

### **Wairongomai (Also Called Waiorongomai)**

1915 -1938. The Wairongomai School was not at the Matthews Station but further down the Western Lake Road closer to the Papatahi Turnoff. 26 Kilometres from Featherston Before the realignment of the Ruamahunga River entrance and the making of the East West Access the children after 1938, from here went to Featherston School. Then after the Barrage Road was built in the 1960's more and more children went to Kahutara

**Papatahi:** 1913-1914 Name Changed to Wairongomai School in 1915.

1913	6	Papatahi	Martin	Edith
1914	15	Papatahi	Rains	Catherine

**Maunganui:** 1911-1912 The only Maunganui in the Wairarapa is about 30 Kilometres down the Western Lake Road near the Wairongomai School site which opened in 1915. Two teachers taught consecutive years at the school with low roll numbers. The timing is also correct in terms of years

1911	9	Maunganui	Stansell	Florence E	Female	£90
1912	6	Maunganui	Keir	Constance	Female	£48
1913		Maunganui	Closed			



### **1912**

Letter from Charles E Hodder c/o Mr H Matthews Papatahi Featherston To Secretary of Education Wellington

Matters included

- a) We live 22 miles out of Featherston on the Western Side of Wairarapa Lake and Crosse's Creek is the nearest school to us and is 18 miles away and we have no way of getting the children to school and we wish to know if we have any claim on the Government to get schooling.
- b) We have 5 children of our own and 4 are of school age

- c) The two oldest ones are twins 9 years and 9 months old and the other two are 5 and 6 and they have never had a days schooling yet and without some assistance we see no way of giving them schooling without having constant employment
- d) My wife has been teaching them a little but her health can't let her keep it up.
- e) We are prepared to give a room for a schoolroom if the Wellington Education Board can give assistance in getting a teacher.
- f) We are willing to pay our share of expenses for a teacher
- g) There are three others and there may be five in all that will be wanting schooling after winter but we can't rely on them until the winter as they are only small and will have to cross wet paddocks to get here
- h) We have tried to get the children boarded out for school but we can't get board for them under 10/- per week and that I can't afford for four of them.
- i) We are on Mr Matthews Estate and I have worked for them for a good number of years now and it seems hard to give up a good billet for the want of a school
- j) Etc.

17<sup>th</sup> February Letter forwarded to Wellington Education Board

## 1914

29<sup>th</sup> July 1914 The Papatahi School Committee forwarded a plan of the new schools building, and made application for furniture and other

assistance from the board. The matter was referred to the inspector, who will be visiting the district shortly

24<sup>th</sup> December 1914 Miss M H Weitzel appointed to Papatahi

## 1915

27<sup>th</sup> January 1915 A change of name was agreed upon, by the Wellington Education Board yesterday. The change suggested and decided upon was the alteration of the name of a school sited near the Wairarapa Lake from Papatahi to Waiorongomai

16<sup>th</sup> February Name officially changed to Waiorongomai

9<sup>th</sup> March 1915 Miss R L Ziman appointed

7<sup>th</sup> April Under Education Board instructions took charge of the Waiorongomai School Attendance 17. Presumably Jessie Campbell teaching

8<sup>th</sup> April Inspector Stuckey paid a visit to the school

26<sup>th</sup> April Received official requirements from Wellington Education Board

27<sup>th</sup> April Received cheque book from Wellington Education Board

30<sup>th</sup> April A meeting of householders is being held in the school to elect a new School Committee for the ensuing year and afterwards a meeting of the committee appointed to office.

7<sup>th</sup> May Received an easel and pegs and school bell promised by Mr Stuckey

The hydroplate board which was forwarded at the same time has not come to hand

11<sup>th</sup> April Received through the chairman, doormat, 1 box white chalk, 1 box coloured crayons, 1 box nibs, 1 large bottle ink, 1 box of slate pencils and a quantity of foolscap and blotting paper.

Received by post the Hydroplate board and two maps The British Isles and New Zealand

12<sup>th</sup> April Received 1 school globe. The chairman paid a visit to the school and instructed the setting up of a boot scraper and the making of a temporary drain to carry away all the surplus water from the vicinity of the tank and has promised to have the spouting from roof to tank repaired as soon as possible

An arrangement re the proper cleaning of the school has been undertaken by Mr Hodder.

Inspectors Report. Mr Stuckey included  
Roll 18

Miss Campbell has only just taken charge of the school

The registers have not been properly kept since September last, but Miss Campbell will see that all records are properly completed.

The retiring teacher had left no schemes of work. I discussed the work with the teacher who will now prepare suitable programmes in all subjects.

It will probably be found necessary to finish the lining of the room before winter. When the lining is complete I would recommend the issue of a set of Nature Study pictures

16<sup>th</sup> April Received one load of firewood from Mr Hodder

18<sup>th</sup> May Received a number of continuous readers from the Wellington Education Board

23<sup>rd</sup> May Received 1 set of pacific readers and 1 set of Pacific Arithmetic books from School Committee

24<sup>th</sup> May Examined Standard's 6,5,4,3,2,1, during week and obtained very unsatisfactory results

28<sup>th</sup> May On June 7<sup>th</sup> the school was closed to celebrate the King's Birthday on June 8<sup>th</sup> on account of the teacher having to return by coach

12<sup>th</sup> June Closed the school to allow of schoolroom to be lined at weekend.

Received 10 lbs of plasticene and 1 box coloured chalk from Wellington Education Board

16<sup>th</sup> June Received memo from Board to the effect they are willing to supply school cupboard

16<sup>th</sup> June Notification of dates for Public Service Exams  
Notice of Arbor Day being 14<sup>th</sup> July

The School Committee have supplied a small gate at front entrance.

19<sup>th</sup> October T R Flemings Report included

Teacher Miss Jessie Campbell

Roll 19

Standard 6, 1. Standard 5, 1 Standard 4,2 Standard 3,2 Standard 1,5 and Primers 6

When Miss Campbell took charge in April no scheme of work had been drawn up and the children were backward in most of the subjects

Under her instruction they have made satisfactory progress

The fact that most of the children live a considerable distance from school, both on the Northern and the Southern sides, handicaps the teacher considerably, but she is earnest and conscientious, and the children appear to be responsive to her efforts to instruct them.

I examined the work done and classified the children for next year's classes.

Order, Discipline etc, good.

Buildings The interest taken by the settlers in the education of the children is shown by the fact they have erected a building with one room 30 foot x 20' and two smaller rooms, one of which serves as a porch. The schoolroom is now lined and the lighting is fairly satisfactory. A piano has also been provided

The land is not vested in the board, as the settlers wish to retain the use of the rooms for meetings and social purposes, but all these purposes are subordinate to the use of the rooms for education for the children

There is a good case for a school here, but instead of adopting the usual course in establishing one, I recommend the present arrangements be allowed to remain, and the Department be asked a grant to allow for rent in lieu of a grant for a building.

In a further memorandum to the Board Mr Fleming recommends a rental of £13 (5/- per week) or even £10 a year would be accepted by the settlers.

The building is on a site selected by the settlers who have children attending the school.

It is situated about 20 Miles South of Featherston

The school though called Waiorongomai is really at Papatahi about 5 miles South of the Waiorongomai Homestead.

It has been the practice of Mr Matthews and of his sons (The owner of Papatahi) to employ married men rather single and if this practice is continued here is every likelihood of the continuance of the school

Average attendance: March Quarter, 14. June, 16 September 16.

The district is a long narrow strip running North and South between the mountains and the Wairarapa lake.

The present site is convenient but it may not be as convenient if settlement progresses

If my recommendation is adopted will not bind the Board to select a permanent site in the meantime.

10<sup>th</sup> December 1915 Letter from Secretary of Wellington Education Board to Minister. The school is on Mr Matthew's estate and is far removed from any other building

It is quite a good structure, partly of asbestos slabs, with suitable lighting

Approval of this application is now applied for together with a grant for furniture

## 1916

27<sup>th</sup> March 1916. Letter from Secretary of Wellington Education Board to Director. Terse. Will you kindly favour the Board with a reply for its application of 10<sup>th</sup> December, regarding rent and furniture at Wairongomai?

Undated reply from Director The application for the sum of £34-3-7 is declined as the special grant scheme does not extend to furniture and apparatus for schools in rented buildings

I have been reliably informed that 5/- per week or even £10 per annum would have been acceptable to settlers. I have therefore to ask why the higher rate of £15.00 should be paid.

13<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Letter to Secretary of education included

I have to say that £15 was the rent desired but it may have been £13 as the information I had was verbal.

The school is built on 1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acre of land and the building unlined cost £202 and has since been lined.

