

New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MISS ELIZABETH S. HAMILTON

Miss Elizabeth Hamilton was Principal of the Dunedin Kindergarten Teachers' College from 1946-1966.

Her enthusiasm for, and devotion to pre-school education has won her the respect and esteem of N.Z.F.K.T.A. Members at national and local level.

In 1953, when the Principals, at the invitation of the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union, formed an interim committee to establish the N.Z.F.K.T.A., Miss Hamilton accepted the office of President of this committee. Through her vision and enthusiasm for teachers to have an Association which would not only uphold the just claims of its members, but also advance the cause of pre-school education in New Zealand, the Association which is today the recognised service organisation of the teachers was established on a firm foundation.

After she relinquished the position of President, Miss Hamilton's enthusiasm never waned. She actively participated in all the Association's ventures. She attended Summer Schools, encouraged teachers to avail themselves of opportunities for post graduate study, and willingly shared her professional knowledge with them. Her helpful advice was generously given; but this was typical of her unselfish service to pre-school education.

As the College expanded and she became more involved in lecturing and administration, Miss Hamilton never allowed this to interfere with the education and welfare of kindergarten children and college students.

She realised the importance of encouraging students to join their service organisation. Evidence of this is seen, not only in the support which the College graduates have given to the Teachers' Association, but also through the formation of a Student Teachers' Association within the College. This provided an opportunity for students to participate in the administration of a similar association and so realise from first hand experience the value of an organisation which can play an ever increasing part in education in New Zealand.

The N.Z.F.K.T.A. is indeed proud to have the privilege to bestow this honour upon a member who had faith in the movement, and was able to establish a forward looking association which has an important role to play in the increase in services for pre-school children in this country.

for the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association

M. JUST

F. VARCOE.