

Tora

Hen Coop Design. Made from Plywood for Americans. This was the last of this design. Bill Hedley ex building official of Wellington Education Board told me this

Tora: 1952-1974 46 Kilometres from Martinborough right on the beach. A lovely spot. In the 1970's I was part of a team that looked at the school site for a camp. We decided the road was too bad for school buses



1952

7th March The Board wish to set up a grade O school at Endeavour Inlet (7) and one at Tora 4 families with a total of 8 children
A suitable room can be provided and the teacher will be boarded at Mr. Diamond's homestead

22nd April Letter from Doctor Ackroyd, Greytown I have examined Mrs C R Diamond of Iona Martinborough and find that she is run down and not in a fit state to continue teaching her children She had an operation on February and has not fully recovered

A letter from Mr. E F Diamond, builder and contractor pleading for a school

1st May The problem with setting up the school is that there were no applicants for the job. If you can bring the number of children up to 12 there would not be a problem in getting a suitable teacher

11th July Further to your recent visit to our office the boarding allowance for children boarding away from home to attend school is 3/-

If a grade O school is granted the teacher is paid £280 per annum and the teacher is expected to pay reasonable but not exorbitant board

12th May Mr. Diamond's letter to correspondence school His wife has to go back to hospital and he is employing six returned men and trying to keep them employed

7th August Letter from Correspondence School asking for help as Mr. Diamond's children are not sending any work into the correspondence school

2nd September Wellington Education Board to correspondence school It was noticed that Mr. F Diamond had inserted a notice for a teacher/governess in the local paper and asking Mr. Diamond had the ad brought a governess teacher.

8th September Reply from Mr. Diamond stating that he had a lot of replies I have here now a teacher for children A woman about 38 She has a brother on the farm at Tora and she knows Tora very well

She is starting school on the 8th September She will be paid £6.00 per week

How much will the Education Board pay me towards the cost of this teacher?

I have built a schoolroom 16 foot by 12 foot lined out with pinex and painted cream which I will have to leave at Tora as it is connected to a Crown Land Building that cost me £200 so I feel it would be fair if the Department helped with the teachers wages

The Teacher's name is Miss E M Doyle, Tora Martinborough

16th September Inspector Woodley interviewed Mrs Doyle who he reports is a fine woman and would be suitable to employ as a Grade 1 teacher

However there are only 4 children and to start a grade 1 school there needs to be at least 5 children .One child turns five next year

1956

Letter from H S Bannister Secretary Tora Settlers Committee Stating that there are now enough children to attend a school

5th April A long letter from Mr. Whitwell Inspector including

- a) Visited the school at Tukurumuri and Rough hill
- b) Rough Hill school has a roll 6 and is situated beyond a river which is subject to flooding and up a road liable to deteriorate in winter
- c) Tukurumuri Roll 5 Teacher Miss M A Rutherford
Estimated roll June 1956, 7
 - 1) Julian Baker Gabb Standard 1 Stoney creek Station
 - 2) Christine Hunter Standard 1
 - 3) Timothy Hunter Primer 1
 - 4) Susan Charteris Primer 3
 - 5) Heather Stevenson Primer 3 All come from farms under 2 miles from Tora and almost 8 miles from Tukurumuri
 - 6) Note Mr. R H Hunter is the prime mover of bringing all children from Tora to Tukurumuri and is most insistent
 - 7) To be enrolled in 1956 Janet Stevenson sister of Heather
 - 8) And Janice Stevenson Daughter of roadman labourer one of a family of six living adjacent to the Tukurumuri School

More details Recommendation that Householder's meetings be held at Tora and Tukurumuri

1957

27th March There are five children attending Tora School Christine Bannister, Peter Bannister, Martin Edwards, Maria Taehiri and Elizabeth Watson. When the bridge over the Tora River is usable there are two Tyler children who are at present on the Correspondence school roll

16th May Miss Thom wishes to relinquish her appointment and Miss M J Corlett will take over

19th February The present schoolroom is portion of Nissan Hut used as shearer's quarters

Building to be brought in from Boulcott School 1 room 648 square feet

Amount applied for £10,083 New Prefab

9th December Amount granted £2572-0-0

11th December The present school at Tora is taught in a privately owned building which is maintained by the local residents

