



DUNEDIN KINDERGARTENS
MANA MANAAKI PUAWAI O OTEPOTI
125 YEARS OLD

‘Snapshots’ of Dunedin
Kindergartens at 125 years

By Helen May

Dunedin Kindergartens’
AGM, March 25th, 2014.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PLAY IN THE ‘CHILD GARDENS’ OF DUNEDIN

HELEN MAY

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PLAY
IN THE ‘CHILD GARDENS’
OF DUNEDIN



HELEN MAY

Photographic collections

- Early etchings in news papers: 1850s-70s
- Workbook collections from teachers: 1890s, 1930s
- Newspaper photos and articles: 1890s ->
- Professional staged photos: 1920s- 1950s
- Colour slide collection: 1970s
- Scrapbooks: 1940s-1980s
- Annual reports
- Jubilee records: 25th – 120th
- Personal albums of kindergarten teachers
- Individual kindergarten snapshot albums –events 1960s ->
- The digital age: 2000s
- Cameras in the hands of children: late 2000s





Lavinia Kelsey, 1931
Oil Painting by Robert Field

Hocken Collections - Uare Taoka o Hākena,
University of Otago, Acc 19,833, S13-117

“There were paintings by R. N. Field in this exhibition where the paint... conveyed directly, without the intervention of ‘subject’, the excitement of painting. In one, a portrait of Miss Kelsey. Where the tints of flesh were played against green in the shadows...by colour and the way the paint was applied, were made to participate in the atmosphere of the conversation.. “Eureka! I have found it. I am going to Dunedin next year.”

Toss Woollaston

Sage Tea, (1980) p. 221



South Seas International
Exhibition , Dunedin 1925-6

‘Madonna of the Factories’
Lithograph by Gerald Spenser Pryse,
1925

Presented to the Students
of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten
Association as an Inspiration
to Reverence by
Miss Hedges
Lady Ross
Mr. Irving
Mr. Evans.
Mr. Sidney
Mr. H. Fels
Mr. J. R. Glendinning.
Mr. J. J. Clark.
Mr. Joseph Mr. George.
Mr. J. C. Ross
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Solomon.

Let knowledge grow from more to more
But more of reverence in us dwell
Tennyson

The DFKA purchased
the work and
presented it to
kindergarten
students ‘As an
inspiration to
reverence,’ quoting
an excerpt from
Alfred Tennyson’s *In
Memoriam H* poem.

1975: Accompanied student to
Dunedin Teacher’s College

2007: Hung outside Dean’s office,
University of Otago College of
Education

Metaphor of the child gardener



Metaphor of the child builder



1920s



1902

FREE-BUILDING IN THE YOUNGEST CLASS.



1930s

A GAME WITH BLOCKS IN ONE OF THE WELL-LIGHTED ROOMS AT THE RICHARD HUDSON MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN



1950s-2000s



Movement, games, songs: a changing culture

1845



Children at Kindergarten in Dunedin in 1902.
"Flag Drill to Music."

