

Taita

8th May 1869 Polling Pace at the Schoolhouse Taita. First mention in Papers Past

4th October 1871 First Article found on Papers Past referring to a Taita School: A concert was given at the Taita on Monday evening for the benefit of the local school, and it proved a great success financially and otherwise. The audience numbered fully 200, and singing was particularly good. The chief singers were Mrs. T. C. Williams, Mrs. Bruce, Misses Ross, Riddiford, Doyle, Daysh, Bruce, and Phillips; the gentlemen Messrs. T. C. Williams, G. Williams, G. Beetham. Mr. George Williams is deserving of special attention, for owing to his exertions chiefly the entertainment was brought about

7th October 1871 Board of Education [This Board of Education went up as far as Wanganui on the West Coast and the Manawatu River on the Eastern Side] A letter from W Milne certifying the amount of arrears of salary due to the teacher to 30th September

19th July 1873 Board of Education In view of Mr Toomath again visiting the Wairarapa district, he was instructed to have certain necessary repairs and alterations made to the Taita and Greytown schools.

7th March 1874 Board of Education The letter to the Provincial Secretary relative to the votes already passed by the Board for school buildings was read, as under:— Greytown, in addition to £100 voted by local association, £250; East Masterton, £350; Masterton, £350 ; Featherston, in addition to £30 voted by local body, £170 Karori, £250 ; Wharekaka, £150; Gladstone, £150 ; Turakina, £400; Taita, in addition to £17 collected by residents, £50 ;

14th March 1874 Taita A meeting was held at the residence of the schoolmaster, on the evening of the 9th inst., for the purpose of forming a Sanitary Committee, that measures might be taken to hinder diphtheria from spreading in the district. Mr Bruce occupied the chair, and stated that, when there was a local School Committee, and scarlet fever was prevalent in the district, a regulation was laid down that children could not be admitted to the school until a month had elapsed after their perfect recovery. Mr George Burnett thought that some alterations should be made for the proper ventilation of the school, and the removal of the closets to a greater distance from the main building. The schoolmaster said the Board had been duly apprised of the needed improvements, and nearly two months ago had requested him to obtain the services of a professional man, and forward estimates, but three carpenters he had applied to were too busy to enter upon it till they had completed their contracts. Mr Beetham and Mr Ross had offered to give their advice whenever it was required on the estimated cost of the necessary improvements. On the subject of the malady that has unhappily proved fatal here in six cases, it was thought the frost which occurred on Monday morning might check its further progress, but it was also considered advisable that the Central Board of Health should be communicated with, and their advice solicited with reference to preservatives from epidemic diphtheria, and the best means for disinfecting houses in which the disease had appeared. It was observed that when diphtheria prevailed in the district before, those families that had cases of scarlet fever in one year were free from diphtheria the next, from which it might be inferred that the causes that produce croup, diphtheria, and scarlet fever are somewhat similar.

11th August 1874 Board of Education REFUND. On the motion of Mr. Toomath, a sum of money (£18), contributed formerly by the people of the Taita, was ordered to be returned as applied for—for specific purposes—as soon as a local committee had been established

1st December 1874 Board of Education Mr. Toomath objected to the removal of Miss Stevens, on the ground that the people of Johnsonville had already been subjected to considerable inconvenience. He would propose that Miss Devereux be removed from the Lower Hutt to Karori, and that Miss Sinclair, of the Taita, be requested to fill the vacancy at the Lower Hutt. The motion was agreed to.

31st December 1874 I a list of students in the Wellington Board who passed Standard 3 Was 15th Rowland Sinclair aged 12 years 1 month who got 121 marks. Children's ages varied from 10 years 11 months to 17 years 1 month. 36 boys and 9 girls passed

20th January 1875 Out of seven candidates from the primary schools of the province for Wellington College scholarships, session 1875, only six presented themselves for examination, of whom the successful candidate was William H. Field, of Aramaho School, near Wanganui, he being closely followed by Rowland Sinclair of Taita school.

22nd January 1885 TO THE EDITOR. Sir, —I do not know what construction to put on a paragraph , that appeared in the Evening Post of last night, referring to the winning of the Wellington College scholarship by William H. Field, of Aramaho school, near Wanganui. If the list you printed be correct, and it has not been contradicted by Mr. Lee, it would appear that the best scholar at the Government schools in this province, at the last inspection, was Rowland Sinclair, of the Taita school, aged twelve years and one month. Next in order of merit comes Kenneth Webbe, of Thorndon school, Wellington, aged twelve years and three months; and then William Field, Aramaho, aged thirteen years. The marks gained by each, on passing Standard III., were Rowland Sinclair, Taita, 187 ; Kenneth Webbe , Wellington, 183 ; William Field, Aramaho, 183. And with respect to the merits of the different teachers, it may be mentioned that Sir. fifteen years nine months in charge, Mr. Sinclair nine months, and Mr. Powle three months at the time of inspection.—I am, &c., Investigator. Jan. 21

9th March 1875 Board of Education Mr. Toomath stated that he had received a letter from the master of the Taita school, who informed him that he had been desired by the Inspector to impart the higher branches of education to those of his more advanced pupils. The teacher wished to know what remuneration he would receive. The members of the Board being entirely ignorant of any such arrangement, the letter was ordered to stand over till the return of the Inspector, who is on a tour of inspection in the West Coast districts.

20th July 1875 Our Taita correspondent, writing under date July 19th, says :—“ At the last meeting of the committee of the Taita library, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Fitzherbert, M.H.R., for a very liberal donation of books he had presented to the library. With the donations of Mr. Fitzherbert and Mr. Horsfall, this local library now numbers some hundreds of volumes, and the perusal of the readable books helps to while away the winter evenings. The class-room of the Taita school has been recently lined by the Board of Education, and the evening school meets in it on three nights a week. There has been an intimation about a revival of the Taita Band of Hope that ceased to meet when the measles prevailed in the district, and there has also been a desire expressed to have a singing class on one evening in the week. To show you how absurd the complaints against the Board of Education are in the matter of firewood, I may mention that when the Board asked estimates

to be sent in, it was found that the Te Aro and Taita schools were highest, and the Thorndon school only one-fourth of each of these. The Board, wisely as I think, decided on giving a cord for each fireplace—precisely four times as much as the Thorndon, and one half the Taita estimate—thus laying down as a principle that the comfort of the pupils is not beneath their notice, and avoiding such questions as the size of the room, width of the fireplace, and comparative cost of firewood in town and country, as being matters of minor importance. Those who are so ready to complain of the present arrangement should point out a better. [As Printed]

26th July 1875 Pupil Teachers who passed included Jane T Sinclair of Taita classed as second year

4th January 1876 TO THB EDITOR OF THB EVENING POST. Sir. — -You have been misled by your several correspondents at the Hutt in making statements and comments in your paper of yesterday, not borne out by facts. .On the departure of the Returning Officer on Wednesday, observing no placard with the state of the poll, I wrote one with — Fitzherbert 17 Hutchison ' 14 and nailed on the school in the place where I put all intimations, but after a short conversation with Mr. Milne, and learning from him the general state of the poll front the returns at the Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt, I took the placard down, considering it unnecessary. This is the only placard I put up, and the only one that adorned the outside of the school." I am, &c, j J. L. SINCLAIR, Schoolmaster. .31st December, 1875

15th January 1876 Inspector's report included Moderate-sized Schools (50 to 100 Scholars). These sixteen schools are generally producing good results, except that in six of them—Johnsonville, Taita, Karori, Palmerston, and Wanganui girls' schools—the standard is far too low. Better results will be looked for in these six schools. Taita. —Very low in standard II. results. Discipline weak ; master kind. Much better work will be expected.

27th January 1876 The following are the pupils attending the schools of the Education Board in and near Wellington who passed Standard 111. in the examination of 1875 and the marks gained by each according to the report just presented by the Inspector of Schools • iVT. Marks, Thorndon, 176 ; W. Callagher Thorndon, 159 , ' W. Scott, Thorndon, 158 ; W. Beck, Boulcott-street, 156 ; W. Ridler Thorndon, 141 ; T. Watson, Te Aro, 141 - E. Randall, Thorndon, 138; E. Brogan t Hill-street, 135 ; H. Kibblewhite, Boulcott-street, 135 ; W. Wi Tako, Te Aro, I 134 ; E. Monaghan, Boulcott-street, 132 • I A. Paul, Thorndon, 132 ; G. Hall, Lower Hutt, 131; W. Ellerm, Lower Hutt, 131 ; A. Feist, Te Aro, 131 ; C. Story, Thorndon, 130; A. Bright, Thorndon, 127 ; A. Milne, Taita, 127 ;.....

15th April 1876 The next lecture to the young in connection with the Terrace school will be delivered this afternoon by Mr. Sinclair, schoolmaster at the Taita. Subject—" The Economic Application of Heat."

10th August 1876 Pupil Teacher Second Year Age 14 years Jane Sinclair Taita was 4th in the pas list

30th December 1876 At the breaking up of the Taita public school for the Christmas holidays the following pupils obtained prizes :—First division— Arthur Death, Walter Clement, Frederick Welch, Mary M. Sinclair, Kate Meagher. Second division—Ernest Clement, Geo. Death, Emma Death, Augusta Clement, Mary King, Deborah Avery, Mary Ann Davison, Ada James. Special prizes were also awarded to Martha Ebden and Rose E. Rodgers. The master said that owing to the ploughing match and sports in the neighborhood there was a very small

attendance on the day the school was inspected, but he hoped to see a better turn out on the next visit of Mr. Lee and he reminded pupils that, if they wished to pass particular standards, or figure high on examination lists, they must be regular in attendance and persevering in their studies.

9th February 1877 Inspector Lee's Report included The. vested schools at Taita, Tawa Flat, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Kaiwarra, and Johnsonville have not more than half an acre of land attached to them.....Taita.—Nineteen out of 75 on the books were absent at the ploughing match on the fine day fixed for the examination, but I do not think their presence would have affected my judgment of the results. No good work of any kind was done. The results are, in all respects, lower than last year. No school under the. Board is in a more wretched condition. The" master has no control over the pupils, and his teaching is wholly ineffective. There are as many children classed as unsatisfactory in this school as are to be found in the whole of the county of Rangitikei.

1st March 1877 Mr. Sinclair's complaint regarding Mr. Lee's report on the Taita School was then taken. Mr. Lee's report on this school was to the effect that several members of Mr. Sinclair's family had alleged that they had experienced feelings of dislike on the part of Mr. Lee towards them. It was also alleged that ten pupils, who were absent on the day of inspection, were marked as " unsatisfactory." Mr. Lee denied that he entertained any feelings of dislike towards Mr. Sinclair or any of his family. He had marked the pupils referred to as unsatisfactory, for the simple reason that they were so. The Board then proceeded to consider the several cases in private, and the representatives of the Press were requested to withdraw

29th March 1877 TAITA SCHOOL. In reference to the Inspectors' report, a letter was received from the local committee, stating the opinion that Mr. Sinclair should be heard in re the complaint against him. Mr. Lee said this school was the weakest in the province, and he had little hope of Mr. Sinclair ever proving' a competent teacher. And in reference to this, he might state that as Inspector of Schools he had fully made up his mind so long as he occupied the position to tell the plain truth regarding the class of work done in the different schools.

After further discussion," during which the Chairman expressed confidence in the judgment Mr. Lee, it was resolved that Mr. Sinclair should be given an opportunity of being heard, or he could make his statement in writing.

25th April 1877 Education Board Mr. Sinclair, the master of the Taita school, was in attendance for the purpose of making certain statements with reference to the Inspector's report on his school. Having come into the room he said that he had given a written statement of his complaint to Mr. Pharazyn. This complaint, which he now repeated, was to the effect that on various occasions his wife, son, and daughter had been unfairly treated by Mr. Lee. His son, for instance, had been told by Mr. Lee that he was not fit to be a pupil teacher, because he could not manipulate a paper fastener. He (Mr. Sinclair) said that if he were to describe some of Mr. C. C. Graham's statements in connection with this matter he would have to use some of the strongest . expressions in the English language. Mr. Graham asked Mr. Sinclair to explain what he meant. Mr. Sinclair said that he meant that Mr. Graham's statement that he (Mr. Sinclair) had told him that he had boxed his wife's ears in the school-room, was false.

Mr. Graham said that his statement was founded on what Mr. Sinclair himself had told him. Mr. Sinclair asked to be allowed to take a copy of the written statement lie had first read, but

he was not allowed to do so. Mr. Sinclair then withdrew, and consideration of the matter was postponed until the Inspector could be present

31st May 1877 The Inspector reported, with regard to Mr. J. L. Sinclair's complaint regarding the inspection, that that gentleman's letter, which was read at the last meeting of the Board, was a complete tissue of absurdities. He denied that he had dealt unfairly with any members of Mr. Sinclair's family in the examination. He stated that in his opinion Mr. Sinclair was not a thoroughly competent teacher.\

The Secretary also read his own report regarding Mr. Sinclair's remarks concerning himself. His observations were to the same effect as those of the Inspector. –

The Inspector's report was read for the purpose of showing that the Taita school was Conducted in a most unsatisfactory manner."

The Chairman said that if Mr. Sinclair was not competent he ought to be dismissed'

Mr. Gisborne said the question was whether, if Mr. Sinclair had made false charges against the Secretary and Inspector, as he was alleged to have done, he should be retained in the service of the Board.

The Chairman moved "That the Board, having taken into consideration Mr* Sinclair* letter and the Inspector's reply, together with the Secretary's letter to the Board, refuting accusations brought against him by Mr. Sinclair, resolve that Mr. Sinclair be informed that his services are no longer required."

The motion was carried unanimously

1st June 1877 The case of Mr. Sinclair, teacher of the Taita school, has been at last definitely settled by the Education Board. Mr. Lee, the inspector of schools, has succeeded in substantiating all that he said in connection with the conduct of that school when he made his annual report, and Mr. Sinclair is to receive notice to leave his situation under the Board. The Board were not long in arriving at their decision, having as it were the " tail end" of the case before them, and possibly they would have been still more expeditious but for Mr. Toomath finding cause of perplexity in something in the letter written by Mr. Sinclair. The latter gentleman had stated, in fact, that Mr. Lee had said to a pupil teacher (who had brought up some exercises stuck together with a pin) that he should be a handy boy and not bring up exercises skewered together like cats-meat hawked round the streets of Loudon. This " exercised " the mind of Mr. Toomath. He could not get it out of his head. He wanted to know what cats-meat had to do with the Taita school, and what relation skewers bore to pinned exercises. He regarded this, apparently, with something of the same feeling expressed by Sergeant Buzfuz in the celebrated Pickwick Trial did the defendant's allusion to chops and tomato sauce, which conveyed some hidden meaning ; and in the great cause of education and of justice, he felt bound to have this cats meat and skewer business cleared up. Eventually, however, he was induced to believe that it meant nothing more than a figure of speech, and so discussion dropped

1st June 1877 New Zealand Times a Long and more in depth report of the failures of the Sinclair family included this re Mrs Sinclair Mrs. Sinclair was pronounced by me to be valueless as a teacher. I have been a master as well as a student in one of the largest and best training colleges for schoolmasters in Britain, and I have had a considerable and varied experience of eighteen years in good school work since. It did not, then, take me long to sum

up Mrs. Sinclair's capabilities as a teacher and I candidly, but not offensively, told Mr. Sinclair my opinion. She was removed, and the daughter put in her place

4th June 1877 Miss Annie Milne, Taita, has been appointed assistant in the Taita school. Appointment to date from 1st June.

6th July 1877 Mr. Robert Johnson, formerly of the Kaiwaewae [Actually Kaiwaiwai] School, was appointed to the Taita school, vice Mr. Sinclair.

7th July 1877 Board of Education A letter was read from Mr. Beetham, Chairman of the Taita Local Committee, acquiescing in the appointment of Mr. Johnson to be master of the school in the room of Mr. Sinclair. Mr. Johnson had been recommended by the Inspector, Mr. Lee, and the Board now definitely appointed him to the charge of the school.