The people who put it up were £17 short, exclusive of lining at the time of its completion

£10 is not even interest on the invested capital, does not provide for depreciation, does not provide for maintenance nor does £12 or £15

The building was built by Mr Daniells of Masterton

With regard to payment for furniture my board absolutely fails to see why, if in order to save the State capital expenditure the state should not provide furniture as the building is favourable

2<sup>nd</sup> August Letter to Secretary Wellington Education Board from Department

Rent of £15 has been approved from February 1<sup>st</sup> last

I have to say the question of supplying furniture for rented buildings has already been dealt for at Mangaroa

26<sup>th</sup> May Completed the examination of Standard IV and V with the exception of history. Two excepted half days were registered due to threatening rain. Only 6 children being present

29<sup>th</sup> May Received per post Map of Europe and a notice to obtain delivery of fire screen from Featherston railway Station. Two children were present, the road being flooded with water from last night's heavy rainfall

1<sup>st</sup> June Inspector Mr Stuckey paid the usual annual surprise visit to the school. Owing to the inclement weather only 6 pupils were present

2<sup>nd</sup> June Received 1 fire screen and 1 map of Europe. Registered 16 excepted days for the week ending this day. The average for the week was 8

9<sup>th</sup> June One girl left the school leaving only 2 girls in the upper standards

13<sup>th</sup> June Mr Stuckey's Report for Jessie Campbell included

- a) Making satisfactory progress
- b) Attendance very satisfactory considering the distance of the school from some of the homes 87% last year
- c) All schemes are comprehensive and suitable
- d) Instruction in health is taken as part of Nature Study. Provision will be made for instruction in Temperance

27<sup>th</sup> June Received circulars from Wellington Education Board dealing with Physical Instruction classes for teachers, Tree planting on arbor day, and Belgian Children's relief fund

I regret that owing to the condition of the school grounds no tree planting will be undertaken, but the lessons of the week will bear on the importance of tree planting

With reference to the classes in Physical Culture, the teacher at this school has no opportunity of attending any classes held in Featherston

The Secretary of the School Committee wrote in approval of the scheme outlined by the Education Board in response to the Belgian appeal

The average attendance for the quarter was 3 boys and 7 girls out of a roll number of 19 at the beginning and 12 at the end of the quarter

10<sup>th</sup> July Circulated the circulars (*Re Belgian Appeal*) addressed to the parents of children in the Wellington Education Board district and donations are being received during this week. The School Committee and parents have also promised to contribute produce for the Country Schools Produce sale to be held in the Wellington Town Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July

14<sup>th</sup> July Received £30-2-0 in donations medium of school for children's relief fund

21<sup>st</sup> July Forwarded to the chairman the above amount to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board

Received labels and tags and a further supplementary list of suggested articles for the forthcoming produce sale

24<sup>th</sup> July The chairman organised a Hare Drive for today resulting in about 100 hares being forwarded for sale. The chairman also made a generous donation of 1 dozen turkeys

I regret that owing to the inclement weather experienced for several days and in consequence only four children being present for the two days preceding the forwarding of produce I was unable to forward the case of home produce contributed by the school children and was compelled to return the produce in hand to the generous donors

20<sup>th</sup> July The average attendance for the week was 6 due to inclement weather and consequent condition of the roads

Mr Harold Matthews Papatahi has very generously provided several loads of gravel. With the help of the children I am endeavouring to put the entrance and surroundings of the school in order to commence a small garden and shrubbery

31<sup>st</sup> July received per favour of Mr H Matthews, Papatahi one load of firewood

The school had been thoroughly cleaned during the holiday

1<sup>st</sup> August 1916 The Board decided to protest to the Education Department against the refusal to make a grant for furniture at Wairongomai School building. The Department had agreed to payment of a rental of £15 per annum

4<sup>th</sup> August received No 1,2,3 Temperance wall charts on application from Secretary of Board

18<sup>th</sup> August Registered 8 excepted days for the week ending today owing to inclement weather

22<sup>nd</sup> August Attendance Nil. Snow fell on higher levels and most of the children are suffering from the prevalent influenza and colds

Received by post 1 dozen wooden cubes for number  
24<sup>th</sup> August roll 14  
28<sup>th</sup> August Examined the various classes. The results were only fair  
15<sup>th</sup> September The school porch had been scrubbed and firewood  
was supplied during the holiday  
14<sup>th</sup> September Snow covered the ranges and the higher levels  
29<sup>th</sup> September Forwarded to the Education Board Secretary  
quarterly return ending today. The average attendance for the quarter  
was 10 and the average roll was 121  
6<sup>th</sup> October Received two loads of firewood which yet remains to be  
sawn into convenient lengths  
10<sup>th</sup> October Forwarded to Miss Meyers c/- Education Board  
Wellington parcel containing Belgian and soldier comforts as a  
result of the efforts of the girls in Standards 1.2.4.5  
11<sup>th</sup> October Only 2 pupils were present owing to heavy rain  
13<sup>th</sup> October received from School Committee One step Ladder for  
use for cleaning windows etc  
23<sup>rd</sup> October The school building was thoroughly cleaned during the  
preceding Saturday  
Labour Day was not observed by closing the school  
26<sup>th</sup> October As no pupils attended on account of the inclement  
weather today was registered as a holiday instead of Labour Day  
The last few days have been remarkable for a plentiful fall of rain.  
1.35 inches being recorded on November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Received notice that Inspector Fleming was to conduct his annual  
examination on or about 21<sup>st</sup> November. Enclosed were English  
Cards for the Standards and schedules for annual examination

10<sup>th</sup> November Four excepted days with the average of 8 the lowest  
on record  
Several of the children are making recovery from this indisposition  
and I am hopeful; that the attendance will have improved before the  
Inspector's Examination  
One boy was admitted to Standard 1 from the Featherston School He  
did not bring a transfer certificate so I am not aware whether he  
passed at the annual examination. This boy is afflicted with disabled  
sight, being totally blind in the right eye and the other affected.  
In consequence his reading is weak and is also rather backward in  
Arithmetic. But writing and spelling are very satisfactory. He  
promises to be a hard working pupil  
16<sup>th</sup> November Only Three girls present owing to a wet day.  
17<sup>th</sup> November examined the school in all class subjects during the  
week Three pupils were absent from the examination and another for  
part of the examination  
Only moderate results were obtained.  
Received an acknowledgement from Miss P Myers c/o Education  
Board Wellington of parcel of Children's patriotic sewing  
24<sup>th</sup> November Inspector Fleming paid his annual visit and  
examined the eleven children present. Two pupils were absent on  
account of indisposition and one absent from the district. Of the  
children examined all were recommended for promotion with the  
exception of a pupil in Standard 1, it being left to the discretion of  
the teacher  
Forwarded to the Board the examination schedule required by the  
Board

The Committee repaired three broken panes in the school windows and the teacher has replaced the lock on the school cupboard, the key having been lost, a new lock was required. An endeavour is being made to obtain suitable lock for table drawer, and to have it in order before the close of the year

27<sup>th</sup> November Closed the school for Examination Holiday and the Committee granted the following day for show day to allow the teacher to go to her home for the week end and obtain the gifts etc for the Xmas Tree at the Break Up

1<sup>st</sup> December Received from the Board correspondence re Teachers Summer Camp to be held at Days Bay in January 1917 and The February Course at Training College

5<sup>th</sup> December Received 5 lbs of grey plasticene, 1 box coloured chalk and forms requested at het Inspector's Visit

12<sup>th</sup> February Inspectors Report Mr Fleming, included

- a) Teacher Miss Jessie Campbell
- b) Roll 14 present 11
- c) Of the scholars attending the larger number live from 2 ½ miles to 4 ½ miles from the school. The nearest child lives nearly two miles away. During the year the attendance has been less than half on 62 half days
- d) Conditions such as these render the work of a teacher somewhat difficult.
- e) Miss Campbell has worked hard and fair progress has been made under the circumstances
- f) T R Fleming

14<sup>th</sup> November (Sic) The average attendance was 10. During the evening the pupils gave a short entertainment which was followed by Christmas tree and sale of sweets and bran tub for Belgian Relief I hope there will be a credible surplus after expenses

Thanks are due to all the many helpers who so generously assisted with donations of gifts and personal help

J Campbell

## 1917

31<sup>st</sup> January Reopened with attendance of 7. The school was closed in the afternoon and onwards to the 14<sup>th</sup> February owing to teacher being suddenly called away on account of serious illness in her family

Paid into Secretary Liverpool fund at Masterton during the holidays 35/- to Belgian Fund being surplus of proceeds raised from sale of sweets and Bran Tub at het break up for the holidays

28<sup>th</sup> February Roll 15

9<sup>th</sup> March Received from School Committee 1 set progressive arithmetic books with answers for use in school.

11<sup>th</sup> April Opened the school after Easter, owing to inclement weather the attendance was 6 for the day

25<sup>th</sup> April Closed the school for afternoon. Anzac day according to Board's regulations

11<sup>th</sup> May Received from Ed Programme of work in Elementary Agriculture 1917



8<sup>th</sup> May Received from School Committee 1 box white chalk, 1 large bottle ink, 1 set of History, geography and English Books respectively for teacher's use

Received from Education Board Circular re sewing 1917 And amendments in the regulations for Inspection and syllabus of instruction in Public Schools

18<sup>th</sup> May Received from Education Board 1 collection of Arithmetic, English and storybook readers

22<sup>nd</sup> May Examined the various classes- the attendance was only 9 and owing to irregularity since the beginning of the year and the extended holiday the results were only moderate

11<sup>th</sup> June Only 4 children present registering 2 excepted days

One boy was withdrawn from the school and transferred to Island Bay School on account of long distance from school (4 ½ miles)

18<sup>th</sup> June Inspector Stuckey examined the school Only 8 children present

29<sup>th</sup> June The average attendance for quarter was 10 and the average roll number during the quarter was 12

2<sup>nd</sup> July Closed the school for the inspectors holiday

6<sup>th</sup> July Forwarded to BNZ the sum of £1-0-0 as contribution to London Schools relief fund

17<sup>th</sup> July Arbor day The children did no gardening or planting of trees as it's quite impossible to improve the school grounds when horses graze it daily

Special Lessons as given in the school journal were taken for all classes

Inspectors report included

a) Miss J Campbell

b) Roll 12 present 8

c) The work of the pupils as a whole is moderate to fair. I should expect considerable improvement by the end of the year especially in essential subjects

d) A large proportion of the children live at a considerable distance and are unable to attend in bad weather. In the circumstances the average attendance is very fair.

e) Where the programme for the year are not in accordance with the newly issued amendments they will be supplemented by suitable entries in the weekly work book

f) The senior children be all grouped for class work as recommended

g) The text books in use being used to supplement oral lessons

h) As a result my tests estimate the work as follows

- English Subjects, Fair to satisfactory. Some of the spelling was only moderate
- Arithmetic weak
- Drawing and handwork satisfactory
- Geography and History Moderate (Standard 6 inferior)

i) F G A Stuckey

20<sup>th</sup> July Received correspondence re Christmas Pudding Fund and the school has donated £1 accordingly

3<sup>rd</sup> August Received regulations on free places in Secondary and District High Schools

13<sup>th</sup> August Received from School Committee 1 broom handle, 1 map and 1 axe/

As no one would undertake the scrubbing of the school the teacher and pupils undertook to mop over the floor with hot water and disinfectant two or three times during the term

14<sup>th</sup> August Received circular re liberty loan per office of Minister of Finance and duly urged upon the pupils to induce their parents to contribute something to make the loan a success

17<sup>th</sup> August Received circular re Patriotic Needlework Exhibition

25<sup>th</sup> August Posted to Miss Meyer C/- Education Board Wellington the following parcel of patriotic needlework for exhibition

The work of 5 girls and 1 boy

Infant's Requirements

- a) 5 knitted singlets
- b) 3 pairs knitted booties
- c) 2 embroidered dresses
- d) 2 feeders

Soldiers Comforts

- a) 4 balaclavas
- b) 2 skull caps
- c) 1 pair socks
- d) 1 pair mittens

Hospital Requirements

- a) 1 pillow slip
- b) 2 pyjama strings
- c) 1 cushion with filling

23<sup>rd</sup> August Examined the pupils in the various class subjects and duly entered up the results in the Examination register. The results were only moderate and even though special attention had been given to Arithmetic and Spelling these subjects are not up to

standard requirements. Several pupils were promoted weak at the beginning of the year on account of being old for class but but the results have been disappointing

The teacher had applied to attend the spring school at Masterton but although the Committee has been notified and approved up to the present no notification has been received from the Board by ht teacher

The resignation of the teacher has been accepted and a notification received to take up new duties at Paekakariki on 30<sup>th</sup> September

2<sup>nd</sup> September Reopened with attendance of 6 One pupil being away on holiday

12<sup>th</sup> September Full attendance recorded for first time during the quarter. One child returning from sick leave.

