

Rongomai originally Mangaone Valley

11 kilometres North East from Eketahuna going up the Mangaone Valley Road

1893		Mangaone Valley					
1894	27	Mangaone Valley	Falla	Annie	Female	£143	\$25,781
1895	28	Mangaone Valley	Falla	Annie	Female	£143	\$25,921

26th January 1893 The Inspector of Schools to visit Tawataia (Mangaone Valley) to consider the advisability of erecting- a school there, If his report is satisfactory the work will be at once proceeded with

1st April 1893 Wellington Education Board A plan of the proposed Mangaone Valley School was submitted and approved, and tenders were ordered to be called.

1st May 1893 The Financial Committee was instructed to receive tenders up to May 2nd for school buildings at Mangaone Valley

8th May 1893 tenders are called for a school out here; and very welcome it will be to some of the youngsters who now have to walk nearly five miles.[8.04 Kilometres]

14th March 1894 Miss Falla, who has been for some time in charge of the Makakahi School, has been promoted to the charge of the school at Mangaone Valley.

19th March 1894 Inspector Lee to visit Mangaone valley school on 11th April

28th March 1894 and the Chairman was deputed to deal with the request made for a new tank and some fencing at the Mangaone Valley School.

3rd December 1894 Funds for the S S Wairarapa wrecked on Great Barrier Island Mangaone School 2 shillings ad 6 pence

24th April 1895 Mangaone Valley, A. Martin (Chairman), David Pitcaithly, William Waldin, William Lawrence, Robert Nichol.

26th April 1895 Mr T R Fleming inspector to visit 30th April

1896-1900

1896	31	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	Female	£128	\$23,078
1897	36	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	Female	£143	\$25,523
1898	28	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	Female	£143	\$24,509
1899	29	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	Female	£143	\$25,387
1900	29	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	Female	£143	\$24,875

9th April 1896 Inspector Lee to visit Rongomai on the 23rd April

20th August 1896 Applications for appointments as teachers at the Rongomai, Mangamahoe and Hastwell Schools, are invited by the Secretary lo the Wellington Education Board, Mr A. Dorset.

22nd August 1896 The Education Board will, at its meeting next Wednesday, make appointments to the following schools : — Head teacher, Manukau (for which 26 applications have been sent in) ; first assistant at Thorndon (29 applicants) ; head teachers at Rongomai (eleven applicants) and Mangamahoe (eight applicants) ;

26th August 1896 Wellington Education Board accepts Miss Falla's resignation

26th August 1896 he applications for the positions of first assistant teacher at Thorndon, head teachers x Manukau, Rongomai, and Mangamahoe and assistant at Hastwell, were opened today by the Board of Education. In each case a selection was made, but the names of the selected applicants will not be made public until the committees interested have been consulted.

8th September 1896 The committees of the various schools concerned have concurred in the Education Board's selection of Mr. J. C. Webb, B.A., at present head master of the Kaiwairua School, as first assistant of the Thorndon School ; of Mr. W. Foster, at present at Paraparaumu, as head-master of the Manakau School ; of Miss McLauchlan, At present assistant at the Featherston School, to the charge of the Rongomai School;

28th October 1896 An application for a residence for the teacher at Rongomai was ordered to stand over, owing to the large number of schools which the Board is now being called upon to build.

4th March 1897 Inspector Fleming to visit on the 28th March

26th February 1900 Inspector Fleming to visit on the 28th March

1st March 1900 In a long list of teachers and their salary was M McLauchlan Rongomai over paid by £33 15s [based on roll figures]

1901-1905

1901	33	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary		Female	£117	\$19,752
1902	35	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary		Female	£138	\$22,752
1903	35	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary		Female	£140	\$23,197
1904	37	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary		Female	£140	\$23,183
1905	34	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£140	\$22,457

3rd January 1901 The social, given by Mr and Mrs Walden, of Rongomai, which took place in the school-house, on New Year's Day, passed off most enjoyably.

21st February 1901 Mr T R Fleming will inspect Rongomai on the 2nd April

27th February 1901 More about teacher's salaries M McLauchlan Present salary £143 15s £6 15s overscale

2nd May 1901 The School Committee at Rongomai having made some objection to the holiday usually given by the inspector after the customary inspection, the Board decided yesterday that such a holiday was quite in order.