27th July 1877 Pupil Teacher examinations Second year over 14 years of age Mary -E. Stevens, Annie Boulcott, Taita

3rd August 1877 Johnston Robert master Taita School achieved a First Class certificate

1878

1878		Taita	Johnston	R		Head	£200.00	
1878		Taita	Milne	A		Female Pupil Teacher	£40.00	

26th April 1878 Wellington Education Board Additions are needed for the Taita residence

27th April 1878 The following are the respective numbers of children attending the Education Board's schools in and around Wellington : — Thorndon, 325 ; Te Aro, 305 ; Terrace, 201 ; Mount Cook (boys), 162; Mount Cook (girls), 302; Mount Cook (infants), 409; Lower Hutt, 146; Upper Hutt, 137; Taita, 72; Karori, 69; North and South Makara, 42; Kaiwarra, 52; Johnsonville, 59.

30th April 1878 Wellington Education Board Teacher's residence Taita enlargement, £150

29th June 1878 Notice is given by the Secretary to the Board of Education that no returns of the election of school committees have been received from the following districts : —Lower Hutt, Taita, Tauherenikau, Kaitara, Waihenga, Gladstone, Tenui, Opaki, and Mauriceville . Public meetings of householders are called for the 16th inst., at 7 o'clock in the evening, in the schoolrooms at the above places, for the purpose of electing committees

5th August 1878 Miss Boulcott of Taita Classed as an assistant . Miss (Annie) Boulcott was teaching at Lower Hutt School in 1878 as a Pupil Teacher. And Annie Milne of Taita Passed Third year Pupil Teacher examination over 15 years of age

1879

1879		Taita	Johnston	R		Head	£210.00	
1879		Taita	Milne	Anna		Female Pupil Teacher	£45.00	

30th May 1879 Estimates of future expenses sent to Minister of Education by Wellington Education Board Taita Alterations £150

26th June 1879 Wellington Education Board and a farther sum of £15 was voted towards the completion of the Taita School buildings.

1880

1880		Taita	Johnston	Robert		Master	£220.00	
1880		Taita	Milne	Annie		Female Pupil Teacher	£50.00	

1880		Taita	Johnstone	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00
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18th February 1880 Mr. Howard Haywood gave one of his interesting entertainments in the Lower Hutt schoolroom, last night, to a large audience, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the many views exhibited. The lecturer was repeatedly applauded during his remarks and kept his audience fully interested for two hours. The views are to be exhibited in the Taita school this evening. [A gas lamp with slides]

19th February 1880 Mr. Howard Haywood, during his lecture last night at the Taita school, made reference to the knowledge many people at Home have of the geography of New Zealand. He produced a letter which was addressed to a gentleman in New Zealand from his father in England — "Mr. William Collins, schoolmaster, Christchurch, Long Beach, Wellington."

25th February 1889 Wellington Education Board TAITA AND PETONE. A deputation waited upon the Board for the purpose of urging the necessity for erecting a new school at Taita. The deputation promised to find the necessary site and timber for the building, and the Board agreed to give the matter their favorable consideration. A deputation from Petone waited on the Board for a similar purpose, and the Mayor and Mr. Bunny were appointed to wait on the Government for the purpose of seeing whether they could obtain a site for a school.[There is an irony about the comment above of knowledge of geography. Read the piece below for the more accurate article]

28th February 1880 Wellington Education Board Deputations from Whiteman's Valley (Taita), and from Petoni, [Whiteman's Valley was East of Trentham in the Upper Hutt Area.

3rd April 1880 Wellington Education Board Schools classed as Country Schools First Number is no of children in Standard classes and the 2nd number is the number of children who passed and therefore moved up a Standard Country Schools (average attendance 25 and over) :—Horokiwi, 29 —20 ; Pahautanui, 33 — 30; Judgeford, 13-13 ; Porirua, 28—13; Tawa, 61—43 Johnsonville , 22—14 ; Ohariu, 88—25; Makara, 39—27 ; Karori, 50—28; Taita, 46—42 ; Maungaroa, 18—16 ; Waihenga, 22—20 ; Kaitaia, 37—32 ; Matarawa, 33—31 ; Park Vale, 6—6 ; Fernridge, 41—30; Opaki, 28—23 ; Mauriceville, 32—25. Total, 576-438.

Rural Schools (average attendance less than 25). —Korokoro, 16—15; Wainuiomata, 14—9; Tauherenikau, 15—8; Kaiwarra, 23—20 ; Waingawa, 17 —10 ; Gladstone, 14—12 ; Bideford, 9—B ; Eketahuna, 15—10 ; Tenui, 17—12. Total, 140—104,

12th August 1880 Pupil Teacher results for pupil teachers in 1880 Nita Johnson First year (Over 13) and Annie Milne Fifth Year (Over 17 Years old)

1881

1881	64	Taita	Johnston	Robert		Head Master	£220.00
1881	64	Taita	Johnstone	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 35.00
1881	64	Taita	Welch	Laura		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 16.00

4th January 1881 Part of a long article on Maori and Taita among the events of New Year's Day there was one of a peculiarly interesting nature at Taita. It consisted of an entertainment given by a well-known Maori chief, Manihera, formerly of Petoni, a friend and connection of Epuni, two of the men who, on arrival of the first Europeans in Port Nicholson in 1839 and

1840, received Colonel Wakefield and the white men with friendship and the greatest hospitality. A commodious 8-roomed house has just been erected at Taita for Manihera and for his nephew, Mr. Charles Servantes, whose name many old settlers will recollect, who issued invitations to a large number of Maoris, also to many of the principal settlers at the Hutt and gave a house-warming in true orthodox English style on Saturday -last. - The house is well furnished in every particular and fitted for occupation by any European family. Great preparations had been made and a sumptuous feast was provided.....

26th January 1881 At a meeting of householders, held on Monday evening, in the Taita Schoolroom, the following householders were elected members of the local school committee for the ensuing year : — Messrs. W. Milne (chairman), G. Buck, J. Ross, H. Meager, W. Welch, L. Clements, W. Cleland. Mr. Johnston was appointed secretary and treasurer. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Beetham, who retires, for services rendered by him as chairman for many years, and for the interest he has always taken in the school. [Of all the schools that I've researched this is the first that I have noticed that has the teacher as Secretary and Treasurer. Most cases the Head Teacher didn't even attend]

30th June 1881 Wellington Education Board respect to an application from the Taita School Committee for an additional class room, which Inspector Lee considered was much required, the architect was instructed to prepare an estimate of the cost, the Board promising to carry it out when in funds.—

31st August 1881 Wellington Education Board Miss Laura Walsh [Sic] was appointed pupil teacher at the Taita

1st September 1881 Miss Laura Welch was appointed pupil-, teacher to the Taita School

26th October 1881 Wellington Education Board and £300 was voted for alterations to the Taita school,

19th December 1881 The following are the names of the pupils who carried off the prizes at the recent examination at the Taita School : — Standard VI , Ernest Welch ; V., Ellen Meager ; IV , Maurice Welch ; III., Arabella Welch ; II., Richard Menzie ; 1., Edith Williams.

22nd December 1881 Wellington Education Board The action of the Taita Committee in having a well sunk and pump erected in the local school grounds was approved, and the cost of the work, £8 10s, ordered to be paid.

1882

1882	62	Taita	Johnston	Robert		Head Master	£220.00
1882	62	Taita	Johnstone	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 40.00
1882	62	Taita	Welch	Laura		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00

25th January 1882 TAITA SCHOOL. A public meeting was held last night for the purpose of electing a School Committee for 1882. All the members of the late committee were re-elected, viz., Messer's . Buck, Cleland, Clement, Haines, Meager, Milne, and Ross. Mr. Milne was elected chairman, and Mr. Johnston secretary. It was decided to re- open the school as soon as the two rooms now being erected can be landed over — probably by the 6th February.

13th April 1882 Wellington Education Board Inspector's Report included District Town Schools. —Eight schools in this classification contain 1582 children. Masterton, Carterton, and Taita are the best ; Greytown, Featherston, and. Lower Hutt are doing satisfactory work ;

the Upper Hutt is in an improved condition ; the Kaiwara school is weak, but improvement is anticipated under present management. Work in the higher standards at Featherston and Greytown is below the average ; the Carterton school is in a high state, of efficiency.

10th August 1882 Pupil Teacher's Examination Third Year (Age over 15) Johnstone Nita Taita and Welch Lorna Taita. Passed

25th October 1882 Wellington Education Board Additions were authorised to the following school buildings, subject to the Board's approval of the plans of proposed alterations : — Taita School, Park Ridge School, and teacher's residence at Featherston

1883

1883	68	Taita	Johnston	Robert		Head Master	£230.00
1883	68	Taita	Johnstone	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£40.00
1883	68	Taita	Welch	Laura		Female Pupil Teacher	£25.00

25th January 1883 School Committee At a meeting of householders held in the Taita schoolhouse, on the evening of the 23rd instant, the following were elected members of the school committee for the ensuing year.—Messrs.. Milne, Boss, Cleland. Clement, Buck, Monger, and Haines. Mr. Milne was elected chairman ; Mr. Cleland, auditor; and Mr. Johnston, secretary and treasurer. Messrs. Blair and Beetham were nominated for the Education Board.

31st January 1883 Education Board Scholarship Examination included Accordingly, six of the scholarships had been awarded to candidates from the city schools in the following order of merit :—

First L. Campbell, Terrace School, £30. 2. Geo. Scott. Te Aro School,, £20. 3. Ernest Redwood, Mount Cook School, £20 4 ' Alfred Easton. Thorndon School, £15. 5. G. Smyth, Thorndon School, .£15. 6 Alfred Brown, Te Aro School, £10.

The next two who gained the required two thirds of the total marks were No. 50 (name not given), from Taita School, and Ernest B. Mowbray, from Johnsonville. These being so very nearly equal, the examiners bracketed them and recommended that the Wellington Country District Scholarship of £30 should be divided among them. They regretted to have to report that none of the candidates in the Wairarapa District scored the necessary 516 marks.

1st February 1883 Upper Hutt additions to residence £100, ditto Taita £25

2nd February 1883 We now learn that Mary King was the successful pupil of the Taita School to whom the Wellington District Scholarship was awarded in conjunction with E. Mowbray, of Johnsonville.

5th March 1883 A match was played at the Hutt on Saturday between the Taita boys and the Thorndon School boys, resulting in a victory for the former by six wickets. Welch's 20 for the Taita assisted materially towards winning the match.

18th April 1883 Inspector's report to Wellington Education Board included The passes made at the Taita school wore hardly so good as in previous years

25th July 1883 Wellington Education Board An application by the Taita Committee for a grant of £2 2s, for fencing purposes, was agreed to

2nd October 1883 Pupil Teacher examination Miss Laura Welch though weak in some other subjects did the best junior paper in Grammar Third year aged over 17 Nita Johnson. Laura Welch Second Year Age over 16 Failed to gain higher classification by this examination

29th November 1883 Robert Drummond was successful in the scholarship examinations and won a £30 in the Wellington Country Schools Area

Robert Drummond went on to have a very successful teaching career with the Wellington Education Board

1886-1889 Pupil Teacher Mt Cook Boys' 1890-1892 Assistant Male Mt Cook Boys'

1893-1894 Master at Te Horo School Near Otaki\

1895-1898 Headmaster Parkvale School Carterton

1899-1908 Headmaster Clareville School Carterton

1908-1921 Foundation Head Master Lansdowne School North Masterton

1923 – Masterton Central School

1884

1884	67	Taita	Johnston	Robert		Head Master	£230.00
1884	67	Taita	Johnston	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£40.00
1884	67	Taita	Welch	Laura		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00

9th January 1884 TAITA. At a meeting of householders held in the Taita Schoolroom last evening, the following were elected members of the School Committee for the ensuing year :— Messrs. Buck, Clements, Cleland, Haines, Meager, Milne, and Ross. Mr. Milne was elected chairman. The appointment of secretary and treasurer was deferred till the next meeting.

1st May 1884 Wellington Education Board Mr Mason was authorised to do Drainage works, to cost £5, were authorised at the Taita school

9th June 1884 Inspector's report included In the district town schools that of Masterton takes the load, having 1 produced the highest percentage of results, the reading, writing, and arithmetic, being good in all the classes. The Taita school is second in order of merit.

5th July 1884 Drs. Grace and Gillon have certified that John Fox is a fit subject for the Mount View Lunatic Asylum, and he has been committed to that institution. The patient is a boy eight years of age, whose parents reside at the Taita, and of late he has developed an extraordinary liking for snails, rata, &C., which he greedily devours.

30th July 1884 Wellington Education Board Applications for money for repairs, Ac, at Taita, Mungaroa, Wainui-o-mat-a, and Judgeford schools were ordered in stand over, owing to shortness of funds. The Wainui-o-mata school authorities also applied for a boll and a colonial oven, which were granted.

8th August 1884 Pupil Teachers Passed

Third Year (Age over 17) Nita Johnson and Laura Welch

20th December 1884 Wellington Education Board Decided to undertake repairs at Taita £50 sheds, repairs and pump

1885

1885	84	Taita	Johnston	Robert		Master	£230.00
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1885	84	Taita	Johnston	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£45.00
1885	84	Taita	Welch	Laura		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 35.00

26th February 1885 Wellington Education Board Applications for maps and blackboards at Taita, and clearing of stumps at Eketahuna, were granted.

27th May 1885 Wellington Education Board The application for repairs to the Taita School was not acceded to.....The following tenders were accepted: — Porirua new school, James Russell ; Taita shelter sheds, James Russell

24TH June 1885 Wellington Education Board A deputation, consisting of Messrs. Ross and Miller, from the Taita School Committee waited upon the Board for the purpose of asking for the balance of the money voted for the use of the Committee (about .£15) for the erection of a shelter-shed and placing the fence in proper order. The deputation urged that the work proposed to be done would cost .£25, ; £10 of which might be raised in the district. There was only a gorse fence round the school at present, and the playground was not divided so that the sexes might tie separated. The grant was agreed to, and the deputation withdrew

29th July 1885 Pupil Teachers Fourth Year over 18 Examinations Nita Johnston and Laura Welch passed.

27th August 1885 A letter was read from the Taita School Committee, at the meeting of the Education Board yesterday, on the subject of railway fares in connection with the Industrial Exhibition. Mr Bunny stated that he had seen some remarks in the newspapers to the effect that pupils would be allowed to travel at 2s and teachers at 7s from Masterton. He did not think much of that concession, tinder the ordinary excursion rates a child under age could travel from Featherston at Is 9d, and the first-class return fare was only 5s. Volunteers were allowed to travel free, and he did not see any reason why children attending the schools should not be allowed the earns privilege in connection with the Exhibition. The time for the excursions should be left to the Chairman of each School Committee, He moved that a deputation, consisting of the Chairman, Messrs Beetham, Young, and the mover, should wait upon the Minister of Public Works next day in reference to the matter. The resolution was carried,

25th November 1885 Wellington Education Board Applications for grants for improvements from Taita, Ohariu, Eketahuna, and Masterton were held over, owing to want of funds.’

22nd December 1885 TAITA SCHOOL. The prizes awarded to the children of the above school were distributed on Friday last by the Chairman (Mr. K. Mellow), in the presence of the teachers and the following members of the School Committee :— Messrs. W. Cleland, 8. Death, J. Harris, W. S Milne, and J. H. Robb. After a few appropriate remarks. the Chairman proceeded to distribute the prizes, addressing a few words of congratulation to each of the prize-takers as they came up. The following is the prize-list: Standard VI.—Ernest Pike, Agnes Drummond, Laura Pinny, Arabella Welch. Standard V.—Forbes Johnston, Hipzibah Fisk Standard IV.—Ernest Bodman, Harry Edwards, Francis Fisk, Ada Welch. Standard III.—Norman Bodman, George Boyd Frank Clement, Frank Death, William Death, William Fisk, Isaac James, William Meager, Horace Meager, Emma Barlow, Minnie Hancock, Allison Johnston, Nellie Mabey, Ellen Martin, lima Ross, Jane Wright. Standard II.—Charles Drummond, Edwin. Edwards, Jack King, George Hancock, George Haywood, Albert Peck, Geo Russell, Marjore Duck, Eliza Duck, Katie Russell, Agnes Russell, Hettie Russell, Jane Stevenson, Maria Webb. Standard I.—John Fisk, Edward Rouse, Herbert Tilbury, George

Wright, Charles Watson, Sophia Burt, Ethel Burt, Amy Death, Amy Hancock, Alice James, Connie Mellow, Minnie Russell, Maggie Ross. Special prizes were awarded to Laura Pinny and Alick Ross, for being the most popular and best-behaved girl and boy in the school. This decision was arrived at by vote, the girls voting for Laura Pinny, and the boys for Alick Ross. The distribution having been made, the children sang " Home Sweet Home" with great taste. The head teacher, Mr. Johnston, entertained the children to a tea at 5 p.m., to which ample justice was done. After games, &c, they proceeded homeward, evidently delighted with their evening's outing. An entertainment was also given by the same gentleman in the evening to the heads of families and young people in the district. After having spent a very pleasant evening the company broke up at 12.30 a.m.

