

25/2/4

# KINDERGARTENS DEPEND ON LOCAL HELP

"Active association with the opening of seven new kindergartens in the Rotorua area in the past two-and-a-half years has made me very familiar with the heavy responsibility which must be shouldered by the kindergarten council and local committees to ensure that a new kindergarten makes a good start."

Mrs H. Downer, president of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union (Inc), told this to the union's conference yesterday in the Ritz Supper Room, Rotorua.

Mrs Downer said many of the domestic and staff problems should never arise and that if the association knows its functions as the employing body and the staff is familiar with terms of its employment, these problems should be reduced to a minimum.

Kindergarten regulations, in terms of weekly schedules, salary scales, leave-of-absence rules and by-laws should be clearly known and understood.

An early meeting at the beginning of the year will often remove many of the difficulties.

Material goals such as establishing a kindergarten in a permanent building are re-

different from those of any other time except that their need for security is greater in our rapidly-changing world with its ever-present tensions."

The time had come to revise the manner in which the executive is set-up, in line with the progress made in the union, and consideration should be given to a plan for a permanent office for the organisation.

"The kindergarten union is the body recognised by the Government as representing all kindergarten associations in discussions with the Minister of Education.

"The system must be kept simple in a movement when the constant concern is to ease the burden of administrative



MRS DOWNER

latively easy tasks that appeal to the parents.

The intangible support of understanding and encouragement is harder to sustain. Children move on to primary school and parents gradually lose interest in the kindergarten work.

### PROBLEM

The necessity for parents to appreciate their importance in the lives of pre-school children and to participate in the kindergarten programme is a problem of which the union is very conscious.

"If we cast our minds back to our own childhood," said Mrs Downer, "we remember the strong sense of security that came from our parents. Children of today are no

## 'N.Z. KINDERGARTENS ENVY OF WORLD'

There had been a tremendous growth in pre-school organisations in the past 20 years, Miss M. F. Gallagher, supervisor of pre-school services, Department of Education, told the Free Kindergarten Union conference in Rotorua yesterday.

After periods of great difficulties, kindergartens now have their own permanent buildings and standards of accommodation are good.

"They are the envy of overseas countries," said Miss Gallagher.

Inexperience through the lack of qualified teachers was the only reason for any lowering in the standard of education in a few pre-school organisations, she said.

The free programme used in guiding the children in kindergarten work does not, as many persons think, suggest any lack of discipline.

"The child chooses what he would like to do most. If he wishes to paint, he is free to paint and to paint what he wishes. But all the children learn to share, turns at the

work, and to use the correct materials."

Staffing difficulties were gradually being overcome in pre-school organisations, said Miss Gallagher. A few years ago 60 child kindergartens with only one or two teachers were common. The figures now show 40-child kindergartens have a minimum of two teachers while the few 60-child organisations are now staffed by a minimum of three teachers.

The ruling of 1961 that no new kindergartens could start unless fully staffed was now showing results. The kindergarten organisation was becoming consolidated and instead of established kindergartens suffering because of formation of new organisations, they were now on a solid footing and would be able to offer help and experience when permission was granted for the associations to develop new areas.

