received some well-deserved praise in the Inspector's report

Mr Cummings visited the school on Thursday, to inspect the garden, in connection with the School Shield Competition of the A. and P. Society. The local school is sanguine of* victory. The garden is certainly a credit to the scholars and their instructors.

15th November 1910 Kaiparoro Mr Bradstock, of Rongokokako, conducted an English Church service in the Schoolroom on Sunday.

[Note there were a lot of cricket matches reported with the name Bradstock, but I have not covered them as only the surname was used and I could not be sure who was our Teacher Bradstock]

2nd February 1911 South Kensington Board examinations Agricultural Science and Rural Economy.—Stage 2, section A —Leonard B. Bradstock, second class pass.

17th February 1911 Teachers who obtained full passes in their teachers certificate examinations included Leonard Bradstock

10th April 1911 Nireaha News: The Nireaha cricketers are going to Mangatainoka next Saturday to try and win back their lost laurels. Last Saturday week Mr Bradstock brought over a number of his school boys from Rongo for a game, and a local critic seemed to think the local players were in their place for once.

1st May 1911 St Cuthbert's Church Eketahuna Committee committee, Messrs L. B. Bradstock, J. H. Berney, J. Hare, H. E. Mowbray

15th May 1911 Mauriceville West Cricket Club During the evening, the president of the Club, Mr Jas. Kennedy, presented -a. first class cricket bat (given by Mr T. Hillas) to Mr L. B. Bradstock, who secured the fine batting average of 22 runs per innings.

10th July 1911 A Hockey Association has been formed in Eketahuna, with Mr L. B. Bradstock as President.

26th July 1911 CHILDREN" ENTERTAINED. School children numbering 25 from Rongokoako School, near Eketahuna, with their headmaster, Mr. Bradstock, attended the Exhibition yesterday, and afterwards visited the steamer Aorangi, the Newtown Zoo, and His Majesty 's Pictures,

23rd October 1911 The attendance at the Rongokokako school, near Eketahuna, has increased so rapidly of late that it has been found necessary to procure outside accommodation. An urgent appeal is now being made to the Education Board for additions to the school.

Mr Ben Morriss, of Rongokoako, drove through to Masterton on Saturday, via Mount Bruce, and returned home on the same day.- The distance is about twenty-five miles, and the -road is in excellent condition. [The normal road trip was through Mauriceville]

13th April 1912 Mrs J Hughan appointed assistant at Rongokokako assistant mistress.[This is the same Jessie Hughan who as Jessie Oxley who started the school in 1898 and left when she got married

In 1910 and 1911 Mrs Hughan was teaching at Featherston, She then spent until at least 1915 at Rongokokako as by the end of 1917 she was at Mangatainoka until 1919 and then by 1921 she was back for her third stanza of duty at Rongokoako as sole teacher and she was still there in 193 when my records cease

25th May 1912 The Wellington Education Board has written to the Featherston School Committee forwarding the names of four applicants for the position of assistant mistress at

the local school, the position being vacant as the result of the transfer of Mrs Hughan to the Rongokokako school. A reply to the effect that "as only the testimonials and qualifications of one of the applicants—the one selected by the Board—had been submitted, it was impossible to judge of their merits and the committee could not make a recommendation. '

27th August 1912 Mr L. B. Bradstock, of Rongokokako, has been gazetted second lieutenant to the Territorial unattached list

1913-1915

1913	58	Rongokoako	Barnett	John	D3	Headmaster	£180	\$27,000
1913	58	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Assistant Female	£105	\$15,750
1914	55	Rongokoako	Barnett	John	D3	Headmaster	£190	\$27,202
1914	55	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Assistant Female	£115	\$16,465
1913	58	Rongokoako	Barnett	John	D3	Headmaster	£180	\$27,000
1913	58	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Assistant Female	£105	\$15,750
1914	55	Rongokoako	Barnett	John	D3	Headmaster	£190	\$27,202
1914	55	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Assistant Female	£115	\$16,465
1915	39	Rongokoako	Barnett	John	D2	Headmaster	£200	\$26,790
1915	39	Rongokoako	Stephens	E J		Assistant Female	£110	\$14,735
1915	39	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E1	Leave of Absence		

22nd January 1913 The following successful Wairarapa candidates at the recent junior scholarships examination have been recommended for either Junior National or Junior Board scholarships :—Schools with an average attendance up to 200: Constance Nilson and Joseph Fowler ; Eketahuna : Harry Stevens, Scarborough; Walter J. Scott, Taueru ; William Henderson, Rongokokako. (The first two named are recommended for National Scholarships, and the others for Board Scholarships).

29th January 1913 Transfer to Eketahuna from Rongokokako John T Linehan

28th March 1913 Mr and Mrs L. B. Bradstock have been appointed master and matron of the Stoke Boys' Industrial School. 'Mr Bradstock is at present master at Rongokoako school, near Eketahuna

12th April 1913 Mr and Mrs L. B. Bradstock, of Rongokokako, who have been appointed master and matron of the Stoke Orphanage, were on Thursday night entertained by the settlers of Rongokokako district and presented' with a purse of sovereigns.