27th June 1901 More about salaries women were paid less than men for the same job. Rongomai (under the charge of a lady) roll 29 Present salary including £10 house allowance £143 proposed scale £128

17th December 1902 Wellington Education Board recommended that the sum of £302 be expended in painting the following schools Kaitoke, Kaiwarra Mauriceville West, Alfredton, Kaitawa Rongomai, Mangahao, Tokomaru, Ohau' Paikakariki, Judgeford, Porirua, Mount Cook (infants') inside, Newtown (infants') inside and outside. [Just over £21 per school]

28th August 1903 ack of funds led the Board to refuse grants asked for by the Committee at Waione, Te Ore Ore, Carterton, Rongomai, and Ohariu

1906-1912

1906	33	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£160	\$24,866
1907	29	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£160	\$25,083
1908	26	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£160	\$25,083
1909	24	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£165	\$26,220
1910	19	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£170	\$26,651
1911	18	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£175	\$27,676
1912	17	Rongomai	McLauchlan	Mary	E1	Female	£180	\$27,605

30th April 1906 The annual meeting for the election of a new School Committee was held, on Monday night last, in the school-room, when a full attendance of householders showed the keen interest that is taken in the school management. In presenting the annual report and balance-sheet, the Chairman (Mr D. M. Pitcaithly) said that the householders were to be congratulated upon -the satisfactory and successful year just closed. Successful, not only financially, as the balance-sheet showed, but also educationally. The attendance had been maintained throughout the year at the usual average, and the high percentage of 99 per cent of the children who passed the recent examination was highly satisfactory, and it reflected great credit upon Miss McLachlan the school mistress, for producing such a high standard of proficiency. The balance-sheet showed cash receipts, including balance over from previous year, to be £32 3s Id. Out of this was expended, in various improvements! to the school and ground, the sum of £24 15s 8d, leaving a balance of cash in hand of £7 7s 5d The election of a new committee was then proceeded with, and out of eleven nominations, the following were elected:— Messrs W. B. Matheson, P. Lozed, W. Walden, J. Fafeita, J. Martin, W. Nagel and D. M. Pitcaithly, who was also re-elected chairman for the sixth time in succession. It was decided at the meeting to drain off the surface water from the school grounds and to erect a 6 foot fence around the boys' garden, to metal the pathways, and also to improve the main entrance to the school. The local authorities should give immediate attention to that primitive structure that acts as a footbridge over Matheson's Creek on the main Valley Road. As this is crossed daily by the children attending school, there is the risk that one of them may fall into the water beneath it. The danger should be promptly removed, which could be done at a very small cost by erecting a more suitable and safer bridge.

18th May 1906 It would seem that an energetic School Committee ha? been elected for Rongomai. Tenders were culled the other day, and Mr W. Evans secured the contract of laying about 400 tile drain pipes in the school ground. Besides this the school garden has been dug, and the agricultural class will 1 expect, be in full swing shortly.

29th June 1906 Wellington Education Rongomai, ground improvements, half cost;

17th January 1907 School Committee Association meeting in Masterton In regard to the Rongomai school, the Committee wrote stating that they would act upon the Association's suggestion and apply for a sewing mistress. [In many schools the boys did agricultural studies [Gardening often] while the girls had sewing lessons]

25th January 1908 Miss Cora Davie, daughter of .Mr J. Davie, of Rongomai, has passed her Matriculation examination for which she sat at Christchurch in December last.

25th January 1908 Annie D Matheson from Rongomai topped the Scholarship Examinations for pupils of Sole Charge Schools in the Wellington Education Board area

10th February 1908 Master J. F. Davie, son of Mr J. M. Davie, of Rongomai, who is a pupil at the Wanganui College, has won a scholarship valued at £40.

14th March 1908 lad named Matthew Sullivan, a three quarter caste, who was wanted by the Industrial School authorities, was arrested at Hamua yesterday afternoon on a charge of breaking and entering the school mistress's residence at Rongomai. The accused will be brought before the Justices to-day, and will, probably be remanded.

17th March 1908 Matthew Sullivan,, seventeen years of age who' had escaped from the Industrial Farm at Weraroa [Levin] was to-day before Mr James, SM., and pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking, entering, and theft of a cheque for £13, and also of some silver from-the school-mistress's residence at Rongomai on Friday. He was .committed to the Supreme Court for sentence

26th June 1908 Tane and Rongomai Schools:—A suggestion from the Board's inspectors that the schools at Tane and Rongomai be amalgamated was referred to the committee of each school for a report.