1902



1930s



2010s

R. S. Reynolds Kindergarten 1920s-30s





MEMBERS OF THE BAND AT THE THE KELSEY-YARALLA KINDERGARTEN





Games

Music and guitars, 1970s





Movement, games, songs, rhyme: 2010s

Teachers and students



Politics of protest, 2010





1920s



1935

Outdoors



1939



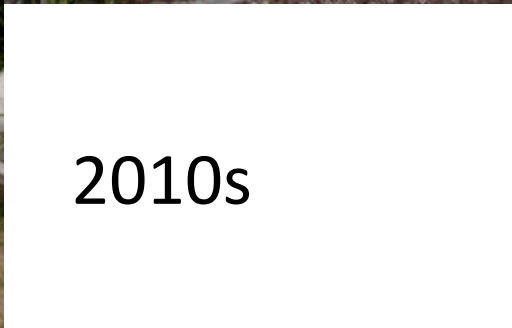
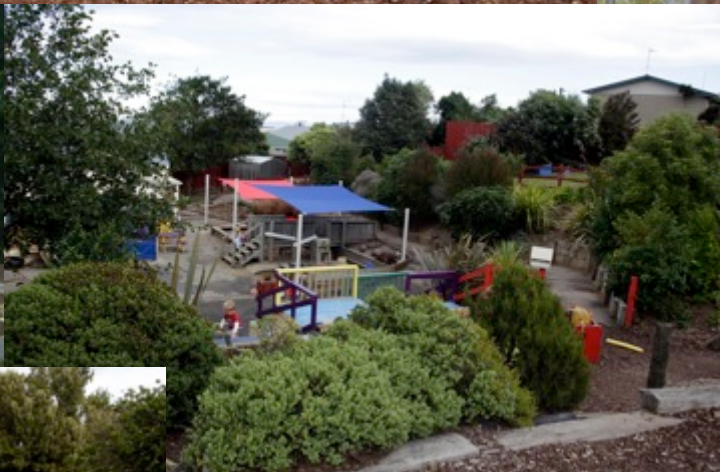
Outdoors
1950s



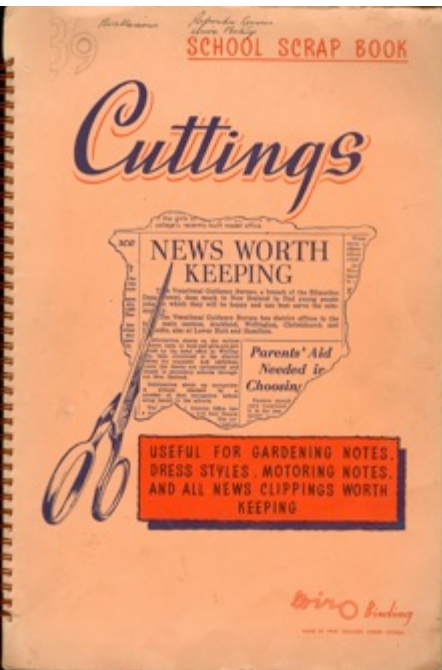


Changing times 1970s





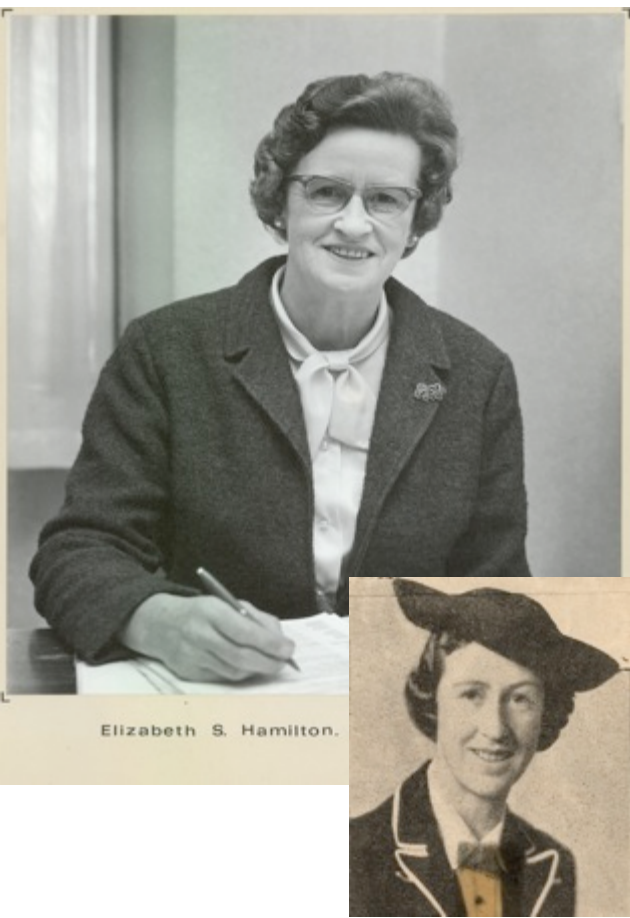
4 of 18 scrapbooks 1940s-1980s



E. S. Hamilton scrapbooks (9) DKA ARC-0512, HC; M. Just scrapbooks (2) DKA 88-153/2 HC; P. Varcoe Scrapbooks (7) Private collection

