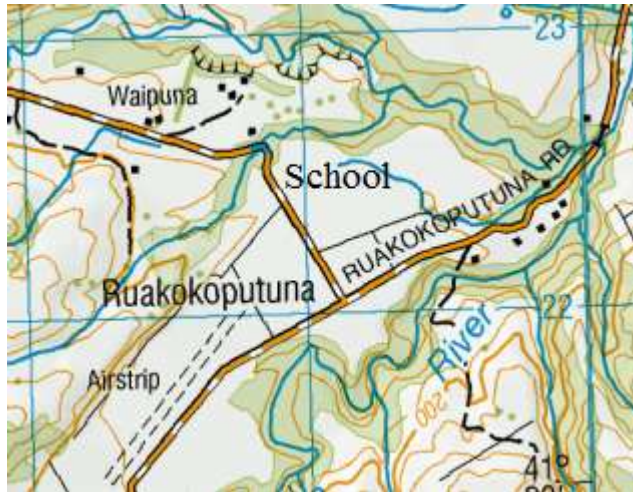


Ruakokopatuna



Ruakokopatuna School was erected in 1930 Sq feet 288

Building removed from Pukenui

14th May 1931 fencing

1934 Reduced chimneys

27th July 1936 A Moveable bach £197 .90

14th February 1938 Residence £397.10

Site in Education Reserve

Closed 1944

1920

9th August Eliza E Gallop Opened school today in building lent by Mr A D Hathaway. Nine children were admitted, but I believe several more can be depended on to come having been deterred today by the inclement weather. This school and Pukenui are to be worked on the part time system, three days a week at each school. Some of the children have had practically no schooling whatever while others have received no instruction for over a year. They appear fairly bright however and all are anxious to learn

10th August Four pupils were admitted today

18th August Admitted one pupil today making the roll number 14

Closed school today for the term holidays

7th September Reopened school today 11 present

Punished Jack Hathaway today, two cuts for impertinence

10th September Owing to my motor cycle breaking down I was unable to open school this morning until 9.45

Received from Whitcombe and Tombs 1 bead frame, 9 inkwells, and reading sheets. Also from Rash and Gooder 1 alarm clock

15th September Two pupils admitted making the roll 16

30th September The Two Walton girls Violet and Gladys were away today, one with influenza and the other with mumps. To prevent any danger of his spreading either of the complaints among the other children I sent their brother Wilfred home from school

28th September School was closed yesterday for Dominion Day

1st October Owing to the road being flooded I was unable to open school until 10.15

14th October Received from Education Board two pieces green wall board (Hydroplate/Blackboard?)

11th November Today being the anniversary of Armistice day a silence of two minutes was observed at 11 a.m. in remembrance of the occasion

9th December Received ½ lb of Mercury (*Used for thermometer*)

11th December Received 1 dozen plasticene boards

16th December Closed school for summer holidays

1921

1st February reopened school with an attendance of 16

7th February Received from Education Board 1 modulator

22nd February Today Arthur Hathaway while playing with the other children tore his leg rather badly on an exposed nail. After binding the wound up I sent the boy home.

12th March School closed today for picnic which was held in Mr Holmes's property. A large number of friends etc assembled and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent

17th March before school opened this morning Annie Spiers had the misfortune to run a rusty nail in her foot. After doing what I could for it I caused the little girl to be taken home

18th March Received copies of the school journal

6th April Mr. Cowles inspector for schools visited the school today

21st April Last night the first annual meeting of householders was held in the school for the purpose of electing a Committee for the ensuing year

26th April School closed for Anzac day

8th June B Anderson Organising teacher wrote Visited the school on the 7th and 8th of June. The work is proceeding satisfactorily- the pupils being responsive and eager to succeed

30th June Held half yearly exam

2nd July School closed for Inspector's Holiday

27th October School closed for Carterton Show

11th November Today a silent two minutes was held for Armistice Day

1922

7th February Reopened with attendance of 9

15th February School closed today for Masterton Show

15th March. The school picnic was held last Saturday. It was originally to be held on Wednesday 8th, but as the chairman failed to apprise me of the fact I held school at Pukenui on that date

25th March Half the children failed to return after lunch today evidently on account of the Dyer School Picnic

19th April Owing to inclement weather the attendance today was only 5

25th April School closed yesterday for Anzac Day

26th April Received from Board map of N Z and The World

5th June School closed on Saturday 3rd for King's Birthday

11th July Received from Committee 1 NZ ensign

18th July School closed today on account of His Excellency the Governor General visit to Martinborough

23rd August Mr. Mountford Departmental Physical Instructor visited the school today

17th October Letter from Wellington Education Board unless the combined rolls of average attendance is not less than 21 combined with Pukenui then school will fall to grade 1

20th October Reply Present toll is 22 at the end of the quarter there will be 3 withdrawals and one possible admission

26th October School closed yesterday for the Carterton Show

1st December Mr. A Cowles Inspector visited the school today

8th December School closed yesterday for Election Day

14th December This being my last day as teacher of the Ruakokopatuna School I take the opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the kindness and courtesy that has been extended to me at all times, by the School Committee during my term here as teacher

R J Frain

1923

and attendance of 8

27th February Appointment of Miss A M Robinson Age 36 Service 19 ½ years. Present appointment Infant Mistress Kaiwairangi School Letter to H Adamson Chairman School Committee

5th February Received from Board 1 teacher's work book etc.

5th March Letter from Mr Adamson As far as we at this end of the district are concerned Miss Robinson's appointment permanently will give us satisfaction

5th April Received from Board paper, coloured for paper folding and cutting

25th April School closed Anzac Day

3rd July received from Wellington Education Board one measuring glass.

4th August School closed on account of influenza. Term holidays taken at same time

10th August Letter from Mr Adamson notifying Board that school closed owing to influenza. Miss Robinson has been laid up since last Sunday but is now on the way to getting better

As Mrs Hathaway was buried yesterday, the result of the Flue we decided we had better close the school and reopen when the Martinborough School reopens

28th 29th September School closed teacher ill

19th October School closed for Carterton Show

17th November Letter from Mr J A McDougall Acting Chairman stating the school will be closed for school picnic on 19th December

18th December School closed today for summer holidays

19th December School sports

1924

5th February School commenced

15th February Miss Robinson died suddenly today

Robinson Alice May 37Y

1913	17	Waihoanga Otaki Gorge	Robinson	Alice M
1913	17	Waihoanga	Robinson	Alice M

1914	23	Waihoanga	Robinson	Alice M
1915	24	Waihoanga	Robinson	Alice M
1917	34	Dyer	Robinson	Alice M
1919	595-96-157	Masterton	Robinson	Alice M
1921	42	Kaiwairai	Robinson	Alice M
1923	7	Pukenui	Robinson	Alice M

18th February A long letter from Mr Adamson included

- I have been absent under treatment by the Doctor since before Xmas
- The upset on the death of Miss Robinson and my having no one here to help me put me back to bed again.
- I take it that Miss Robinson's relatives have called on you by the time you have received this and explained how she suddenly expired
- It was not more than 20 minutes from the time she had her tea until she was dead
- She had a seizure on the way to school on Thursday morning and had to be driven home but seemed quite well on Friday and wanted to go to school on Saturday as the Doctor told her that with a day in bed and the medicine that she would be alright by Saturday morning
- However that was not to be as about 7.10 she had another seizure (Choking for breath and died before the doctor could arrive

- I think that when the Board is paying her relatives they should refund the £1 she had just paid to the Post Office for her mail delivery

20th February Letter saying a Mr Bruce a certificated ex-student of training college to proceed to Pukenui for the purpose of taking over the two schools

6th March Commenced duties as relieving teacher today. Roll 5 Present 5 Arthur M Kerr

Received from Education Board a parcel containing art supplies

27th March Two new pupils enrolled today-Maia Hutton and Gordon Green both in Primer 1 . Roll 7

28th March appointment of B V Daws 3 years teaching experience Presently Sole Teacher at Ngawaka

9th May Term examinations held today

10th May School closed for term holidays. I cease duties here today. Arthur H Kerr

29th May B V Daws commenced duty today

Set of cards English and Arithmetic Standard V and VI from Education Board

Roll Boys 4, Girls 3

2nd June A very wet and stormy day, It has rained for 3 days. There was a washout on the road and I experienced some difficulty with the motor as the water was over the engine. I dried out in front of the fire before 9.00

For all that there was an attendance of 2

Tomorrow a holiday for King's Birthday

9th August Completed term exam, Standard 5 did better in the arithmetic than that was expected 4 sums out of 5

Standard 1 and Primers Arithmetic was good both 70 %

The compositions were only satisfactory. The absence of ideas prevailed, though the settling out of the various points of each essay was good

Writing is poor generally in Standard 1 and Primers

Standard II are both good writers

Geography NZ, Australia, Canada and India

Standard V not clear on all details. Revision necessary

History only satisfactory Lives of Great Men

I think such as the contents of the Magna Charter or Life of Thomas Beckett were indefinite. A revision of notebooks necessary

Standard 1 and 2 work completed is good. Standard 1 rather weak in sums

11th September Return to school after holidays admitted one new pupil in primers, Roll 9 Attendance 8

27th September End of Quarter

½ days open 62, excepted half days 0

Average attendance 6.9 No on roll 9

27th October Labour day. School closed

Circulars dealing with cruelty to birds and to obtaining pictures received,

3rd December Received circular re work in agriculture for 1925

Also for attendance of Maori Scholars

1925

15th April Infantile paralysis Return to work in the schoolroom for the first time this year. I have been visiting the houses each week doing the best I can in that time

Attendance today is 6

19th November Standard 6 are having final exams before proficiency F S works well. A H is not particular enough

11th December Two pupils attended Martinborough School to sit for proficiency. Mr. McKenzie examined. Both boys passed

18th December We break up today for Xmas. Prize giving this afternoon at 2 pm.