I regret that time does not permit me to organise a collection of bottles, iron, rubber, paper etc as suggested to purchase one or more War Loan Certificates but I have suggested that the pupils steadily collect material until Christmas

At present a collection of bottles is being made by the pupils to swell the Featherston Red Cross Shop Fund and a considerable number has been collected to date

14<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Miss F M Strong appointed

24<sup>th</sup> September Today we observed as Dominion Day and at the request of the chairman the school was closed

26<sup>th</sup> September Excepted half days registered owing to the abnormal storm experienced. No children were present for any part of the day

28<sup>th</sup> September The average attendance for quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> September was 9 with an average roll of 11

The truant officer has notified several parents whose children have reached school age re the Education Act 1908

Closed the school and left everything in order and I trust satisfactory to my successor

1<sup>st</sup> October received word from the chairman 7 pm Fri 28<sup>th</sup> September 1917 to remain at Waiorongomai another week so reopened school today

2<sup>nd</sup> October received per Mr Stuckey (*Inspector*) Progress tests in Mental Arithmetic and English and I propose setting the tests on the first day of full attendance and return marks to the inspector as requested

3<sup>rd</sup> October Pupils made a collection of 27 dozen and 10 bottles for the Red Cross Featherston Shop Fund

8<sup>th</sup> October A full attendance of 12 children registered so gave the tests in mental arithmetic and English. The results averaged as follows

Class	English (15)	Mental Arithmetic (10)
Standard 6	5	3
5	6	2
4	6	5
3	8	5
2	-	5
1	-	4

Up to the present time I have received no further or direct word from Mr Stewart (*Wellington Education Board Secretary*) whether I am to give up the charge of the school today or remain longer, but if no word comes by post shall endeavour to get into communication with the office by phone

8<sup>th</sup> October Took charge of this school today Full attendance 14. F. M Strong. (*Florence*)

23<sup>rd</sup> October Labour Day School, remained open

3<sup>rd</sup> November Received per chairman of School Committee

Foolscap, Blotting paper, Disinfectant for plates

7<sup>th</sup> November School closed owing to inclement weather the day being registered as a holiday in place of Labour Day

17<sup>th</sup> November A large photograph of Sir Walter Buchannan (*Board member, MP*) was placed on the school wall, by the chairman

14<sup>th</sup> November Annual report drawn up and forwarded to the chairman

The consent of the Committee and parents having been obtained school was held on two consecutive Saturdays and the attendance on these days December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively, were registered as the attendances for Wednesday and Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of December respectively. This arrangement enabled the teacher to leave by coach on Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>

## 1918

February During the first week four new scholars were enrolled

Three new scholars were enrolled during the eight and ninth week

13<sup>th</sup> March Mr Stuckey paid a visit of inspection to the school

14<sup>th</sup> May Received from Chairman of the School Committee Ausburg's drawing Books Parts II and III and Kindergarten Guide (Louis Bates)

22<sup>nd</sup> April A meeting of householders is being held in the school this evening to elect a new School Committee for the ensuing year and afterwards a meeting of the School Committee appointed to office

24<sup>th</sup> April received per chairman a new clock

25<sup>th</sup> April Anzac Day Closed school for afternoon according to Board Regulations

26<sup>th</sup> August Sent Postal Note to the value of five shillings to the Secretary of N Z National Service League

Paid into the Secretary, Mayoress Christmas Pudding Fund at Wellington, the sum of 9 shillings being amount collected by school pupils

October Closed school for half day to celebrate surrender of Bulgaria

7<sup>th</sup> October By order of Secretary Education Board a whole holiday in addition to half day already observed was given to celebrate the surrender of Bulgaria

14<sup>th</sup> October Received from Chairman of School Committee 2 exercise books, Foolscap, 1 box of nibs, 1 box drawing pins

4<sup>th</sup> November Observed half-holiday to celebrate Surrender of Turkey and of Austria

12<sup>th</sup> November Peace proclaimed School closed for one and a half days

December School closed for Christmas Vacation

## 1919

5<sup>th</sup> February School reopened

9<sup>th</sup> May School closed by order of Chairman of Committee who was advised by school doctor to close it

26<sup>th</sup> July School closed for Peace Celebrations

20<sup>th</sup> August To celebrate Peace the nucleus of a school library was generously donated by the chairman Mr Mathews Waiorongomai

23<sup>rd</sup> September The senior scholars were conveyed by motor to attend a lecture attended by Lieutenant Colonel Charters

6<sup>th</sup> October No school, teacher sick

Inspectors report of 14<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> November Included

a) Miss Strong

b) Roll 24

c) Some of the pupils live at great distance from the school  
There is a considerable amount of lost time

d) Instruction satisfactory on the whole, but as pointed out the work of the children is adversely affected by poor attendance in some cases

e) Spelling, this is a weak subject only some half dozen of the pupils can spell satisfactorily

f) Order and discipline and the tone of the school with respect to diligence, alacrity, obedience and honour

g) Septic Tank is being constructed

h) F G A Stuckey

## 1920

9<sup>th</sup> February School reopened after Christmas vacation

16<sup>th</sup> March Mr Burns paid a visit of inspection to the school

30<sup>th</sup> March Two days March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> at the inspectors recommendation added to the Easter Vacation to enable teacher to spend them in observing the latest methods of infant teaching at the Training College Kelburn and at Island Bay Infant School

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April No School, Severe southerly gale, roads flooded bridges washed etc

9<sup>th</sup> April 1919 The following contributions to the New Zealand Nurses Memorial Fund are acknowledged included Wairongomai School children, £1 3s

19<sup>th</sup> April No School, roads flooded

23<sup>rd</sup> April Received parcels from Education Board, Whitcombe and Tombs and Smith and Smith

- a) 2 dozen full size sheets of brown paper
- b) 250 sheets of white paper for brushwork
- c) 250 sheets of small squared paper for paper cutting
- d) 250 Sheets of larger squared paper for paper cutting
- e) 8 pairs of kindergarten scissors
- f) 4 lbs of plasticene
- g) 4 pots of paint

5<sup>th</sup> May Children conveyed by Motor Lorry to Featherston to attend the reception for the Prince of Wales

10<sup>th</sup> May A Junior Branch of S P C A formed in the school

4<sup>th</sup> October Inspectors report included

- a) Miss F M Strong
- b) Roll 19 present 15
- c) Attendance adversely effected by sickness
- d) Spelling Standard 1 and II very satisfactory to good, Remainder Good

e) Arithmetic Satisfactory to good

f) All others Satisfactory to Good

g) Spelling a special effort is being made to put this subject into a more satisfactory condition

h) Order and discipline and the tone of the school with respect to diligence etc. satisfactory

i) Cleanliness of room and premises including outside offices good

j) Teacher and children travel long distances to school

k) The pupils were very responsive

l) Alfred Cowles, inspector

Every pupil presented for examination to Mr Cowles on October 4<sup>th</sup> was successful in passing into a higher class. The two sixth standard pupils each gained a proficiency certificate

## 1921

2<sup>nd</sup> February School reopened

25<sup>th</sup> April Anzac Day Children conveyed to Featherston by motor to attend the Anzac Memorial Service

29<sup>th</sup> April A Cowles Inspector

13<sup>th</sup> may School closed for term holiday

31<sup>st</sup> May School closed to enable teacher to return by coach

1<sup>st</sup> June School reopened after Term Holiday

3<sup>rd</sup> June King's Birthday. School closed as weather was very stormy June A note written by Mr Anderson, Organising teacher. Visited the school on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and gave lessons in the various

subjects. The pupils are responsive and cooperate with the teacher in their work

14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June Written report Instructor of Agriculture and Organising teacher who came together

- a) Roll 16 Present 15
- b) Matters on loose leaves to be entered in the official book
- c) In the primers and Standard 1 the adoption of phonics would greatly assist the reading. In these classes the practical building up of tables and the thorough memorising of the results so gained would be advisable
- d) Miss Strong is earnest in her work and devotes additional time each day to compensate for loss during inclement weather
- e) B Anderson Organising teacher

20<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> School closed on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> owing to the teacher being suddenly called away on account of serious illness in her family

3<sup>rd</sup> December School examined by Mr Cowles

Every pupil presented for examination by Mr Cowles passed into a higher class. The three Standard 6 pupils each gained a proficiency certificate

Christmas 1921 £2-10-0 collected by senior scholars for Church Army (England) Christmas Dinner Fund

1921 Inspectors Report included

Teacher Miss F M Strong

Class	Number on roll	Present
Standard 7	1	1
6	3	3

5	6	6
4	-	-
3	1	1
2	-	-
1	2	2
Primers	2	2
TOTAL	15	15

Notes Included

- a) A work book will be kept
- b) Scheme approved
- c) All other comments = satisfactory or good
- d) Miss Strong is commended for her earnest endeavour to bring the work of the school to a high standard
- e) The teacher remains on the premises for the whole day
- f) The teacher is compelled to live alone and appears to be unhappy in her surroundings
- g) Alfred Cowles Inspector