At the examination of the school on the 16th October, out of 60 presented 53 passed, which may be considered very satisfactory

1886

1886	74	Taita	Mahood	John J		Head Master	£220.00
1886	74	Taita	Johnston	Nita		Female Pupil Teacher	£45.00
1886	74	Taita	Welch	Laura		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 35.00

28th January 1886 Wellington Education Board Taita – Painting Stands Over

28th April 1886 Wellington Education Board the Hutt Committee tendered their resignation on account of the resolution passed by the Board with reference to the charge preferred against Mr. Richards, the headmaster. The Chairman explained that since the Committee had tendered their resignation it had been ascertained that two of the members were not qualified to act, being residents in the Taita school district, and not in the Lower Hutt district

29th April 1886 A meeting of householders of the Taita School District was held at the school buildings last Thursday evening, when there was a large attendance. The late Committee's report was laid before the meeting and unanimously adopted, and a vote of thanks passed for their past services. The following gentlemen were returned as a committee for the ensuing year :— Messrs. W. Cleland, J. Clement, S. Russell, R. T. Mellow, S. Martin, S. Death, G. Hooper. Subsequently the Committee elected Mr. E. T. Mellow Chairman and Mr. Wm. Cleland Secretary ' and Treasurer

30th June 1886 Mr Burnett gave an address to the scholars at the Taita State School on Tuesday afternoon, and some 63 signed the pledge. The school work forms a very important branch of Mr. Burnett's mission

3rd August 1886 Pupil Teacher examination End of Fourth Year (age over 19) Laura Welch 553 and Nita Johnston 553

5th August 1886 The first-grade certificates for freehand and geometrical drawing, won by pupils of the city and suburban schools, were presented to the successful candidates in St. John's Schoolroom, Dixon-street, yesterday afternoon by Mr. J. R. Blair, Chairman of the Board of Education. The Roy. J. Patterson. and Messrs. A. W. Brown and J. Young (members of the Board of Education), Messrs. Koch, Allan, and C. T. Richardson (members of School Committees)), Mr. A. D. Riley, Art Instructor to the Board of Education, and the headmasters and mistresses of the various schools, were also present. A report on the recent examination in drawing having been read by Mr. A. Dorset, Secretary to the Board of Education, Mr. Blair delivered a short address, in the course of which he explained that while drawing was until quite recently optional, it was now one of the class subjects, and would be

taught by the teachers in every school under the Board. The following is a list of the successful candidates in schools in and about the city Taita.— A. Welch, E. Bodmin , F. Johnston, C. Meager

21st September 1886 Taita school to be inspected on the 29th

30th September 1886 Wellington Education Board Headmaster, Lower Hutt School, Mr D. Barry, promoted from Kaiwarra, headmaster, Taita, Mr J. H. Brain [Sic Brann who stayed at Clareville until 1889], promoted from Clareville’’

Kaiwarra, Mr E. Johnson, from Taita,

27th October 1886 The examination at the Taita School resulted very satisfactorily

26th October 1886 The Education Board has received eight applications tor the appointment of teacher at the Taita school, vacated by the removal of Mr Johnson to the Kaiwarra school.

27th October 1886 Wellington Education Board A vote of £2 was made to Miss Welch [Possibly Arabella] a sixth standard girl, who filled the place of a pupil teacher at the Taita. School during the illness of the latter

30th October 1886 Mr. Johnston, late of the Taita, will assume charge of the Kaiwarra School on Monday next, and on the same day Mr. tarry, late of Kaiwarra, will enter upon his duties as headmaster of the Lower Hutt school. Miss Johnston, the senior pupil teacher, will be in charge of the Taita School until another master has been appointed,

6th November 1886 Mr. J. J. Edredge has been appointed to the charge of the Tavern School, at a salary of .£170 per annum. Mr. J. J. Mahood is to be the new master of the Taita School, the salary attaching to which position is .£230 a year. Both gentlemen are at present residing in Canterbury. Mr. Edredge, who was for eight years Inspector of Schools in North Canterbury, is to go up to Taueru at once, but Mr. Mahood will be unable to proceed to the Taita for about a month. Both appointments were made at the last meeting of the Board of Education, but the Committees were consulted before the names of the successful applicants were made public. Each Committee has signified its approval of the choice made by the Board.

[Mr Mahood was teaching at Templeton in 1885 School which had a roll of 79 about the same size as Taita so he didn't come on promotion]

12th November 1886 The Chairman of the Taita School Committee announces that a reward of £1 will be given for information that will lead to the conviction of the person who broke a window in the Taita Schoolhouse.

24th November 1886 Wellington Education Board The Taita Committee recommended that a grant of £20 should be made for repairing the teacher's residence in their district. This was agreed to

16th December 1886 THE TAITA SCHOOL. The breaking-up ceremony in connection with this school took place on Tuesday last, when addresses were given by Mr. T. Mason (who distributed the prizes), and Messrs. Melton (Chairman of the Committee) and Mahood (Headmaster). The following is the prize-list : — Standard VII. — Ernest Pike, Laura Pinny, and Arabella Welch. Standard VI—Alexander Ross. .Standard V.— Ernest Bodmin, Harry Edwards, Simon Martin, Reginald Russell, Frances Fink, and Ada Welch. Standard IV. — George Boyd, William Death, Isaac James, Albert Lucas, William Meager, Ellen Martin, May McKain, Ilana Ross, and Jane Wright. Standard III. — Charles Drummond, Alfred Edwards, Edwin Edwards Charles Fisk, George Hancock, William ' Mellow, Mary Boulcott,

Eliza Duck, Marjory Duck, Caroline Pitcher, Kate Russell, Agnes Russell, Hetty Russell, and Maria Webb. Standard II.— Herbert Tilbury, Charles Watson, Thomas Webb, George Wright, Amy Death, Amy Hancock, Alice James, Edith Mellow. Constance Mellow, Margaret Ross, Minnie Russell, 'Emily Fox, Adolphus 'Brown, Thos. Death, and John Fisk. -. Standard I.— John Hooper, Frank Lucas, George Pilcher, Cyril Pike, William Russell, Henry Walters, Alfred Webb, Charles Boulcott, Eliza Elliott, Georgina Peck, and Sophia Barlow.

Nita Johnston taught from 1887-1891 at Masterton

1892-1901 Kaiwarra

1902-1903 Waihakeke near Carterton as sole teacher then

1904-1906 as sole teacher at Korokoro

In 1914 Tristiana Emily Nita Johnston was registered as a voter in the Bay of Islands, She was back in the Hutt electorate by 1919

1953/33471	Johnston	Tristiana Emily Nita	89Y
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In 1888 Laura Welch was teaching as sole charge teacher at Makara School until at least 1890.

1887

1887	73	Taita	Mahood	John J		Head Master	£220.00	
1887	73	Taita	Boulcott	Annie M		Assistant Female	£80.00	
1887	73	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00	

26th January 1887 Wellington Education Board A bonus of £2 was granted to Miss Welch; of Taita.

30th March 1887 Wellington Education Board It was decided to transfer Miss Boulcott from the Upper Hutt to the Taita.

31st March 1887 Wellington Education Board Applications from the Taita and Otaki Committees for assistant teachers were received and granted.

27th April 1887 Pursuant to notice, a fair attendance of householders met in the Taita schoolroom on Monday evening, for the purpose of electing a committee for the ensuing year. Mr. Duck was voted to the chair. The secretary, Mr. Wm. Cleland, having read the annual report, which was adopted, the election was proceeded with, and resulted in the following gentlemen being declared the new committee :— William Cleland, Samuel Russell, John Clement, W. W. Bodmin, — Duck, George Hooper, R. T. Mellow. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Duck for presiding, and to Messrs. Mahood and McMasters for their services as scrutineers. Subsequently the now committee met, and Mr. E. T. Mellow was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. Wm. Cleland re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

27th April 1887 Upper Hutt School Committee Meeting Very great regret was expressed at the transfer of Miss Boulcott, at her own request, to the Taita School

28th April 1887 he report presented by the outgoing Taita school committee at the annual meeting on Monday evening was of a highly satisfactory character. In reference to the appointment of the new head teacher, Mr. Mahood, it is remarked that since he took charge the attendance has increased by 36 per cent. It notices the appointment of Miss Ellen Meager and Miss Boulcott as assistant teachers and alludes in a congratulatory tone to the

improvements effected in the dwelling-house, fencing, and yards attached to the school building. Financial matters seem also to be in a satisfactory condition, for a credit balance of £13 14s 4d is shown. The report concludes as follows : — In conclusion your committee would strongly press on parents and others interested that good teachers and good schools are not all that is required to secure success— it also requires the punctual attendance of the scholars, without which the teachers' efforts are ineffectual. The committee would wish to add that during their term of office they have had but one object a. view — the welfare of the school, in which they have been supported by their indefatigable chairman, Mr. J. Mellow.

1st July 1887 Public School Drawing Examination Freehand Simon Martin, Horace Meager. Alex Ross, Reginald Russell. Geometrical Ernest Bodmin, Alex Ross [Note: lots of girls from other schools passed this examination]

8th September 1887 A very successful little concert took place on Wednesday evening in the weather the room was filled with an appreciative audience, and many friends came from a distance to assist. The programme included the following songs }— " Simon the Cellarer," Mr. Wm. Mowbray "A Vision," Mr- Herbert Mowbray ; "The Maid of the Mill," Mr. F. Devereux and " Pierrot " and " Dolly's Revenge," Miss Wilford, whose sweet voice was heard to great advantage. Mr. and Mrs. Mahood contributed the duets "ABC," and "Good day to you" (from Patience). Two violin solos by Miss Devereux, a pianoforte duet by Misses Bart and Devereux, and a pianoforte solo by Mrs. H. S. Fitzherbert completed a short but good selection. Mrs. Fitzherbert contributed much to the success of the concert by performing the accompaniments. The financial result will be a handsome addition to the school prize fund,

27th September 1887 Mahood.— On the 25th September, at Taita, of inflammation of the lungs, Francis Raymond, the beloved infant son of John and Annie Mahood, aged 11 months.

1879/16070	Mahood	Harold Melville Samuel John	Annie Eliza	John James	-
1880/15080	Mahood	Egbert Arthur William	Annie Eliza	John James	-
1882/16159	Mahood	Trevor Ernest Nead	Annie Eliza	John James	-
1885/3102	Mahood	John Claisen	Annie Eliza	John James	-
1886/16437	Mahood	Francis Raymond	Annie Eliza	John James	-

1st December 1887 Wellington Education Board he Board refused an application by the Taita Committee for a grant of L10 for repairs, as they had no funds for the purpose [L was often used for the pound sign £]

19th December 1887 TAITA SCHOOL. The annual prize distribution and breaking-up tea in connection with this school took place on Friday. The prizes were distributed by Mr. T. Mason, who addressed the children in kindly words of encouragement and advice, telling them to bear in mind that now they worn on but the fresh hold of life, and that what they would be in the future was in their own hands. They should never do anything of which they were ashamed, and should remember that, although unseen by mortal eyes, there was One above who saw everything. The master, Mr Mahood, having addressed those assembled expressing his especial approbation of the attendance prizes, Mr. Mason handed the books to the happy recipients as follows :-

Standard V.— Ilma Ross, William Meager

Standard IV.— Kate Russell, Ester Russell, Agnes Russell, Ellen Mabey, Marjorie Duck, Mabel Adams, Mary Boulcott William Mellow, Horace Meager, Chas Fisk, Alfred Edwards, Charles Drummond Norman Bodmin.

Standard III.— Margaret Ross, Alfrid Petterson, Constance Mellow, Edith Mellow Alice James, Amy Hancock, Amy Death Louis Adams, John Tilbury, Thomas Death Adolph Brown.

Standard II.— Lena Petterson, Georgina Peck, Elba Elliott, Maud Adams, Henry Walters, George Pilcher, Wm. McLennan John Hooper, Karl Boulcott.

Standard I.— Rachel Wright, Lizzie Peck Lily Mellow, Polly Johnson, Hetty Haywood, Kate Gibson, Emily Edwards, Lily Avery, Constance Avery, Charlotte Avery, Harold Mahood. Teacher's (Miss Boulcott's) prizes for neatest exorcise books— Geo. Russell, Amy Death, Wm. McLennan, Charlotte Avery.

Mr. Mason's prizes for regular attendance — John Tilbury, Adolph Brown, John Hooper, Henry Walters, Ilma Ross, Ada Welch.

In addition to the above, each child in the infant classes received a pretty little gift book, which appeared to give them great pleasure. Sports and games were then merrily indulged in in Mrs. Pyke's paddock, kindly granted for the purpose, and a bountiful tea disposed of by the throng of delighted children. After tea the school children sang songs — "The bravo comrade" and "Up in the morning's cheerful light, " by the senior scholars; "Action Song" and "The Cobbler by Miss Meager's preparatory class. Where all in the district did so much, it would be invidious to select a few names for special mention ; but we should not close without saying that the tea was ably managed and superintended by Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Meager

1888

1888	65	Taita	Mahood	John J		Head Master	£205.00
1888	65	Taita	Boulcott	Annie M		Assistant Female	£75.00
1888	65	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00

7th February 1888 Large bush fires are raging in the Taita district

12th March 1888 The following are the returns of the late examination of Sixth Standard scholars of the city and suburban schools by Mr. Lee, School Inspector:— Thorndon, 23 scholars presented, 21 passed ; Terrace, 20 presented, 19 passed; Mount Cook Boys', 17 presented, 6 passed ; Mount Cook Girls', 21 presented, 11 passed ; Te Aro, 26 presented, 19 passed ; Newtown, 17 presented, 14 passed ; Karori, 5 presented, 5 passed ; Pahautanui, 5 presented, 5 passed ; Judgeford, 1 presented, 1 passed ; Johnsonville, 5 presented, 5 passed ; Tawa Flat, 2 presented, 2 paused ; Kaiwarra, 1 presented, 1 passed ; Porirua, 1 presented, 1 passed; Hutt, 5 presented, 4 passed; Taita, 3 presented, none passed ; Petone, 6 presented, 6 passed; Upper Hutt, 2 presented, 1 passed. Two scholars from the Mount Cook Girls' School were presented for the Seventh Standard, both of whom passed

30th March 1888 Wellington Education Board An application was read from the Taita Committee for a special grant of LIO in aid of capitation. It was decided that the Board had no power to grant the application.

