

Kindergarten's forgotten history found

RHIANNON MCCONNELL

A chance discovery led to Wadestown Kindergarten finding out what life was like for its children 60 years ago.

Now the kindergarten is looking to reconnect with the children featured in the 1940s and 50s photo album and roll book, which was found in an outdoor shed late last year.

Head teacher Linda Muollo said she wanted to invite them to the opening of their waharoa, or entrance way, later this year.

The kindergarten had fundraised for the new entrance way, which was currently being worked on, and it was traditional to include history in it.

"We'd love some of the children to come to the opening," she said.

The rediscovered items reveal details about how life has changed.

"You see things about children having scarlet fever and measles. Looking at their clothes is amazing."

Muollo said she didn't know much about the history of the kindergarten, so the album was helping.

It revealed the kindergarten's past in Grant Rd and Pitt St. It is now based in Oban St.

There have also been interesting changes to field trips over time.

"One of their excursions was to take all the children down to the wharf.

"If we did that today we'd need a ratio of one adult to two children."



Wadestown Kindergarten head teacher Linda Muollo found photo albums of the kindergarten 60 years ago.

PHOTO: RHIANNON MCCONNELL

Muollo said they had discovered a few pupils even lived in the same houses as previous pupils.

"It's amazing they shared the

same house so many years later."

In between the pages of the roll book were scraps of paper revealing the cost of fees then – £4 per term (\$260 now). Children

were also required to bring a handkerchief and a sack apron.

The waharoa will be completed by the end of term 1 and an official opening will take place.

The kindergarten is asking anyone who attended Wadestown Kindergarten in the 1940s or 50s to get in touch. The phone number is 472 2227.