1878/4334 Strong Florence May Adelaide John -

1951/22492 Strong Florence May 73Y

1928 Teacher at Gladstone

Lived at Papatahi while teaching at Wairongomai

## 1922

25<sup>th</sup> April children conveyed to Featherston to attend Anzac Memorial Service

17<sup>th</sup> July Children conveyed to Featherston to Attend reception tendered to Lord Jellicoe

4<sup>th</sup> November Five Proficiency candidates examined by Mr Cowles Inspector. Three candidates obtained proficiency certificates and two obtained competency certificates

25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas 1922 £7-15-0 collected by senior scholars for church army (England) Christmas Dinner Fund

7<sup>th</sup> December School closed, School used as polling booth

12<sup>th</sup> December The Secretary of this school branch, forwarded ten shillings which was donated by his fellow scholars to the SPCA Wellington

Copy of inspectors report of 4<sup>th</sup> November included

- a) Roll 14. 5 in Standard 6
- b) Miss Strong Grading No 177, Role Sole Teacher
- c) This school is under good control. The work of the pupils is very satisfactory
- d) The buildings and grounds are in good order
- e) Ample provision is made for the comfort of the children
- f) Approved methods are used
- g) The pupils are responsive and well mannered
- h) Alfred Cowles

12<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Christmas 1922

## 1923

1<sup>st</sup> February Edith M Tolley Teacher School reopened

13<sup>th</sup> April Received from Chairman of School Committee. 1 tin of cocoa (for pupils during winter months), 2 new brooms, matches

25<sup>th</sup> April Children were conveyed to Featherston to attend memorial service

10<sup>th</sup> May No school because of heavy rain throughout previous night and during day causing flooded roads

30<sup>th</sup> May Received from Wellington Education Board

- a) 1 dozen rulers
- b) 100 sheets brown paper
- c) 3 teachers paint brushes
- d) 5 lbs plasticene
- e) 100 sheets white paper
- f) Coloured paper for paper folding
- g) 6 Pots Reeve's Colour
- h) 1 Dozen paint brushes
- i) 1 box white chalk
- j) ½ dozen modelling knives
- k) ½ dozen pastels
- l) 1 box coloured chalk

31<sup>st</sup> May received 1 box of cardboard coins

From Education Board 1 dozen paint brushes

3<sup>rd</sup> July opportunity to hear record of King's and Queen's message to school children of the Empire. Record purchased by children

19<sup>th</sup> July School closed owing to disposition of teacher

26<sup>th</sup> July Owing to very heavy showers of rain and hail we were all so drenched and wet that it was necessary to close the school for the day. Some children were unable to reach the school because of badly flooded parts of the road

27<sup>th</sup> July Received from Wellington Education Board 2 six foot sheets of Hydroplate (blackboard)

Arrangements made with School Committee to have hydroplate fixed on the wall

31<sup>st</sup> July Received from chairman of the School Committee 2 dozen lead pencils and 2 dozen slate pencils

Also ½ dozen hat pegs put up for children's use

10<sup>th</sup> August Another chair added to school furniture

11<sup>th</sup> August A new cupboard arrived. Supplied by School Committee as both library and other cupboard are crowded

21<sup>st</sup> August No school very heavy fall of rain throughout day

1<sup>st</sup> October 12 feet of hydroplate supplied by Wellington Education Board fixed on wall

21<sup>st</sup> September Mr Cowles visited for annual inspection

5<sup>th</sup> October Mr Hopkirk physical Inspector visited Report-satisfactory

28<sup>th</sup> October Christmas 1923 £3-16 collected by pupils for Church Army (England) Christmas Dinner Fund

7<sup>th</sup> November Inspectors Report included

- a) Miss Tolley. Graded 213
- b) Roll 14 present 13
- c) The state of efficiency reached by this school is very satisfactory
- d) The pupils are under good control and manifest a lively intent in their work
- e) Accommodation- very satisfactory
- f) Ample provision is made for the comfort of pupils
- g) Alfred Cowles

13<sup>th</sup> November School closed as teacher had to accompany two children who were to sit for proficiency in Featherston

7<sup>th</sup> December The Secretary of the SPCA Wairongomai Junior League forwarded 10/- to Secretary Wellington

18<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Christmas Holidays E M Tolley

## 1924

M Lenz Relieving Teacher

13<sup>th</sup> February School reopened after Christmas Holidays. Roll 14.

Received 24 books magazines from chairman

20<sup>th</sup> February Admitted 2 children to Primer 1 Roll 16

24<sup>th</sup> February 8 metal modelling boards received from the Board

Naomi G Murdoch Commenced duty

24<sup>th</sup> April Commenced duty here today. Owing to the strike I was unable to arrive here in time to start yesterday. As I was not released from my appointment in the Wanganui Board till Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, Two relieving teachers Miss Lenz and Miss Foster were sent here to carry on the work. Miss Lenz left at the end of March and for a fortnight in the beginning of April the school was closed because of my appointment here being delayed

25<sup>th</sup> April Anzac day Children conveyed to Featherston by motor to attend the Anzac memorial service

26<sup>th</sup> May School closed to enable teacher to return- will have school open on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in lieu of this day

3<sup>rd</sup> June School open today (King's Birthday)

16<sup>th</sup> June It might be mentioned that there was no scheme book at the school when I arrived. I have made several enquiries about it but have now let the matter drop for I have made up a new scheme for the year



24<sup>th</sup> June The interesting news came to hand today that two of our pupils- Thora and Joyce Lutterell had been successful in a painting competition given by The Farmers Union Trading Company Auckland. They were awarded a fountain pen with solid gold nib.

The term examination was held last week and reports were sent out

7<sup>th</sup> July The School Committee held a meeting last Saturday night. A report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was sent in and a few things asked for to be done for the school. A pipe leading into the porch and a tank installed was suggested. Also it was suggested that a fence be put up shutting off the horses from the front of the school, and that the Committee should fix a set day for Arbor Day and on that day cooperate with us at the school in planting a few shrubs and generally improving the flower pots

The average for the quarter was 14.8 with a weekly roll of 16

7<sup>th</sup> August No School a very stormy day and influenza prevalent among scholars

8<sup>th</sup> August Received from Education Board 72 sheets of white cardboard and 72 sheets of coloured cardboard

15<sup>th</sup> August The Drill Inspector Miss Blackburne visited the school this afternoon and took pupils for several physical exercises

22<sup>nd</sup> August End of second term (A letter of sympathy from school children and teacher sent to Mr Matthews Chairman of School Committee

9<sup>th</sup> September During the holidays the School Committee put up a fence shutting off the horses from the front of the school, also put in a pipe bringing the water to the school

10<sup>th</sup> September Mr Burns Inspector visited today

23<sup>rd</sup> September Received from Education Board a rain gauge and small map of the world

Inspectors report Included

- a) Roll 16 Present 16
- b) Miss N G Murdoch
- c) Attendance good in the circumstances
- d) General efficiency of teaching satisfactory
- e) The recently erected fence will keep the horses from the gardens which should be brought to their original commendable condition
- f) A N Burns

7<sup>th</sup> October In report for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter it was suggested that 2 swings would be a great boon, especially to younger pupils. A book for each child at end of year was also proposed

24<sup>th</sup> October Received from Education Board Hydroplate 12 foot and moulding

24<sup>th</sup> October For the last 4 weeks there has been an average of about 10 pupils present- the rest are all absent on account of having the whooping cough

5<sup>th</sup> November The school has been closed Monday and Tuesday to enable me to attend an Examination for Degree at Masterton

7<sup>th</sup> November School closed as teacher accompanied two pupils who were sitting for proficiency examination at Featherston

17<sup>th</sup> November School closed November 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to enable teacher to attend an examination at Masterton

21<sup>st</sup> November £5-17-0 collected by pupils for Christmas Dinner Fund for church army (England)

24<sup>th</sup> November The swings are being erected this week

9<sup>th</sup> December School closed for summer vacation

## 1925

15<sup>th</sup> April School reopened after long vacation caused through the epidemic of infantile paralysis

During the holidays the school has been painted and a new sink and bench been put in the porch The roll number is 14. 11 Girls and 3 boys. Three of Mr Marsh's children have left and one primer girl has been admitted

Received from Ed Board

- a) 1 box of white chalk
- b) A Box of coloured chalk
- c) 3lbs of raffia
- d) 9 pastel drawing books
- e) 1 box of plasticene
- f) Adhesive tape
- g) 6 tubes of paint
- h) Coloured paper for paper folding
- i) Modelling sticks
- j) 9 sheets brown cardboard
- k) 9 sheets of white cardboard
- l) 7 boxes of crayons

1<sup>st</sup> May Received from Wellington Education Board

- m) 7 small pastel drawing books
- n) 2 skeins of coloured wool
- o) Tissue circles
- p) 2 skeins of cotton

q) 1 lb of raffia

1903/22227	Murdoch	Naomi Grace	Rachel Elizabeth	James Macqueen
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1991/31716	Murdoch	Naomi Grace	19 March 1903	
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14<sup>th</sup> May School closed for funeral of late Right Honourable W P Massey

11<sup>th</sup> July Received from Education Board , 6 packets of flower seeds, 6 packets of vegetables seeds, 6 test tubes, 3 glass tubing, 2 ounces Iodine solution, 4 ounces Nitric Acid, 2 ounces each Fehling Solution A and B

1 Thermometer, 1 spade, 1 hoe, 1 rake

80 coloured beads

3<sup>rd</sup> August Mr Brockett Agricultural Instructor visited school today

3<sup>rd</sup> September Mr A Matthews Chairman of School Committee died early this morning after about week's illness

26<sup>th</sup> October Labour Day

4<sup>th</sup> November School closed election day, Monday

6<sup>th</sup> November I received word today that the following pupils had been successful in their exhibits sent to Palmerton Show