25th April 1888 Taita. — The annual meeting of householders of this district took place on Monday evening at 8 o'clock, Mr. J. J. Mahood being voted to the chair. The annual report was as follows : — Your committee, in making their report for the past year, wish to state that in the absence of the Inspector's report, through the visit of that gentleman to England, they have had to fall back on the examination held by the head teacher. Though not so independent a guide as the Inspector's report, your committee, are satisfied with the progress the children are making under that gentleman's tuition. Unfortunately the funds at the committee's command "have been reduced to' the extent that it is 'only ' with the greatest economy they have been able to keep the school in the commonest necessities. They have no doubt an expression of opinion from; the meeting on this subject would tend to assist the incoming Committee. The Committee feel it would, be invidious to report individually on the assistant teachers, but they have every reason to believe they are most assiduous in their duties. The treasurer will lay before you a statement of accounts for the past year. Though the school funds are not in such a flourishing state as they were the preceding year, _ it will be perceived that your committee will hand over the school to their successors in a solvent state. In conclusion, the committee would wish to point out that in the power, or rather want of power (their duties being merely those of sanitary commissioners on a small scale), they have been unable to make much-needed improvements. Representations have been made to the Board, with the result of receiving a homily on economy from that body. Seeing that the capitation has been reduced about 50 per cent., the meeting will no doubt appreciate it. The report and balance-sheet having been adopted, the following resolution was carried :— " That, in the opinion of this meeting, the present capitation is totally inadequate to provide the necessary requirements." The meeting then proceeded to the election of a saw committee, with the result that Messrs. Alfred Buck, William Cleland, John Clement,. J. Fox, Gooch, Wm. Kilminster, and S. Russell were declared duly elected. After a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting separated. Subsequently the now committee met, and Mr. Clement was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Cleland Secretary and Treasurer.

16th July 1888 On several occasions complaints have reached us of the larrikinism prevalent in the Taita district. Hitherto the energies of the mischievous Taita youths have been directed to the removal of gates, fencing, &c, and depositing the same on some neighbouring verandah or garden. Within the last few days, however, the larrikins have made a fresh start, and, not content with destroying gates, have covered the posts and palings with filth. We hope the local police authorities will succeed in making an example of some of the offenders.

29th August 1888 The case of Miss Clara Meager, a pupil teacher in the Thorndon Infants' School who is unable to attend classes on account of the fact that she lives at the Taita, was considered, it was stated that although she could not attend class, she could obtain instruction from Mr. Lewis, of Thorndon School, for 4s per week

In 1888 Clara Meager was first recorded in the teacher lists of the Wellington Education Board at the Thorndon School. In 1889 She was at the Hutt school where she taught for all career until at least 1921. She was not teaching in 1923.

1923/6195	Clara	Meager	Alfred Freeman Anstis
1929/1043	Anstis	Clara	59 Y

5th September 1888 Thompson—Milne,— At the Taita, on the 29th of August, 1888, by the Rev J. K, Elliott, John Thompson to Annie Milne

15th September 1888 Inspector lee to inspect the school on 27th September ;

26th September 1888 Wellington Education Board The Taita Committee were allowed £3 5s for repairs. An application for a grant for the purchase of fuel was not granted.

29th September 1888 The examination of the Taita, Upper Hutt, and Mungaroa schools has been completed by Mr. Lee, Inspector of the Board of Education. The results are as follows : — Taita School — Total number presented, 105, 39 being below Standard I. In Standard 1., 17 were presented and 17 passed. In Standard II., 17 were presented, 1 was absent, 3 were exempted, and 13 passed. In Standard III., 10 were presented, 1 was absent, 3 failed, and 6 passed. In Standard IV., 11 were presented, 4 failed, and 7 passed. In Standard V., 7 were presented, 2 were exempted, 4 failed, 1 passed. In Standard VI. 4 were presented, 1 was absent, 2 failed, and 1 passed.

31st October 1888 Wellington Education Board Inspector Lee's report to the Wellington Education Board included Taita, not quite satisfactory, master's work in arithmetic weak, Miss Woolcott's [Sic Boulcott] work good.....In answer to the questions of members of the Board, Mr. Lee said that, apart from arithmetic, the work of the Greytown higher standards could not be said to be weak, though it was certainly not strong. After some desultory discussion, it was decided that the Inspector's report should be referred to the Greytown Committee for their attention, and that its consideration be resumed at next meeting. The reports on the Upper Hutt, Taita, and Mungaroa schools were similarly dealt with, members of the Board emphasising their opinions that efficiency in arithmetic must be regarded as a crucial test of a teacher's capabilities.

28th November 1888 Matters relating to the Newtown, Carterton, Taita, and Greytown Schools were considered in committee by the Board of Education this morning, and as a result of the discussion it was decided that several teachers should be transferred. The names of the teachers will be submitted to the committees and will not be published unless approved of.

19th December 1888 Wellington Education Board Permission was given to Mr. J. J. Mahood to resign the head teachership of the Taita School at the end of the holidays.....Miss Clara Meager, pupil teacher in the Thorndon School, who lives at the Taita, asked that the cost of the instruction prescribed by the Board should be borne by that body. The Board decided that no special arrangements could be made in her case, but they resolved to transfer her to a school nearer her home at the earliest opportunity.

22nd December 1888 TAITA SCHOOL. The following is the list of prize-winners for the Taita School. The prizes were presented by the Chairman (Mr. John Clement) on Thursday afternoon :— Standard VI. — I. Ross. Standard V.—W. Death. Standard IV.— A. Brown, J. Tilbury, A. Death, A. Hancock, A. James, E. Mellow, M. Ross. Standard III.— K. Boulcott. J. Hooper, M. Adams, Q. Peck, L. Petterson, M. Russell. Standard II. —H. Mahood, C. Pike, C. Avery, L. Avery, E. Drummond, E. Edwards, It. Hooper, H. Haywood, P. Johnson, L. Mellow, E. Pitt, B. Wright, A. Webb. Standard I.— N. Death, H. Hancock, T. Hancock, E. Mahood, H. Mellow, N. Russell, A. Buck, M. Hawkes, M. Terry, A. Walters, L. Webb, E. Edwards, L. Johnston, H. Petterson, M. Russell, J. Russell, S. Wright, Infant classes.— First Division— N. Daysh, K. Fraser, J. Hawkes, J. Walters. L. James Second Division— C. Evenson, T. Mahood, B. Wright, N. Haywood, A. Pitt. Third Division— W. Buck, S. Campbell, F. Hancock, A. Mellow, G. Peck, E. Peck, A. Russell, H. Russell, P. Russell, J. Terry, A. Campbell, M. Daysh, L. Evenson, M. Fox, M. Haywood, L. Pike, L. Walters. Mr. T. Mason's prizes for attendance were gained by M. Hooper, J. Hooper, M. Ross, J. Tilbury, J. Walters, A. Brown.

1889

1889	79	Taita	Ponsonby	Gordon		Head Master	£205.00
1889	65	Taita	Boulcott	Henrietta		Assistant Female	£75.00
1889	65	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00

13th February 1889 The results of the pupil-teachers' examination were submitted to the Chairman of the Education Board yesterday afternoon by the Examiners (Rev W. H. West and R. Lee). The candidates were examined on papers set by the Education Department for the whole of the Colony. The following are the successful candidates [Included] Fourth year, Ellen Meager, Taita

19th February 1889 Mr. Gordon Ponsonby, late of Matarawa School, has been appointed to the charge of the Taita School, rendered vacant by Mr. Mahood's resignation, and will, it is understood, enter upon his duties on Monday next. Mr. J. Leeke will probably succeed Mr. Ponsonby at Matarawa. [Matarawa was just north of Greytown in the Wairarapa]

27th February 1889 Wellington Education Board Mr. Young called attention to the state of the Taita school, and it was ordered that a report on the subject be furnished.

27th March 1889 The Chairman reported that the committee appointed last month had visited the Kaiwarra, Ngahauranga, Petone, Hutt, and Taita Schools, and inspected the buildings.....The teacher's residence at the Taita was found to be out of repair, and the committee thought that something should be done to it. The Board decided that the Chairman should act in the matter of the road at the Hutt, and that tenders be invited for erecting a fence at Petone and the Hutt and improving the residence at the Taita.

13th April 1889 Mr T Turnbull, architect, calls for tenders for repairs to teacher's residence at Taita

24th February 1889 TAITA. Mr. W. Cleland presided over the meeting of householders in this district. The outgoing committee's report having been adopted and a vote of thanks passed, the meeting then proceeded to the election of a new committee. The following gentlemen were declared duly elected:— Mews. A. Buck, W. Cleland, J. Clements, A. Death, G. Hooper, S. Russell, and' W. Kilminster. A vote of thanks to the Chairman having been passed the meeting separated. The committee subsequently met, when Mr. John Clements was appointed chairman, and Mr. William Cleland secretary and treasurer.

26th April 1889 Wellington Education Board Repair and painting of school teacher's residence, Taita, Alex. Leslie, £59

14th August 1889 Messrs. A. W. Brown and F. H. Frasor, members of the Board of Education, accompanied by the Secretary and the architect, visited the Taita School this morning, with the object of ascertaining the condition of the building.

18th August 1880 Wellington Education Board The Architect reported on the dilapidated condition of the roof of the Taita school and recommended that the same be repaired at a cost of £20.

25th September 1889 Wellington Education Board An application by the Taita Committee for repairs to the school fence was declined, no funds being available.....The application of Mr. J. Stratford that a school should be established at Stokes' Valley was referred to the Taita Committee for information.

28th September 1889 Two schools have been examined this week by Mr. Lee, Inspector to the Education Board. At Taita there were 111 Scholars on the roll, of whom 64 passed, 9

failed, 11 were absent and excepted, and 27 were in the preparatory classes. Of the higher classes, 1 was examined in the Sixth Standard and passed ; 8 out of the 11 in the Fifth Standard passed; 7 out of 8 in the fourth; 8 out of 13 in the third; 14 out of 22 in the second ; and 26 out of 29 in the first.

2nd December 1889 A Mean Robbery. —If there are varying grades of robberies one committed last week must be reckoned an especially mean one. We learn that late last week the Taita - School was broken into and a sum of money amounting to £6 or £7 stolen from it. The money was in a drawer in the schoolhouse and was intended to be used as a prize fund. It is to be hoped that the police will very soon make the intimate acquaintance of the individual concerned.

30th December 1889 TAITA SCHOOL TREAT.

[communicated.] By the kind generosity of the Taita public, who had collected a liberal fund to entertain the youngsters, and to provide prizes for those who had successfully passed in the late examinations of the Taita School, An most enjoyable Boxing Day was spent. Although the weather up to past meridian Was not auspicious, and rain plentiful, this did not interfere with the enjoyment of the children. About noon groups of numerous well-dressed and smiling-faced rosy boys and girls were to be seen wending their way toward the school building, and soon the fun became fast and furious (although decorous], and all manner of games suitable for Indoors were commenced inside the building, and the frequent joyous peals of laughter that streamed through the windows showed conclusively that the Committee's forethought for the sobole's amusement was highly appreciated. At 3 p.m. a substantial repast was partaken of by all, provided on a liberal scale by Mr Poole, baker. Lower Hutt, to which ample justice was done, and great Attention paid to the good things laid out. When plum cake had lost its charms and the waist 'belts began to feel as if they wore growing of smaller, and the weather having cleared up fine and sunny, n move was made into a paddock kindly lent by Mrs Pyke, where races, games, rounders, drop-kerchief, &c., were indulged in, and prizes from a doll to an elephant (a toy one) —were bestowed upon the successful competitors. At 6 in the evening all the toys, etc., provided having come to a finish, and the children fairly tired out by their own energy, a most enjoyable day came to a close by a good scramble for nuts and lollies, liberally given by Mr Wm. Cleland, the secretary, and after a refreshing drought of sherbet, kindly given by Mr Boss, good night was said reluctantly, and the merry happy party broke up, and each wended his way homeward. Great credit is due to the lady teachers. Miss Boulcott and Miss Meager, who organised the fete and who so assiduously by their unwearied endeavours in a great measure caused the day to be the success it proved. Three hearty cheers were deservedly bestowed upon them by the children as they departed.

1890

1890	89	Taita	Ponsonby	Gordon		Head Master	£215.00
1890	89	Taita	Boulcott	Henrietta		Assistant Female	£ 40.00
1890	89	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 35.00

17th February 1890 Ellen Meager was a fifth year pupil teacher

30th April 1890 Wellington Education Board allocated £3 for new gates at Taita

26th September 1890 Wellington Education Board applications were granted to Taita for a new store

26th November 1890 Wellington Education Board and the application for additional accommodation at the Taita School was referred to the architect and the inspector for their report.

1891

1891	70	Taita	Ponsonby	Gordon		Head Master	£ 215.00
1891	70	Taita	Boulcott	Henrietta		Assistant Female	£ 40.00
1891	70	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£40.00

30th July 1890 A pedestrian record of 10 miles, per diem [each day], or 50 miles a week, is not a bad one for children of tender ages, who have to perform the feat in order to enable them to obtain the advantage of the Education Act, yet that is what certain little folks at Stokes Valley have, Dr. Newman asserts, to accomplish if they desire to acquire the rudiments of the three R's. The doctor brought out the fact of this doleful daily trudge of these children before the Education Board yesterday when asking the Board to erect an infant school at Stokes Valley. The Board decided to communicate with the Taita School Committee upon the subject and should their report be favourable it is preferable that an infant school will be erected in Stokes Valley.

29th April 1891 TAITA. S. Russell (re-elected Chairman), W. Cleland (re-elected Secretary and Treasurer), J. Clement, H. Daysh, J. Edwards, W. Kilmister, J. Harvey.

29th May 1891 Wellington Education Board Taita Repairs £5

20th November 1891 First Grade Drawing examination Wellington Education Board First Grade Freehand Maud J Adams, Emma Pitt

10th December 1891 2 students from Taita to sit scholarship exams at the Wellington Education Board office

19th December 1891 TAITA SCHOOL. The prizes were presented by Mr. Thomas Mason on the 17th inst., prefaced by a suitable address to the children. After the prize distribution, tea was provided by the School Committee in Mr. Mason's grounds, and races and sports were indulged in. The following is the prize list :— St. 7, M. Ross, dux of school, 1 ; A. James, 2 ; A. Brown, 3. St. 6. K. Boulcott 1 ; M. Adams, 2 ; M. Hooper, E. Pitt. St. 5, C. Pike, 1 ; H. Walters, 2 ; E. Edwards, L. Johnston, N. Cleland, T. Hancock. St. 4, L. James, 1 ; K. Frazer, 2 ; M. Daysh, A. Buck, S. Russell, W. Buck, E. Russell, A. Pitt, N. Daysh, E. Edwards, J. Walters. St. 3, A. Russell, 1 R. Russell, 2 ; E. Benge, I. Daysh, A. Death, A. Fisk, E. Fisk, M. Hooper, M. Hawk, L. Walters, F. Hancock, H. Russell, B. Wright, W. Whittington. St. 2.— M. Craig, M. Frazer, M. Fox, S. Hoar, E. Hoar, J. Harvey, C. Pescini, N. Pike, H. Russell, A. Cleland, J. Hawk, A. Mellow, V. Mellow, P. Russell, C. Walters. St. 1, preparatory — All these youngsters had a nice book presented to them. Head teacher's prizes for good attendance were won by M. Boss (dux), K. Frazer, H. Farrington, all with full marks. Head teacher's prize for best kept exercise book, M. Adams.

1892

1892	73	Taita	Williamson	A		Head Master	£ 215.00
1892	73	Taita	Boulcott	Henrietta		Assistant Female	£ 40.00
1892	73	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£40.00

27th January 1892 Wellington Education Board Mr. Samuel's resignation was couched in terms of warm gratitude for the consideration which had always been extended to him by the members of the Board. [Mr Samuel was Head Master of Carterton from 1879 to 1888 and then was at Clyde Quay school as an assistant] On the motion of Mr. Paterson, seconded by Mr. Brown, it was resolved that a letter be sent to Mr. Samuel setting forth that the Board accepted his resignation with regret, and also expressing appreciation of the value of his services in the past, and 'sympathy with him in his illness. A similar letter was ordered to be written to Mr. Ponsonby, whose resignation was occasioned by failing eye-sight, which necessitates his proceeding to England to undergo an operation for cataract.

29th January 1892 Mr Ponsonby resigns from Taita

29th January 1892 In reference to the list of scholarship winners given above, it has now transpired that Bessie Hamilton, although sent up by the Vogeltown School lives in the city, and therefore cannot hold a £39 country scholarship. She has therefore been awarded a £15 per annum scholarship, and Margaret Ross, of Taita, who comes next on the list, gets 'one of like amount.

