

R. S. REYNOLDS FREE KINDERGARTEN  
MACANDREW ROAD, DUNEDIN



# History Booklet

1913 - 1977



R. S. REYNOLDS KINDERGARTEN



Rachael Reynolds Kindergarten

1977 Committee

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President: Mrs P. TUTTY

Vice-President: Mrs L. LANGLEY

Secretary: Mrs L. CARTWRIGHT

Treasurer: Mrs M. MARSHALL

Committee:

Mesdames J. BLAIR, A. REID, F. DAVIS, M. SINCLAIR, W. BRETT,

F. BRYANT, D. POLLOCK, D. REYNOLDS, Mr L. EDMONDS,

Mr S. COLLINS

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# History of Kindergarten

In order to understand why and how the Kindergarten was built, we must go back to the nineteenth century.

In 1889 several philanthropic citizens formed a committee with Mrs R. S. Reynolds as President. The aim of this committee was to establish the Kindergarten movement. Their first problem was to secure the services of a competent teacher of the Kindergarten system. A Miss Wisnicks of Christchurch was interviewed and appointed. Two rooms had been placed at the disposal of the Association, one at St. Matthew's, Stafford Street, and the other at the Mission Hall in Walker Street (now Carroll Street). The Walker Street Hall was selected as the more suitable. Thus the first of the Association's Kindergartens (or schools as they were then called) was opened in June 1889.

Early in 1906 the Walker Street Kindergarten was closed, because of the absence of children in the vicinity. However, in June of the same year another Kindergarten was opened in St. Peter's Schoolroom, Cargill Road—now Hillside Road. This Kindergarten was later moved in 1911 to the Methodist Church Hall on the corner of Wesley Street and Cargill Road, and became known as the Cargill Road Kindergarten. The Kindergarten flourished, but, unfortunately there was no space outside for the children to run and play in the fresh air—also the hall was used for socials and it was often found unfit for the little children on the following mornings. Consequently Miss R. Darling, the director of the Kindergarten, conceived the idea of building a hall for the exclusive use of the Kindergarten.

The mothers of the children responded magnificently and a bazaar was held. The amount aimed at, and realized, was £300—a subsidy of £1 for £1 was promised by the government. This brought the total to £600 which would have been sufficient to put a building on leasehold ground—the original plan. However, it was decided to acquire a freehold section, and of course the original amount was not sufficient. The Hon. Mr Allen was then approached and through him the Education Department promised a further subsidy of £250. The Dunedin Savings Bank made a handsome donation of £300 and the subsidy of £250 was claimed. These amounts (£1,150) provided sufficient money for land and buildings, but further contributions would be required to complete the equipment.

A section, costing £230, was purchased on the corner of Dick St. and Macandrew Road. It was decided to name the building Rachael S. Reynolds Kindergarten—a fitting recognition of the many years of work done by Mrs Reynolds in the interests of the Association.

At the laying of the foundation stone on May 3, 1913, the chairman, Mr Sidney, Mrs Reynolds, Miss Kelsey (President of the Association), Mrs Bateman (President of the Mothers' Committee) and Mr Cohen all spoke. The building was opened free of debt. All that remained to be done was to raise £150 for furnishings and equipment etc. The teachers and mothers undertook to do this by opening the Kindergarten with a 3-day jumble sale and other entertainments.

Special credit must be given to Miss Darling. She was the leading spirit all through—encouraging and urging the mothers to greater efforts. Her untiring work and zeal were a wonderful example to everyone who came in contact with her. Photos of both Mrs Reynolds and Miss Darling have pride of place in the Kindergarten to this day.

R. S. Reynolds was the first building in Dunedin constructed exclusively for use as a Kindergarten. From Kindergarten records we have ascertained that Reynolds is the oldest Kindergarten building in N.Z. still in use. Two others were built before Reynolds—one in Auckland and one in Christchurch—but both have been replaced.



Mrs R. S. REYNOLDS  
First President Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association, 1889-1900



Miss RUBY DARLING  
Founder and First Director

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Unfortunately our records go back only as far as 1929.

