

## SUPPER BREAK FOR CONFERENCE DELEGATES



Delegates to the New Zealand Kindergarten Association's conference photographed during the supper break at last night's session in the War Memorial Hall. They are, from left, Mrs H. Downer, Dominion president, Rotorua; Professor H. Field, chairman of the education committee of the Free Kindergarten Union, Christchurch; Miss M. F. Gallagher, Director of Pre-School Services, Wellington; and Mrs J. Elliott, Rotorua.

# Work Of Kindergartens Praised At Conference Opening In Memorial Hall

Delegates and observers from 64 New Zealand associations administering 217 kindergartens are in Wanganui for the annual conference of the New Zealand Kindergarten Association, which was opened officially last night in the Concert Chamber of the War Memorial Hall by the Mayor, Mr E. A. Millward.

The conference will begin its two-day business session this morning at 9.30 with the roll call.

Yesterday afternoon delegates visited city kindergartens, and on Friday morning similar visits will be made.

Before last night's opening, delegates were the guests of the Wanganui Kindergarten Association at a cocktail hour in the Pioneer Room at the War Memorial Hall.

The president of the union is Mrs H. Downer, Rotorua, who has held office since 1957.

On the dais last night were Mrs Downer, the Mayor and Mrs Millward, the president of the Wanganui Kindergarten Association, Mrs A. J. McFarland, Mr G. A. Spooner, M.P., and Mrs Spooner, and Miss M. F. Gallagher, Director of Pre-School Services.

### OFFICIAL WELCOME

Welcoming the guests and delegates, Mrs Downer said it was ten years since a union conference had been held in Wanganui, and that was an historic occasion, because it

marked the introduction of a constitution for the union.

"I don't think that any association could offer us a more gracious place than this hall in which to hold our conference," she said.

The zeal and enthusiasm which marked the construction of the hall was apparent everywhere in Wanganui, and had been manifest in the affairs of the Wanganui Association.

Mrs McFarland said the kindergarten buildings in Wanganui today were valued at £23,000, of which £9000 had been raised by the voluntary efforts of the association.

In these kindergartens was equipment valued at more than £2500.

Mr G. A. Spooner said he had had very little experience with kindergarten associations, but the little he had had showed him the keenness and enthusiasm of the people of Wanganui.

Declaring the conference open, Mr Millward said Wanganui was proud of the activities of its kindergarten association.

as a parent. No two children in any family were the same, and yet parents often tried to push their children along the same path.

He said the toddler (1½ to 3) and the pre-school child (3 to 5) needed an opportunity to mix and play together under the supervision of an adult, the amount of supervision decreasing as the child became older.

### BENEFIT TO ALL

The kindergarten played an important part in environment. A good director and staff could materially help a child to grow up.

Not all children needed a kindergarten to grow up, but all children benefited from kindergarten training.

The kindergarten gave the child an opportunity of becoming independent of its parents, and provided the opportunity of playing in ways which would not be tolerated in many homes.

Unfortunately many children had parents who were perfectionists, and a child