22nd February 1892 Up till noon on Saturday the Secretary of the Board of Education had received 12 applications for the position of head teacher of the Taita School; eight applications for the assistant mastership of the Newtown School, and five, three, and two applications respectively for the head teacherships of the Petone, Masterton, and Mangatainoka Schools.

5th March 1892 the quarterly meeting of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Educational Institute was held this morning, Mr. W. T. Grundy. President, in the chair. The resignation of Mr. Gordon Ponsonby, late master of the Taita School, was accepted with regret, and with an expression of hearty wishes for his future success in England.

26th March 1892 The Rev. H. E. Tuckey, relieving master to the Education Board, takes temporary charge of the Taita School.

26th April 1892 TAITA. The new Committee are Messrs. Wm. Cleland, John Clements, Henry Daysh, John Edwards, John Fraser, Geo. Kay, and S. Russell. Mr. Russell was elected Chairman, and Mr. Cleland Secretary and Treasurer.

27th April 1892 Wellington Education Board The Board went into committee on the question of the Taita School and confirmed the appointment of Mr. Williamson as master. [In 1891 Mr A W Williamson was Headmaster of the Patea School with a roll of 157]

25th May 1892 Wellington Education Board The carpenter was instructed to attend to the repair of the Taita School fence.

2nd June 1892 Mr A. W. Wilkinson, newly appointed head teacher at Taita, has entered upon his duties.

27th July 1892 A letter was read from the Taita Committee, stating that they would resign unless a grant was made for current expenses and repairs. They were quite hampered through want of funds, no money being available for office-cleaning, firewood, etc. The Chairman explained that the Board were about to carry out some of the works which the Committee had

been anxious to have done. [Office refers to toilets not an office in the school. The toilets are where people do their business]

28th July 1892 [A different version] The Taita Committee wrote resigning their portion unless a grant was made for current expenses and repairs. The Chairman said he thought this was a most unjustifiable proceeding. They had money to pay for what was wanted and their complaint was therefore valueless. The matter will be arranged, the Board agreeing to pay a certain amount towards the cost of repairs.

31st August 1892 Wellington Education Board The Taita Committee asked the Board to purchase an additional half-acre for a playground, and also increase their allowance. Consideration deferred.

17th September 1892 At the monthly meeting of the Taita School Committee held on "Wednesday, Mr A. W. Williamson, B.A., who was one of the first graduates of the New Zealand University, and who has lately been appointed headmaster of the Taita School, was presented with a beautifully illuminated address, handsomely framed, and a dinner set, as a token of esteem and good wishes from the residents of Patea, where Mr Williamson held the position of headmaster of the public school for over 10 years. The presentation made on behalf of residents of Patea by Mr. T. Mason, Taita, who, in a neat speech, related reminiscences of the schools and schoolmasters of his own day Mr. Williamson, in reply, stated that the presentation afforded him a pleasure and satisfaction not to be measured by the gift itself. It would remind him of many associations and familiar faces of friends from whom in his new field of labour he was parted.

26th October 1892 A request by the Taita Committee that an additional door might be placed in the school was declined, as it would destroy the convenience and comfort of the building.

27th October 1892 State School Drawing Examination geometry: H C Boulcott (Excellent)

16th December 1892 Wellington Education Board The Taita Committee applied for an additional door to the classroom.—Application approved.

17th December 1892 The year's work at the Taita Public School was brought to a close on Thursday night by an entertainment given by the pupils, assisted by Misses Coltman, Morrison, and Williamson, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Fulton, and Rev. A. Gray. A prominent feature was a well-sustained debate by about a dozen boys, on "The Higher Education of Women." The school was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, and was comfortably crowded, the entertainment reflecting great credit on Mr. Williamson, the head master, and his staff. Special prizes awarded for the neatest set of exercise books were won by Karl Boulcott, 1, Alice Buck, and Myrtle Daysh (equal) 2 ; for greatest improvement during the year as shown by exercise books, Lottie Johnstone 1, Lily James 2.

1893

1893	73	Taita	Williamson	A W		Head Master	£ 225.00
1893	73	Taita	Boulcott	Henrietta		Assistant Female	£ 75.00
1893	73	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£40.00

4th March 1893 the Evening Post subscription-list for the relief of the sufferers by the Queensland floods now stands as follows: collected from Taita School £1 2S

25th January 1893 Wellington Education Board An application by the Taita Committee for a new oven was refused.

7th April 1893 Wellington Education Board An application was received for the restoration of the salary of Henrietta Boycott, of the Taita, as she now holds a certificate.—The application was granted.

25th oct 1893 Drawing examination Taita 27 Sat and 11 Passed. Otaki 25-12 Kaiwarra 27-14
 18th December 1893 At the annual concert and distribution of prizes in Taita School a programme was submitted including many novelties, amongst them a debate by the children and action and character songs ; a dialogue by Hey. Mr. Gray and Mrs. Gray, songs by the Rev. T. G. Carr, Miss Chappie, and Mrs. Thompson ; Recitations by Mr. E. B. Jones, and a trio by Mr. and Mrs. Daysh and Miss Williamson, Miss Williamson also played the accompaniments. The Rev. Mr. Harrison distributed the prizes. Mr. Mellow, Chairman of the School Committee, also spoke, and concluded by moving a hearty vote of thanks to the performers and to the Head Master, Mr. Williamson. The entertainment concluded with three cheers for Mr. Williamson given very heartily by the children.

1894

1894	73	Taita	Williamson	A		Head Master	£225.00
1894	73	Taita	Boulcott	Henrietta		Assistant Female	£80.00
1894	73	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Female Pupil Teacher	£50.00

30th August 1894 Wellington Education Board It was decided that Henrietta Boulcott (Taita) and Janet Mitchell (Horokiwi) should be transferred to Wellington when the opportunity offered

31st October 1894 Wellington Education Board Owing to want of funds, applications for grants from the Mangamahoe, Taita, and Thorndon Committees were declined.

1895

1895	83	Taita	Williamson	A		Head Master	£225.00
1895	83	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Assistant Female	£80.00
1895	83	Taita	Price	Leonard		Male Pupil teacher	£25.00

By 1895 Henrietta Boulcott was at Kilbirnie school where she was until she left teaching for the Wellington Education Board at about 1904 . No further references lived in Wellington Electorates for all the time she was registered. Last registration was in 1919

1927/1449	Boulcott	Henrietta	68Y
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30th January 1895 On the recommendation of a committee of the Board, a grant of £14 was made for fencing at the Taita School grounds

1st August 1895 Miss H. Boulcott asked for a refund of her travelling expenses incurred to enable her to attend her school "duties at the, Taita; . The consideration - of the matter was held over till the next meeting of the Board.

28th August 1895 Wellington Education Board the carpenter was directed to effect necessary repairs at Eketahuna, Hastwell, and Taita;

3rd September 1895 Miss Boulcott, at present assistant teacher at Taita School, is the successful applicant for the post of assistant at Kilbirnie School.

13th September 1895 Miss Meager, who has been pupil teacher at the Taita School for some time past, has, with the approval of the Education Board, been promoted to the position of assistant teacher in the same school.

13th September 1895 Applications are called for the positions of teacher at the Taratahi West aided school, and pupil teacher at the Taita School.

27th September 1895 Mr Leonard Price was transferred from the Lower Hutt School to the Taita School.

19th October 1895 Miss Boulcott, who was for over six years connected with the staff of the Taita School, and who was recently promoted to the position of first assistant at Kilbirnie, was presented at the Board of Education office this morning with a very handsome watch, as a mark of the esteem in which she was held by the residents of the Taita. Mr. A. Dorset, Secretary of the Board, in making the presentation, spoke of the regret felt by parents and children at the Taita at the removal of Miss Boulcott, who was very popular in the district. Miss Boulcott briefly expressed her sense of the compliment that had been paid her

30th October 1895 Wellington Education Board It was decided to appoint another teacher at Tenui at once, and to send a female pupil teacher to the Taita in place of Mr. Beech, who is to be transferred to another school. William Beech was pupil teacher at Ohariu 1891 to 1893. Wilfred Beech was at Ohariu School 1894 to 1899

13th November 1895 The headmaster of the Taita School wrote to the Hutt County Council yesterday requesting it to take measures to protect the children attending the school from contracting diphtheria, which is prevalent in the district. After consideration the matter was referred to Dr. Purdy, who was appointed Health Officer to the County, at a salary of £20 a year.

16th November 1895 The Taita School has been closed, in consequence of the prevalence of diphtheria in the district

1896

1896	68	Taita	Williamson	Alex W		Head Master	£225.00
1896	68	Taita	Meager	Ellen		Assistant Female	£80.00
1896	68	Taita	Price	Leonard		Male Pupil teacher	£25.00

27th February 1896 The children attending the Lower Hutt Taita, Belmont and Haywards School went on an excursion to Masterton on Tuesday by the ordinary train. Messrs Williamson and Price, and Miss Meagher, teachers, accompanied the Taita contingent, the committee being represented by Messrs Daysh, D. Buck, R Miller and Death. Messrs Barry, Burns Miss Meagher, of the Lower Hutt Schools, were in charge, and among the members of the committee present were Messrs Caverhill, Gough Hooper. There were close upon 500 excursionists altogether. At Masterton (our correspondent writes) the excursionists visited the Oval, fish ponds, and other places of interest during their stay. They returned home by the afternoon train

25th March 1896 Wellington Education Board The Board decided that it could not erect a teacher's residence at Khandallah, or make additions to the residence at the Taita.

1st April 1896 Brunner Coal Mine Disaster Relief Fund Taita School £1 6s

2nd April 1896 n forwarding a. contribution of £1 6s to the Relief Fund from the children attending the Taita School, Mr. A. W. Williamson suggests that all State school children

should be invited to help the fund by contributing' their mites. It would, he thinks, be an effective lesson in Christian charity, and something considerable might be raised.

28th April 1896 School Committee Elections: The report presented by the late Committee showed that some £50 had been spent in improving the school grounds, and providing prizes and on the excursion for the children, & o , and that a balance remained to credit. The following were elected as a Committee : -Messrs. A. Buck, S. Death, A. Death, H. Daysh, G. Hooper, R. Mellow, and J. Mockeridge. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the teachers and to the retiring Committee.

18th August 1896 Mr T R Fleming Inspector will visit Taita school on the 7th and 6th September

30th September 1896 An application by Miss Ellen Meager (Taita) for a transfer to the Hutt could not be acceded to

8th October 1896 Taita had 1 entrant for the scholarship examinations

14th December 1896 Miss Margaret C. Ross, Taita, is dux this year at the [Wellington] Girls' High School. The competitors were Miss Ross and Miss Annie Tasker, and the competition was very keen. Miss Cora Hickson, the dux of last year, stood aside this year. -These three girls have done remarkably good work in all subjects, and the lady principal states that their influence over the whole school has been very beneficial.

21st December 1896 An excellent entertainment, held in Welch's Hall, was given by the Taita School in connection with the breaking up for the holidays. The most notable event was a debate by some of the scholars, on the question, "Are School Excursions Beneficial ?" which, of course, ended in a decided victory for the affirmative side. The action songs by the children were much appreciated, as also was a trio by Misses and Master Williamson. The Rev. Andrew Gray presided, and presented prizes to all who had passed their examinations. Special prizes were awarded to Emily Colson for greatest improvement, to Edith White and Amy Williamson (equal) for neatest set of exercise books, to Hilda Hudson and Sam Campbell for rapid arithmetic. The other performers at the concert were Misses Ross, Drummond, Gray, Garwood, and McGurk, Messrs. Jones, Feist, Pringle, Kirk, Drummond, and Gillet, with Misses Williamson and Brown as pianistes.[Sic] The whole entertainment reflected much credit on Mr. Williamson and his staff

1897

1897	63	Taita	Williamson	A W	B1	Head Master	£250.00
1897	63	Taita	Meager	Ellen A	D3	Assistant Female	£80.00
1897	63	Taita	Price	Leonard		Male Pupil teacher	£32.00

23rd February 1897 Leonard Price was classified 3rd year at Taita Williamson.—

24th March 1897 Death On 24th March, 1897, Henry Edward, second son of A.W. Williamson Taita ; aged 10 years and 6 months.

29th April 1897 School Committee Taita. —Messrs N. Balls, E. Colson, W. Cleland, S. Death, L. Gwilliam, G. Hooper, J. Mockeridge. Mr L. Gwilliam was elected chairman and Mr Cleland secretary

26th May 1897 Wellington Education Board Consideration of a request for repairs and additions to the teacher's residence at Taita, and requests for fencing at Petone and for a room for infants at Wellington South, were deferred

29th July 1897 Taita to be inspected on the 30th August

18th August 1897 In enquiry into the cause of the late fire at the Taita school was held on Monday, when, after hearing the statements of several witnesses, the jury decided that there was no evidence to show how the fire was caused.

10th August 1897 The Taita State School and the teacher's residence were totally destroyed by fire at about 11.30 last night. The fire is supposed to have originated through a defective chimney in the front room of the school, Mr and Mrs Williamson, the occupants, were assisted by Messrs Bishop, Tuck, Pyke and other neighbours in removing their furniture. A piano, an organ and a quantity of clothing were saved, but the greater portion of the furniture was destroyed. Mr and Mrs Williamson will be heavy losers, their furniture was not insured. The building, as is customary with State schools, was uninsured. The fire was seen from Petone by Mr and Mrs B. C. Kirk, who at once rode out on a tandem and rendered what assistance they possibly could.

12th August 1897 The chairman of the Board of Education (Mr J. E. Blair), Mr Dorset (secretary) and Mr Turnbull (the Board's architect) went to the Taita yesterday and fixed the site for the schoolhouse which is to take the place of that destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning. Plans are to be prepared at once for the new building.

14th August 1897 The work of the school at the Taita is to be carried on in the two church schoolrooms until the new building, to take the place of that burned a few nights ago, is ready for use. Desks for the temporary schoolhouses were sent out to the Taita yesterday

18th August 1897 An enquiry into the cause of the late fire at the Taita school was held on Monday, when, after hearing the statements of several witnesses, the jury decided that there was no evidence to show how the fire was caused.

26th August 1897 Wellington Education Board The Chairman reported in connection with the burning of the Taita school that he had visited Taita. Temporary arrangements for the accommodation of the children had been made. An exhaustive inquiry into the cause of the fire had also been made, but no solution arrived at. No blame was attached to the teacher. He recommended that the teacher be granted a rent allowance of £35. His report was adopted. [A lot of Wellington Education Board schools in this era had the Head Teacher's residence attached to the School, it appears this was the case in the Taita School]

9th October 1897 The contract for the new schoolhouse at the Taita has been let to Mr. H. Humphries, of Greytown North.[There was also a Greytown outside of Dunedin]

21st December 1897 The annual entertainment in connection with the breaking-up of the Taita School was held 'in the Taita Hall on the 16th inst., the Rev. J. H. Gray in the chair. The performances were of a high standard— a noticeable item being a debate in which some 12 children took part. The competition in elocution was a keen one, and the prizes were awarded by the judges (the Rev. A. Thomson and the Chairman) as follows : — Boys, J. Brownley ; girls, Kate Doull. The committee showed its liberality in the excellent volumes placed on the table for distribution, every child in the school receiving a book.

1898

1898	75	Taita	Williamson	A W	B1	Head Master	£260.00
1898	75	Taita	Meager	Ellen A	D3	Assistant Female	£ 80.00
1898	75	Taita	Price	Leonard		Male Pupil teacher	£32.00

27th January 1898 Wellington Education Board e trouble with the Taita committee being left to the chairman to deal with.

29th January 1898 The new school at Taita, replacing that recently destroyed by fire, is now finished, and the children will be transferred from their present temporary class-rooms probably during the coming week.

27th June 1898 The secretary of the Education Board notifies that meeting of householders for the election of school committees at Matarawa, Taita, Korokoro, Ohau, Paikakariki, Horokiwi Valley and Takapu will be held on Monday, 25th July next [All these schools did not elect School Committees in April]

3rd August 1898 The differences between last year's Taita School Committee and the Education Board led to the non-election of a Committee at the April meeting of householders. At another meeting, however, held a few days ago a Committee was partly elected, consisting of Messrs. E. Clement, W. Cleland (secretary), W. Gwilliam, and L. Gwilliam (chairman), leaving three vacancies to be filled.

