

**Tablelands:** 1908-1938 Kilometres east along Hinakura Road from Martinborough



1912. 360 square feet room built  
Section 16 Block XVI area 3 acres  
1948 School building removed to Maungaraki  
Residence built 1912. 4 rooms, Removed to Kahutara 1925  
Approval to transfer land to crown 22 December 1950

### 1902-1907

18<sup>th</sup> July 1902 The Government is acquiring for close settlement the properties in the Carterton-Greytown districts known as Longbush and Tablelands, now leased from the Maori owners by Messrs. Tully Bros. The total area of the two properties is about 27,000 acres. It is expected that the land will be available for selection in five or six months' time PP

22<sup>nd</sup> May 1903 LONGBUSH AND TABLELANDS SETTLEMENT. NOTICE is hereby given that 6 Rural Lots in the

Longbush Settlement, situated about miles from Carterton, and 7 miles from Gladstone, and 11 Rural Lots in the Tablelands Settlement, about 8 miles from Martinborough, will be Open for Application on the Lease in Perpetuity System on and after Tuesday, the 10th June, 1903. Pamphlets containing full particulars can be obtained at the principal Post Offices and from the undersigned. JOHN STRAUCHAN, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington WTPP

30<sup>th</sup> March 1906 The Government Valuer, Mr J. Fraser, is at present engaged in the valuation of about six thousand acres of the Longbush and Tablelands estates, which have been purchased by the Government for the purpose of closer settlement PP

22<sup>nd</sup> November 1907 Application for the establishment of the following schools were considered and in each case the inspectors' recommendation accepted: Tablelands

26<sup>th</sup> November 1907 A school is shortly to be established at Tablelands. WTPP

### 1908

25<sup>th</sup> April 1908 The Education Board has agreed to provide a teacher for the school at Tablelands on condition that the Committee subsidise the capitation grant, so that a minimum salary of £72 will be ensured

28<sup>th</sup> August 1908 The authorisation of various works at the following places : Tablelands

## 1911

3<sup>rd</sup> February Application for new school

- a) Seven families in district
- b) Twelve attending existing school at Tablelands
- c) Martinborough is 10 Miles away, Longbush, 12 miles, Dyerville, 13 Miles
- d) Classroom 18' x 20' 4.57 metres x 6.09 (*' is short form of foot*)
- e) Corridor 16' X 6 4.87 meters x 1.83
- f) 360 square feet
- g) Timber, Iron roof, brick chimney
- h) Shelter Shed 18 foot x 7foot 6 inches
- i) Boys Closet with urinal, Girls Closet
- j) Site to be presented by Mr. Robert McLeod 3 acres, Ngawai
- k) School at present conducted in a room about 20' x 14', a building belonging to Mr. R Saunders and situated close to junction of the Martinborough., Longbush and Pahaoa Roads
- l) Education Board propose to provide for 30 children. There is a good prospect of such a number being soon available

4<sup>th</sup> February The school is run in Mr. Saunders room attached to a farm. Mr. Saunders is now at the extreme of the settlement, The settler living furthest off having to employ a governess

Mr. Robert McLeod will donate the 3 acres of land and provide £50 towards the cost of a building

11<sup>th</sup> April Commissioner of lands approves the transactions

12<sup>th</sup> May Cost of work £ 209:6:0 plus subsidy of £50 from Mr. McLeod

25<sup>th</sup> July 1911 That the site at Tablelands having been surrendered, building proceed as soon as the Roads and weather permit PP

9<sup>th</sup> August 1911 Miss C. Kemsley has been appointed sole teacher at the Tablelands School PP

15<sup>th</sup> September 1911. Tenders Called Tablelands New School. WTPP

23<sup>rd</sup> September 1911 Miss Milne who has been teacher at the Tablelands School for the past three years, has been transferred to Korokoro near Wellington, and last week, the settlers at Tablelands held a farewell gathering, at which they presented Miss Milne with a handsome travelling rug WTPP

1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1911 Mr A R Wallis to erect a new school Tablelands

## 1912

24<sup>th</sup> April 1912 Tablelands —School Committee: Messrs Sharp, Ward, McKay, Workman, Colman, Storey, Saunders. WTPP

September 1912 Request for a small residence at Tablelands was acceded to, and application is to be made to the department for a grant for some .25 pounds PP

27<sup>th</sup> September Letter from Wellington Education Board to Department

The teacher has notified her intention of leaving because none of the settlers were in a position to give her lodgings although they are extremely anxious to retain her services.