We all wish each other good luck and fine weather but just at present it is a good southerly on. Handicapping people who are shearing

1926

2nd February School work resumed today Attendance very small. 1 Boy and 3 girls

The fences etc are in a bad state. They have been broken down by the stock

30th March There was no school on last school day. Teacher ill and unable to attend

Today held term exams Arithmetic not strong subject Reading also must be improved

English was quite satisfactory although compositions were not too good

More attention will be given to reading and arithmetic

Quarterly roll 6 2 boys and 4 girls

3rd May Following correspondence about non return of roll return B V Daws writes including

- a) 2 Boys obtained their proficiency December 1925
- b) One left school at end of the year
- c) The other is still attending as Standard VII pupil
- d) Re Pukenui School you have not received this return because it was forwarded with the Ruakokopatuna return dated 30th March which you have acknowledged
- e) It was not returned to me so I judged it must have been correct
- f) Please find duplicate copy

14th May We break up today for the first term holiday. Weather is miserable. It is not a nice welcome for tonight's holiday

31st May 1st June. We resumed work today. Total number attending 6. 1 Boy Ill. Everybody seemed bright and busy even though most of the holidays were spent inside due to the rain. The Spiers Children scrubbed the school during the holidays and I thank them. They stated the floor was very dirty. Personally I think they underestimated it.

24th June This afternoon the parents of this district pined together and provided the children with an afternoon tea at the school. I was presented with a case of brushes with the best wishes of the parents and children I wish to thank them very much.

29th June As this is my last day at this school I wish to thank the children for the way they have applied themselves on school days also the school work they did while at home

I also wish to thank the parents and people of this district in the various ways they have helped me

7th July Commenced duties at Ruakokopatuna School today

Roll 9 All present

I Hamilton

1927

28th January Mr L N Smith appointed Grading, 202, Service 3 years at present unemployed

Taking a relieving appointment until appointment is approved by School Committee

10th February Letter from Mr Smith asking do children have to provide their own books and notifying Education Board there is no School Committee as last year's acting chairman has left
Reply parents supply books to children

L N Smith commenced duties Attendance 10. 3 primers, 2 standard 1, 1 standard 2, 1 standard 3, 1 standard 4, 1 standard 5, 1 standard 6
All in order except children have no books, this to be remedied at once

Agricultural Inspector paid a visit to the school

16th February Masterton Show 3 children away two primers and 1 standard 2

17th February Supply of chalk, white cardboard, glue etc arrived

2nd March Admitted one new pupil Standard 5 boy (Left after a week)

6th March Letter from Mr Smith to Education Board included

- a) Suggested change of plan for Pukenui and Ruakokopatuna
- b) 4 Children at Pukenui one of whom has passed proficiency
- c) At Ruakokopatuna there are ten children one of whom has passed their proficiency exam and one who is under school age
- d) It seems unfair that the children at the larger school should have only three days a week
- e) For this reason I propose to take all the children to Ruakokopatuna

Reply Your letter should have gone through SC

If your proposal is adopted your status would reduce to a Grade 1 teacher and your salary would be affected accordingly

7th March Holiday for visit of Duke and Duchess of York

On return found fences badly damaged by stock. Teacher repaired them Stone wall built up by girls

25th April Anzac day. Holiday for this school

27th April Commenced first term exams. Standard 3,4 and 6 children away,, one with scarlet fever and one with yellow jaundice

1st June King's Birthday

6th June Teacher away on business with Education Board Office

20th 24th June School closed on account of teacher's marriage. One weeks leave to be substituted for August Holidays

30th June End of quarter Roll 3 Boys, 7 Girls. Times Open 46 half days (*Equivalent of 23 days or 4 weeks 3 days for April, May and June*)

28th July Telegram from Board to Baghurst Pukenui BOARD REQUESTING MR LAMASON CERTIFICATED TEACHER TAKE TEMPORARY CHARGE ON UNDERSTANDING PARENTS ARRANGE CONVEYANCE BETWEEN SCHOOLS. INFORM SMITH SUBJECT THIS CONDITION LEAVE GRANTED
REPLY AGREEABLE TO TEACHER SMITH LEAVE OF ABSENCE IF SEND RELIEVING TEACHER. J BAGHURST PUKENUI SCHOOL

4th October Letter from J R Lamason I should like to inquire how long it is intended to keep me in this position. My desire to know arises out of a question of boarding arrangements

20th October appointment of Mr T A Hardie 4 ³/₄ years teaching presently sub assistant Bulls School. Letter to Mr J Baghurst School Commissioner. (*No School Committee*)

23rd October Letter from T A Hardie (*Later at Rangitumau School and finally Head Master at Carterton school in the 1960's*)

1st December New Teacher Presumably Tom Hardie Roll 10, Present 10

8th December Thomas Corlett hurt while playing- knee in stomach- sent home in the afternoon

16th December Break up today for Christmas Vacation. School scrubbed out by scholars. I want to thank the senior girls for the manner in which they performed the work

1928

1st February Reopened today 3 Boys 6 girls
17th February Holiday Masterton Show
22nd February Alfred Cowles Inspector
25th April Anzac Day School closed. No ceremony
2nd May Completed term examinations sent out reports
4th May Broke up for term holidays today. Before going we scrubbed out school rooms
4th June School closed for King's Birthday
18th July Miss Adamson resigned her position of sewing instructress today
11th August We broke up today having scrubbed school before leaving
5th September Resumed school today. Pukenui yesterday. Full attendance of eight. Received globe from Education Board
3rd October Today this school attended Pukenui School. Mr. Burns inspector examined all classes of both schools. The Standard 6 girl Mela Hathaway was successful in her proficiency examination
31st October The school closed today there being no attendance owing to very wet weather. 47 inches having fallen
14th November General Election School closed
18th December Break up today. Pukenui Tomorrow

1929

5th February We resumed here today. Pukenui yesterday This school will work Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

7th February Received a supply of chalk, crayons, drawing paper, 2 modelling knives

4th April Mr. Burns inspector of schools visited today

25th April Anzac Day School closed

9th May We closed early this afternoon. The parents of this district met at a very enjoyable afternoon tea I thank them most sincerely for the kind words spoken and for the splendid farewell gift with which I was presented. Relinquish duties here today

T A Hardie

27th May Opened school today. Very bad weather causing low attendance. 7 present

28th May One new pupil admitted from Pukenui

31st May Received supply of science material from Education Board
The delivery of this material has been delayed owing to it being left at M A Ross's residence

Material received 1 spirit lamp, 6 test tubes and stand, 2 filter funnels and filter papers. Iodine solution, Fehling's solutions, litmus, methylated spirits, mercury, rain gauge and measuring glass.

3rd June School closed for King's Birthday

4th June New pupil Kitty Finlayson

10th June Received note from Education Board telling me to take charge of material sent to Pukenui and add it to the Ruakokopatuna stock. Same supplies as received here on 31st May

13th June A meeting of householders was called today by Mr. Hathaway with a view to forming a Committee. I sent him a report and asked to have it placed on record. My thanks to Mr. Hathaway for the supply of firewood which he delivered to the school.