1st September 1898 It was agreed to appoint Commissioners to manage the affairs of the schools at Taita and Paikakariki, the householders having failed to elect Committees

14th November 1898 Scholarship Examinations lass D. — Schools with average attendance of less than 100— George Cridland, Shannon, 405; Amy Williamson, Taita, 373; Selina Oliver, Park Vale, 369.....First three win a scholarship

20th December 1898 The Taita School broke up for the holidays on Friday, with an entertainment in the school. Songs were contributed by Misses Gray (2) and Messrs. McKinnon, Drummond, Kirk, and Appleyard. A number of songs, recitations, and" dialogues were given by the children, and were much appreciated by their elders. Miss Williamson was accompanist. A feature of the evening's entertainment was a debate on the question " Whether School Prizes should be Given," which was capitally given by the children. The Rev. A. Gray presided, and before distributing the prizes remarked on the great, efficiency of the school under Mr. Williamson and his assistants, and also congratulated Miss Amy Williamson on having gained a scholarship in the recent examinations — the third scholarship which has been won by scholars attending this school. Special prizes were awarded as follows: — Neatest exercises, senior division, Amy "Williamson; junior, Annie Westbury and Nellie Williamson ; rapid arithmetic, Senior, Emily Colson ; junior, Blanche Cocking; most popular girl, Amy Williamson ; most popular boy, Bertie Johnstone ; best elocution, girls,' Violet Peck; boys, Fred. Williamson ; strongest pass in St. II., T. Gadsby ; St. III., M. Webb.

1899

1899	79	Taita	Williamson	A W	B1	Head Master	£260.00
1899	75	Taita	Meager	Ellen A	D2	Assistant Female	£ 80.00
1899	75	Taita	Price	Leonard		Male Pupil teacher	£ 38.00

1st March 1899 The following scholars have been awarded primary and drawing scholarships through vacancies occurring in the number annually awarded - — Adelina Jones and Allan

McDougall (Terrace) ; Thomas Bedford, Fred. Glover, and John Blame (Clyde-quay) ; Amy Williamson (Taita) ; and Gilbert Leatham (Thorndon)

2nd October 1899 Mr W. M. Cleland advertises that specifications of the break wind for the Taita School can now be seen

30th November 1899 Wellington Education Board An application from JV Benning for the use of the Taita School' for the holding of religions service was referred to the local committee

1900

1900	79	Taita	Williamson	Alex W	B1	Head Master	£ 260.00	£35.00
1900	79	Taita	Meager	Ellen A	D2	Assistant Female	£80.00	
1900	79	Taita	Bennett	William D		Male Pupil teacher	£50.00	

The figure in the far right column is an allowance paid to the headmaster because a School House has not been supplied by the Wellington Education Board

Leonard Price did not work for the Wellington Education Board again

12th December 1901 At a meeting of the Council of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, held last evening, the 80 applications received for the position (recently vacated by Mr. F. Moorhouse) of head ranger to the society were considered, and Mr. Leonard Price, of the Lower Hutt, was appointed to the office. Mr. Price was at one time a schoolmaster at the Hutt and has been used to the country all his life. He was also a member of the Second New Zealand Contingent, and bears high recommendations from his commanding officer. The terms of appointment are Price is to serve a nominal period of one month's probation.

13th February 1900 APPLICATIONS for a Pupil Teacher for the Taita School will be received up to Monday, the 19th instant. Forms of application may be obtained at the office. A. DORSET, Secretary.

12th May 1900 Indian Famine Relief Fund A substantial donation to the Fund will result from a happy thought of a Waimate [Sic] resident, Mr. J. Barr. This gentleman offered a handsome flag to be competed for by the Hutt and Taita School children, the flag to go to the school which collected most money per head for the Indian Famine Fund. The substantial sum of £20 has been collected by the Taita school children, and they should stand a very good chance of securing the prize

2nd July 1900 A pleasing ceremony (writes an occasional correspondent) took, place at the Taita. School on Saturday, the occasion being the presentation of the New Zealand Ensign to the school, the gift being that of Mr J. Barr, of the Waiwetu. The presentation was made by the Rev J. Martin to Mr Williamson, headmaster. Mrs Barr was presented with a choice bouquet by the Misses Buck and Williamson, on behalf of the teachers and pupils. Mr Bunny, the Mayor of Lower Hutt hoisted the flag. Three cheers were given and the National Anthem was sung. Apologies for nonattendance were sent by Messrs Field and Wilford, M.H.R., Mr Aitken (Mayor of Wellington) and Revs Jones and Eldridge. During the afternoon patriotic songs were sung by the children under the direction of Mr Burns. Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies of the district.

26th July 1900 In a long list of teachers overpaid by the Wellington Education Board was A Williamson Taita £10 and E Meagre assistant was listed as being in excess of staff according to Board Regulations.

2nd August 1900 Wellington Education Board A deputation from the Taita Committee protesting against the removal of a female teacher was informed that" the teacher would be retained if the average attendance is kept up

1901

1901	67	Taita	Williamson	Alex W	B1	Head Master	£215.00	£35.00
1901	67	Taita	Meager	Ellen A	D2	Assistant Female	£ 80.00	

5th February 1901 s colony possesses, among other natural curiosities, a genus of carnivorous fungi. We received yesterday, from Mr. A. W. Williamson, Taita, a large crimson fungus with spreading tentacles, like an octopus, and much resembling raw meat in general appearance. Add to this an overpoweringly fetid odour, and wo have a vegetable growth that possesses an irresistible attraction to bluebottles, which, in fact, swarm around it like a hive of bees. Interesting as the specimen is to the naturalist, it is not to be recommended as an indoor ornament. We accordingly sent it to the Museum, Mr. Williamson having notified ' that it was comparatively rare, this, being the first he had seen for many years. In submitting it to Sir James Hector, we enquired if it was carnivorous. He courteously replied as 'follows : — "'The specimen you sent is *Aserae rubra*, a curious genus of fungi, the spreading arms resembling a starfish. There are two species in New Zealand the other, *A. hookeri*, having dark-green or red stripes' on the arms. It is the smaller of the two, being only one inch high. These fungi certainly catch insects and devour them. I find your specimen devouring a maggot of a blowfly which had incautiously crawled up one of the crimson arms.

27th February 1901 Teacher Salaries Wellington Education Board Present Salary £260 and £10 in excess

21st March 1901 New Salary Scale included Taita Attendance 74 Pupil Teacher £58 increase of £8

31st December 1901 The ceremony of unfurling the flag at the Upper Hutt school, before the adjournment for the holidays, was performed by Mr W. H. Field, M.H.R., who gave a brief address. Mr J. Golder, the chairman of the school committee, also spoke. There was a largo attendance of the parents and friends of the children. A programme of sports was afterwards gone through at the railway recreation grounds, Upper Hutt. The flag was also unfurled at the Ohariu school, by the youngest boy in the school; and in the evening prizes were distributed to the scholars of the Taita school, Mr Field being the chairman. Mr Field unfurled the flag on the following day at the Wainui-o-mata school, where prizes were also distributed.

1902

1902	71	Taita	Williamson	Alex W	B1	Head Master	£215.00	£30.00
1902	71	Taita	Meagher	Ellen A	D2	Assistant Female	£85.00	

30th January 1902 Salaries adjustments Wellington Education Board Taita, Ellen Meager, present salary £80, colonial salary £85.

29th May 1902 Wellington Education Board n regard to an application for a school at the Epuni hamlet, near Upper Waiwetu.[Sic] the Board resolved to obtain reports from the Lower Hutt and. Taita Committees

31st July 1902 A petition was recently presented to the Education Board by settlers in the locality, asking' that a new school should be erected at the Nai Nai. The matter was reported to the Board s inspectors, and Mr Bakewell reported as follows: —“I don't recommend the bunding of a new school as proposed in the petition. In my opinion the Taita School and the Hutt School should moot all requirements for some considerable time to come, but effectually to do this it will be necessary to move Taita School to some more convenient site further down the Valley, and I strongly recommend that the school committees should be consulted in order that the matter may be settled by the Board before the building of a new school is commenced.” The Board appointed a committee to visit the locality on the day before next Board meeting to make inquiries and report, and in the meantime the committees concerned are to be asked to furnish in writing their views on the subject.

1903

1903	51	Taita	Plunkett-Cole	William	D1	Head Master	£191.50	\$ 20.00
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I went back and checked and this record shows that at the end of 1903 there was only one teacher registered as teaching at Taita School

17th August 1903 Mr. Williamson, late head master oi Taita State school, who has recently been transferred to a similar position at the new school at Epuni, was, with his daughter, Miss A. Williamson, entertained at a farewell "social" on Saturday evening at Taita

Ellen Meager had gone with Mr Williamson to Epuni School. Neither appointment was printed in the newspapers. Ellen was at Epuni until 1911, then at Eastern Hutt to at least 1919. Alexander W Williamson was at Epuni until at least 1910 when he ceased working for the Wellington Education Board

Mr Plunkett Cole taught at Te Aro from 1881 to 1893. In June 1894 he was relieving at the Dreyerton School North East of Masterton. He was then at the State Farm Levin school from 1894 to 1898. Followed by the Horowhenua school until 1902. As no appointment was made in the papers he may well have been transferred. He was while at Te Aro accused of canning a child too severely He died in 1910

4th July 1890 In the Supreme Court before the Chief Justice and a special jury William Hansen, a boy of 14, sued (through his father) W. Plunkett Cole, late master of the Te Aro School, for £605 damages for breaking his thumb with a cane in March last year. The defence is that only moderate and sufficient chastisement was inflicted. The case will last all day. I could not find the outcome of this case. But Mr Cole certainly left Te Aro School

1910/5029		Plunkett-Cole		William			60Y	
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1904

1904	41	Taita	Plunkett-Cole	William	D1	Head Master	£167.10	\$ 20.00
1904	41	Taita	Harton	Violet T		Mistress	£80.00	

9th March 1907 St. Peter's Church was the scene of a quiet wedding on Tuesday afternoon, When Miss Violet Harton, daughter of Mrs. Harton, Boulcott-street, was married to Mr. F. Marchant, of the electrical engineering staff at tihe Tramway Power-house. The bride, who

was given away by her brother, Mr. C. B. Harton, looked' very winsome in her dainty white embroidered muslin frock, worn over white glaze. She wore a small wreath of orange blossoms and a beautiful lace veil and carried a large flower bouquet of hot-house flowers. Her sister and Miss Plimmer were her bridesmaids. Their pretty white frocks and hats were relieved with vivid touches of ma mie rosette silk and their bouquets were of the same tone. Mrs. Harton wore a smart silver grey Sicilian costume, the coat made with a long Basque, and a pretty bonnet of grey and white tulle

1905

1905	49	Taita	Plunkett-Cole	William	D1	Head Master	£160.10	\$30.00
1905	49	Taita	Harton	Violet T	Lic	Mistress	£ 80.00	

3rd May 1905 AN OUTSPOKEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

REMARKABLE REPORT OF ITS LABOURS. There- is something distinctly unique about the annual report of the Taita School Committee which lifts it out of the stereotyped ruck. After a few caustic opening remarks, it proceeds : — "Your Committee- has had a number of important .matters to deal with during the year, such w» arranging that the school flag should be hoisted on some two or three occasions, reading more or less interesting communications, some of quite inordinate length from some interesting organisation called the Navy League whose object appears to be to utilise the school for the purpose of leaching the youngsters that the highp.it duly and the noblest occupation of mankind to slaughter one another. We had also to decide the momentous question whether the children of the Taita should be invited to subscribe their pennies towards purchasing some silver plate to decorate the mess table of the officers of H.M.S. Zealandia. As most of the children had never heard of the ship Zealandia and did not know the officers, and didn't want to, and as the majority of them eat their dinners without any silver plate, your Committee decided the kiddies' pennies were, boiler invested in 'stick-jaw,' nevertheless your Committee hopes the ship Zealandia has got the silver plate all right, because the efficiency of the Navy cannot be maintained without a properly and handsomely appointed mess. The 100th Anniversary of Trafalgar Day occurred during the term of office of your Committee — as such events do not happen often, your Committee looked for some acknowledgment of the fact that they were in office at 'the time, but so far they seemed to have been overlooked. The Chairman has not been knighted nor made a Privy Councillor. Mr. Colo, the Head Teacher, very kindly paraded the school on the occasion, and addressed the children upon the subject. Judging from the appearance of the scholars subsequently, the Committee are convinced they were deeply affected. In addition to these important matters, your Committee has had the responsibility of dealing with some £10 [?] of public money. When they came into office they found the balance in the exchequer amounted to £5 0s 8d. They have received £13 9s Id; they have spout £4 6s in cleaning, £1 13s in, fuel, £1 17s in repairs, £4 6s in books, etc. The bank has filched 15s for keeping the accounts, and there is a balance in hand of £5 13s 8d. This is the important work it has done There is one other matter your Committee tried to do, which was to have the Board make the sanitary arrangements fit for a civilised country and fit for a self-respecting child to use. This, however, the Board considered such a trifling matter compared to Navy League* snobbishness and slicking a flag on a pole, that it has entirely ignored the Committee's recommendation, and consequently the sanitary arrangements are as indecent and disgusting

as they were twelve months ago. The other and remaining duties of your Committee have consisted principally of heading a subscription list to buy prizes for the children. They also organised a picnic at which everybody enjoyed themselves or ought to have done if they did not. This is the sum total of our work, and to accomplish it. each of the seven members has wasted twenty-four hours or three entire working days, so that altogether the result has been achieved by the expenditure of three and a half weeks work of one man. With the exception of the prizes and the picnic all the rest could have been done as well or better by the Board's office boy, who keeps the petty cash." The Secretary, Mr. Cleland, is thanked for his labours.

27th May 1905 Part of a long letter to the Editor by C W Palmer Hon. Sec of the Navy League My attention has only recently been drawn to some extracts from the annual report; of the Taita School Committee- published in your columns during my absence from Wellington. The work of the Navy League at the schools is discredited and misrepresented, and although the remarks are of a facetious and flippant nature they may perhaps have appealed to some of the- less thoughtful of your renders, and possibly have created a wrong impression as to the actual aims and objects of the League- in endeavouring to impress on the minds of the growing generation about the privileges and responsibilities of British citizenship. The report suggests that the League is "utilising the school for the purposes of teaching the youngsters that ' the highest duty and noblest occupation of mankind is to slaughter one another.".....

2nd August 1905 Wellington Education Board Mr W. Hobbs, dentist, of Lower Hutt, was given permission to examine the teeth of the schoolchildren of the Hutt, Epuni, and Taita schools, subject to the approval of the School Committees and parents. —Mr Allan [Member of Wellington Education Board] thought they should go a step further, and have the children medically examined, as was done in some parts of America. There were certain children who should not attend public schools —not on the score of contagion or anything like that, but in their own interests.

1st September 1905 Wellington Education Board Work adopted Taita, removing tank and stand from 'school entrance and other repairs

23rd November 1905 Considerable annoyance is caused in the Taita district by works of destruction by cyclists on .Sundays. The school garden is continually raided by people who seem to think directly they are away from the city they may do as they please. A great deal of care is taken by those in charge to interest the children in decorating the grounds of thob school, and it is hard that their work should be destroyed by thoughtless youths.

21st December 1905 PLUNKETT-COLE BROOME. On Wednesday, till December, at St. Columb's [Sic?] Church, Hawthorn, Melbourne. by the Rev Canon Nash, Cyril Edward, only son of Wm. Plunkett Cole, of Taita, Hutt, to Rachel Reid, only child of Mrs Broome, "Redbraes," Bayswater, Victoria.