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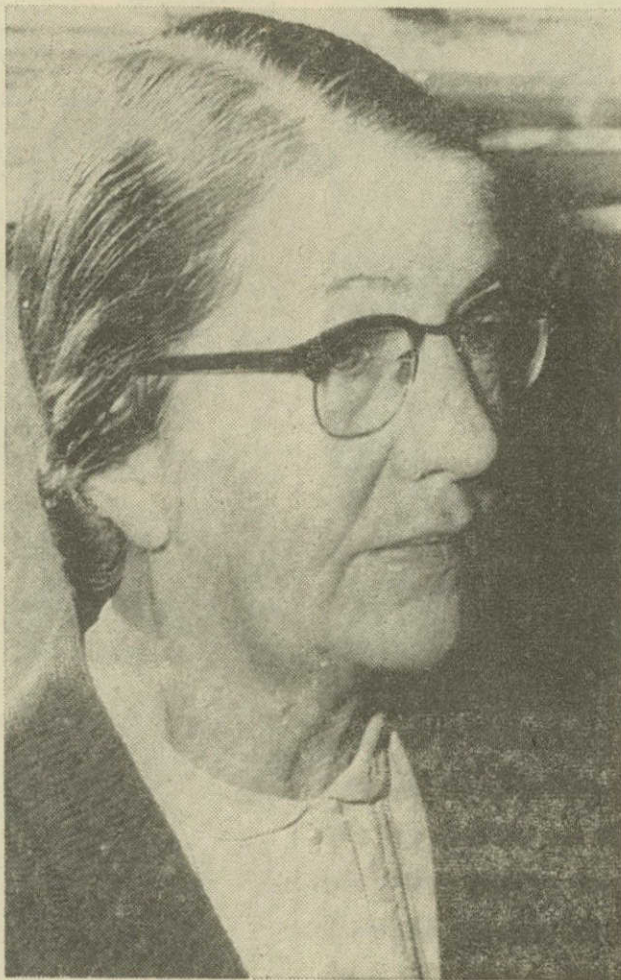


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ROTORUA P.O.

29 SEP 1962  
25/2/4

# KINDERGARTEN PLAYS BIG PART IN DEVELOPMENT



MRS DOWNER

"The early formative years are the most important in a child's life and attendance at a kindergarten will give an important social and educational experience to little children," said Mrs H. Downer, Rotorua, when opening the business session of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union conference in Wanganui this week.

"We have come a long way since the first free kindergarten was established 73 years ago.

"We have been able to build on sure foundations carefully laid by devoted workers whose chief concern was to provide for the social, emotional and physical welfare of little children.

"We have developed a pre-service which is the envy of many parts of the world.

Mrs Downer dealt with two remits dealing with the word "free," the reason why its use is retained, and whether or not the word could be substituted.

Mrs Downer said that during visits to associations she had been asked to explain the meaning of the word and to say why a specified sum could not be named by kindergarten teachers.

After explaining the structure of the movement, Mrs Downer said that it was based on that requirement and continued Government assistance depended on strict adherence to that rule.

"If you consult the Concise Oxford Dictionary you will see that a free school is one where no fees are charged and that is what we mean by a free kindergarten. No fees are charged," she said.

"Although no fee may be demanded it is reasonable to invite contributions toward the cost of the service.

"Proof of the readiness of parents to accept this invitation is clearly evident in annual accounts of every association.

## CONSOLIDATION

The director of pre-school services for the Education Department, Mrs M. Gallagher, said that 1962 had been a year of consolidation of the progress so steadily made.

Sixty per cent of the teachers had given more than three years' service, 20 per cent had given three years of broken service, and 81 per cent of all the teachers trained by the movement had given three years' service.

Miss Gallagher said that it was welcome news to all that bursaries were now being awarded.

Although 87 teachers had resigned last year the loss was equal to those ready for service, Miss Gallagher said.

Miss Gallagher said that as far as the quality of the kindergarten work was concerned New Zealand could hold its head high in the world.

She said that more than 15,500 had attended kindergarten in 1961.

## ROTORUA W.D. BIRTHDAY

Members and friends from all parts of the Bay of Plenty attended the eighth birthday celebrations of the Rotorua Central W.D.F.F.

Items were provided by Mesdames H. Smith, E. Humphries and M. Nuttall.

Mrs R. Carnahan, president, gave a full and interesting report of the conference held in Christchurch, which she attended as a delegate. The birthday cake, donated by the president, was the feature of the afternoon tea.



A HIGHLIGHT of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union conference in Wanganui this week was a cocktail party on Tuesday night. Rotorua and Taupo delegates who attended the party are shown in above photograph (from left): Mesdames B. Gulde (Rotorua), J. Elliott (Rotorua), H. Downer (Dominion president, Rotorua), J. McDonald (Taupo), S. Batchelar (Rotorua), M. Waldron (Taupo), N. Bell (Rotorua), and S. F. Turnbull (Rotorua).