17th June Severe earthquake today at 10.20 a.m. The older children were inclined to be alarmed- but infants working in next room did not notice the quake. No damage was done

24th June Towels were received from Mr. A Ross and Mrs Hutton. I thanked them

19th June Appointment of Mr J W T Adams

Grading 194 12 ½ years service Assistant Petone Central

25th July Mr. T C Brockett visited the school today. There seems to be a prevalence of colds among the children, 3 are absent suffering from severe colds and influenza

26th July Owing to colds there has been a poor attendance 10 excepted half days

31st July Relinquished duties at this school today. School was washed out and desks cleaned

Alister William Roy McGregor

2nd August School closed yesterday I took over this morning J W T Adams

Christ Church Taita Cemetery

there are two people:

ADAMS - Joseph William Tyndall (1898-1980),

ADAMS - Maude Isabella (nee STARR 1898-1961)

- Maude married in 1922 to Thomas Robert Adams (1897-1964)

Joseph William Tyndall Adams

- was a son of Joseph Tyndall (1842-1912) & his 2nd wife Catherine

Thomas ADAMS(1868-1927)

Maude Isabella Starr

- was a daughter of George STARR & Jane CONNOLLY

who were the parents of Thomas Robert Adams?

what relationship were Joseph & Maude to each other??

2nd September Since the school resumed since the holidays there have been only two to count as not excepted. There has been a prevalence of colds and the weather has been changeable

2nd October Received seeds of trees and flowers from Department of Agriculture. Full attendance so far this week

22nd Cupboard arrived from Eketahuna School today. During last week the Committee obtained a broom and a scrubbing brush J W T Adams

28th October School closed Labour Day

31st October School closed Carterton Show

25th November Proficiency exam held today in error for Friday last. The papers were opened at 9.00 this morning. Annie Spiers the only Candidate. The date had been confused with next Friday

1930

3rd February School reopened 1 admission Eight children are present. The roll will remain, I think, the same. Received today by Post List of art supplies in log

10th March Received from Education Board a list of books and some clay

Clerk of works visited the school today to consider repairs to the building which needs papering etc. badly

11th March Mr. Burns inspector visited the school today

14th March The school was closed (with the Board's permission) today for the school picnic. Glorious weather

19th March Today two sheets of hydroplate arrived from the Board

25th March Received superphosphate and lupin seeds today

4th April Painters and Paperhangers arrived. School was held outside on Wednesday and Thursday. The work consisted of stories, handwork and word and number drill

The school is now in good order and is wonderfully bright and cheerful

7th May Commenced term exams this week. Received parcel of garden tools – 1 spade, 1 fork, 1 rake and 1 hoe. Two hand forks- From Education Board on Saturday May 2nd. Attendance today is 4 boys and 4 girls

26th May School reopened after term holidays- Full attendance

9th July Sir Joseph Ward passed away yesterday. Short talk on his life and work this morning

11th July School closed by order of the Right Honourable Minister of Education Mr. Atmore. Out of respect for the late Sir J G Ward- yesterday 10th July

16th July did not arrive at school till 9.45 this morning. I had to take the mechanic to Martinborough as head brought my car out this morning. Very wet. Attendance 4 boys No girls. ¼ hour for lunch by agreement with the children. Work was in full swing when I arrived and the day spent in study work and revision of mechanicals, read and write

25th July Sir Robert Stout late chief justice passed away last Saturday. He was at one time Prime Minister. Snow today but it melted immediately after a shower. Miss Blackbourne drill instructor called today. She showed me new and improved exercises and taught two folk dances. Attendance 6

30th July The school was closed yesterday and the day before (Monday and Tuesday) as there was the severest snowstorm for about 10 years. The parents rang to say that they were not sending their children, so I did not open the school. Though there was no snow yesterday, there was heavy rain at times and a strong wind. Today there are lighter showers and no wind. The snow is still in the hollows and in the scrub. There is almost a foot of drift on the South West Side of the school now (11.50)

6th August Snow still on the hills but nearly gone

Inspector Stubbs visited the school today: Seven children present

8th August The aero club plane passed over the school today. This is the first time a plane has flown over the school building, though it has been sighted twice before

29th September The school was closed last Tuesday Morning and Opened this morning as I was called away owing to the sudden death of my brother in law. Attendance 9 Roll 12

Mr. Brockett agricultural Instructor called on the 10th September Today a parcel of vegetable seeds arrived

10th November did not arrive at school until 10.00 Unfortunately capsized in my car on the way from Martinborough this morning. The accident occurred on the site of the Young's. Car damaged, Myself not

26th November School closed on Monday for Proficiency Exam. Marie Hutton only candidate

1931

2nd February The new school was occupied for the first time this morning. (*Came from Pukenui School*) There were present Ella Spiers, Tom Corlett, Ian McMaster, Amy Corlett, Len Corlett, Ian Jackson, Hector Corlett Kitty Finlayson, Willie McMaster and Edna Corlett, 4 girls and 6 boys

3rd February Earthquake this morning at 10 to 11. All were outside ready for drill. The ground moved perceptibly and the weights in the windows swung for quite a minute Peter Finlayson admitted today

5th February The earthquake recorded on Tuesday was the severest in the history of the Dominion; many were killed, chiefly in Napier and Hastings, where the business centres were destroyed both by the shock and by fire.

6th February In the log there was an autograph page by those who attended the school opening; I have transcribed the list of names
T McDonald, A McDonald, T Wade, A F Wade, Alex R Morrison, A M Morison, F Henry, A McDougall, J Martin, A D Hathaway, A B Jackson, Alex Ross, James Macdonald, Gladys Fleury, Ellen Macdonald, A Spiers, A Hutton, M A Finlayson, Irene Finlayson, L Corlett, J W T Adams, C Kennedy, J ER fuller, Joan Fuller, One Unknown

1st April Mr. Burns inspected the school

23rd June On King's birthday, trees supplied by the Forestry Department were planted by the Committee. The school has now gravelled paths. The organ used for church services has now been moved into the school. The school was closed on Thursday last. The day was stormy and I was suffering from a severe cold. Today heavy

rainstorm, Kitty and Peter Finlayson and Amy and Edna Corlett arrived at school very wet and were sent home

17th July School closed at noon today to allow me to attend a drill refresher course in Martinborough. The sewing mistress who was absent last week on account of bad weather is coming this morning from 11 to 12

24th July Miss Blackbourne visited the school yesterday and taught several new exercises and games. There has been a full attendance this week. This week the fencing of the horse paddock was completed and the boundary fences were repaired. The school now has good fences. Metalled paths and trees planted in the plantation

13th October Miss Alma Spiers has sent in her resignation as sewing mistress to take effect from 25th September (her last day in charge)

Today the attendance is down, 7 being present. Three absent are suffering from colds, which have been prevalent elsewhere

23rd October Mr. Brockett Called yesterday. Today Miss Hathaway commences duty as sewing mistress

1932

4th February The s school picnic to be held on 12th February J W T Adams still teaching letter to Wellington Education Board

1st April This year the seeds (Mainly) of oak, sycamore, Lucerne, wattle, titoki, pigeon wood, flax and Laburnum have been planted about the school grounds and in the plantation. Later other poplars, silver polar and golden willow cuttings will be planted out and

Karaka seedlings will be put in their permanent position. There are some insignia plants also to be transplanted

8th June Letter to Wellington Education Board from J Adams there was a severe southerly storm yesterday and as most of the children were either recovering from severe colds or suffering from them, none came to school. The attendance this morning is 4 (Roll 11)

Letter back to Mr Adams from Secretary of Wellington Education Board Included. I trust you will see there is no malingering and that the children make regular attendance whenever you are satisfied they are able to do so. When making your attendance return you will of course omit as Excepted half days all occasions when there are not at least 75 per cent of the children present

10th June The services of Miss Meta Hathaway were dispensed with at the beginning of this (the second term). She has served as an efficient sewing mistress for some time. This action was taken by the Department as an economy measure

The school was closed on June 2nd for King's Birthday

On Tuesday June 7th owing to a severe and very cold southerly, and to the prevalence of colds no children attended school

27th October I arrived at school and found 1 child present. Carterton Show day. Closed the school

3rd November Dr C Anderson called today and examined all classes

4th November Two new flower beds have been made and one is already planted. The pine planted this year in the plantation seem to be doing well. Several poplars appear to be rooted. Laburnum planted out in the autumn are in good condition. Several sycamores

have come up, numerous plane seedlings have been found and one peach was found today

1933

26th April Ian Jackson away from school with chicken pox

4th July The above school was closed on 7th June No children attended owing to snow storm Consequently I was absent from duty that day

7th August The children planted last week, pines, blue gums, and spreading poplars in the playground. The cabbage trees near the gate were planted about two years ago. Three more were planted near the school this week

3rd October I was absent from duty on Friday 29th September owing to a severe cold.