3<sup>rd</sup> October Application for a House, 4 rooms and a Bathroom and scullery

Washhouse with copper and tubs Wood shed

The inspector who recently visited Tablelands confirms that accommodation is not available

2<sup>nd</sup> October Letter from Wellington Education Board

The teacher is at present residing with a settler which is already too small for the accommodation of his own family which is a growing one.

The teacher recently wired the Board that she could not remain there, but a temporary arrangement has been made

The Tablelands Settlement as you are aware is one of the newer settlements where lessees have erected for their own purposes a minimum of accommodation and practically none of them can afford to put up more than suffices for the actual needs of the household

The teacher is prepared to occupy her residence if erected.

20<sup>th</sup> November Mr. W C Buchanan MP has just rung up (Secretary of Education) The Board has applied but can get no reply from the Department

28<sup>th</sup> November To Mr. Buchanan The Matter of a residence at Tablelands has gone to Cabinet .

16<sup>th</sup> December A sum of £373:10:0 for a residence at Tablelands

## 1913-15

30<sup>th</sup> January 1913 from the Government included notification of grants for Featherston South, Mikimiki, and Tablelands (residences), and Kaiwairi (improvements to residence). It was notified also that owing to heavy commitments, improvements to teachers' residences would have to be deferred WTPP

29 March 1913 Tablelands Erection of residence Mr H Trotman

December 1915 Vacancy Sole Teacher 110 pounds to 140, plus residence

21<sup>st</sup> December 1915 At a social held at Tablelands Miss Kemsley mistress of the school , was the recipient of two presentations, one on behalf of the children of the school the gift being a beautiful handbag, and the other a handsome gold wristlet watch from the settlers. WTPP

## 1918- 1919

2<sup>nd</sup> August 1918 Tablelands Sole Teacher Temporary Miss M Ussher PP (*Long Term Teacher was Sole Teacher at Kaitara , Morison's Bush at this time*)

28<sup>th</sup> December 1918 Letter from Mr. Andrew Nicol to Wellington Education Board At the request of My Committee and headmistress Miss Ussher I am urging the board to proceed with the work already authorised so the task may be completed before the opening date. Especially the tank at the school residence

Note work now completed 13<sup>th</sup> March 1919

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1919 ST 130 160 pounds and house

## 1922

6<sup>th</sup> February W Colman teacher instructed to reopen Tablelands School as early as possible

26<sup>th</sup> February Mr E M Walden appointed Just completed a course at Wellington teachers Training College. He has four years teaching experience and at present is relieving at Tablelands

## 1923

19<sup>th</sup> April Owing to drop in roll the grade is now O

The government will merely pay the teacher salary at £15 per head based on the average attendance. The parents of the children will be required to make the sum up to £120 and in addition to provide the teacher with free board and lodgings

Mr Walden is being immediately transferred to a new position

23<sup>rd</sup> April Letter from W E Arcus agreeing to terms

27<sup>th</sup> April I have the honour to inform you that Miss G Fairbrother has been selected. For some time she has been assistant at Dalefield School

27<sup>th</sup> April Notes Wellington Education Board made by S/J included

- a) Mr. Coleman Chairman School Committee
- b) The present dropping roll reached partly by the aggregation of adjoining farms
- c) He asks how the residence will be dealt with and whether the residents might have benefit from letting it.
- d) The School Committee has about £40 in hand to be decreased by costs

e) After purchasing the necessary coal the School Committee will have between £25-£30

f) They are very pleased with present teacher

11<sup>th</sup> June 1923 A complaint was received concerning the condition of the road at the foot of the hill below Tablelands School and it was pointed out that every flood scoured the metal off the road. This matter was referred to the overseer

15<sup>th</sup> October Closed for Carterton show and Inspectors holiday  
Letter to Mr W E Andrews Secretary Tablelands School. Sedd-el-Bahr

- a) Sum is £120
- b) The Board will find £105
- c) The parents will have to contribute £15 and free board and lodgings
- d) If the average attendance in any quarter is over 7 no local monetary contributions will be required for the period

## 1924

26<sup>th</sup> April The Kahutara Teacher, a widow with no children had great difficulty in getting accommodation. There is an empty house at Tablelands

8<sup>th</sup> November Average attendance 7

A grant was made for its removal to Kahutara

## 1925

27<sup>th</sup> August Mrs M B Barclay an experienced teacher will take relieving duties at Tablelands. The Board trusts that you will arrange suitable lodgings

2<sup>nd</sup> September The Tableland settlers are not satisfied at having a teacher with a child sent to their school