The school has now reached a stage where the Board must provide a permanent classroom

The school is due to open on February 1958 and approval has been given for the contractors to enter the land on the 20th January 1958

1958

4th March present roll 10

3rd April Mr B E Welsh appointed

24th July Inspectors report included

- a) B Welch
- b) Roll 14
- c) Mr. Welch is a capable keen teacher and has made the classroom and attractive and well organised place
- d) The setting of the school has been much improved by the levelling of the playing area by the Committee and sewing of grass

2nd October Estimated roll number for 1959, 17

1959

Land purchased 2 acres being part section 3 Tora farm Settlement

2nd February B Welch applies for leave for military training

1961

30th June John Edward Stroud Married from Wanganui Board appointed

Land leased to D R Doyle by Lands and Survey who sold the land to the school for £20

9th September Letter to Commissioner of Crown Lands. Mr. Doyle donated the land to the school site and no mention was made of compensation

1962

5th July Inspectors Report Included

- a) John Stroud (Mrs Stroud Sewing)
- b) Roll 18
- c) This school is capably managed
- d) The school is maintained in a sanitary and clean condition. An active School Committee gives valuable support to the teacher and provided books, filing cabinet, hot water jug and stapler
- e) Practical assistance includes levelling the schoolhouse grounds and providing topsoil

1963

Tora, Tukurumuri, Hinakura and Tuhitarata closed for seven aside rugby and netball competitions at Kahutara

1964

24th November Letter from Mr. S K Yeoman. Took senior children to Auckland and his wife a trained teacher taught the six in the infants

Wife Marion Kay Yeoman . Board replied No to paying her.

1965

8th September Inspectors report included

- a) Mr. S K Yeoman
- b) Roll 11
- c) The school is under the control of an efficient and earnest teacher
- d) The children' s behaviour is very good
- e) Very good use is made of the National library Service and Radio broadcasts
- f) The general school environment is pleasing

1966

7th March Mr. Yeoman applies to attend a Physical Education release course at Martinborough. His wife will relieve

23rd May J L Drake accepts appointment.

1967

20th February Mr. Drake entitled now is entitled to remote allowance of £37- 10-0 paid once a quarter

Mr. D Doyle is chairman

17th December The Tora School Committee would like to keep the school open with an uncertificated teacher

1968

3 January Due to the fact the school roll will be 5 at Tora the school has been closed from the end of the 1967 school year
12th February School to be reopened with K Coradine teaching
Mrs K Coradine uncertificated, £1080 salary per year until you turn 21 and then it will be at the rate of £1130

Permission has been given for you and your husband to occupy the schoolhouse

Mrs Kahurangi Coradine (Formerly Te Whaiti of Greytown)

20 years 11 months

House rental £1-10-0 per week

19th August Letter from Wellington Education Board can't get a teacher for Tora. Enrol children in correspondence

1970

22nd January Mr. M Hartley will be driving the school bus and will be living in the house at Tora

Mrs Wichman moved in to school house and drove bus from 11th April 1974

15th April The school is closed and the Board requested authority to demolish and remove the classroom

27th August The following schools have closed and the land reverted to the crown, Coonoor, Hastwell, Mara, Marima,

Poroporo, Putara, Rangitumau, Taratahi West, Te Whiti and Waihakeke

The only closed schools still under the control of the Wellington Education Board Aohanga, Ngahape, Tora, Tuhitarata and Whakataki

11th December Child welfare wished to take over Tora School as a camp for Fareham House

1971

Land to be purchased for a school residence Part Section 231 Awhea Block in block II Opouawe Survey District This land is surplus and the house is used by the Bus Driver who drives the school bus to Tukurumuri approximately 12 miles distant. The school site is surplus

1972

4th May Child welfare doesn't want land as a camp

1983

4th February Letter to Mrs J Wichman c/- Tora School house
The Education Board house you currently occupy is to be passed back to the Crown for disposal

When the Ministry of Works takes control of a residence it is necessary for the residence to be unoccupied. Accordingly I must issue you with one months notice to vacate the premise
Dave Hewitt Staffing Officer

1985

4th March 1985 Schoolhouse sold to Maori affairs for \$ 28,700
from Crown Lands