Yesterday 2nd October Mr. McMaster complained that his children had been victimised at school, especially his daughter Mary. I investigated the complaint and found in Mary's own admission that she had been smacked once but in plying schools and did not cry and didn't mind and on another occasion had had her hair pulled. This I gather was not of a serious nature. On the whole, all of the children seem most friendly with each other and victimisation or bullying does absolutely not exist within school

29th November Mr. Hilton Secretary of the Education Board, Mr. Powell Architect, Colonel McDonald and Mr. Donald (Board members) visited the school this afternoon in a tour of inspection of the district. Mr. McConnell was with me to meet them

30th November Proficiency examination, (Synchronous) today. Ian McMaster and Tom Corlett are the candidates. Tom Corlett absent. I have asked all but the primers to be at school today. They will spend most of the day doing handwork and reading

8th December On Wednesday afternoon at 2.30, I took the children swimming. Somewhere about 3 Ian McMaster collapsed in the water. The day was hot and the water warm. As with most of the boys Ian was not suffering with too much water. It is difficult to get them in over their brain. Probably sunstroke. Symptoms: Violent cramp and contractions, all muscles. Strenuous treatment was given. Attacks lasted from three to five minutes; we slapped his arms and rubbed him some, and gave him a warm swim. He was later sick and terribly weak. Later when he was fully conscious we carried him to Mrs Finlayson's house. Mrs Finlayson was present and worked him with the lard

I rang Mrs McMaster and the Doctor. Ian this morning shows little improvement in condition. His condition down

12th October Visited the McMasters yesterday. Ian has a haemorrhage on the brain. His condition is critical still every care has to be taken

19th December I visited Ian McMaster yesterday. He seems to have taken a definite turn for the better. I gave him his proficiency certificate

The attendance has been poor this term due to sickness mainly in severe type of colds which left the children far from well. Every family has its turn. Fortunately measles and mumps have not arrived here yet.

1934

14th February Ian McMaster passed away on 22nd January. His death was consequent to his attack rendered on 8th December. School opened on February 8th Roll 11 present 9

For the last week it has rained every day and there has been no sun. The country looks green again

18th February yesterday afternoon commencing about 2.25 there started one of the severest thunderstorms for many years. It continued to the early evening. Torrential rain fell. Today is the first sunny day for a week

6th March last night just before midnight there was a rather severe earthquake. It woke most people. At school a wooden animal was knocked over and the metronome fell from the organ. From the swinging of the lights to direction seemed to be NE-SW and the secondary stages shook some minutes afterwards were at right angles. From reports, the disturbance was severest at Palmerston and Wanganui, no details here yet.

15th June Amy Corlett has been absent under doctor's treatment for her eyes. She has returned to school but will need special consideration for some time to avoid strain

Some acorns of the scarlet oak were given to me and have been planted in the school grounds

On Monday and Tuesday last week Miss Blackbourne and Miss Kennedy held a refresher course on drill and infant methods in handwork. The manner which the course though short was conducted and the hospitality of the Martinborough Staff was fully appreciated

19th July The school has lately had locks repaired, windows fixed and desks planned and varnished. On Monday of this week a crack was removed in the chimney. On further inspection it was discovered that the chimney was quite loose. A plumber came today and took the top of the chimney off and put iron over the hole. 49° F and snow still about. We have however kept as warm as possible with frequent exercises

The school was closed on Wednesday last owing to severe weather- no children coming to school

4th July Present today 3 children – the others absent with colds. The fireplace and chimney are still not fixed and the weather has been dreadfully cold. Snow is still lying fairly close in the hills. Attendance of 9 yesterday, 45° and today 52° The morning school today was most unpleasant but there is warm sun now though the wind (S) is very cold. Mr. Powel the Board's architect called on Friday morning and inspected the chimney. School has been carried on with drill at half hour intervals with cocoa at Morning and afternoon intervals as well as at lunchtime

25th July Temperature at 9 O'clock 44° F (6.667 Celsius) but bright sun and no wind

27th July The bricklayer completed the chimney this afternoon. Four children present. 44°F at 3 O'clock I considered closing the school on account of the weather but the children preferred to stay and it was not altogether unpleasant in the school although the wind was bitterly cold. The day was spent doing handwork with drill, dancing and cocoa at regular intervals. The children remained to help me clean the floors and put the room in order. Handwork and drill have been extremely popular this week

17th August Children paid allowance of 3/4d each today for cleaning. Provided by the School Committee

The children signed Jocelyn Mary Darby, Leslie, Edna, Peter, Kitty, Amy, Amy, Len, Hector

28th September The school nurse called today

1935

23rd August Today there being a southerly gale with rain. I had to climb on a fence to cross water that covered the road for a chain. One place and it was all I could to cross a stream further on I rang the children in that direction and told them not to come to school and as none of them appeared I closed the school for the day

7th October The school was closed on the afternoon of the 10th September and all day of the 11th. I consulted the chairman and we decided that it would have been impossible to cross a stream near the school, swollen by the downpour. There is a footbridge but the rains this year have scoured the creek bed and when the rain is heavy the bridge is covered in water

No log 1935

1936

19th February School opened with an attendance of 7 One case of whooping cough and late in the week one case of ringworm developed. Average for the past week 7.2

10 were present on Monday 19th. Today is Masterton Show Day. All the children are absent at the show. Consequently there will not be school today. As Carterton Show day is the usual one for closing the school I should refuse leave for that day, not having been consulted about closing today

8th July letter from Dean McConnell (The Shooting Box) Secretary School Committee to Education Board Mr J W T Adams having tendered his resignation to above school. I have to draw the Board's attention to the necessity of erecting a residence for a teacher

Exhaustive enquiries round the district have been made and no one is willing or able to billet future teachers. Mr Adams batched in a whare 2 miles distant from school and it is quite possible that the future teacher will not be prepared to do the same

20th July Letter from Wellington Education Board Department will not build a residence at Ruakokopatuna

Options

- a) Board for a female teacher
- b) The Whare used by Mr Adams to be used
- c) A portable bach installed

19th August Miss M L Pike appointed. An Assistant Martinborough DHS teaching 6 1/2 years

21st August Inventory of furniture etc made out by Mr. Alex Morrison Chairman of the School Committee

8	Desks	7	Inkwells
7	Paint Dishes	20	Plasticene Boards

4	Scissors	4	Cardboard cutters
1	Chair	1	Table
1	Bell	1	Fire Screen
1	Door mat		Linoleum for Floor
1	Lamp	1	Kettle
6	Hydroplate (fixed)	2	Easels
1	BB Set Square	2	BB Rulers
1	Picture Frame	1	Pencil Sharpener
4	Maps	1	Cupboard
2	Spades	1	Pick
1	Push Hoe	1	Dutch Hoe
1	Rake	2	Hand Forks
1	Trowel	1	Water Can
	Science Equipment		

7th September Took over today from Mr. Adams. Roll 15 No present
13. Endeavoured to ascertain stage reached by each pupil. Time spent in rearranging cupboards examining texts and exercise books entering records etc.

11th September Painted furniture and mantelpiece green- hall grey. Bought cocoanut matting for floor. Roll now 16. Arranged cleaning duties etc during the week

16th October Roll now 17. Applied for 2 new desks. School doctor and nurse came yesterday

19th October Received 2 framed pictures of the late King George and our present King Edward

28th October Carterton Show Day

6th November handwork display organise by W D N Z F U
(Women's Division New Zealand Farmer's Union) Held in

Martinborough Came out in the morning to collect exhibits and children

5th November Proficiency exam in History, geography and science. Marked papers and sent them to Wellington

27th November Proficiency examination in Arithmetic English etc

17th November Received 4 new gardening forks during the week
Also 3 packets of carrot seeds

1st December Began term exams today

9th December Gabby Finlayson has whooping cough. metalled paths during the week

On Monday Bucky McConnell cut her foot very badly, was alarmed at the bleeding so took him into Martinborough Dr Poulter said the wound would require several stitches

1937

1st March School closed last term a week earlier than scheduled 11th December owing to an outbreak of infantile paralysis. This epidemic also delayed the opening of the school until March

In the proficiency examination 3 pupils gained their proficiency certificates (Amy Corlett, William McMaster and Victor Corlett) while one (Len Corlett) gained a certificate of competency. There were no failures

The opening roll number was 14 with a full attendance

On 23rd February the new school supplies arrived

8th March Joan Burch left during the week end. Children began visiting the dental clinic today

12th March Two new desks and 6 inkwells arrived today

16th March Edna Corlett received a nasty hit in the mouth with a tennis ball- her tongue was badly cut and her lips swollen. Took her home at morning interval

5th April School committee meeting tonight. Committee approved proposals to purchase new lawn mower, grate and rake and also to improve the school library. Decided to burn off the grass during the weekend. Began gardens on each side of the drive. Also bought a medical outfit

19th April Came out to school No pupils, so returned to Martinborough and arranged for correspondence

10th May Made out returns for Term School closed on account of infantile paralysis epidemic to reopen on May 24th Less than six weeks actual teaching time this term

24th May Reopened for second term- full attendance of 12 pupils

27th May Opened school library today, having listed the books purchased during the holidays and collected and repaired those already in the school

1st June Closed for King's Birthday

7th July Very heavy snowstorm windscreen snowed up on the way out- good attendance 10 out of 13

8th July Visit from Mr. Brockett. Noticed attempts to improve grounds

9th July Bought about 7 dozen plants. Planted central garden in golden Antirrhinum, and yellow and gold Iceland poppies. Nemesis for window garden; Sweet Williams for side plot; Pink Antirrhinum for the drive. Extended vegetable garden to the path.