- 1929—Building was painted and repaired. Garden Fete held at Sir Thomas K. Sibley's to raise funds.
- 1930—Electrical plug and heater installed in teacher's room.
- 1931—Bank balance at end of 1931, 15/11.
- 1932—Donations amount to £9/10/-.
- 1933—Kindergarten had a full roll and a long waiting list, mainly because of the government decree that the primary school age be raised from five to six years. This resulted in all children staying on at Kindergarten after they were five.
- 1934—A gramophone was donated to Kindergarten.
- 1935—Miss Hancock resigned as director, Miss Desmoulin took up the director's position.
- 1936—Because of the infantile paralysis epidemic no break-up ceremony was held, and the end of the year party for the children did not take place.
- 1937—Miss J. Stewart was appointed director. Kindergarten renovated. New curtains made.
- 1938—New stove installed. Paths top-dressed. Outside play equipment set up.
- 1939—Credit balance £12/13/8.
- 1940—Five efforts for fund raising resulted in £48/9/3. Rather disappointing.
- 1941—Fete held at Mrs Brinsley's residence, profit £45.
- 1942—Mothers' Club donated £3 towards the cost of new towels for the children.
- 1943—A shop in South Dunedin was stocked with old and new goods and a sum of £201/15/1 was raised.
- 1944—Mothers' Club provided the new sand pit.
- 1945—A room at the Otago Women's Club still being used for meetings.
- 1946—Fathers gave a great deal of assistance this year—and saved the committee many pounds.

- 1947—A baby photographic competition was held. This showed a profit of £12.
- 1948—Miss Jost appointed director. Two fireplaces modernized in an endeavour to get more heat into the room.
- 1949—Director Miss V. Walker. Roll, morning 55, afternoon 30, waiting list 100. Rubber flooring laid in toilet block.
- 1950—Director Miss K. Binney. Fathers worked hard and painted and papered the interior of the kindergarten. The Mothers' Club purchased 54 folding chairs and made new curtains for the Kindergarten.
- 1951—Spouting and down pipes renewed. Linoleum laid throughout the building.
- 1952—Miss V. McGavin director. Local committee change-over. President, Mrs Chase; secretary, Mrs W. O. Flockton; treasurer, Mrs Ogg; committee, Mesdames Brinsdon, Briggs, Brown, Douglas, Gubbins, Marshall, Smith, Vial and Young. Fathers made a new coal bin.
- 1953—Exterior of Kindergarten painted by fathers.
- 1954—Kitchen painted by fathers and staff.
- 1955—A new space heater installed at a cost of £43/10/-, Miss W. Brown director.
- 1956—Telephone installed. New equipment bought. Interior of building painted.
- 1957—Installation of four new porcelain hand basins, and a thermostatically controlled hot water system, in the toilet block.
- 1958—Miss S. Reddington director. Old gas rings removed and a gas range installed. The Mother's Club donated the range.
- 1959—Two gas heaters were purchased and installed. Miss W. Bates director.
- 1960—Old hedge removed and wooden fence erected.
- 1961—Director Miss J. James. Raffle to raise money netted approximately £100.
- 1962—Painted Kindergarten (exterior), cost £146. Fathers painted kitchen. Old sink removed and a new stainless steel one donated and installed. Miss B. Smith director.
- 1963—Several plans are being discussed for the improvement of the building and for the purchasing of new equipment.