30th October 1908 Leave of absence has been granted by the Wellington Education Board to Miss McLauchlan extended leave two weeks from November 1st

24th December 1908 C N Clayton Eketahuna awarded a contract for miscellaneous work etc

28th April 1909 School Committee Rongomai. D M. Pitcaithly (chairman and secretary), W. R. Waldin, W. B. Matheson, F. Evans, W. Aitken J. Fafeita , and W Sykes

27th August 1909 Wellington Education Board Have cost of a saddle shed at Rongomai

20th October 1909 Mr. and Mrs. D. Pitcaithly, who have been residents of Taiwaitai for a number of years, and who are leaving shortly for Hawke's Bay, are to be tendered a farewell social in the Rongomai Schoolhouse on Friday evening.

3rd October 1909 Mr. D Pitcaithly a sheep farmer of Rongomai, is about to leave the district to take up a farm at Ongaonga. He is very popular settler ; and- old resident of Rongomai, where he is chairman of the School Committee and a :valued member of the County 'Council. The county. Chairman Mr Moss, states that Mr Pitcaithly-has been one of his mainstays on the council and- his .departure will be severely felt in the district. The Rongomai people gave him a hearty send-off .last evening. His -brother will continue to work the Rongomai farm

25th October 1909 Mr F. B. Lowes has been elected chairman of the Rongomai School Committee, vice Mr D. Pitcaithly, resigned.

25th October 1909 At the Rongomai Schoolhouse on Friday Mr and .Mrs D. M. Pitcaithly who have resided in the district for twenty years, and who are leaving for Waipawa were entertained by local residents and made a handsome presentation Mr J P Lowes who presided, likened MR Pitcaithly to the flagstaff he had been instrumental in having erected-tall , tough and composed of the best material. By the departure of their guests, he said, the district was sustaining an irreparable loss.

20th January 1910 Marjorie Matheson (Rongomai) was the only candidate in Class C [Sole Charge schools] to passed Junior scholarship with 532 marks, which would have placed her 7th in Class A and 3rd in Class B [I am presuming that all classes sat the same exam]

28th January 1910 The Rongomai School picnic was held on Thursday and proved very enjoyable. The weather was all that could be desired. Mr F. B. Lowes (chairman) presented the prizes won during the year. The following are the prize takers :— Attendance Prizes.—

Maud Godfrey, 99 per cent; Ida Dunn, Nancy Fafeita, Leslie Lower, Elizabeth Nagel, Gertrude Nagel, Charlotte Nagel, 98 per cent; Nellie Nagel, Mildred Dunn, Edward Nagel, 97 per cent; Rita Sherley, Hilda Dunn, 09 per cent; Fred Nagel, Margaret Scott, 95 per cent; Bertha Dunn, 94 per cent; Eva Sykes, 92 per cent. Second Class Attendance .— *James Matheson, 88 per cent; Penn Matheson, 85 per cent; Marjorie Matheson, 84 per cent. Improvement in Sewing.—Alice Sykes. Good Conduct.—Ida Dunn.

*The attendance of these children, which is usually high in the list, was unfortunately interfered with this year by illness.

19th December 1910 A pleasing feature of the year's operations," says the Lands, department's report on Scenery Preservation was the: donation: of Mrs Nini Koro of a portion of section 7, Pahiatua Native Reserve, on which is situated the well-known Pahiatua Hill,, and the legendary cave of Rongomai; Although the land had passed from Mrs Koro's possession into that of the Messrs Warren, the latter generously consented to relinquish any claim they might have had to the land, and also agreed to add a small portion of the surrounding land to the proposed reserve in order to complete the reservation of the most picturesque portion of the hill. The formal gazetting will be effected at an early date."

4th February 1911 Masterton DHS In the secondary department, there have been six admissions from other school districts, two from Lansdowne, and one each from Te Wharau, Waterfalls, Tinui and Rongomai, and twenty-six of our own proficiency certificate pupils have entered as secondary scholars

4th March 1911 A little boy, the son of Mr L. Rowe, of Rongomai, met with a serious accident on Tuesday morning, says the Express. He was in the school playground with other children,, and in running around was struck by a swing sustaining a fractured skull. Up to the present; however, no unsatisfactory symptoms, have developed although his condition is critical.