12th July Came out yesterday (Sunday) and planted about 20 small shrubs collected on the way. Hope to plant these in the shrubbery during the week

6th Aug Made back paths ready for metalling on Saturday Triangular lawn to be put in middle when the mower arrives. Began setting stone walls. Science material arrived yesterday Thermometer, 2 magnifying glasses and mercury

9th 13th Aug Term examinations Improvement even more marked than I had hoped for. The children are extremely neat and every effort is pleasing marked with great care. In all work there is now a distinct feeling of pride apparent

20th August Broke up today for term holidays Spent all today building stone walls. Brought our mower from Martinborough and made the side lawn. It was hard going, but we used the hedge clippers for the knotty parts. Converted the car into a truck for carrying stones from Hathaway's.

Also patched part of the lawn ready for planting seed

6th Sept Opened school today with full attendance of 13

Mr Stubbs visited school today (Inspector)

7th September Received spade and fork from Department Planted punga

16th September received lawn mower. Yesterday was an excepted half day owing to prevalence of colds and inclemency of weather

20th September received wall map of the World- another excepted half day- Friday was excepted also making 3 within a week

Planted a dozen packets of seeds, stock, snapdragons, pansies, hollyhock, petunias, nasturtium, asters etc

30th September Planted godetia, Virginian stock, French Marigold, pansies and stock seeds. Weed killer on paths

14th October received beet seed for garden experiments

25th October Labour day

28th October Carterton Show

27th October Planted beet (Sugar) 15 rows, five of each type

1st November Mr. Morrison called today, Committee to dig rough corner of the lawn and top-dress rough patches. Invited him to judge the garden plots for me at end of the year. He kindly accepted
Mr. Roper (Martinborough Plumber) is to repair the drain before the summer.

2nd November Mr. Brockett, agricultural adviser called today, very pleased with attempts to improve the grounds

12th November Mr. Roper visited the school and put in a drain (Pipes and a metal pit)

30th November Began exams this week

7th December Committee meeting last night. Presented the annual report and arranged for prize giving on 16th

9th December Yesterday (Wednesday 8th) the Secretary of the Committee rang me to say that owing to the inclemency of the weather and prevalence of colds in all families, none of the parents were prepared to send their children to school Consequently the school was closed on that day. The rain was very welcome as we had only 1 rung left in the tank. It is full today. We took advantage of the damp ground to transplant our stock, godetia, African marigolds, pansies, zinnias and petunias. School gardens to be judged either tomorrow or Monday. We also thinned the beet crop and hoed between the rows

Today there are only 6 present making another excepted half day
11th December Completed returns, painted table and mantelpiece again, varnished floors, polished desks and walls scrubbed, cupboards – painted hall floor grey etc.

As I will most probably be resigning at the end of this month I should like to thank all those who have helped to make my stay at Ruakokopatuna such a happy one

Marjorie Pike 17th. December 1937

21st December Letter from Mr A R Morrison, Pukenui Chairman of the School Committee

Mrs Pike has resigned and Wellington Education Board wants to know what accommodation is available

1938

11th January There does not appear to be board available

27th January Letter to Mr Morrison. It will not be possible to send a teacher to Ruakokopatuna until accommodation is available

5th February Note from Miss Ahern Wellington Education Board official Mr Donald and Colonel McDonald called in and were surprised to find no teacher supplied

Matter had been discussed on the spot. Temp board (For not more than 3 months) could be found with Mrs Cameron Pukenui (2 Miles from School) for MALE TEACHER ONLY.

In meantime erection of portable bach or consolidation scheme be gone into

9th February Appointment of Mr W M Rae as relieving teacher

14th February School reopened today a fortnight later than other schools in the Wellington district owing to the fact that no board could be obtained for a teacher. There are 10 children present today and according to the children this will be the complete roll for the present

17th February Received exercise books for the children supplied by the Committee. Also one box of nibs and tin of red ink powder. Much needed rain fell last night so spent part of the afternoon cleaning up the gardens. The head of one garden hoe broke rendering it useless.

29th February Visited the native bush at the metal pit this afternoon

22nd February Weather hot so took the children swimming

23rd February Hot again so taking children swimming again this afternoon

7th March School entered during the week end- Obscene drawings and words chalked on walls. Small articles stolen included box drawing pins, box of nibs, packet of matches and teachers strap. School visited today by Mr. Partridge (Inspector)

8th March Notified Committee in writing of weekend burglary

16th March Appointment of Miss L A Dudley

Grading 172 7 ½ years teaching Sole Teacher at Howard Junction School

17th March Visited School today by Martinborough policeman who obtained a statement from me about entry made into school during 6th March. 4 children from Martinborough were the culprits. They have confessed to their guilt

22nd March Letter from Mr McConnell to Wellington Education Board

I have been instructed to remind you once again of there being no accommodation for a teacher in the district'

Mrs Cameron is temporarily boarding the present teacher for 3 months on the understanding that the board would provide a residence for future teachers however the quarters provided by Mrs Cameron are wanted for farm labour accommodation

I have been instructed to draw the board's attention to the fact that they have considered and have had sanctioned by the Education Department to erect a bach on the school grounds

We have in our possession a plan forwarded by the Board for our consideration

In view of the above I have to advise that a female teacher will be unsuitable

23rd March It is almost certain that a residence will be approved for Ruakokopatuna

Miss Dudley wants a school with a residence

In the meantime can you find accommodation until a residence is erected?

26th March Small school today (5) as 4 children were at the dentist and 1 absent

25th March. Late for school this morning (9.30) as I had to ring the Education Board regarding the question of board

1st April Received supplies from Education Board today

29th April A lorry load of wood arrived today

3rd May received a rugby ball today from Wairarapa rugby Union

4th May A saw bench arrived to saw up the wood today. Unable to hear myself speak above the noise made by the motor and saw. Too cold and damp to go on a Nature Study Excursion

4th May Closed school today for the 1st term vacation

Walter M Rae 6th May 1938

23rd May Ada Lilian Alice Dudley commenced duty here today having located the school yesterday and met some members of the Committee. Roll 10 present 9. Spent the day testing work, examining books and records, re arranging furniture and cupboard contents and generally making self at home.

There is still no chance of obtaining board in the vicinity of the school and therefore the Department intends to build a schoolhouse. Meanwhile I stay in Martinborough and motor out.

26th May Roll number to 9 with leaving of John Cameron (primers) to go by car into Martinborough School

6th June King's birthday celebrated today

13th June Admitted another pupil today Roll No 10 again

14th July Yesterday morning, I was phoned by Mr. McConnell to say that none of the parents was prepared to send their children to school owing to the extremely bad weather conditions. An enforced holiday therefore ensued. Today the school is almost surrounded with water
1st August Roll now 11 with the admission of a pupil until the end of the term perhaps longer

3rd August Arbor day ceremony this afternoon. We planted about 30 trees, mainly sycamores (along the front fence) and natives (In the centenary native Bush Section) Afternoon tea was served after a

short talk to the children by Mr. Morrison Chairman. It was a most enjoyable afternoon

19th August This afternoon we broke up for our second term holidays, after gardening for nearly the whole day as often as possible during the last week

5th September School resume this morning with an excepted half day attendance of 7. The remaining four being absent through measles Mr. Partridge, Inspector, visited us at about 10.30 and put in the remainder of the day here

6th September Mr. Brockett (Agricultural Instructor) called today- seemed pleased with the work we have put in in the garden lately such as- digging in the huge many year old compost heap into the garden and turning the unsightly ex drain heap at the front into a rock garden

12th September On Friday morning, Mr. McConnell phoned to say that the attendance would be only two or three owing to the inclemency of the weather and measles. He therefore granted a holiday

On Saturday morning the main road to Martinborough was blocked. The biggest flood since 1928. This morning attendance only 5. The measles epidemic reached Ruakokopatuna in the holidays

23rd September Today we planted the 3 varieties of Lespedeza (legume) the new plant now being greatly used in America for farm uses. Kobe, Korean and Serica- the major Garden experimental crop

Three new tools arrived today- a Dutch, a drag hoe, and a trowel.