Thora Luttrell Map of USA 1<sup>st</sup> 5/-

Thora Luttrell Block Lettering 1<sup>st</sup> 2/6

Nellie Leach Map of New Zealand Merit Card 5/-

Bessie Caldwell Map of NZ Mark card 5/-

Joyce Luttrell Drawing Commended

Pearl Harvey Writing Commended

1<sup>st</sup> December Mr Burns Inspector visited school today

4<sup>th</sup> December School closed for annual picnic and prize giving

18<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Summer Vacation

## 1926

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 15

September School reopened after vacation today During Holidays Committee had a pipe put in through grounds to carry off water from sink, also sink fixed where it is leaking

28<sup>th</sup> September Mr Burns visited school today

26<sup>th</sup> October Mr Lawton Agricultural Instructor visited today

27<sup>th</sup> October Inspectors Report included

- a) It will be necessary to retain three of the pupils in their present classes for part of next year
- b) The children are all young for their classes and it is unwise to promote them too rapidly
- c) Attendance Good
- d) The efficiency of the teaching is satisfactory. The pupils have made decided progress since my last visit
- e) The schoolroom is clean and the gardens are in good order for this time of the year
- f) Ground improvements should include the planting of the area in front of the school with suitable shrubs
- g) A N Burns Inspector

1<sup>st</sup> December Mr Ray Matthews Chairman of the School Committee visited school this afternoon and reported a case of diphtheria. As it might possibly be traced to the school be closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> December

1<sup>st</sup> December A subscription List has been sent round district asking parents and people to donate towards the Prize and Picnic Fund £9-10-0 has been collected

7<sup>th</sup> December School reopened with attendance of 7. Two families are away with whooping cough and two away on account of the diphtheria case

10<sup>th</sup> December Received word that Joyce Luttrell had gained proficiency Certificate and Rex Pillar Competency Certificate

17<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Xmas holidays

## 1927

1<sup>st</sup> February School reopened

12<sup>th</sup> February School closed annual picnic held at Saw Pit Waiorongomai

4<sup>th</sup> March Received from Education Board 4 shovels and 1 rake

7<sup>th</sup> March School closed in honour of Royal Visit to NZ

11<sup>th</sup> March Received from Education Board Barometer Tube and mercury, Thermometer maximum and minimum, Killing Bottle

28<sup>th</sup> May Received from Wellington Education Board Blocks of clay, 2 bundles of raffia, 2 pairs of scissors

22<sup>nd</sup> June Several loads of metal delivered at school by Mr Saywell

24<sup>th</sup> June Received a number of reading books from Wellington Education Board

25<sup>th</sup> August Miss Blackbourne Physical Instructor visited school today

3<sup>rd</sup> October The Harvey family are away with chicken pox

25<sup>th</sup> October School closed outbreak of chicken pox

2<sup>nd</sup> December £2-13-9 collected for Xmas Dinner for poor children in London

16<sup>th</sup> December Almost £11 collected for school prizes and picnic

16<sup>th</sup> December School closed for summer vacation

Inspectors report included

- a) The school is under capable management
- b) Order, tone and discipline good
- c) Attendance satisfactory
- d) The methods of teaching are based on sound principles and the pupils making good progress
- e) Buildings etc, some repairs needed
- f) Alfred Cowles

## 1928

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 16\

April Meeting of Householders was held in school last night. Mr Saywell and Mr Houghton were 2 new members elected

25<sup>th</sup> April School closed for Anzac day

21<sup>st</sup> May School reopened today after winter holidays

Mr Watson Inspector of schools visited school this afternoon

26<sup>th</sup> June A playshed has just been erected for pupils A board was also made for barometer by carpenters

20<sup>th</sup> September Today Miss Blackbourne Drill Instructor and Dr Dougall visited school

3<sup>rd</sup> October received from State Forest Service Rotorua 1 dozen native shrubs, 1 dozen ash leaf maple trees, 1 dozen horse chestnut trees

25<sup>th</sup> October School closed for Carterton Show

31<sup>st</sup> October 5<sup>th</sup> November School closed for 5 ½ days as teacher was sitting for a university examination

14<sup>th</sup> November School closed for election day School used as a polling booth

19<sup>th</sup> November Mr Watson School Inspector visited school today

20<sup>th</sup> November Mr Brockett Agricultural Inspector visited school today He advised the boys to cultivate a smaller plot next year as there would not be so many to work the garden

December Over £12 collected for school prizes and picnic

School closed for Xmas Holidays. In the afternoon the pupils were each presented with a book while several received special prizes. The pupils gave a few items

Inspectors Report included

- a) Roll 17 Present 14
- b) Order Very good
- c) The teachers work is well prepared and conscientiously carried out
- d) Building is clean and tidy. The new shelter shed is a great improvement
- e) H C R Watson

## 1929

4<sup>th</sup> February School reopened today after Vacation with roll of 15. Three Standard 6 pupils have left while 2 pupils were admitted

During the holiday the ceiling of the school was lined. This will prevent the school room from being so draughty as previously

Received art supplies from Wellington Education Board

8<sup>th</sup> February School closed Annual School Picnic held on Mr Saywell's grounds

April Received from Wellington Education Board

- a) 1 iron Tripod stand
- b) 6 test tubes
- c) 1 test tube stand
- d) 2 glass filter funnels
- e) 1 pocket magnifying glass
- f) 1 Cent thermometer
- g) 1 ounce litmus
- h) 1 quart Methylated Spirits
- i) 2 hoes (push hoes)
- j) 2 hoes (drag hoes)

Mr Burns Inspector visited school today. He wished a note be made in the log book that he took my daily work book away with him as he was collecting specimens of work books

29<sup>th</sup> April Letter from Naomi G Murdoch teacher Re allowance for those children who live further than 3 miles from school She understands that 6d per child should be paid

6<sup>th</sup> May Two new gates have been put up to replace the old ones which were worn out

13<sup>th</sup> May Application by Mr Arthur Houghton Wharepapa for transport of Donald (6.4 years) and William (5.2) for transport. Father motors pupils to school in the morning and conveys them

at night on horseback 4 miles away. Letter to Miss N C Murdoch transport is only for one way. The transport is made only for the trip by Motor. Horseback allowance is only payable where roads for wheel traffic are non-excitant or are to be dangerous or impassable for vehicles.

10<sup>th</sup> June Mr Saywell brought wood and gravel to school today

10<sup>th</sup> July 1929 Wairongomai School sent in an entry to the Winter Show Wellington above the average

13<sup>th</sup> August Mr Burns inspector visited school today

18<sup>th</sup> October £3 collected for annual Xmas dinners provided for poor children of London by N Z children

31<sup>st</sup> October School closed for Carterton Show

Inspectors report included

- a) Roll 18 Present 13
- b) Management Very good
- c) Order, tone and discipline good. The upper classes behave and work well
- d) Attendance is good in the circumstances (wet weather and sickness)
- e) The efficiency of the teaching and the Standard of the work are very fair
- f) The walls and ceiling of the school have been lined. The room is kept very clean
- g) Much interest is displayed by teachers and pupils in the planting of shrubs etc
- h) The fence and front gates have been renewed
- i) A Burns

20<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Xmas Vacation I received 2 days ago a telegram stating that I have been appointed to a school in the Taranaki Board but the appointment is not confirmed up to the time of closing

Naomi G Murdoch

4<sup>th</sup> March 1930. Mr L J Stannard appointed Sole teacher

12<sup>th</sup> October 1932 Appointed to Berhampore School Wellington.  
Last day at school

2<sup>nd</sup> November 1932. Someone took charge today

14<sup>th</sup> November Dr Anderson visited school medical inspection

14<sup>th</sup> December 1932 Children presented with prizes donated by Mr L Stannard. School closed today for Christmas Vacation

## 1933

4<sup>th</sup> February New Teacher Roll of 16 11 boys and 5 girls of whom 3 were absent on account of inclement weather

3<sup>rd</sup> February School closed Picnic held on Lake Ponui on the property of Mr N Matthews

7<sup>th</sup> February Mr McCaskill (Inspector) visited the school and later forwarded following report

- a) Roll 16, Present 15
- b) Schemes and work books, draw out on lines recommended at my visit
- c) Grounds in good order. Both teacher and pupils take a keen interest in grounds and gardens

d) Classroom very orderly and tidy. Control and working spirit very good

e) Miss Bindon took charge of this her first sole charge school a fortnight ago She has a pleasing personality, a good knowledge of method and the necessary enthusiasm to make for success

f) She impresses me very favourably

g) Many weaknesses exist and only definite preparation and teaching will remove this.

h) For the purpose of estimating Miss Bindon's work later in the year these are outlined

1) P classes Progress of three children admitted 1932 has been practically nil. They no no number and cannot yet deal with Live reader Book 1

2) Standard 1 This boy is fair in number but his writing and drawing are weak

3) Standard 2 The only sound subject is writing. They are fair in number and reading is moderate

4) Standard 3-6 The girls are promising but the boys in Standard 3 and 4 are not strong in any subject from moderate to fair

i) The pupils are very pleasant to work with are keen to improve and are cooperating with Miss Bindon

j) The previous teachers standard of marking is too easy. Stiffen this up

Mr Brockett Agricultural inspector arrived shortly after Mr McCaskill's departure. He outlined work both indoor and out to be carried out between now and next September

27<sup>th</sup> April received 50 poppies to be sold for RSA funds. All were sold and £2-10 forwarded to Mr Card (*J W Card Mayor of Featherston*)

22<sup>nd</sup> May School reopened with an attendance of 10 the day therefore being an excepted half day

29<sup>th</sup> May One girl admitted to Standard 6. As she has 10 miles to ride to school she attends only 3 days a week

27<sup>th</sup> July received from education Department 16 poplar Trees to be planted in remembrance of Arbor Day

23<sup>rd</sup> October School closed Labour Day

26<sup>th</sup> October One girl admitted to Standard 2 from Paekakariki School

20<sup>th</sup> November Proficiency exam held. The Secretary and three board members visited the school

19<sup>th</sup> December Annual Prize Giving and Christmas tree held. Word received that both proficiency candidates had been successful

