

Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten Dunedin Kindergarten Association



Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten 1914, DKA, MS-1149/006, S13-540i, HC

A collection of publicity photos c.1920s – 1930s mainly from the Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena, University of Otago

The R.S. Reynolds Kindergarten was designed by the renowned Dunedin architect Henry Mandeno and named after Mrs Rachel Reynolds, the first president of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten. The building was opened in 1914 in the Association's 25th anniversary year after a flurry of fundraising and assisted by a government subsidy after Miss Ruby Darling, who became the first director, daringly propositioned the Prime Minister at a cocktail party. The new building was acclaimed as the most fully equipped and up to date kindergarten in the country and the pride of the working class neighbourhood of Dunedin South. The Director noted the delight of the children as they showed around visitors:

The most interesting time to see them is when they are industriously engaged in sweeping, dusting and other light domestic duties. That lessons of conduct and behaviour learned at kindergarten are practised by the children in their homes is shown by the anecdotes of the children which their mothers tell. ... We hope to make a garden which we have not yet been able to do. [Ruth Darling to Miss [Elizabeth] Stewart, 5th February 1963, MS-1149 R. Reynolds Kindergarten, Hocken Collections]

Patriotism came to the fore after the advent of war in 1914. Miss Darling reported that the R.S. Reynolds' kindergarten children sang the National Anthem daily and on leaving they saluted the flag. The exact date of the collection is imprecise, ranging from 1919 to 1930.



MS1149/006 S10-164x3, Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



A portrait of Mrs Reynolds hangs over the fireplace



Highland dancing c 1920s MS-1149/006, DKA, S13540c
Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



c. 1930s: MS1149/006, S11-528a, S13-540 x3, Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



MS1149/006, S13-540 x3,
Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



Circle Time with kindergarten trainee teacher Margaret Just, c1937-38, Margaret Just Papers, c/nE5299/37a, S13-558g, Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



The new jungle gym

Indoor play and outdoor play at Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten, 1939, DKA MS-1894/008, S12-625x2 Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



Peg Sturgeon - mum's sister - 1917 or 1918
 2nd lower row - 2nd from right
 Rachael Reynolds Kindergarten

D.O.B. 18-5-1912
 Nellie Gamble - nee Sturgeon - front
 about



Rachael Reynolds
 Kindergarten

Charlie Sturgeon - Mum's brother - left in front of back girl (light)

Personal collection of Joan Knox, daughter of Nellie Sturgeon

Photographs taken by Marion Scott, kindergarten teacher at Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten
c. 1920s, Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena



S13-298j.tif



S13-298d.tif



S13-298g.tif

Sources of information

- *R.S. Reynolds Free Kindergarten golden jubilee celebrations 1913-1963*
- Dempster, Dorothy (1986) *From patronage to parent participation: The development of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association*, unpublished Dip Ed thesis, University of Otago
- [Dempster, D. & P. Varcoe, P.] *Dunedin Kindergarten Association Centennial 1889-1989*
- May, Helen (2014) *People, places and play in the 'child gardens' of Dunedin, Dunedin Kindergartens - Mana Manaaki Puawai O Otepoti 125 years old*, Dunedin Kindergartens