- 1964— (Mother's Club) A talent night was held to mark the 75th Jubilee of the Kindergarten Association.
- 1965— (Mother's Club) In August a visitors night was held, over 100 people attended. In November a cabaret and dance was held in the Golden Palm Lounge.
- 1966— A hair-dryer and dinner-set were raffled and raised £83. Parents donation: £374.16s.16. Mother's Club donated a radio-gram. Milk in kindergarten's was introduced.
- 1967— Bride of the year contest and Mannequin parade raised \$188.08. Auction raised \$120.32. Parents donations \$750.70. Gas heater installed in block-room. The roof was repaired in May for the cost of \$144.70
- 1968— Dressed pig was raffled and raised \$163.27. Inside of Kindergarten was painted at the cost of \$683. Curtains were made, \$174.60. Block cupboards purchased, \$97.40.
- 1969— At the end of the 1st term, Miss Barbara Smith left the Kindergarten to take up a position at Richard Hudson Kindergarten.
- 1970— Raffle of Picnic hamper donated by Mrs Bryant raised \$220.65. Outside of Kindergarten was painted at the cost of \$430.
- 1971— A slide was purchased at the cost of \$64. Wig and hat parade raised \$80.20. Two radiant gas heater consoles were installed. Burst pipes.
- 1972— A Steptoe auction raised \$133.08. The bathroom was painted. Teachers writing desk was purchased.
- 1973— A social was cancelled also efforts to start regular house, both from lack of support. Kitchen was renovated, new sink bench and cupboards installed.
- 1974— Trailer loads of pine blocks were sold and raised over \$100. Wine and cheese was held in May with a profit of \$166. Two bench units were purchased. Roof and chimney were damaged by an earthquake. Bottle drive raised \$118.55
- 1975 Bank balance \$2,316.71. Increased to \$4,165.02 over year. In 76— July a storm damaged the tiles on the roof. Corroged iron fence erected at the cost of \$460.
- 1976— The building was found to be structurally unsound. Trike-a-thon held at Forbury School, raised \$205. A mini fair in November raised \$400.
- 1977— October 5th, the life of a very beautiful and historical building came to an end.

## DIRECTORS R. S. REYNOLDS KINDERGARTEN

Miss R. Darling	1906-27	Miss V. Walker	1940-50
Miss R. D'Auvergne	1930	Miss K. Binney	1951-52
Miss G. Saunders	1930-33	Miss V. McGavin	1952-55
Miss B. Saunders	1933-34	Miss W. Brown	1956-57
Mrs Hill	1934-35	Miss S. Reddington	1957-58
Miss H. Handcock	1935-36	Miss W. Belle	1958-60
Miss N. Desmouline	1936-37	Miss J. James	1960
Miss J. Stewart	1937-47	Miss B. Smith	1961-69
Miss J. Thompson	1943-44	Mrs McTear	1970-72
Miss L. Samuel	1944-46	Miss G. Robinson	1973-77
Miss M. Juel	1947-49		

## LOCAL COMMITTEE PRESIDENTS

Our records go back only as far as 1929. If anyone has information regarding Presidents or items of interest prior to 1929 we would be grateful to receive it. It would be helpful to future committees.

Mrs Andrews		Mrs W. E. Hall	1960-62
Mrs Brent (acting)	1929	Mrs C. Webb	1963-66
Mrs Burt	1929	Mrs Grey	1967
Mrs Watson	1934-35	Mrs O'Connor	1968
Mrs Stevenson	1936-37	Mrs D. Hunt	1969
Mrs J. A. Sim	1938-40	Mrs S. Perry	1970
Mrs Cowie	1941-42	Mrs N. Brocklebank	1971
Mrs Brinsley	1943-47	Mrs O'Connell	1972
Mrs Cowie	1948	Mrs P. Mann	1973
Mrs H. Lang	1949-51	Mrs Houston	1974
Mrs C. J. Lane	1952-54	Mrs M. Williams	1975
Mrs H. Ogg	1955-57	Mrs L. Cartwright	1976
Mrs C. Webb	1958-59	Mrs P. Turry	1977

\*From 1912 onwards the composition of the Local Committee was changed. Up till that year ladies who were interested in the Kindergarten movement served on the Committee. New committees comprised ladies whose children had attended the Kindergarten. They were mothers of past Kindergarten children.

In 1961 the name of Local Committee was changed to "Kindergarten Committee" and once again the composition was changed. "Kindergarten Committee" now means Mothers or Fathers of children who are attending or who have attended Kindergarten, and any interested persons.