17th October Election Day held last Saturday 15th October The school being the local polling booth Seats Gained Labour 54, national 24, independent 2

10th October Full attendance of 11 today for first time this term. Measles epidemic presumably over

24th October Labour Day

27th October Holiday for Carterton show

16th December The school year ends today. Our breaking up ceremony was held yesterday afternoon taking the form of a concert. The ladies provided their usual splendid afternoon tea and donations for an encyclopaedia amounted to 21/6d more than anticipated. Mr. Morrison presented each child with a Christmas stocking

1939

1st February School resumed this Wednesday morning with a full attendance of 10. All the school buildings have been painted during the holidays have a greatly improved appearance. We spent two hours today weeding. Mowing lawns etc. Most of the younger children received dental clinic attention in January or will receive it this month

23rd February Tomorrow, we hold our school picnic at Lake ferry. Fitness weekends on Saturday officially. We have been swimming almost every day this month and having life saving resuscitation etc. This week as well we have had new drill, races and games and so on.

14th March Received from the Board a large parcel of school goods. Cardboard and paper of different kinds, brushes, paints, raffia, punch pliers, counters, chalk, plasticene, wool, needles, scissors, cane etc

17th March School closed on account of illness of teacher

3rd April The school nurse paid a brief visit this afternoon tested the children's eyes and arranged a visit by the school doctor for next Thursday morning

4th May The school doctor (Dr Mulholland) and the nurse examined the children this morning, expressing satisfaction with them on the whole

31st May Today a new rake, spade and trowel arrived, Marked Wellington Education Board .there had been no notification of the arrival of these nor have they been ordered, but we have taken possession of them in the meantime

6th June Six inkwells ordered recently arrived during the weekend from Whitcombe and Tombs

13th June The notification form for the tools mentioned 31-5-39 above, arrived today.

31st July On Thursday and Friday of last week the roads were blocked owing to a fall of snow, the depth before the thaw set in being 1 foot. The Secretary of the Committee therefore rang before school time on these mornings to say that there would be no school

1st August New pupil today, Roll now 11

2nd August Today being Arbor day Mr. Morrison talked to the children on the significance of the day. We then planted two dozen native trees, one dozen acorns and six horse chestnuts

18th August Today being the last day of the term, with flooding and heavy rain, I asked the parents who brought their children to school by car to wait an hour or so while we finished up and then take their children back by car

4th September School resumed today with a full attendance

War started during the weekend

11th September Today I punished Les Corlett for flicking a wet floor cloth after a warning not to do so and Cabby Finlayson for deliberate disobedience

Note from Inspector. Keep special book for punishments, not log book

2nd October The name of Mervyn Wood was today withdrawn from the register leaving the roll at 10 again

19th October Today the school tank was cleaned out by the Board's contractor

23rd October Labour day

26th October Holiday granted by Committee for Carterton Show

15th December Final school day for 1939. Short afternoon concert and afternoon tea. Special Attendance prize given by Mrs Morrison to Nancy Denholm for best attendance

1940

6th February Roll of 8 Edna Corlett and Peter Finlayson having commenced their secondary education at Wairarapa College

12th February The remaining Form III pupil Jocelyn McConnell today left to commence at Martinborough District High School while a new pupil Jimmy Denholm was admitted

13th February Jocelyn today readmitted Transport not yet arranged Roll 9

15th February School Picnic Day

8th march Holiday granted by Committee school spots day

27th march Easter Friday and Monday and Tuesday. Death of Prime Minister The Right Honourable Michael Joseph Savage. School to be closed Thursday and Friday

23rd April Meeting at school last night Election of School Committee Discussion on closing of school in August when present teacher leaves

25th April Anzac day School roll now 8 with ht leaving of Leslie Corlett

3rd May On Monday morning, last a parent who accompanied her children to school made a complaint that all the boys in the school were interfering with her daughter's clothing. She named one boy as the ring leader. I made enquiries about this both at school and also at the homes of practically all the children that afternoon in front of their parents; and as far as I can ascertain there is nothing in the matter except an innocent game started as a game of "Doctors" by complainant's own small son, about five or six weeks ago. That parents all agreed that I did the right thing in letting them know about it, so that they could "talk" to their children. During the week ht e girl aged 9 ½ years concerned has admitted that the boy whom she accused of starting the business, did not start it and that her own brother had.

I informed the complainant about this, this afternoon. School broke up today for the term holiday

21st May School resumed today Tuesday

On the Saturday morning after school broke up i.e. the day after my last entry the complainant phoned me in an agitated manner to state she had felt that she would be lacking in her duty if she failed to let the Board know all about the matter already referred to.

On the same day I therefore asked the Chairman of the Committee to call a committee meeting to discuss the affairs and to extend an invitation to the parents. This meeting was held on Monday 6th May, in the school. Complainant was not satisfied and urged that the matter should go to the Board. As he had not sent in a written complaint he was asked to do so. This was received by me on Thursday 9th May and is as follows

"I wish to let he School Committee know that the boys at the school have been interfering with my daughter. They have pulled her clothing about and taken down her bloomers. All the boys have been concerned in this. I have reason to believe that this behaviour has been going on for over three months

Under the circumstances the teacher Mrs Grant cannot be exercising the necessary supervision over the children and I refuse to send my children to school while she is teaching. I would welcome full enquiry into these matters by het Committee and will give all the assistance I can towards clearing the matter up Signed _____

This complaint was received at a 2.30 p m on Saturday 11th may in the school and then discussed Immediately after as a parents' meeting. Thos who aired their view, with the exception of the complainant seemed satisfied from what they could get from their children that it was only a game and that they had all played it a few times. The chairman asked me a few questions on supervision and I told the meeting how I carried it out fully

At the conclusion of this meeting another Committee meeting was held, which I did not attend. When it was finished, I was told by the chairman that he matter would probably have to go to the Board but that it would be mentioned at het same time that a motion of a vote

of confidence in me had been passed. I told the chairman then that I then failed to see why it was necessary to carry the matter further
Meanwhile the day before the parents meeting I had informed the vice president of the N Z E I about the matter and received advice from them Unfortunately they could not attend our meeting as they were at their Wellington teacher's conference. They told the N Z E I president (Mr. Pryor) about it and he rang me to see if he could be of any assistance; he asked me to let him know if the matter was carried any further and sent to the Board. I therefore wait for further word

I wish to state that I have carried out supervision faithfully and usually the older children play hockey or football in the field under my eye, the younger ones of whom the girl already mentioned is the senior often play quieter games in the playshed. When I approach the playshed I cannot look into it but only on to the closed in end of it; so cannot vouch for what goes on inside; but I have never found the children doing wrong or even looking guilty/

I wish to record also this fact; that it was only since the trouble was traced back to their own son that the complainants became "unpleasant" about it. Before when another child had been accused by them as the ringleader, they did not worry about it.

Their two children did not attend today and I have removed their names from the roll

L

21.5.40

Dudley Grant Marriage Married to Owen Grant in 1939 County Clerk went to Taranaki and then Warkworth as County Clerk

7th May Looks as the present roll at Ruakokopatuna has fallen to 8, before the board can proceed with another teacher vice Mrs Grant I need to know the number of new entrants likely this year and projected roll number for February 1941 Letter to Mr Morrison

26th May 1940 Letter to Wellington Education Board from Mr W Sharp Ruakokopatuna School Committee included

- a) Copy of letter from Mr A Denholm dated 7th May
- b) I wish to let the School Committee know that the boys at the school have been interfering with my daughter. They have pulled her clothing about and taken down her bloomers All the boys have been concerned in this. I have reason to believe that this has been going on for the last three months
- c) Under the circumstances the teacher Mrs Grant cannot be exercising the necessary supervision over the children
- d) I refuse to send my children to school while she is teaching. I would welcome a full inquiry into matters by the Committee and will give all the assistance I can towards clearing this matter up
- e) This matter was considered by the Committee with most of the parents present
- f) The Law was gone into thoroughly by all concerned
- g) The Committee met afterwards and exonerated the teacher from any blame and full confidence was expressed in her.

h) Mr Denholm a Committee man dissented from this finding

i) The parents with the exception of Mr and Mrs Denholm also expressed their confidence in the teacher

27th May A letter handed in to Wellington Education Board by Mr Denholm included

a) Because of negligent supervision by the school teacher my children are not attending Ruakokopatuna School

b) My daughter is the only girl who has been victimised

c) The boys are continually grabbing her between the legs on one occasion she was held down by the boys and her brother aged 5 urged to take down her bloomers

d) To clear herself the teacher now blames this infant of five years of starting the affair which she tries to pass off as a game, surely an unusual game for school children

e) This has been going on for the last three months

f) But has recently come to my notice by certain actions made by the infant towards his sister which I immediately enquired into with the boys

g) The children at school are told they must not carry tales to the teacher. She has appointed the eldest boy as prefect and it is his duty to lay all complaints, but apparently not about himself

h) I regard the above complaint as serious and cannot send my children to this school until there is a responsible teacher in charge