20<sup>th</sup> December School closed for Summer Holidays

## 1934

5<sup>th</sup> February School reopened with an attendance of 7

One new child admitted. Two have left and one of proficiency girls returned

9<sup>th</sup> February School picnic postponed on account of wet weather

16<sup>th</sup> February School picnic held at Ponui Lake in ideal weather conditions

23<sup>rd</sup> February two pictures purchasing of which was sanctioned by Committee arrived, Drake's Voyage Around the World and Buckingham Palace

1<sup>st</sup> March Rev Mr Durrand commenced bible lessons

27<sup>th</sup> April Mr H Foston delivered an illustrated lecture on New Zealand's Sea Girt Coast. £2-12-6 was taken of which school received £1

21<sup>st</sup> May School reopened with roll of 17

29<sup>th</sup> June Terminated duties at Wairongomai School

29<sup>th</sup> June A.C.E Johnson inquiring about travel to school from Wairongomai

2<sup>nd</sup> July Standard VII pupil Miss Blair started duties

3<sup>rd</sup> July Rev Durrand took Bible lesson

6<sup>th</sup> July Modelling equipment

20<sup>th</sup> July Mr F C Brockett, Instructor in Agriculture visited the school and forwarded the following report

- a) Miss Blair was not able to find any records of work when she took over. Temporary records now being kept
- b) Very little in notebooks for this year's work and in the absence of other records it is difficult to see what has been done
- c) Potato Experiment Agriculture Club competitions. Drainage, care of tools. Recent floods have caused a good deal of erosion in the large drain
- d) Some protective work will be necessary, to obviate the risk of damage to school gardens and to tennis court etc.

e) Fastening with manuka would probably help. The children are rather far from the centre for calf rearing competition but something might be done about root growing

24<sup>th</sup> July Ronald Arthur Houghton accidentally killed after falling from a horse while on the way home from school. Aged 11 ½ years

26<sup>th</sup> July Funeral of above- School closed

2<sup>nd</sup> August Rev Mr Durrand took scripture lesson in afternoon

7<sup>th</sup> August Received from Education Board 20 poplar trees to be planted in remembrance of Arbor Day

10<sup>th</sup> August Mr McCaskill paid 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to this school this year and later forwarded following report. Included

- a) Roll 15 Present 14
- b) Miss Bindon left this school at the beginning of the term, after having given very good service
- c) Miss Blair as relieving teacher has very effectively carried on the work and in some directions effected distinct improvements
- d) The grounds on which Miss Bindon did commendable work are in very good order, the good work being ably carried on by Miss Blair
- e) The buildings are very clean and tidy and the classroom attractive
- f) Miss Blair has no difficulty with control She is on very pleasant terms with her pupils who cooperate fully with her in all their work

g) Weaknesses in the school are mainly in the Standard classes are due to either poor ground work or to the mental weakness of the pupil

h) Every child is working cheerfully to capacity. The most noticeable improvement since Miss Blair took charge in in

1) Drawing- a very sound training is given in colour and in light and shade

2) Recitation- here there is more spirit and better interpretation while poems are very well selected

3) Writing and number in the primer classes showed definite advances. The primer numbers 7 in number form the most promising section of the school

i) In the Standard classes Spelling, Composition, Arithmetic and Reading are very uneven, due to factors stated above

j) The examination register shows these weaknesses clearly- Every effort is being made to eliminate them

k) I was favourably impressed with Miss Blair's work. She is a very promising teacher

l) D R McCaskill

m) There is a note entered later and a line through the text stating. Confidential to Miss Blair and Inspector

7<sup>th</sup> August School closed for second term. Ceased duties as relieving teacher at Wairongomai School

4<sup>th</sup> September E G Guildford No work book or other programme of daily work was left in the school

Under Education Board instructions I took charge of the Wairongomai School

The school was reopened after the term vacation



Ray Houghton and Clyde Spackman were admitted. The total roll is now 16

4<sup>th</sup> September Mr Houghton applies for transport for his four boys, Billy, Arthur, Frank and Ray. Transport is by 1/2 ton motor truck driven by Mr W T Houghton Wharepapa. Payment approved at 6d per head

Teacher Mrs E G Guildford

10<sup>th</sup> September A very wet day today. Roll number now 17

11<sup>th</sup> September Rev Mr Durrand took bible class 2.30 to 3.00

1<sup>st</sup> October Keith Spackman absent as he is in hospital

1<sup>st</sup> October 7 pupils enrolled

17<sup>th</sup> October Mr Brockett Agricultural Instructor visited the school

6<sup>th</sup> November Received from Education Board 6 weeding forks, 1 push hoe, 1 drag hoe. 2 rakes which were not on order form

## 1935

5<sup>th</sup> February The school was reopened today instead of Monday as an extra day's holiday was granted in accordance with the Duke of Gloucester's request

5<sup>th</sup> February The annual prize distribution and Christmas Tree social was attended by most of the residents in the evening. Postponed from 1934 owing to whooping cough

8<sup>th</sup> February The school picnic was held. Weather showery

1<sup>st</sup> March The school was closed today as the teacher was ill (Summer Sickness)

18<sup>th</sup> March Letter from A Johnson to Wellington Education Board Asking for a contract to carry children from Wairongomai Station to Wairongomai School. Can't carry on at present rate

Distance travelled each day 36 Miles

Benzene 2 gallons 4/0

Oil /6d

Depreciation at 1/2d a mile 1/6

Drivers time 1 1/2 hours 2/- an hour 3/-

Cost to me 9 shillings

We receive 5/2d daily

We also have to pay £2-5-0 extra insurance to pay.

Children Conveyed by Mr Johnson Noeline ,Raymond Johnson Thelma, Phyllis, Clarence, Reginald O'Neal all at 8d per day

James Couper, Joyce Bockett

Conveyed by Mr Houghton at 6d per head

Billy, Arthur, Frank, Ray, Colin and Lorraine and Riaz Houghton

There was huge file re conveyance of children until 1938 at national Archives that i didn't pursue.

1<sup>st</sup> April Mr Partridge inspected the school today

2<sup>nd</sup> April Notes and suggestions received from Mr Partridge

19<sup>th</sup> April Mr Brockett Instructor in agriculture visited the school during the afternoon. He checked the science equipment

2<sup>nd</sup> May Mr Saywell Chairman of the School Committee visited Mr A Johnson to inform him that Mr B Bockett was prepared to convey the children conveyed by Mr Johnson but Mr Johnson would not

agree Since 3<sup>rd</sup> May Joyce Bockett and the teacher have travelled in Mr Bockett's car

6<sup>th</sup> May School closed King's Jubilee

10<sup>th</sup> May Jubilee Treat. Children conveyed to Featherston by members of the School Committee to attend the pictures. Sixpence for each child has been allowed by the Education Department in connection with the King's Jubilee

4<sup>th</sup> June Jubilee Ball was held in the evening a great success

5<sup>th</sup> June Owing to Mr Houghton being unable to continue conveying his own and Mr Arthur Houghton's children Mr Bradney Bockett has agreed to do so from today

18<sup>th</sup> June Owing to faulty battery Mr Bockett's car did not start today. Joyce Bockett and teacher cycled to school but the 7 Houghton children were absent. This was an excepted day

22<sup>nd</sup> July Mr J B Brockett's conveyance contract commenced today. The O'Neale and Johnson children are absent as their parents refuse to permit them to travel in the conveyance

23<sup>rd</sup> July I received a copy of a letter sent by the Board to Mr Devenport in connection with breaches of the Education Attendance Act

30<sup>th</sup> July Received Mr Partridge's Report also Form II examination papers for Kathleen Saywell's Proficiency Examination

31<sup>st</sup> July Kathleen was examined in Dictation, Spelling, Mental and Written Arithmetic. These papers were worked under examination conditions and returned to the Inspector

5<sup>th</sup> August The O'Neale and Johnson children returned to school today. The dispute over the conveyance of the children has been settled. Adella Edge was admitted today. Roll 27

9<sup>th</sup> September School was reopened today

10<sup>th</sup> September Notice received today that Kathleen Saywell was successful in the special proficiency examination. Certificate was handed to her

11<sup>th</sup> September Riaz Houghton has been absent during the week as she is in Wellington waiting to go into hospital for an operation to her eyes

6<sup>th</sup> November Dr Anderson conducted a Medical Examination of the pupils

31<sup>st</sup> October I received word of my transfer to the Tauherenikau School to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1936

## 1936

3<sup>rd</sup> February A M Foster Opened the school Roll 29 Present 29. 3 admitted and 1 left

4<sup>th</sup> February Elsie Harvey admitted today from Kahutara School. Roll 30

14<sup>th</sup> February The school picnic was held today, postponed from last Friday.

17<sup>th</sup> February Edith Devenport admitted. Roll 31

21<sup>st</sup> February Received from Education Board 2 boxes of coloured chalk @ 2/1

6<sup>th</sup> March School Stationery from Hardie and Sons (Featherston) nibs, blotting paper, chalk (2 boxes white), ink powder, 1 pad, 1 bottle Glog Total 14/3d

9<sup>th</sup> March Admitted 4 Maori Children today Roll now 35

23<sup>rd</sup> May Received 5 dual desks from Education Board today

27<sup>th</sup> March Visit by Mr Brockett Instructor of Agriculture. He recommended me to have lawn mower attended to. Children invited to join in root growing competition at home, and in arts and craft , cookery, needlework. He checked science equipment

15<sup>th</sup> April Resumed school after Easter Holidays- present 30- Warren Hansen has been absent for 6 weeks- has boils - then operation for tonsils and adenoids

School was used on Easter Saturday for tennis and rifle club which I believe was a great success

20<sup>th</sup> April Warren Jansen returned to school today

Allen Johnson absent with knee injured in a fall from the swing

20<sup>th</sup> April received 50 poppies for children to sell from Miss Card.