Boarding of one causes enough trouble never speak of two

The trouble now is that there are two catholic families will send their children to the Convent which will make it very hard for ones which will remain

I do think it is unfair and will make matters acute in the locality

Reply that It was only in special circumstances that a teacher like Mrs Barclay was obtained for a Grade O school

## 1926

13<sup>th</sup> February Masterton Show, School closed

Miss G E Fairbrother Teaching

2<sup>nd</sup> July letter from Mr W E Arcus Commissioner Tablelands School

Owing to an outbreak of scarlet fever in the house where Miss Fairbrother is residing and acting on advice of the Doctor I have reluctantly closed the school for one week

4<sup>th</sup> October E Gallop Applying for leave for Carterton Show

17<sup>th</sup> November A circular to all schools of aided schools

That the teacher is not required to perform household duties other than the care of her own room

Further note The teacher is not required to clean the schoolroom. Parents should make arrangements for this

## 1927

24<sup>th</sup> May this morning I reopened with 1 pupil But it will be nearly two more weeks until most of the others are able to attend

E Gallop

6<sup>th</sup> October Holiday for the Carterton Jubilee Show. We have some entries and all the children are being taken

5<sup>th</sup> December Mr Arcus the Corresponding Secretary and the parents of children at Tablelands school are taking the children to The Exhibition at Masterton on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

## 1928

Letter from E Gallop to Wellington Education Board I regret to state that the above school was closed last week from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September owing to the teacher and most of the children suffering from a very bad form of influenza

The school was reopened today with 4 present

The roll number is 9 Trusting you have not been inconvenienced in any way through our absence

28<sup>th</sup> September As the above school has 20 exhibits for Carterton Show and the parents have decided to take their children to visit the show on October 25<sup>th</sup>



E Gallop

G L Summers, H.H. Ronalds, Commissioners

## 1929

14<sup>th</sup> March Letter from E Gallop. There are 4 on the roll. The boy who is receiving individual attendance has made 28 attendances out of 58 and is likely to be an irregular attendant

It is possible another boy will be leaving this year to attend a private school

20<sup>th</sup> July Letter from W E Arcus Tablelands School Committee Chairman

Letter to Wellington Education Board included

- a) I have been asked to write to you to point out the disabilities under which the pupils at this school suffer from the constant changes of teacher
- b) We have had three different teachers in the last six months
- c) I have now advised by Miss Orr that she is leaving on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August
- d) If we can't get a teacher who promises in some measure to be permanent then we would be better sending our children into Martinborough
- e) If children would go to Martinborough what subsidy would be given?
- f) As the Board are now paying something like £240 to keep Tablelands and Hinakura School open the Districts could

have an everyday mail service so that the children could go to Martinborough each day

24<sup>th</sup> July Reply We have now obtained a permanent teacher in Miss McLennan who is to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> August

27 July 1929 Miss I Maxwell ST

5<sup>th</sup> December Appointment of Miss C M Muir

Grading 197. Service 5 1/2 ,Assistant Gonville School

## 1930

12<sup>th</sup> January Appointment of C L Bailey Miss Muir accepted another position

Grade No 201 Certificate B Service 3 1/2 years Unemployed

Appointed as a temporary teacher

5<sup>th</sup> February Application from C L Bailey to close school for Masterton Show

25<sup>th</sup> February Letter from Wellington Education Board to Mr. W C Arcus Chairman Ngawaka

Because of a serious fall of attendance Mr. Bailey cannot continue But Miss E Bishop at present in temporary charge of Kaitawa School is prepared to accept appointment to Tablelands Her salary will be £135 from which she could be required to contribute £15 towards the cost of board and lodging

5<sup>th</sup> March Letter from Mr. Arcus included

- a) I would point out the disadvantage under which the children at this school are suffering as we have had no fewer than 6 different teachers in under 12 months
- b) The reason for the fall in attendance is due to the constant change of teachers and four of the children attending this school have been sent away for that reason
- c) We have no alternative to agree to your suggestion with whatever action your Board thinks fit to adopt
- d) There is a possibility of the remaining children being taken away if the position does not improve

31<sup>st</sup> March Appointment of Miss M D Feist as relieving teacher

16<sup>th</sup> May Miss B F McDonald is Sole teacher

### 1931

28<sup>th</sup> May Letter from Mr. Arcus As I am given to understand Miss McDonald has been given leave of absence until the 14<sup>th</sup> June , could you send a reliever please