20th June 1911 Miss McLauchlan (Rongomai) is staying at the Royal Oak [Wellington Hotel]

16th January 1912 Miss McLauchlan (Rongomai) is staying at the Royal Oak.

Mary McLauchlan started teaching for the Wellington Education Board at Johnsonville in 1891 and taught there until going to Rongomai School in 1896 [Though in one statement Mary is shown as coming to Rongomai School from Featherston there is no record of her doing so but she may have been there for a short time]. In 1913 Mary was appointed to Pahautanui School, a 2 teacher school and taught there until 1915 [I can find no more confirmed mentions of Mary McLauchlan. Though there is a marriage of a Mary McLauchlan to James Henry Parsons in 1920. Parsons is an Eketahuna surname, just a very long shot]

1913-1923

1913	18	Rongomai	Gordon	Charles S	C5	Master	£120	\$18,000	£15.00
1914	24	Rongomai	Gordon	Charles S	C4	Master	£130	\$18,612	£15.00
1915	26	Rongomai	Wilson	Margaret M	C3	Female	£140	\$18,753	£20.00
1917	22	Rongomai	Thompson	Beatrice M A Mrs		Sole	£144	\$16,140	
1919	19	Rongomai	Coulson	Jessie A	D-81	Sole	£210	\$18,971	
1921	29	Rongomai	Barrell	Beatrice A	C	Sole	£250	\$21,523	

1923	29	Rongomai	Barrell	Beatrice A	C-174	Sole	£253	\$23,253	
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Total in right hand column means that no school residence was provided at Rongomai

8th January 1913 Mr C. S. Gordon, of Dalefield, who is at present relieving at Carterton District High School, has been appointed headmaster of the Rongomai school, near Eketahuna.

28th May 1913 Library Subsidy given to Rongomai of £2 10s given by Wellington Education Board

4th September 1913 Miss McLauchlan Rongomai is staying at the Royal Oak

1st October 1913 Mr W. B. Matheson, of Rongomai, has donated a challenge shield to the Farmers' Union Show Committee for competition amongst the schools in the Eketahuna and Mauriceville Counties and the Alfredton Riding of the Masterton County. Mr Cummings, Of Masterton, agricultural instructor to the Wellington Education Board, is to be asked to act as judge.

1890/14814	Gordon	Charles Stanley	Emily	George
1920/5266	Margaret Kennedy	Charles Stanley	Gordon	
1970/30030	Gordon	Charles Stanley	79Y	

6th November 1914 The Rongomai school-girls organised a social which was held on Friday night, and was a success from all points of view. Thon Belgian Relief Fund will profit thereby by some [As printed]

31st March 1915 Wellington Education Board Rongomai, renewal of gates.

14th September 1915 Rongomai Sole Teacher Rongomai Miss M Wilson

2nd November 1915 Military Hospital Guild Pupils of Rongomai School (Eketahuna), 1 pair bed socks, 1 face cloth, 5 eye bandages, 1 dozen treasury bags, 1 dozen handkerchiefs.

9th November 1915 Mr C. S. Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon, Dalefield has been appointed first assistant at Lansdowne school, Masterton. He took up duties on the 1st of this month. This school has an attendance of 280 pupils, with nine teachers. Before leaving Rongomai where he had been for nearly three years, Mr Gordon was presented by his scholars with a gold mounted fountain pen, suitably inscribed, and an address from the committee. also a letter in appreciation of his work and regret at his departure, as the scholars had improved very much under his tuition.

8th July 1916 Rongomai School, 18 face cloths, 5 pillowslips; War effort

16th February 1917 The St. John- Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross Society are very grateful to the pupils of the undermentioned schools for the excellent parcels of work they have sent in. The work has been done by both girls and boys, and in some of the schools the boys both knitting and sewing, willing to do anything to provide comforts for our wounded, soldiers., The names of the schools are as follow: —Paraparaumu, Newtown, Petone West, Pirinoa, Rongomai, Puketoi; Koputaroa, Levin, Ponatahi, Mangaone, Whakataki, Normandale, Mangapakeha

29th July 1917 Miss M M Wilson resigns from Rongomai School

10th August 1917 Miss B Peacock appointed Rongomai

19th June 1918 Mrs B Thomson Rongomai resigns

2nd August 1918 Miss J A Coulson appointed Rongomai

20th December 1918 Nancy Dunn (Standard v or VI) won an essay competition run by the NZ Fruitgrower's Federation Prize 20 shillings