1906

1906	52	Taita	Plunket-Cole	W	D1	Head Master	£165.00	\$20.00
1906	52	Taita	Harton	Violet T	Lic	Mistress	£85.00	

26th January 1906 In pursuance of permission obtained from the Education Board, Mr W. Hobbs, dentist, made an examination of the teeth of a number of children at the Taita school. Out of twenty-one girls whose teeth were examined all required attention. The girl with

apparently the best teeth was a child of six years, who only required one extraction. Two others had two tooth each calling for attention. The recommendations regarding the twenty-one girls may be summarised as follows; —Extractions — Temporary teeth 63, permanent 19 Fillings—Temporary tooth 12, permanent 35. Total, 129. Average, 6 3-7th teeth per girl. The teeth of twenty-one boys were examined. A bey of ten required only one tooth filled, and there were six who each required two teeth to be attended to. The recommendations may be summarised aa follows Extractions — Temporary teeth 31, permanent 16. Fillings— Temporary 11, permanent 13. Total, 74. Average, 3 ½ tooth per boy.

'The Board expressed its desire to facilitate the examination of the teem of all children in its district.

29th June 1906 Taita Fencing acre recently leased (£7)

13th December 1906 Wellington Education Board Miss V H Harton resigns

1907

1907	45	Taita	Plunket-Cole	W	D1	Head Master	£180.00	£25.00
1907	45	Taita	Sullivan	Maggie	D4	Assistant Female	£90.00	

12th February 1907 Miss M Sullivan appointed assistant

28th February 1907 Day's Bay was also the scene of the Taita school's picnic. [The 3 Mt Cook Schools were also there]

24th April 1907 Taita. — Messrs. W. F. Edwards (chairman), W. Cleland (secretary), B. August, F. Bentelsen , W. Kilminster, J. C. Mabey, M. Welsh.

30th August 1907 Wellington Education Board authorised

22nd November 1907 Wellington Education Board granted Miss Sullivan, assistant at Taita, eight weeks from the end of the holidays

1908

1908	51	Taita	Plunkett-Cole	William	D1	Head Master	£180.00	£25.00
1908	51	Taita	Sullivan	Maggie	D4	Assistant Female	£90.00	

6th January 1908 An interesting and somewhat unusual gathering took place at the Taita on the last day of 1907; the occasion being the celebration of the diamond wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Milne. Mr Milne was born at Glanier, Scotland, on the 1st of January, 1825, and arrived in Wellington in the year 1841 in the Lady Nugent, and Mrs. Milne was born at Lenark, Scotland, on the 5th of May, 1830, and arrived at Wellington in 1840 in the Bengal Merchant, her father being a » well known old resident, the late Mr. Alexander Yule. The family consists of six j daughters and one son, all of whom are ' married.,, Mrs. Halley, of Grant- road (widow of the late Mr. John Halley) ; Mrs. John Cundy, of Featherston ; Mrs. Peter Speedy, of Belmont ; Mrs. A. J. Mackey, of Auckland ; Mrs. F. K. Boyes, of Bunnythorpe ; Mrs. John Thompson, of Kaiwarra; and Mr. J. G. Milne, of the Taita. Mr. and Mrs. Milne are great-grandparents. There were about, fifty relatives and friends present at the celebration [This is included because Mrs John Cundy of Featherston is the researcher's Great Grandmother.]

28th April 1908 School Committee The annual meeting of householders in the Taita school district was held in the schoolhouse at 8 o'clock last night. The following qualified residents

were declared elected for the coming year:—Messrs. W. P. Edwards (chairman), W. Kilmister, J. C. Mabey, Robert August, F. Bertelsen, Maurice Welsh, and W. Cleland (secretary). The annual report of the outgoing 'committee showed a satisfactory state of affairs. The outgoing committee left behind them a credit balance of £7 Is. 10d.

25th September 1908 In a discussion on opening an Eastern Hutt School the following information was included by the Wellington Education Board[The Eastern Hutt School was not opened until 1914] Captain McDonald spoke strongly against any attempt to further delay the question, which had been dragging on for the last three years. Committee alter committee had recommended the erection of the school, and they were now committed to the work. Mr. Field asked for particulars as to the distance, from existing schools, of the Eastern Hutt site, and was informed by the inspector that the site was situate 1 ¼ miles from Epuni school, 1 ¾ miles from the Main Hutt school and 2 ¼ miles from **Taita**.

[NB A kilometre is about 5/8 of a mile]

1909

1909	56	Taita	Plunkett-Cole	William	D1	Head Master	£185.00
1909	56	Taita	Sullivan	Maggie	D3	Assistant Female	£95.00

27th April 1909 TAITA. In the report presented to the Taita householders, the committee stated that the buildings were in a fair state of repair, though urgently requiring a new coat of paint. The Education Board's promise of a new dividing fence had also not been given effect to. The attendance of children, it was noted, was not altogether satisfactory, but their passes were fairly good. The balance sheet showed a credit balance of £5 17s 4d, which the committee considered to be very satisfactory, in view of the fact that the capitation allowed, by the Education Board was but small. The assistant teacher, Miss Sullivan, having been granted six months' leave of absence, through ill-health, an assistant was appointed. The new committee was elected as follows : W. F. Edwards (chairman re-elected), Wm. Cleland (secretary-re-elected), Job C. Mabey, M. W. Welch, Wm. Kilminister, Waiter Moore, Robert August.

27th April 1909 Forty-four years' continuous service as a school committeeman has been achieved by ,Mr. W. Cleland, of the Taita. Ho has been a member of the Taita School Committee since 1884, and in all those years he has been absent from only one meeting.

10th July 1909 The Taita School Committee is arranging to make a presentation to Mr. W. P. Cole, the head teacher, who is retiring on superannuation.

24th July 1909 Mr. Plunket Cole, for the past six years head-master of the Taita School, has been granted six months' leave of absence on full pay, and will retire on superannuation on 31st December. The other evening the parents of the children attending the school presented him .with a purse of sovereigns as a mark of appreciation of his services.[A sovereigns was worth 21 shillings. There were 20 shillings in a pound]

2nd September 1909 Mr. W. Phillip who for for the past ten years-"has been headmaster of the Makomako School, has; been appointed' headmaster of the Taita School. .The Makomako-people, .although pleased with Mr. Phillip's promotion, are indeed sorry to lose him, as he has made himself very ' popular both, with the children and parents.

11th December 1909 Catherine B Tuely of Ballance school appointed assistant at Taita. Balance and Makomako were very close together on the Western side of Pahiatua close to the hills

Catherine Tuely started teaching for the Wellington Education Board in 1897 at Tane Each O Eketahuna on the Mangaone Road. Then six years at Kohinui School East of Pahiatua . In 1905 she came to Ballance school as an assistant Then after three years at Taita school went to Tokomaru school in the Horowhenua and from 1919 to at least 1923 was at Ngaio School in Wellington In 1919 William Phillips followed Catherine to Tokomaru in Horowhenua from where he finished teaching for the Wellington Education Board sometime after 1923

1910

1910	59	Taita	Philip	William H	D1	Head Master	£190.00	£25.00
1910	59	Taita	Tuely	Catherine B	D2	Assistant Female	£105.00	
1910	59	Taita	Yeats	Douglas D M		MP1	£20.00	

9th February 1910 Hutt Park Committee: The children of the Taita School were granted the use of the park on the occasion of their annual picnic to-day

6th April 1910 Petone Technical School Board In regard to the allotment of free drawing scholarships, the director was instructed to offer three additional free places to the Petone District High School for the primary department, two others to the Hutt High School and secondary classes, and a total of two each to the Taita, Epuni, and Korokoro Schools. The scholarships are to be awarded by the headmaster of each school to pupils displaying a special aptitude for drawing.

29th June 1910 Wellington Education Board It was agreed that, with the approval of the school committee, the date of the second term holiday at the Taita school be altered to suit the convenience of the head teacher.

14th July 1910 Mr. William Plunkett-Cole, whose death occurred at Island Bay last Tuesday, was well-known in educational and , volunteer circles in Wellington. He was born in the Old Country 65 years ago. In 1879 he entered the service 'of the Wanganui Education Board, but over 20 years ago he was appointed first assistant master in the To Ai*o School, Willis-street. After holding the position for several year's he was transferred to Dreyerton as head teacher. He was , afterwards in charge of the State Farm School, the Te Horo School, and the Taita School, in that order. Last year he retired from the service on superannuation. The deceased was an enthusiastic volunteer for many years, and was captain of the Rifles — & corps, which has been defunct for a considerable time. His son is master of a large steamer trading between London and the Far East, and there is a daughter living in Wellington. The funeral is to leave St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Mulgrave street, at 9.30 a.m. to-morrow

1911

1911	71	Taita	Philip	William H	C1	Head Master	£195.00	£25.00
1911	71	Taita	Tuely	Catherine B	D2	Assistant Female	£110.00	
1911	71	Taita	Yeats	Douglas		MP2	£25.00	

10th March 1911 Hutt Park Committee: The Taita School Committee and the Petone Salvation Army were also granted the use of the park for picnic purposes

15th March 1911 Almost every year, said Councillor Welch, at the Hutt County Council yesterday, there occurred at the Epuni School an outbreak of scarlet fever, or some similar

epidemic. He wanted the matter gone into by the Health authorities. The cause might be in some dirty drain or other defect. 'As the matter stood at present, the school itself suffered by reputation. Though the school had not yet been closed this year, fourteen of the scholars were being sent to the Taita School and forty to Lower Hutt. The council: decided to call the attention of the Health authorities to the matter.

29th March 1911 Wellington Education Board Work approved Taita Well and pump.

25th April 1911 Mr J. Cleland, of Lower Hutt, was last- evening elected secretary of the Taita school committee. This will be the forty-fourth year that Mr Cleland has served as secretary of a school committee in the Dominion.

25th April 1911 The following committee was elected for Taita School:—Messrs. W. Welch (chairman), Cleland (secretary), Cottle, Kilminster, Mabey, August, and Evans.

[Douglas Yeats only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Taita for the two years. And Only on the Electoral Roll in 1911. Killed in October 1916 at Etaples [France] serving in the military.]

1912

1912	75	Taita	Philip	William H	C1	Head Master	£200.00	£25.00
1912	75	Taita	Tuely	Catherine B	D2	Assistant Female	£115.00	

28th February 1912 Hutt Park Committee The Taita and Stoke's Valley Schools were granted the use of the park for picnic purposes

27th March 1912 Wellington Education Board It was decided to grant a library subsidy of £1 10s to Taita School.

1st May 1912 The thanks and congratulations of the Wellington Education Board were by resolution accorded to Mr. Cleland, secretary of the Taita. School Committee yesterday in recognition of his long and faithful service as a member of the committee.

30th October 1912 Wellington Education Board On the recommendation of the committee the following works were authorised: —Taita, concrete floors, rehangng windows, etc [Presumably the concrete floors were for the play sheds]

1913

1913	73	Taita	Philip	William H	C1	Head Master	£205.00	£30.00
1913	73	Taita	Godfrey	Grace Lilian	D4	Assistant Female	£95.00	

Grace Lilian Godfrey started teaching for the Wellington Education Board at Taita and in 1915 was at Clyde Quay school where she was until at least 1923 when my records end. In 1912 she was at Marlborough Town School in Blenheim which was the only year she taught for the Marlborough Education Board

22nd January 1913 Hutt Park Committee It was resolved to grant the use of the park to the Taita School Committee and the Primitive Methodist Sunday School for picnic purposes, on payment of a small fee for tables and copper hire.

29th April 1913 Mr Cleland, after forty-five years consecutive service as secretary of the Taita school committee, resigned his position last night. On the motion of the chairman, it was decided by the householders to present the veteran secretary with a token of esteem.

29th April 1913 The election of the Taita School Committee resulted as follows : — Messrs. .Welch, Eales, Dolphin, Kilminster, Chevers, and Mabey

10th May 1913 Mr. H. McKenzie, a member of the Taita School Committee, is promoting a "social," with a view to accumulating funds for the school library. The social will be held in Welch's Hall next Wednesday

12th May 1913 Wellington Education Board Miss C Tueby [Sic Tuely] appointed to Tokomaru

28th May 1913 Wellington Education Board Final arrangements for the completion of the school committee elections at Taita. Whareama, Alfredton, Hukanui, and South Wellington were left in the hands of the chairman and secretary.'

10th June Miss Godfrey appointed to Taita school temporarily

4th July 1913 At a meeting of the Taita School Committee on Monday night, the chairman (Mr M. W. Welch) suggested that Arbor Day should be recognised in a proper manner. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to obtain suitable trees, and plant the school grounds; the selection of the trees to be left in the hands of the chairman.

24th July 1913 The social held in Mr M. W. Welch's hall, Taita, last evening, to augment the prize fund of the local school, was very successful. Instrumental and vocal items were given by local and outside musicians, and highly appreciated. In a large measure the success of the gathering was due to the energy displayed by Mr and Mrs H. A. W. McKenzie and the chairman of the school committee, Mr M. W. Welch.

26th July 1913 A successful concert and dance arranged by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. N. McKenzie took, place in the Taita Hall on Wednesday, in aid of the library and prize fund of .the Taita Public School children. The hall was packed for both concert and dance, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all present. Supper was provided on a lavish scale. The overture for the concert played by Mrs. W. Reynolds, and 'the following contributors had to submit to encores: Mr. O. Bengé, Mr. Millin, Mrs. Sullivan (who sang sweetly in German and English), Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Isaacs, Mr. McEwan, Messrs. Lockyer and Simpson (patter duet), Mr. Sims, and Mr. A. Smith, The accompanists were Messrs. Miller, Taylor, and Simpson and Mesdames Reynolds and Russning and Miss Kemble. The hall was effectively decorated with bunting and evergreens, festooned with trailing lycopodium. Dancing was kept up till an early hour. The pretty dresses of the ladies and the" decorated nail made up a gay scene

9th August 1913 Mr. and Mrs. H. A. W. McKenzie have received the following letter from the secretary of the Taita School Committee My committee wish to tender you their sincere appreciation of your splendid effort, namely, the recent concert and dance given on behalf of our school funds. We have decided to give two special prizes annually, to be called the McKenzie prizes."

12th August 1913 Miss L Godfrey appointed assistant mistress at Taita

8th September 1913 Mr M. W. Welch, chairman of the Taita school committee, presented Mr W, Cleland, on behalf of the residents of the district, with a marble - clock, in appreciation of his services to the school committee for fifteen consecutive years

1914

1914	87	Taita	Philip	William H	C1	Head Master	£210.00	
1914	87	Taita	Godfrey	Grace Lilian	D3	Assistant Female	£105.00	

21st March 1914 Upper Hutt Bi election Virgil McGovern is a Young New Zealander. born at Kaitangata (Otago), a quarter of a century ago. He was educated primarily at Kaitangata and. Taita State Schools and afterwards attended a three-years' course at St. Patrick's College. ' He has considerable interests at stake in the township, the Mc Govern properties being valued at over £5,000 for rating purposes. This candidate has taken a keen interest in local politics and sports for the past ten years, At the Biennial Election of 1912 he withdrew his nomination'

8th May 1914 'There was a good attendance at the annual householders' meeting at Taita. Mr. M. Welch presided. The report " showed a credit balance of £18 3s. 11d. The number of children on the roll was stated to be 92, and the average attendance 85. The following committee was elected: Messrs. M. Welch (chairman), J. Stonehouse (secretary), G Hooper, W. William, F. Eales, S. Chivers, 'and W. Kilmister.

21st May 1914 Wellington Association Football Club [Soccer] It was decided to donate a ball for the use of the Taita School Club, and to take steps to promote competition among the boys in the Hutt Valley.

23rd May 1914 Part of a long article in Children's Heath included . Dr. Elizabeth Gunn's report on school children of the Hutt Neglected Valley and other parts of School Wellington Province is a very unpleasant revelation of the apathy, carelessness. or thoughtlessness of many parents. In Taita nineteen cut of forty-two children were found to be ill-nourished, seventeen out of forty-three at Upper Hutt were in similar poor physical condition. "All of them born in New Zealand and not from poor homes," is a note on the Taita cases of malnutrition. The suggested explanation is that the children have breakfast hastily and feel hungry before they reach school. The lunch bags are opened and emptied, and the pupils may have no more food till they return home in the late afternoon

27th October 1914 Wellington Education Board Approved roof painting

23rd November 1914 Mrs. H. A. W. McKenzie gave an enjoyable afternoon at Wilmor, Taita, to the elder girls attending the local school, on Saturday afternoon. Various games were played, the croquet matches being keenly contested. The observation table proved interesting to the children,' who inspected twenty-eight diverse articles, and Miss May Smith secured first prize (twenty-four correct), and Miss Elsie Atkinson second (twenty-two correct). The centre-piece of the tea table was a Christmas tree (probably the first one of the season), containing gifts to be drawn for by all present, the articles, being of a varied character, caused considerable merriment amongst the girls.