26<sup>th</sup> May Can't provide a reliever as Education Department refused

26<sup>th</sup> July Letter from Beryl F McDonald to Wellington Education Board Living with Mr. Arcus at Sedd-el-Bahr

Wanted to close school on Thursday rather than Friday for Term holidays To attend a family wedding

Approved by Mr. W E Arcus

4<sup>th</sup> August Letter from Wellington Education Board to all Grade O schools

To provide free board and lodgings to the teacher

Teacher to only pay board if salary is over £120. The cost of board not to exceed 25/-

That parents will share proportionally according to the number of children the cost of providing board and lodging

### 1932

25<sup>th</sup> January Miss I Maxwell grading 199 to be in charge, in place of Miss McDonald

13<sup>th</sup> May Miss J Feist appointed as reliever

### 1933

4<sup>th</sup> February Freda E Roy teacher applying for Masterton Show Day as a holiday

14<sup>th</sup> February Letter from Miss K Todd Palmerston North to Wellington Education Board

The school correspondent at Tablelands has informed me that three of the pupils are doing secondary work, One first year ,two second year

I understand that pupils in sole teacher school who have gained their pass in the sixth standard went on with correspondence work either at school or at home

Would you please let me know whether the above is quite in order

Reply all OK The Senior Inspector informs me that it is regarded as a teacher's duty to assist such pupils as much as possible

27<sup>th</sup> February Letter to Miss K Todd Head teacher, Tablelands

It is quite in order for teachers to supervise Correspondence work by secondary pupils

12<sup>th</sup> June

Secondary Department Form 3, 1 Form 4,2

Primary Department Primer 1,1 Standard 4, 1, Standard 5,1

6<sup>th</sup> October Asking that Labour Day be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

October. The day after the Carterton show holiday- K Todd

Mr. H Ronalds Chairman. Fairlie supported application

4<sup>th</sup> December Miss Todd asking for 14<sup>th</sup> December as a sports day.

Signed by K Todd, and H H Ronalds Commissioner

## 1934

15<sup>th</sup> February Miss Todd did not commence duties until 12<sup>th</sup> of February Applying for Masterton Show Holiday

4<sup>th</sup> April D McCaskill inspector to Secretary Wellington Education Board As the roll has dropped to 3 I recommend that it be closed at the end of the present term

7<sup>th</sup> May Letter from Mr. Ronalds. Asking for an extension of closing the school as the County are putting in a permanent roadman

If the school is kept open Mr. Arcus and myself are prepared to subsidise the teacher's salary

17<sup>th</sup> May The Board will reopen the school when two more children are enrolled

## 1935

16<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Mr. Ronalds included

- a) A little over twelve months ago I came to see you re the closing of our school and you promised as soon as we had five children of school age you would reopen the school and give us a teacher
- b) The time has come when we have 5 children to go to school at the beginning of next year and trust you will redeem your promise
- c) 1 girl Standard VI, 1 Boy Standard II, 1 Girl Standard 3, 1 boy Standard 1
- d) 1 Girl Primer

4<sup>th</sup> November that this day the Board is applying to reopen Tablelands School as an aided school

Mr. Ronalds, W E Arcus and L M Berrill signed application approving lodging of teacher

29 October

Application to Department

- a) Four on correspondence school roll
- b) Hinakura 6 Miles away, Martinborough 11 1/2, Longbush 11



- c) Nearest Railway Station Featherston 23 Miles
- d) Education Board schoolroom available
- e) Families will board teacher
- f) L M Berrill Farm Manager Hinakura 7 Miles away, Lindsay aged 9, Peter aged 7
- g) W E Arcus Farmer, Hinakura 6 Miles away Frank Barrymore 8, Alison Jill 6
- h) H H Ronalds Hinakura 5 Miles away

## 1936

15<sup>th</sup> January Department approves reopening of Tablelands School to Proposal sent in by Wellington Education Board on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1935

26<sup>th</sup> February Following no certificated teacher to be appointed. Mr. Harold Ronalds Could children carry on with correspondence with an uncertificated teacher

But Education Board said it has to be either or

**20 March 1936 Miss J Trevethick appointed**

1<sup>st</sup> May Miss J Trevethick is applying for school journals

13<sup>th</sup> October Miss A J Trevethick is applying for Carterton show holiday

16<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Harold Ronalds included

- a) As you know our teacher has resigned from Tablelands School

- b) The parents are most anxious about having a teacher for the rest of the year
- c) My daughter is sitting for her proficiency at the end of the year
- d) It does seem to me a great pity that teachers are allowed to vacate their positions at the most treacherous time of the year

## 1937

8<sup>th</sup> March telegram to Ronalds. Mr. Smith Permanent teacher arriving tomorrow

19<sup>th</sup> April Letter from H or W J Smith There is a pupil under my supervision on my roll till April taking Form III correspondence This pupil thinks she might be leaving at the end of the year for some secondary school

Do I need a secondary return from her?