Post 1923

19th January 1927 Miss C C Grone appointed Sole Teacher

13th March 1928 Mr C R Bays appointed Sole Teacher

National Archives Rongomai Records

Rongomai

27th August 1921 Miss B A Barrell appointed 8 years' service currently at Sefton School [North of Rangiora] age 27

2nd November O H Cooper secretary of Rongomai school writes to approve appointment of Miss B A Barrell

6th August 1923 Beatrice Barrell writes that school is closed for one week because school children have Flu

9th August 1923 Letter from Wellington Education Board to Mr J Ewart Chairman of School Committee that no school should be closed with the Board's authority previously obtained please have either the term vacation or the Christmas Holidays shortened by one week

11th August 1923 James Ewart writes to Wellington Education Board

- A) He is sorry the school was closed without authority but the position was this the children were coming from homes the flu was very bad
- B) The teacher has been confined to her bed and is still under the doctor and is unable to teach school this coming week
- C) It will then be necessary to close the school
- D) Nor is it fair to penalise the teacher and students by reducing their holidays

15th August 1923 Mr Ewart writes again

- A) I am new to chairmanship of School Committee and thought I was doing the best thing
- B) I either closed the school or letting the children walk to school only to find there was no teacher
- C) If it is not the Board's intention that the children should be put to the inconvenience of attending a school without a teacher
- D) I have also been informed that the teacher will not be able to resume until the 27th of August
- E) Can you inform me what the Board are going to do in the matter?

16th August Board reply Many schools take extra days off their holidays. If Miss Barrell is going to take sick leave she has to apply with doctor certificate

26th February 1924 B A Barrell notifies Wellington Education Board that school is closed for the Eketahuna Show

3rd May Beatrice A Barrell writes to Education Board re holidays. She wishes to catch afternoon train at Eketahuna and wondering if she can start school half an hour earlier and

having twenty minutes or so for lunch with a shorter interval during the morning of the last day

As my home is in Rangiora Canterbury I will not be able to reach Rangiora until Monday if I can't leave earlier

7th May Board approve such a plan [Surprisingly]

19th December 1924 Beatrice A Barrell writes to Wellington Education Board

Because of measles in the district the attendance has been less than half for the month

17th December 1926 Miss C C Grone appointed Sole Teacher. 5 years' service Assistant at Upper Hutt

2nd April 1927 Cicely C Grone sent back a corrected annual return

6th July 1927 Letter to Miss C C Lee. [Notice change of surname]

- a) Edna McGalshin has not made one attendance
- b) I was told she was at Carterton and would be returning
- c) I have been marking her absence on the roll with a roll of 25 counting her as one of the pupils
- d) It is usual to remove a child after a fortnight and re-enter her if they return to the school

14th October 1927 After a letter from Education Board asking while attendance was low. Mrs Lee replied that there was mumps in the school

7th February 1928 Miss Lee writes that the Rongomai school picnic would be held on February 10th

14th February Holiday for Masterton Show

2nd March 1928 Appointment of Mr C R Boys 6 ¼ years' service Sole Teacher Arapeti [At the Mangahao Electric Dam inland from Shannon.] The Wellington Education Board needs to transfer him as the Arapeti School needs to be closed

3rd March 1928 Asking for a pupil teacher as the roll is going up. And the children may well go to another school

8th March 1928 Letter from Wellington Education Board saying Mr boys is experienced and will have no trouble in conducting the Rongomai School

Because Kakariki roll is going up and Rongomai Down the Education Board is going to switch the teachers Mr C R Boys to kakariki and Miss M S McKettrick to Rongomai

26th February 1929 The school is to close on 8th March for the school picnic

29th January 1930 Miss McKettrick With reference to your application for extra leave of absence under your circumstances to continue with the treatment and approve of same

You can explain to the Education Board that unless board is found nearer the school that the relieving teacher must find some means of getting to school

Yours Sincerely J Schnell Chairman

31st February 1930 Telegram to Mr Schnell Miss Andrews relieving please meet Eketahuna Station and arrange lodgings

20th February Miss McKittrick writes to Education Board Applied for two days leave for the Eketahuna Sports and the school picnic. I have pointed out to them that they have not given me enough time to give the required ten days' notice