14th April 1913 Miss McColl is acting as teacher in charge of the Rongokokako school until a successor to Mr Bradstock is appointed. Rita McColl Taught at South Wellington from 1907 to 1911 and then at Hinemoa in 1915 and at Roseneath in 1917 for the Wellington Education Board

30th April 1913 Wellington Education Board accepts Mr Bradstock's resignation

13th May 1913 Wellington Education Board appointment Mr J. Barnett (Mauriceville), head teacher, Rongokokako ;

28th May 1913 Misses McColl, who has been relieving teacher at the Rongokokako School, was entertained by the settlers last week. Mr J. Barnet, the newly appointed teacher, will take up his duties next week.

21st July 1913 The children of Rongokokako school celebrated Arbor Day by planting native and ornamental "presented by the Committee and friends.

21st January 1914 Francis H Linehan won a free place in senior Secondary School examinations

25th February 1914 Wellington Education Board Drain renewal as recommended

4th March 1914 The Rongokokako school has been awarded the Challenge Shield in connection with the Eketahuna Farmers' Union Show for the best kept garden. The judge was Mr Cummins, of Masterton, agricultural instructor to the Education Board.

29th April 1914 Wellington Education Board Rongokokako, renewal of fencing, £17 10s;

11th May 1914 A very pleasant function took place on Thursday evening when the residents of Rongokokako presented Miss Morriss with a silver watch on the occasion of her coming of age. She was the first child born in the, district.

28th May 1915 The children who subscribed to the Rongokoako School donation of £ 2 10s, already acknowledged, were:—C. Hugher, ° J. Ross. M. Ross, 13. Astwood, L. Robertstein, Sigvertsen, S. Sigvertsen . E Sigvertsen, E. Elliott, W. Drysdale, M. Parsons, G. Snell, C. Farrow, L. Narby, J. [. Linehan , W. Linehan, E. Edmonds, E. Priest, E. Ryan, C. Wink, A. Hare, R. Caseley, D. Drysdale, B. Drysdale, F. Caseley, L. Archibald, J. Ericson, J. Archibald, H. Caseley, N. Caseley, I. Edmonds, J. Wink, M. Wink, C. Wink, D. Schultz, A. Hare, Girls' Hockey Club'

14th December 1915 Miss O Clifford resigns from Wellington Education Board

1917-1923

1917	41	Rongokoako	Warwick	Robert S	C-71	Head	£220	\$24,658
1917	41	Rongokoako	Wallis	Minnie F	C	Assistant	£120	\$13,450
1919	31	Rongokoako	Grant	Colin C	B	Sole	£280	\$21,682
1921	26	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E	Sole	£280	\$24,105
1923	26	Rongokoako	Hughan	Jessie Mrs	E-154	Sole	£295	\$27,113

12th February 1916 Mr K McKenzie appointed head teacher

3rd May 1916 The result of the school garden competition for the Matheson Shield was announced at the Farmers' Union meeting at Eketahuna, as follows: —.Rongomai 234 points, Rongokokako 231, Waterfalls .187. Mr Morriss reported an act of vandalism which had handicapped Rongokokako school. One evening someone had lifted the school gate off its hinges, and cows had got in and had seriously damaged the plots prior to the judging.

30th August 1916 Miss O Clifford resigns [again]

11th September 1916 Mr K. McKenzie, headmaster of the Rongokokako school, is resigning his position to take the Kowhai road school, six miles from Matawai, at the Gisborne railhead. Mr McKenzie expected to leave about the end of October, or as soon as he can be relieved.

15th December 1916 Mr R. Warwick, headmaster of the Taueru school, has been transferred to Rongokokako. Mr Warwick left on Thursday for Sydney, where he intends to spend the Christmas holidays.

Colin C Grant began teaching for the Wellington Education Board in 1908 at Brooklyn school for two years and then probably went to training college for two years before teaching

at Worsler Bay, Dyer and Rangitumau. In 1917 He was at Johnsonville and by 1921 he was at Berhampore where he was in 1923 when my records cease

6th February 1917 Miss M F Wallis appointed as assistant

6th September 1917 Miss Bright, at one time editress of the "Woodville Examiner," is at present acting as. relieving teacher at the Rongokokako school

By 1919 Minnie Wallis was at the new school at Solway primary (Opened in 1918) in Masterton where she did a great job, Came to Rongokoako from Masterton School

15th January 1918 . James Edmondson Caldwell (Masterton District High School), with 520 marks, and Edward George Snell (Rongokokako >, with 520 marks, reached the ordinary standard qualifications for the junior national scholarship at. the November examination.

14th June 1918 Temporary assistant Miss N Cameron appointed

29th January 1919 Miss N Cameron resigns

11th December 1919 Mrs J Hughan appointed sole teacher

22nd January 1920 Mrs J Hughan appointed sole teacher

There were no school comments in Papers Past for Rongokokaho or Rongokokako

Post 1923

27th May 1929 Miss M P Miles appointed Sole Teacher

19th February 1936 Cyclonic Storm damaged lots of Wellington Education Board schools and cost the Wellington Education Board £6 10 shillings to clean up

30th June 1936 Miss M P Miles Sole Teacher Rongokoako to assistant Newtown

2nd September 1936 Miss M I Ross Ngaturi to sole teacher Rongokokako

National Archives: Buildings and Sites: Rongokokako 1903 1 room 525 Square

Feet 1912 504 Square Feet added as at 1951

Residence 1907 5 rooms Bathroom, Washhouse, Scullery