13<sup>th</sup> July Total roll 5

2<sup>nd</sup> November There will be 4 children at start of year with possibly one new pupil

4<sup>th</sup> November Now five at start of year

## 1938

23<sup>rd</sup> May Miss E H Grant

14<sup>th</sup> July Letter to Col T W McDonald if the roll stays at 4 we will keep the school open until the end of the year

13<sup>th</sup> October Holiday for Carterton Show granted to Miss E Grant

19<sup>th</sup> October The school to be closed pm 16<sup>th</sup> December as roll will not be higher than 3

1st November Letter from Mr. Ronalds accepting the closure of the school

## 1948

26<sup>th</sup> October That tender has been let to shift Tablelands School to Maungaraki Sum £1663,15 tender of A. G Cretney 10 Michael Street Masterton

1908	9	Tablelands	Milne	Robertina M	Licensed	Female	£48
1909	9	Tablelands	Milne	Robertina M	Licensed	Female	£95
1910	10	Tablelands	Milne	R M M Mrs	Licensed	Female	£90
1911	10	Tablelands	Kemsley	Constance A		Female	£90
1912	16	Tablelands	Kemsley	Constance A		Female	£90
1913	15	Tablelands	Kemsley	Constance A		Female	£108
1914	14	Tablelands	Kemsley	Constance A		Female	£117
1915	13	Tablelands	Kemsley	Constance A		Female	£126
1917	11	Tablelands	Burgess	Winifred I	Sole		£110
1919	9	Tablelands	Wearne	Ernest C	Sole		£140
1921	9	Tablelands	Wearne	Ernest C	Sole		£190
1923	7	Tablelands	Fairbrother	Gladys	Sole		£105

## 1951

8<sup>th</sup> January Land transferred to Land and Survey Department

1907	5	Mangaoronga	Milne	Robertina M McF
1908	9	Tablelands	Milne	Robertina M
1909	9	Tablelands	Milne	Robertina M
1910	10	Tablelands	Milne	R M M Mrs
1911	9	Korokoro South	Milne	Robertina M
1912	15	Pirinoa	Milne	Robertina Mrs
1913	19	Pirinoa	Milne	Robertina Mrs
1914	11	Mikimiki Valley	Milne	Roberina M

1928, Milne, Robertina Maxwell Mcfarlane, 155, Eglinton Road, Mornington, Widow

1945/20468 Milne Maxwell 91Y  
 Robertina McFarlane

1<sup>st</sup> March 1911 Application for a new school at Tablelands  
 LIP= Lease in perpetuity

Native of Scotland, Died in Dunedin

Family	Occupation	Tenure	Distance from Proposed School	Nearest School	Distance From	Children	Age	Current School
W Colman	Farmer	LIP	1 ¼ Mile	Tablelands	3 Miles	Laura	13	
						Gordon	10	
						Monica	6	
Tablelands Settlement								
H Storey	Carpenter		1 Mile	Ditto	3 Miles	Vera	10	

						Malcolm	8	
						Leslie	7	
						Freda	3	
						Adilin	13	Homeburn
W Mckay	Farmer	LIP	1 ½ miles	Ditto	5¾ Miles	Jean	6	
						Eva	5	
						Annie	3	
						Lenore	1	
Hikawera Settlement								
F Ward	Farmer	LIP	¼ mile	Ditto	4 ½ Mile	Joan	6	Greytown
						Patrick	4	
						Cornelius	2	
						Douglas	3 months	
Tablelands								
Robert McLeod	Farmer	LIP	1 Mile	Ditto	3 ½ Miles	Flora A	4	
						Agnes B	2	

A Sharp	Farmer	LIP	1 ¾ Miles	Ditto	2 ½ miles	James	13	
						Francis	11	
						Richard	9	
						Roths	1	
E J Ussher	Mail Contractor Post office Hinakura		6 Miles			Edward	4	Children will come By coach 3 times a week
						Wilfred H	3	
						Ronald H	2	
J Saunders	Farmer	LIP	4 ½ miles	Tablelands	¼ mile	R Saunders	12	
Signed Robert McLeod								