All were sold and money sent to the Chairman £2-10

29<sup>th</sup> April received from Education Board 1 barometer tube, mercury, measuring glass, spirit lamp

4<sup>th</sup> May The tennis Club donated trophies to the children. These were played for yesterday. Adela Edge won the girls and Bill Houghton the boys

I attended a meeting for the election of the School Committee. There was a fair attendance and great interest in the school was shown by all present. I was authorised to buy a First Aid outfit for the school

25<sup>th</sup> May School resumed today- Owing to a breakdown of the school bus we could not commence until 10.15. Roll 34 Present 31

Bill Houghton Standard 5 has gone to Martinborough School for a term as his health is bad and the Doctor advised a change

Riaz Houghton Primer 3 has not returned owing to an eye operation and Clarence O'Neale Standard 4 is absent after an operation on his throat

3<sup>rd</sup> June Since the holidays we have used various cars for transport and most mornings we have not commenced until 9.30

However the school bus is now in use

8<sup>th</sup> June Load of wood supplied by School Committee

Children are all having hot cocoa at lunchtime

12<sup>th</sup> June The four Maori children who have been camping at the Coast left for Martinborough school today. Roll 29

23<sup>rd</sup> June School closed for King Edward's Birthday

29<sup>th</sup> June Barbara Jansen admitted today Roll 30

Mr Bockett conveyed Barbara and Warren Jansen also Clyde Spackman for the first time. Saywell's are now the only children who walk

13<sup>th</sup> July Windows and floor were repaired during the weekend. Shingle was put down in the shed and along the paths

13<sup>th</sup> July Mr Brockett visited the school today- Discussed Arbor Day and the planting of native trees by children. Also the Handcraft Classes- growing of mangels at home. Seed and manure to be supplied

10<sup>th</sup> August Mr E Partridge Inspector visited the school today

12<sup>th</sup> August Received Inspectors Report on Inspection visit- recommended to ask for £2 for small continuous readers

18<sup>th</sup> August received packet of seeds- carrot for main crop this year, also 4 packets of flower seeds

21<sup>st</sup> August The chairman paid me a cheque (£2-18-4), £2 to purchase supplementary readers. The 18/4 being payment for first aid outfit

7<sup>th</sup> September School resumed today Roll 31

Bill Houghton who spent a term at Martinborough was re-entered

The inside of the building has been much improved- The asbestos wall has been taken down, replaced by Match Board Lining. The Porch and Teachers Room have also been lined. This will make the room much more comfortable as it formerly was very draughty

8<sup>th</sup> September Received parcel of 87 continuous readers, mostly for primer classes. These were chosen by me during the holiday. Paid for by School Committee

7<sup>th</sup> October School closed yesterday for Labour Day

Epidemic of Chicken Pox is affecting the children- Roll 30 present 8- excepted half days marked on roll. School closed early in the afternoon

29<sup>th</sup> October Carterton Show School closed for children to visit it

27<sup>th</sup> October Dance was held in school last Saturday. Organised by the rifle club. A very successful function- school was left in good order with desks put back in position

27<sup>th</sup> October tennis Courts were opened by Mr Pillar- large crowd present and a very enjoyable day was spent by all

In the evening a social was held in the school at which trophies won during the year were presented

Medals were presented to best school girl Adela Edge and Best School Boy Bill Houghton

23<sup>rd</sup> November Adela Edge has left this school as her parents have moved to Masterton

27<sup>th</sup> November Keith and Fay Spackman sat their proficiency today. They did their History, Geography, Science and Drawing on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst there was a large meeting of householders in the school to consider consolidation of this school with Featherston

DHS. After long discussion on the danger of the road, the length of the trip, and the time children would be away from home the motion was defeated by 19-11. There were 2 Education Board Members present, Mr Donald and Colonel McDonald. Also Mr Roland the Board Architect. A resolution was passed asking the Board to raise the rent so that the building may have necessary repairs, Two more windows and corridor ventilation were recommended

10<sup>th</sup> December I attended a School Committee meeting £5 was granted for Xmas tree books

15<sup>th</sup> December School finished early on account of Infantile Paralysis outbreak

Xmas Tree and Prize giving in evening. Fay and Keith Spackman gained proficiency

A M Foster

## 1937

1<sup>st</sup> March School resumed today after a long vacation due to infantile paralysis outbreak. Present 29 Roll 29

13<sup>th</sup> March The school picnic was held at Ponui Lake. There was a fairly large gathering and the children spent a most enjoyable day

15<sup>th</sup> march Admitted one boy today James George. He has been absent from any school for some time owing to his parents shifting

16<sup>th</sup> March School bus broke down today. Mr Ashdown drove all the children home in his car

18<sup>th</sup> March Mr Bockett received his new school bus (Ford) The children seem quite comfortable in it

24<sup>th</sup> March Raymond Johnson has been absent for three weeks he is receiving medical attention

31<sup>st</sup> March Admitted Ellen Johnson roll 31

16<sup>th</sup> April School closed on account of infantile paralysis epidemic children to do work set in the newspapers and over the wireless

24<sup>th</sup> May School resumed today The Houghton Boys (5) have gone to Martinborough to live. Woodley children (4) were enrolled in their place. Roll 30

31<sup>st</sup> May Lorraine Houghton proved a positive case of infantile paralysis- has been admitted to Masterton hospital, paralysis in one leg

School closed by permission of the Ed Board

14<sup>th</sup> June reopened today Roll 30 Present 27

2<sup>nd</sup> July The Committee provided a new axe for the children

Mr Saywell presented each child with a bag of sweets- these were bought for the coronation day when school was closed

6<sup>th</sup> July School was visited by Mr Brockett Science Instructor. He outlined new schemes for project work in nature study and science

9<sup>th</sup> July The card evenings in aid of the tennis club are now being held in the school every Saturday Evening- The parents attend well

16<sup>th</sup> July School closed today for Education Conference to be opened in Wellington next week

26<sup>th</sup> July School resumed today Bus again in use Present 29

20<sup>th</sup> August School closed for term holidays. I took Lorraine off roll Now 29

4<sup>th</sup> September The school was scrubbed during the holidays and looks much better

The rifle club held their annual social here on Saturday night and a well attended pleasant evening was spent

7<sup>th</sup> September The Tennis Club held their annual meeting- Mr Ashdown was re elected Secretary

10<sup>th</sup> September Mr Johnson the inspector made a visit to the school today. He gave the children written mental tests, heard each child read and they answered orally questions in history and geography

15<sup>th</sup> October Received receipt from Education Board acknowledging payment of £1-13-6 I sent in a further donation of 5/- today. This money is for the health camp

15<sup>th</sup> October received seeds of sugar beet, 3 varieties, will plant on Monday as today is rather cold. Boys are preparing the ground

16<sup>th</sup> October Labour Day Holiday held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> wet and cold so picnic was not held. School used on Saturday for dance given by the rifle club

16<sup>th</sup> October Received one new lawn mower from School Committee. Cut grass 1<sup>st</sup> time this year and it is a decided improvement

29<sup>th</sup> October Closed school yesterday for annual Carterton show

Most of the children attended and enjoyed. Parade was very good

5<sup>th</sup> November Mr Brockett visited the school today- suggested children studying live subjects- such as tadpoles, caterpillars, mosquitoes, insects

3<sup>rd</sup> November Dental Nurse visited school and examined children's mouths sent cards to children whose teeth need attention

19<sup>th</sup> November Box opening for Dr Barnado's Homes. The three children collected 10/- which I forwarded to Wellington- it was received with thanks

22<sup>nd</sup> November The school is now used every third Sunday for a church service conducted by the Rev Kenyon at 2 pm

29<sup>th</sup> August Admitted Norma Lyster as a new pupil

6<sup>th</sup> December Closed school early today on account of the death of a former pupil Kathleen Saywell aged 18. The senior girls made two wreaths at school and several pupils attended the funeral

17<sup>th</sup> December The school breaking up ceremony. Prize giving and Christmas Tree were postponed by the School Committee as Mr Saywell the chairman is the father of the ex-pupil who died

17<sup>th</sup> December terms work completed. Grace Woodley Standard 6 awarded Primary Certificate. School closed for Christmas holidays  
Roll 16

A M Foster

## 1938

1<sup>st</sup> February School reopened Roll 29 Present 25

Left Fay Spackman attending The Masterton Technical College, Phyllis O'Neale (Home Duties). Admitted Ross Jansen

School room clean and in good order. Grounds: Grass very high will ask Committee to mow it

2<sup>nd</sup> February Received one school chair from Education Board

8<sup>th</sup> February I attended the School Committee meeting held to discuss the school picnic held annually at Lake Ponui, after lengthy discussion a programme of events was drawn up. I was given £4 to buy a book for each child

9<sup>th</sup> February School bus was one hour late owing to a puncture on the way to school

10<sup>th</sup> February Mr Parker a School Committee member took me to Featherston to buy prizes. School was closed at 1.30 pm

11<sup>th</sup> February The school picnic was held- thus school was closed. I believe all had a pleasant day. The children all seemed to have a great time. I could not attend as I was ill. The prizes were given out by Mr T E Pillar as we are not holding an evening

A M Foster

17<sup>th</sup> March Nurse Hodges visited the school today- tested the children's eyes preparatory to Doctor's Visit

25<sup>th</sup> March Miss Lawrie Infant School Adviser, visited the school today, discussed phonic methods, teaching of sounds. She took singing with the children and a speech lesson using puppets

29<sup>th</sup> March Wall paper books (*For art and Craft*) and cardboard received from Wellington Education Board today

4<sup>th</sup> April The school was used on Saturday evening when a farewell social was given by the residents of the district to Mr and Mrs W Houghton who are leaving for Levin. They were presented with an electric iron and jug. An enjoyable evening was spent by all

4<sup>th</sup> April A tennis team visited the club on Sunday and the school was used for their entertainment- it was an exceptionally hot day for April

5<sup>th</sup> April Riaz Houghton withdrawn from roll Oliver Benson enrolled

7<sup>th</sup> April Doctor Platts-Mills visited the school- she examined all pupils except Myrtle Woodley who was absent through sickness She

talked to the children about eating white bread, drinking plenty of milk and water, also on going early to bed.