14th December 1914 Wellington Education Board Painting Taita School J and E Battersby

23rd December Miss I Williamson appointed assistant

1915

1915	99	Taita	Philip	William H	C1	Head Master	£220.00
1915	99	Taita	Williamson	Isa M	D5	Assistant Female	£120.00
1915	99	Taita	Davis	Annie E	D5	Assistant Female	£110.00

Isa Williamson started teaching in 1911 at Hutt DHS and came to Taita in 1915 and was still there when my records in 1923.'

Annie E Davis started teaching at Petone West in 1911 and 1912. Then had a gap of two years when she would have been at training college In 1915 she was at Taita and by the end of 1917 was back at Petone West where she was until at least 1921. In 1923 she was at Epuni School

27th January 1915 Wellington Education Board Miss I Williamson appointed

5th May 1915 the meeting of householders at Taita on Monday evening was presided over by Mr. H. A. W. McKenzie. After a heated discussion the following were elected to the committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. Reichel (chairman), Stonehouse (secretary), Harris, Kilminster, and Hewer .

5th May 1915 The election of a school committee at Taita, caused some excitement. Mr H A. ;W. McKenzie' occupied the chair, Mr Welch declining to accept the same. Mr McKenzie, observing that "'a new broom swept clean/' ' nominated Messrs 'Berthelsen, Peseine, Harris, Reichel. Alsopp, and McKenzie as committeemen.. Only Messrs Reichel and Harris accepted nomination. Messrs Hooper, Stonehouse, Eales, Chivers , Kilminster, Hewer and 'Welch were then nominated; All members of the old committee declined nomination, exception being taken to the remarks of the chairman. Pressure was then brought to bear on Messrs Welch, Stonehouse and Kilminster to stand. Mr Welch, who has been chairman for six years,' declined absolutely. Finally Messrs Hewer, Kilminster and Stonehouse were nominated, and a ballot. resulted in the following being elected;— Messrs Stonehouse (secretary), Reichel (chairman), Harris Kilminster and Hewer.'

13th July 1915 Miss Godfrey of Taita to be assistant at Clyde Quay

10th August 1915 Miss I Williamson appointed

8th September 1915 The elder boys of the Taita' Public School, at the invitation of Mr., H. A. W. McKenzie, were given a trip to Wellington yesterday. Through the kindness of Superintendent Tait they were permitted to witness the members of the Fire Brigade doing their physical evolutions, after which the superintendent explained the working of the machinery and' appliances to the greatly interested youths. An exhibition of the receipt of a fire alarm was given, the men going to their stations and the cars being run out. The boys showed their appreciation by giving three hearty cheers for the superintendent before leaving. A visit to the Zoo and to a picture show completed the outing.

14th September Miss A E Davies appointed

5th October 1915 Mr. and Mrs. H A W. McKenzie, who recently presented the telegraph poles to erect swings for the use of the girls of the Taita School, yesterday gave two exercise horses, with spring board, to the boys. Mrs. McKenzie, in handing them over to the schoolmaster, expressed a hope that the lads would make good use of them, developing muscles that would be useful to them in the real battle of life after they had left school. The elder boys had been taken to Wellington to be shown how to use the horses, and it would be their duty to instruct the younger ones. Mr. Phillips, the headmaster, thanked Mr and Mrs. McKenzie for their thoughtful gift, as another instance of the genuine interest they took in the school's welfare. The boys gave three hearty cheers for the donors.

9th November 1915 Military Hospital Guild donations included Pupils of Taita School donated 37 face cloths

1916-1917

1917	106	Taita	Philip	William H	C-52	Head	£249.00
1917	106	Taita	Williamson	Isa M	D-98	Assistant	£140.00
1917	106	Taita	Levien	Rachel		Assistant	£110.00

Rachel Levien only worked for the Wellington Education Board at Taita School

15th April 1916 Part of a long article: The meaning of the .native name. Taita, is "a breaking." or "to break." Like all native names, there is a history connected with its origin, but there are no records to show how the name originated. A feasible explanation is that in the dim, dark ages, the waters of Port Nicholson extended far up the Hutt Valley, and the waves spent their force at the foot of the cliffs of Taita gorge. A native Rangitira, watching—probably -when a storm from the south was in progress—the waves breaking against the cliffs, gave the -name to the locality by which it is still known.

19th April 1916 At Taita the following committee was elected:—Messrs. M. Welch (chairman), W. Harris (secretary), S. Cooley, F. Hewer, S. Peck.

16th May 1916 Countess of Liverpool Fund Taita School, 9 face cloths, 10 balaclavas, 1 pair mittens.

30th May 1916 Undefended Divorce Cases included William Hill Philip proceeded against Mary Adeline May Philip on the ground of adultery. Mr Wilford appeared foi the petitioner, a schoolmaster, who was married at Taita in 1910. There were two children. Petitioner stated that after his summer holidays in 1915 he discovered that his wife had been misconducting herself with a soldier whom she had addressed in a letter as “My darling boy, Billy.” His wife, after furnishing a confession, had left him and gone to Australia. Frank G. August, farmer, at Taita, gave evidence as to seeing the respondent frequently with soldiers while the petitioner was away on his holiday. Last year he saw a soldier parting with her at 6 a.m. A decree nisi was granted, returnable in four months.

1910/22123	Philip	Allan Leitch	Mary Adeline May	William Hill	-
1912/1807	Philip	Malcolm Alexander	Mary Adeline May	William Hill	

1910/4288	Mary Adeline May	Alexander	William Hill	Philip
1918/4431	Eva Agnes	Gibbs	William Hill	Philip

31st May 1916 It was resolved at yesterday's meeting of the Wellington Education Board that the committee of the Eastern Hutt School be informed that in the adjacent schools of Taita, Epuni, and Lower Hutt there is sufficient room to accommodate the children of the district. Eastern Hutt school opened in 1915

17th May 1917 Association Football [Soccer] A letter from the Taita School Committee stated that several past Wellington players were attending the school and were desirous of continuing the game. The committee asked the association to donate a ball. It was decided to provide a ball.

5th October 1917 At Taita. School the children met to make a presentation to Miss A. E.. Davis, of Koro Koro. ,Mr. Philip .headmaster, on behalf of. the scholars presented Miss

Davis with a handsome silver-backed hair brush as 'a token of their esteem, and wished her every success in her new position. Miss Davis suitably thanked them for their kind present. In the evening a farewell "social" was given by Miss Williamson at her home, "Bradon," Park-avenue. A .pleasant evening was spent, musical : items being rendered by the Misses Williamson, Moore, Crawford, Hunt, and Stonehouse. Miss A. E. Davis "is joining the staff of the Petone West School.

21st December 1917 The prizes given annually for the dux boy and girl attending the Taita School by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. W. McKenzie, were won this year by Douglas McArthur, who easily topped the whole school, and Maud Hunt the girls.

1918-1919

1919	110	Taita	Vaughan	Frederick T	D-54	Head	£320.00
1919	110	Taita	Williamson	Isa M	D-96	Assistant	£195.00
1919	110	Taita	Levien	Rachel		Assistant	£150.00

Frederick T Vaughan started as a pupil teacher in 1899 at Clyde Quay followed by 3 years at Rintoul Street and I at Mitcheltown. In 1904 and 1905 he was a master at Mount Cook Boys. Then from 1906 to 1917 he was at Paraparaumu school which was a school with a roll never higher than 78. F t Vaughan was at Taita until at least 1923

25th April 1918 The following have been elected to the Taita- School Committee:-Messrs. A. Burgess, S. Cooley, W. Harris, D. McArthur, H. Mawson, J. Stonehouse, and M. W. Welch.

14th November 1918 MR H. A. W. MCKENZIE The death of Mr Harry McKenzie removes a very prominent figure from this city. He was in charge of the Corporation Electoral Roll Department at the Town Hall for some time. He was a gentleman who took the keenest interest in educational matters and had been chairman of the Te Aro School Committee for some years. Ho also interested himself in the Taita, Rona Bay, and Porirua schools, doing much to help them in many ways. He was the eldest son of the late T. IV. McKenzie, brother of Councillor Len. McKenzie, and ever since- his father's death lived in his old home in Ghuznee street. He had the most genial disposition, and loved little children.....

19th March 1919 Mrs E A Philip resigned from Taita

7th May 1919 Miss R Levien appointed

9th May 1919 A well-attended meeting of the Lower Hutt Peace Celebrations Committee was held last evening. Mr. J. Campbell occupied the chair. The Stokes Valley and Taita schools wrote accepting the offer of the committee to take part in the Lower Hutt celebrations

22nd May 1919 A public meeting of the .residents of the Taita district was held on Tuesday evening in the schoolroom to consider the present unsatisfactory position in regard to the teaching staff. Mr A. Burgess, chairman of the School Committee, presided. It was pointed out that the school has suffered severely for the last eighteen months on account of change of teachers. Last year, on several occasions, the school (which has an average attendance of about 120 scholars), was without the services of one of the assistant teachers. At the present time, though the infant mistress sent in her resignation on February 21, and actually vacated her position at the end of April, no substitute has been supplied by the Education Board. A new teacher has been appointed but will not be able to take up her duties till July 1, the

consequence is that the head teacher (Mr. Phillip) has to teach six classes in two rooms, which means he can neither do justice to himself nor to the children. The chairman explained that the Education Board had done all in its power to find a teacher, but without success. The present position was a most serious one, and unless some effective steps were taken to replenish the teaching staffs throughout the Dominion, the whole education system was in danger of collapsing. The children, in many of our schools were not receiving the training and teaching they were entitled to, and it was a matter of regret that the Government did not realise the seriousness of the question and make provision for the payment of salaries sufficiently high to attract the best talent in the country. There was no more important, duty on the part of any Government than to insure by every means in its power that the rising generation should have every facility to obtain as full and complete an education as it was possible to give,' and this could not be done by keeping the teaching staff to the highest point of efficiency it was possible to attain, both in respect of numbers and qualifications'. It was finally resolved that a deputation consisting of the chairman, Mr. Burgess, and Mr. McArthur, wait on the School Committees' Association with the object of forming a deputation to wait on the Minister of Education and urge on the Government the necessity of offering greater inducements to young people to enter the teaching profession, as being the only method of dealing with the crisis that has arisen owing to the lack of certificated teachers.

23rd May 1919 conference was held last evening at Lower Hutt of representatives of the various school committees of the Hutt Valley. The conference was held at the invitation of the Wellington Education Board, to discuss the question of secondary education. Mr A Burgess (Taita) attended

16th June 1919 Mr. Philip, of Taita School, has been appointed head teacher at the Tokomaru School and will take up his duties at the end of Mr. Hall's relieving term

3rd July Mr F T Vaughan appointed

22nd August 1919 Children attending the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth standards at the Hutt, Epuni, Normandale, and Taita Schools are requested to meet, at the Petone wharf to-morrow at 2 p.m. to embark on the Duchess for the purpose of visiting H.M.S. New Zealand. It is announced by the chairmen of the Petone Schools Committees that the children of those schools will not take part in the visit owing to the impossibility of arranging adequate Supervision of the scholars. [22nd was a Saturday]

25th August 1919 The many children who went over the battle-cruiser on Saturday spent a most, enjoyable time, and for years to come the visit to H.M.S. New Zealand will be referred to in toms of pleasure. The children from the Hutt, Normandale, Epuni, and Taita schools to the number of several hundreds, were taken over the vessel on Saturday, and needless to say the juveniles were delighted.

1920-1921

1921	109	Taita	Vaughan	Frederick T	D	Head	£380.00
1921	109	Taita	Williamson	Isa M	D	Assistant	£250.00
1921	109	Taita	Levien	Rachel		Assistant	£180.00

17th February 1920 At the Taita School proficiency certificates have been awarded to William Foster, Madeline Stupples, and Irene Stupples.

17th April 1920 Arrangements for the visit of the Prince of Wales to Petone included The headmaster . of the Eastern Hutt School agreed that the children of classes under Standard III might be able to attend, and ' the master .of Taita School promised' the assistance of the children if transport could be arranged. It was decided to write to the chairman of the Taita School Board and the headmaster asking what they could do in the matter of vehicles 'the committee promising- to provide' whatever other transport was 'required.

30th April 1920 At the meeting of householders of . the Taita district the following were elected as the school committee for the ensuing year Messrs A. Burgess'(chairman), "W. E. Harris (secretary), S. Copley A. ,Kilminster, D. McArthur, J. Stonehouse.

10th June 1920 At this week's meeting of the committee of the Wellington Automobile Club, the Taita School Committee wrote asking if the club was prepared to erect school signs. The secretary was directed to reply stating that the club proposed to get a supply of sign boards of a uniform design and would be prepared to donate same if the school committee would erect them.

1st April 1921 Lower Hutt Borough Council The Taita School Committee was granted the use of the council's tar boiler and sprayer.

28th May 1921 There was a large gathering of residents of Taita in the Taita Schoolhouse on Thursday night, when a presentation was made ,to Mr.. M. W. Welch in recognition of his long service to the district on the Hutt County Council and other, local bodies. Mr.. A. Burgess, who presided, in handing Mr. Welch a gold watch, suitably inscribed, and a gold-mounted cigarette-holder, made extended reference to the popularity of Mr. Welch and the valuable work performed by him in various capacities. " Mr. Burgess concluded by expressing the' hope that the guest of the evening would ever be spared to represent the district on local bodies. Mr. Welch, who was enthusiastically received, thanked the residents for their gifts and good wishes. The function concluded with a "social" and dance.

11th July 1921 New Lower Hutt Technical School The new building, besides providing for evening classes, will serve the purpose of woodwork and home science instruction for the adjacent schools, Hutt District High School, Eastern Hutt, Taita, and Epuni, the pupils at which had hitherto to travel to Petone for instruction in these subjects.

23rd August 1921 Lower Hutt Borough Council The Taita School Committee asked for a reduction of the council's account of £1 15s for' hire of the tar boiler. It was decided to make no charge to the committee, Councillor Brasell being the only dissident to this decision.

27th December 1921 The "breaking-up" ceremony at the Taita School was marked by an enjoyable concert contributed by the scholars. In Standard VI. there were no failures. The following gained proficiency certificates :—Evelyn Parkinson, Marjorie McArthur, Daphne Hunter. Mary Burgess, Jean Burgess, Alan McArthur, Edward Hewer, Albert Hewer, and Lyle Murray. An endorsed competency certificate was gained by Arthur England, and competency certificates by Ethel Jenner and Vivian Peck. A special prize (The Girls' Own Annual) was presented by the committee to the dux of the school (Evelyn Parkinson).

1922-1923

1923	109	Taita	Vaughan	Frederick T	D-113	Head	£365.00	
1923	109	Taita	Williamson	Isa M	D-188	Assistant	£233.00	

1923	109	Taita	Levien	Rachel	D-216	Assistant	£205.00	
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16th May 1922 Russian famine fund Taita School £2 3s

1st May 1923 Owing to another important meeting of residents, there was not a quorum at the Taita gathering of householders, and no election took place.

8th May 1923 The following have been elected as the Taita School Committee: Messrs. A. Burgess (chairman), V. Pemberton (secretary), D. M" Arthur, F. W. Kitchener, A. W. Kilminster, F. Eales F. Ferretti.

19th December 1923 TAITA

Proficiency Certificates.—Irene Foster, 1st (dux), -Flora, Horler, Emma Peek, Phyllis Stupples, Evelyn Taylor, May Walters.

Competency Certificates.—Vivian Cottle, Cyril Harris, Lessel Jenner (endorsed handwork).