30th May Wellington Education Board Secretary to Mr A Denholm

a) The chairman Mr W V Dyer and the Ward Members Mr A Donald and Colonel T W McDonald shall conduct an inquiry in these matters at the Ruakokopatuna School commencing at 2 pm on Tuesday 14th June 1940

b) Will you kindly arrange to be present on the day and time stated and bring your son and daughter with you

30th May Letter to Mrs L A C Grant Notifying her of the inquiry and asking to have a prepared statement and to have all children available for the inquiry

1st June Lilian Grant Acknowledging the enquiry and having Mr Pryor of the NZEI to represent her

Mrs Grant's Long Statement re the Complaint included

a) The first time I heard of trouble was on Monday 29th when Mrs Denholm came to school in the morning and discovered that her daughter was interfering with her Daughter Nancy's (9 1/2) clothing

b) Mrs Denholm most reasonable in her attitude and I expressed my appreciation of her action in informing me. Mrs Denholm seemed perfectly satisfied

- c) Accepting Mrs Denholm's word that Darby Finlayson was the chief offender I said very little to him at school but accompanied him home with a view of questioning him in front of his parents
- d) The game seemed to start with an innocent game of doctors started by Mrs Denholm's own son aged 5 1/2
- e) Darby said he had tried to stop the game on one occasion at least. This was later substantiated by Hugh McMaster
- f) I then called at Mr McConnell's and discussed the matter with their daughter Jocelyn as Mrs Denholm said it was happening while she was at school at the beginning of the year
- g) I then went to Mr McMaster's and questioned Hugh aged 11 1/2 in front of his mother. He admitted that he had joined in the game of doctors, but had later tried to stop it
- h) One time when I walked past the playshed the children told me they were playing doctors
- i) As a result of these enquiries I immediately after a talk to the children forbade the game
- j) I wrote to Mrs Denholm and asked her to come to school. She did when her daughter Shirley agreed that Jimmy started the game a game they played at home
- k) Re Supervision. I live in Martinborough and travel out by car each morning, arriving at school at about 8.45- at which time only one or two boys have arrived. I have often

picked up Nancy Denholm and may state that she does not arrive before I do

- l) At intervals and lunch time I never leave the grounds and make frequent visits around the ground
- m) As a rule the bigger boys play in front of the school and the younger children play in the shed or elsewhere
- n) After school I do not leave until the last child has gone
- o) In addition I appoint prefects

Notes from Inquiry

- a) In our opinion that some undesirable conduct had taken place
- b) It apparently arose from a game of Doctors
- c) There was a reference to the same thing happening about 2 years before but there was no evidence of same
- d) Evidence showed that the girls bloomers were removed one in the playshed and once in the plantation
- e) We believe that the teacher's supervision was reasonable that she showed an appreciation of what was required by her.
- f) The children were directed to remain quiet and eat their lunch in a period of twenty minutes, when a bell was rung and they were free to play
- g) During the rest of the time they were not under eye but she had appointed a prefect to report to her any bad conduct

- h) We think the prefect was not as helpful as might be and was deserving of censure
- i) When the teacher received the complaint it was handled very well. She accompanied the children to their houses and discussed the position with their parents
- j) She also dismissed the prefect
- k) Having regard to the difficulty of continued supervision in a sole charge that the supervision was lax
- l) Though the conduct was very regrettable I do not think the teacher could be held to blame
- m) We are inclined to believe that the Doctor's game was arrived away from home at a party held at Denholm's in January at which the girl and her brother were present
- n) There is some evidence that it was introduced by the Denholm's children themselves

A long letter from Denholm followed unhappy with the result of the inquiry including The Teacher must be protected at the expense of her pupils

5th June Yesterday afternoon at 3 O'clock there was a Board Enquiry into the matter mentioned in the previous pages. Mr. Dyer (Inspector), Colonel Macdonald, Mr. Donald (Ward Members) and Mr. Deavoll (Board Secretary) came up from Wellington. Their report will be sent in about two weeks. It will also be finally decided about running a bus to take the children to Martinborough

12th August Mrs Grant acknowledging the inquiry and stating that the Denholm children have attended no school this term

15th August Today is the final day of the midterm and we break up with an attendance of six, 5 boys and 1 girl. One other boy attended for a month but was withdrawn from the roll last week

It is still not definite whether another teacher will be appointed or if a bus will be run

The report on the matter mentioned in the few previous pages came to hand about two weeks ago. It says very little definitely and does not censure anyone

I wish to place on record my thanks to the Committee including the recently retired chairman and Secretary for their willingness in cooperating with me in school affairs.

No Committee could have been more pleasant to work with and I thank them and other residents for a very pleasant term here

Laddin Grant

26th August Not From Mr Deavoll Secretary Wellington Education Board Who claimed that Mrs Finlayson wife of the chairman had stated they would board a female teacher

29th August As the school has fallen in grade. We are appointing Miss H M Spratt as grade one teacher

Miss Spratt will be leaving Wellington by the 4 pm bus on Tuesday 3rd September and it will be greatly appreciated if someone could meet her at Martinborough It will be necessary for the school to remain closed on Tuesday

4th September H M Spratt commenced school here today, a day later than other schools in the Wellington District but owing to the

limited time allowed for my transfer, which was unexpected, it was unavoidable. I have spent the day arranging furniture, examining books and records and testing work. Roll number is 6 present 6
23rd September Denholm children readmitted Roll 8
28th October School closed for Labour Day
30th October School closed for Carterton Show
6th November School closed teacher ill
8th November School closed for floods
21st November Maize, Barley, Oats, Buckwheat sown in plots
25th November Holiday for King's Birthday
20th December School closed for the summer vacation

1941

3rd February F M Selwood Took up duties when school opened for 1941
12th February The parents are to take the children to Masterton Show on Wednesday 19th as no picnic or sports are to be held
19th February Miss F M Selwood Sole Teacher
19th February School closed for Masterton Show
4th March Swimming tests taken One breaststroke and 2 fifty yards to be asked for
21st march School closed to enable teacher to appear before the selection Committee of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and later took medical examination
9th May School closed for May holidays On the day a regrettable incident occurred when the Secretary of the School Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the allocation of cleaning money

which is paid to the children individually and not into a school fund, which would be a more educationally ideal method

26th may School opened for 2nd term

An addition of several books donated to the school library will help to bring about a greater interest in reading

10th May First case of mumps in this school although many cases have been heard of in Wellington and Wairarapa

4th June I have been requested by the chairman of the School Committee to restore the large Coronation picture to the schoolroom from the porch where it more suitably hangs because some unnamed person considers that the loyalty of the said chairman may be doubted

It is on account of similar ill informed criticisms that I am tendering my resignation this week

The utter disregard or more probably sheer ignorance of the Board's rules grows intolerable, as well as dangerous to my personal prestige, since I consider that complaint however ill-informed or unjust must inevitably have repercussions. As far as genuine matters are concerned however the conduct of the Committee has been above reproach. In addition no Board is available and the where is not suitable for winter habitation

2nd June School closed for King's Birthday

7th July School closed teacher ill

11th July My resignation takes effect today (F M Selwood) with two minor disagreements since that of 4th June

Much of the trouble in connection with the fact that my certificate was not granted

In connection with my life outside the school the Committee and residents have been very kind.

I should suggest the Committee should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with their rights and privileges and where these begin and end

3rd July Letter from F M Selwood

- a) Roll 8
- b) If the married men with two children are called up which seems unlikely one boy may be removed
- c) No suitable board is available
- d) A bus should be put on
- e) The accommodation available is living with three boys who constitute nearly half the roll. There is no separate sitting room so the teacher has no opportunity of being away from the children
- f) In addition the water supply in the summer is inadequate and regular baths cannot be taken and there is no hot water service
- g) In addition the teacher becomes drawn into the vortex of the quarrels or may be the subject of it
- h) My period here has been very unhappy. I hope to spare another teacher such unpleasantness
- i) F M Selwood

20th July I C. C. Buck took up duties today, Owing to shortage of teachers I had been asked to take up the teaching as a pupil teacher. I

have been attending the Featherston District High School up till last Friday having passed university entrance exams in 1940 at the age of sixteen I have not yet received an official appointment from the Board in Wellington but Mr. Finlayson Chairman of the School Committee received a notification that I have been appointed to the position. I received a notification that I have been appointed to the position. I have received the utmost help from the staff at Featherston School to whom I am truly grateful and I can only hope that I have enough ability to carry on and improve the standard of work in the school

24th July Oath of allegiance and general application forms arrived today and by these I presume that I have been made a permanent teacher instead of a reliever as I expected

22nd August The school closed today for the close of the mid-term and the beginning of a fortnight's holiday. So far I have had no trouble in any way and I see no reason to expect any. The parents and Committee have given me all the help they can and I thank them sincerely. These last five weeks have been rather in a whirl to me but I have now got things running smoothly and next term I hope to make up much of the work that the pupils are behind in. Today also from the Secretary Mr. Sharp I received the sum of two pounds to be paid to the children for cleaning out the school during the last term

8th September Today the final term of 1941 commenced and although the children are yet unsettled I am sure that in the next few days, they will be hard at work again

17th September Mr. Brockett visited the school this afternoon and gave me many hints in the teaching of Nature Study

24th October Today I had to appear before the selection Committee and be medically tested for entrance into Training College next year.