13<sup>th</sup> April The school was used on Saturday night The settlers gave a gift to Miss Pullar. A most enjoyable time was spent by all present

15<sup>th</sup> April The Lyster children left today. The father having obtained work in another district

16<sup>th</sup> April Sold 60 poppies for Anzac Day. Sent money to Miss Card

18<sup>th</sup> April Mr Saywell brought a load of wood to the school

11<sup>th</sup> May School resumed today . Roll 16

The floors have been well scrubbed during the holidays

Cattle have been in the playground and caused great damage to the school sugar beet crops

June Received science equipment form Wellington Education Board  
Received from Secretary School Committee money for purchase of books and Infant materials

29<sup>th</sup> July The school was used for a householders meeting discussing electric light for the district

9<sup>th</sup> August The rifle club held their annual social for the presentation of trophies won during the season. There was a good attendance and an enjoyable evening was held

9<sup>th</sup> August The children have been suffering from heavy colds which have affected the attendance. One boy has been away because of Measles in the home

Julie Livermore is in Greytown hospital with ear trouble

17<sup>th</sup> August The Dental Nurse came to school and inspected the children's teeth

19<sup>th</sup> August School closed Roll 27

*There were no more entries to log. Presumably because the Wellington Education Board had decided to close the Wairongomai School at the end of the year*

14<sup>th</sup> November Re conveyance of children from Wairongomai to Featherston Letter from Department to Wellington Education Board included

- a) The consolidation of of Wairongomai School on Featherston is approved
- b) That the bus service be run by a teacher driver based at Wairongomai.
- c) It is understood that Mr J E Willett a teacher already on the staff at Featherston DHS is prepared to drive the bus and live at Wairongomai.
- d) To negotiate with Wairongomai for land to build a residence where a house and garage would be built.
- e) Any site should have regard to the possibility of reducing daily running for the bus to a minimum
- f) The compensation to Mr Worsley for dropping his present run the Department will not accept his offer £270 cash
- g) The Board is to offer £140 and if he doesn't accept that he will continue his present service even though this means that two services for the time being will be running along the same road

- h) Until the house is to be built the bus service will run from Featherston Mr Willet will be paid 10/- per school to run the bus from Featherston
- i) It will be necessary for the board to make arrangements for the supply of Contract Benzene, through a local pump holder

### Buildings

Rent of £15 per year starting from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916

13<sup>th</sup> December Application for furniture declined.

Consolidation on Featherston approved 31<sup>st</sup> August 1938

1913	6	Papatahi	Martin	Edith
1914	15	Papatahi	Rains	Catherine
1915	15	Wairongomai	Campbell	Jessie
1917	11	Wairongomai	Strong	Florence M
1919	19	Wairongomai	Strong	Florence M
1921	14	Wairongomai	Strong	Florence M
1923	14	Wairongomai	Tolley	Enid M

Notes from School reunion booklet are collated below. Reunion held October 1998. Notes are not in chronological order

- a) The school land was donated by Alfred Mathews to build a hall

- b) The timber was carted from Featherston by Mitchell Tait with a 5 Horse team and a brake. The journey took all day
- c) The children either walked or rode ponies. A small paddock was set aside as a horse paddock, later became the tennis court
- d) Ross Jansen was later on Knighted. he was Mayor of Hamilton and heavily involved in public affairs
- e) The Houghton children came from Wharepapa. There were six Houghton Children.
- f) The Picnics at Poanui Lake were always enjoyed. Mr. Spackman was always the starter. Three legged races, wheelbarrow race. There was also a greasy pig race for the bigger boys to catch. Also there was the sharing of a big picnic lunch and afternoon tea
- g) Thora Haycock writes The teacher was Miss Strong. Nobody liked her and she even had trouble getting Board. Mr. Saywell let her have one of his cottages.. Miss Murdoch used to take us for long walks around the school and we loved it. We used to play basketball and rounders across the road.
- h) The only heating was an open fire at the end of the school room.
- i) Jack Luttrell rode a bike to school. It was hard going in the morning but usually a tail wind in the afternoon.
- j) The Teacher's main occupation seemed to be to write on the blackboard and then sit and knit all day (Miss Foster)



- k) At lunchtime we would spend lots of time hunting for fresh water crays in the creek. Then we would later boil them up on the fire
- l) There was scrub right to the edge of the bush and sometimes wild pigs would come down close.
- m) The school had an open fire and that was used for hot water. It was the older boys job to stoke or light the fire. Water was boiled in kerosene tins with a wire handle
- n) There was no sport or contact with other schools. We did get the school journal
- o) Miss Foster disliked farmers and she solemnly advised us girls “Don’t marry a farmer and have pine needles in your sink”
- p) When exam time came round Miss Foster put the sums on the board and the answers. She appeared inadequate

q) I don’t think I learnt a thing at that school (1937-38) , There were further tales of misbehaviour and hunting and standing up to teachers but nothing that really added to the history of Wairongomai School

Note: I have used the term Wairongomai rather than “Waiorongomai “ as this was how the Wellington Education Board spelt the name

Admitted	Surname	Christian	Birth	Adult	School From	Last Day	Class	To	
24/02/13	Hodder	Ivy Matilda	10/07/02	Mr C Hodder	Papatahi	-	5/04/16	V	Waihakeke
24/02/13	Hodder	Myrtle Mary	10/07/02	Mr C Hodder	Papatahi		6/04/16	IV	Waihakeke
24/02/13	Hodder	Esther Maud	10/03/05	Mr C Hodder	Papatahi		6/04/16	III	Waihakeke
24/02/13	Hodder	Arthur Edward	8/07/06	Mr C Hodder	Papatahi		5/04/16	III	Waihakeke
29/04/13	Hodder	Ernest Charles	25/04/08	Mr C Hodder	Papatahi		6/04/16	I	Waihakeke
5/12/13	Edlin	Dorothea May	7/11/02	Mr D Edlin	Wharepapa	Featherston	9/06/16	V	Convent Masterton
13/03/13	Till	Inez Pearl	6/09/03	Mr A Till	Wharepapa	Featherston	26/11/15	III	Left District
24/06/14	Caldwell	Elizabeth Elsie	4/12/05	Mrs J A Caldwell	Papatahi	Newtown	16/12/19	V	Boarding school Masterton
24/06/14	Caldwell	Florence Nellie	25/01/07	Mrs J A Caldwell	Papatahi	Palmerston	1921	V!	Proficiency High School Palmerston Nth
20/08/14	Leach	Bernard	1/05/06`	Mr J Leach	Wairongomai		15/12/16	III	Distance from School 4 1/2 mls
21/08/14	Muir	Constance Evelyn	4/08/08	Mr A Muir	Wairongomai		22/09/16	I	Left
24/08/14	Muir	Henry	3/05/07	Mr A Muir	Wairongomai	Greytown	22/09/16	I	Greytown School

		Alexander									
24/08/14	Luttrell	Mona	28/02/09	Mr Luttrell	Papatahi		1922	VI	Competency	Featherston High School	
24/08/14	Willis	Gweneth Hannah	9/08/02	Mr H Willis	Wairongomai		20/12/17	VI	Competency	Solway College	
24/08/14	Ridgely	Minnie	10/03/07	Mr Ridgely	Wairongomai		21/12/21	VI	Proficiency	Returned to School 6 Months Then	
24/08/14	Ridgely	Minnie	10/03/07	Mr Ridgely	Wairongomai		21/12/21			Girls College Wellington	
31/08/14	Willis	Cjitha	24/08/03	Mr H Matthews	Wairongomai	South Featherston	16/12/19	V		St Matthews	
2/09/14	Corner	Geoffrey	22/01/08	Mr Baker Corner	Papatahi	Featherston	16/12/19	V		Scots College	
11/02/15	Willis	Wilfrid	11/07/01	Mr H Willis	Papatahi	South Featherston	19/12/15	VI	Competency	Assistant on Station	
5/04/15	Yule	Robert Donald	13/02/01	Mr D C Yule	Featherston	South Featherston				South Featherston	
24/05/15	Jackson	Thelma	1/05/06	Mr C Anderson	Wairongomai	Blackball	24/08/23		Proficiency	Blackball	
2/08/15	Corner	Norman	5/08/10	Mr B Corner	Papatahi		18/12/26	VI	Endorsed	Masterton Technical School	
26/10/15	Luttrell	Edna Thora	18/09/10	Mr S Luttrell	Papatahi	Hastings	14/04/16	P		Left District	
13/03/16	Noble	Edward Leslie	27/02/09	Mr F Noble	Wairongomai	Waingawa	23/04/17	III			
	Noble	Edward Leslie	27/02/09	Mr F Noble	Wairongomai	Roseneath	1922		Proficiency 21	Delicate Health Home teaching	
3/05/16	Davies	Irene	27/06/07	Mr Davies	Featherston	Island Bay				Island Bay	
24/08/16	Jones	James Hector	14/08/09	Mr H Jones	Wairongomai		27/09/16	P		Left District	
26/09/16	Hendy	Kathleen Bethiah	2/07/09	Mr Hendy	Wairongomai		25/05/17	II		Featherston	
9/11/16	Cherry	William	4/06/07	Mr M Hyland	Papatahi		25/02/20	IV		Returned to School After Month	
28/02/17	Muir	Constance Evelyn	4/08/08	Mr A Muir	Wairongomai		25/02/20	I	Defective Sight	Feilding	
28/02/17	Muir	Harold Arthur	24/04/10	Mr A Muir	Wairongomai		25/02/20	III		Feilding	
23/04/17	Muir	Henry Alexander	3/05/07	Mr A Muir	Wairongomai		25/02/20	III		Feilding	
12/09/17	Cherry	William Matthew	4/06/07	Mr M Hyland	Papatahi		25/05/17	I	Partially Blind	Left District	
19/10/17	Jones	Hector	14/08/09	Mr H Jones	Wairongomai		10/12/19	II		Te Marua Upper Hutt	

20/10/17	Luttrell	Joyce	25/03/12	Mr Luttrell	Papatahi	16/12/27	VII	Proficiency	Featherston DHS
29/10/17	Davies	Irene	27/06/07	Mr Davies	Papatahi	21/12/21	VI	Proficiency	Girls College Wellington
6/02/18	Muir	Ronald	2/12/12	Mr A Muir	Wairongomai	25/02/20	P		Feilding