The school was closed

27th October School closed for Labour Day

29th October School closed owing to teacher being ill

30th October School closed for Carterton Show Day

18th December My duties at this school cease today and I take this opportunity to thank the Committee for all their help and consideration during the past five months

Their help as been invaluable to me

C C Buck

1942

4th January Letter from Ruakokopatuna School Committee to Wellington Education Board That during the last year the children in the school have declined in their work

When the Board is appointing another teacher for the next school year will take these facts into consideration

4th February Miss Betty Pope (*Mrs Betty Simms who taught with Robin Carlyon at Featherston. I sold my first car a Bright Yellow Fiat 500 to Betty on buying a Hillman Imp*)

4th February Miss Betty Pope reopened school a week later than other schools with a roll of 5. Intend spending the first few days testing the pupils and tidying up cupboards etc. The school grounds will need some clearing and the gardens need some attention also

24th February Three Committee men cut and mowed the lawns and helped tidy the grounds in general. They spent the whole day here and we are certainly very grateful for their help. The children have written and thanked them.

26th February Today Dr Mulholland and her assistant visited us and examined the children. The School Medical Doctor remarked on the healthy condition of the pupils and congratulated them as there were no notices to send out. One parent was present. Before leaving Dr Mulholland remarked on the neatness of the school grounds and asked me to congratulate the children on their efforts

30th March Today our first case of school apples arrived and were duly sampled

6th May The school inspector visited us this afternoon and tested the children

28th May owing to a flood it was not possible to reopen the school yesterday the 28th but school commenced this morning as usual

29th June School closed owing to earthquake damage on 25th and 26th. Chimney wrecked and also science equipment, windows cracked and tank damaged

30th June Mr. Smith County Council Officer examined the damage done

2nd July Mr. Drummond Education Department came to take account of damage done. Fire place will have to be taken down it is severely cracked and damaged.

Under the new adoption policy we have sent samples of work into the parent school and have also received work from them. The idea seems to be very helpful to both pupils and teacher

25th November Today we held our first lamb rearing competition. There were six entries five long wooled and one short wooled lambs. Mr. T Scott judged them and Mrs Scott tied the ribbons on. There was a good attendance of parents and friends. The results were as follows

Long wooled 1st John Munro, 2nd James Denholm, 3rd Henry Finlayson 4th Tied Nancy Denholm and M Finlayson

Short Wool Annette Sharp

The school was opened for inspection and the handwork done during the year was on display. The visitors were impressed with the paper mache work and the neatness of the handwriting

On behalf of the pupils I thanked Mr. And Mrs Scott and those present for their help in making the competition a success. Some of the lambs are to go into Martinborough for the finals in the group judging. I wish the competitors success with their lambs

19th December. School break up party and prizes given children. I presented certificates for lamb rearing competition which were won here and at Martinborough. Annette Sharp gained an attendance certificate for constantly good attendance. The pupils were dispersed at 2.30 with wishes for a healthy happy holiday. I look forward to seeing them all again.

1943

1st February School reopened today with an attendance of seven. Two girl Parsons being admitted at the end of last year. The gardens and paths are very much in need of weeding so our spare moments will be devoted to this

7th March A community picnic was held on Mr. Finlayson's property Concilla, Commencing at eleven, we finally finished at five o'clock in the evening. Games, sports and swimming passed away most of the time. Dinner and afternoon tea were enjoyed and here I would like to thank the Committee for their consideration and help which was invaluable to me.

26th march Our first case of apples arrived today and were duly sampled.

24th May Beginning of 2nd term Roll 7

14th June Jean Kime enrolled. Roll 8

20th August Farewell to Jocelyn and Janice Parsons

13th September School resumed a week later than usual owing to teacher having been in hospital. Roll 6

14th September 5 entries for lamb rearing competition

26th November Mr. Scott Judged the lambs today. Mr. Mason assisted him The results as follows. 1st Nancy Denholm, 2nd C Finlayson, 3rd J Denholm Tied 4th Annette Sharp and H Finlayson

2nd December Lambs taken into Martinborough Third in championship with Nancy Denholm's Lamb. Day at swimming baths

13th December Break up party. Attendance certificates to M and K Finlayson and J Denholm. Proficiency Certificate to Nancy Denholm

Consistently good work Annette Sharp

This year has been a very pleasant one indeed On the 29th Mr. Connor visited the school and complimented us on our good work and especially the grounds

1944

8th January I have been asked to inform you that owing to Mrs Sharp having a nervous breakdown that her two children Annette and Estelle will not be attending Ruakokopatuna School this year.

As this leaves only three possible pupils

19th January If the roll is under 5 the Board will be compelled to close the school. In this event the remaining children can be enrolled in Correspondence School

Miss Pope has been transferred to Tukurumuri School as this school has dropped to Grade 1

The Wantwood bus service will be extended to transport the children to Martinborough School

Papers Past Pieces

1st December 1916 Ruakokopatuna was proposed as the name for a new school which the Education Board decided should be erected near the Wantwood Estate not far from Martinborough. It was explained that Wantwood was not the name of the settlement, and besides there was already a Wantwood school in Marlborough. Two names were therefore proposed—the one which the chairman referred to as "the first name" and Pukenui, the name of a nearby estate, the owner of which is giving the land for the school site. After some little discussion and explanation of meanings, the board decided on the name which "was most easily pronounced."

19th November 1919 The sub-committee which was appointed to consider the re-building of the Pukenui School, destroyed by fire on 22nd September, stated that there are two settlements- (a) Pukenui, and (b) Ruakokopatuna, about two miles further on. The school destroyed was more suitable in position for Pukenui. The Pukenui settlers wished to have it a mile nearer to Martinborough, but this would leave some settlers out of reach. On the other hand, the existence of a school at Ruakokopatuna would be too far in the opposite direction. The numbers of children were not sufficient to maintain two good schools. The committee recommended that a school be erected on a site which Mr. E. C. Hathaway was good enough to offer, about 1 mile towards Ruakokopatuna. This left the extreme limit of distance at each end of the district at approximately four miles. It was situated on a terrace, was flat and sunny, and would serve very well. It would satisfy the Ruakokopatuna settlers, but the Pukenui settlers, having had a school, would not approve of the removal to a more remote site. Nevertheless, that appeared to be the only reasonable course to pursue. The only alternative to this was to rebuild the Pukenui School, at the junction of the East Coast road with the Pukenui Road, or on the former site, and a second school on the reserve at Hathaway's, using temporarily the cottage presented by Mr. Hathaway. The objection to this latter course was that the Board would have two small schools, probably of not more than 10 to 15 children, for which it would be impossible to guarantee the services of competent teachers. The report was adopted.

8th November 1930 Pukenui school, Martinborough, is being removed from the present site to one of four acres at Ruakokopatuna

round which now centres the population of the district. Pukenui school has been closed for some years.

24th January 1940 SCHOOL BUILDING

DELAYS ADD TQ COST

The contention that when the Education Department did not act promptly in connection with building projects costs, were added to because of the way prices were increasing as put forward by Colonel T. W. McDonald at today's meeting of the Wellington Education Board. His observations were made when he was referring to the delay that had taken place on the question of the erection of a teacher's residence at Ruakokopatuna, a country district outside Martinborough.

Colonel McDonald said that the Department had agreed to the residence being built, but the work had not yet been started. It had been put off by the Department, and prices were going up all the time. He hoped that this case would serve as a warning to the Department, and that in future the Department would act more promptly when dealing with building matters. Because of the way prices were increasing: delays might mean in some instances that eventually the price would be too prohibitive to permit of the work being undertaken.

It was decided to make further representations to the Department about the Residence at Ruakokopatuna and to ask the Department to give the board an urgent decision on the matter.