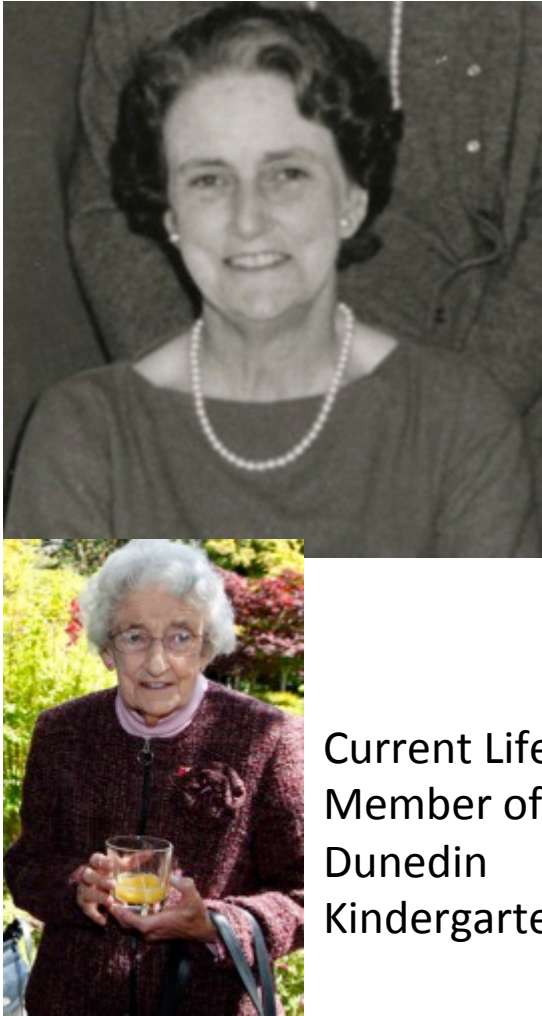
Miss Elizabeth Stewart Hamilton

Trained: 1930- 31
Director Pre-School Educational
Centre 1941-1945
Principal DFKA 1946-1967
(retired)



Miss Phyllis Varcoe

Trained: Primary 1939-40;
Kindergarten 1944
Principal DFKA 1968-74
Senior lecturer Dunedin TC
1975-86 (retired)



Current Life
Member of
Dunedin
Kindergartens

Miss Margaret Just

Trained: 1937-38
Director Pre School
Educational Centre (Helen
Deem) 1951-1978 (retired)



Sept 10th
1961.



Mornington kindergarten

Kindergarten is Opened in English Avenue

Many months of fund-raising efforts, and four years of hard work by local residents culminated in the opening of the Mornington Kindergarten in English Avenue yesterday afternoon. The Mayoress, Mrs. Sidey, officially opened the new kindergarten, the fourteenth in Dunedin, before an audience of parents, children, and kindergarten authorities.

Tributes were paid to the work of Mrs. F. T. H. McLean, president of the Mornington Kindergarten committee, whose efforts had enabled the kindergarten to open debt-free. The president of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association, Miss Vera Hayward, added her congratulations on "a grand effort."

On behalf of the building committee, Mrs. McLean thanked the City Council who had donated the section, so conveniently situated, the Kindergarten Association for their assistance, and the Mornington community who had supported all their "queer activities" to raise funds. She also thanked the voluntary workers who had done the fencing and concrete

work, and Mr. George Anderson, the only builder on the committee, who had seen to it that the voluntary workers kept up to the necessary standards. "The one reward we ask is that a great number of pre-school children will get a great deal of pleasure and profit for a great number of years," she concluded.

Other speakers were Mr. W. A. Hodson M.P., Mrs. N. K. Thompson, president of the Mothers Club, and Mr. L. W. S. Lowther, the architect for the building. Prizes were presented to the speakers by pupils of the kindergarten. After the speeches outside, the visitors inspected the kindergarten and afternoon tea was served.

THE PRESIDENT
of

THE DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

requests the pleasure of the company of

Miss B. J. Hamilton

at the official opening of the new

MORNINGTON KINDERGARTEN

95 English Avenue

by

THE MAYORESS, MRS. T. K. S. SIDEY,

on

MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER, 1961,

at 2.30 p.m.

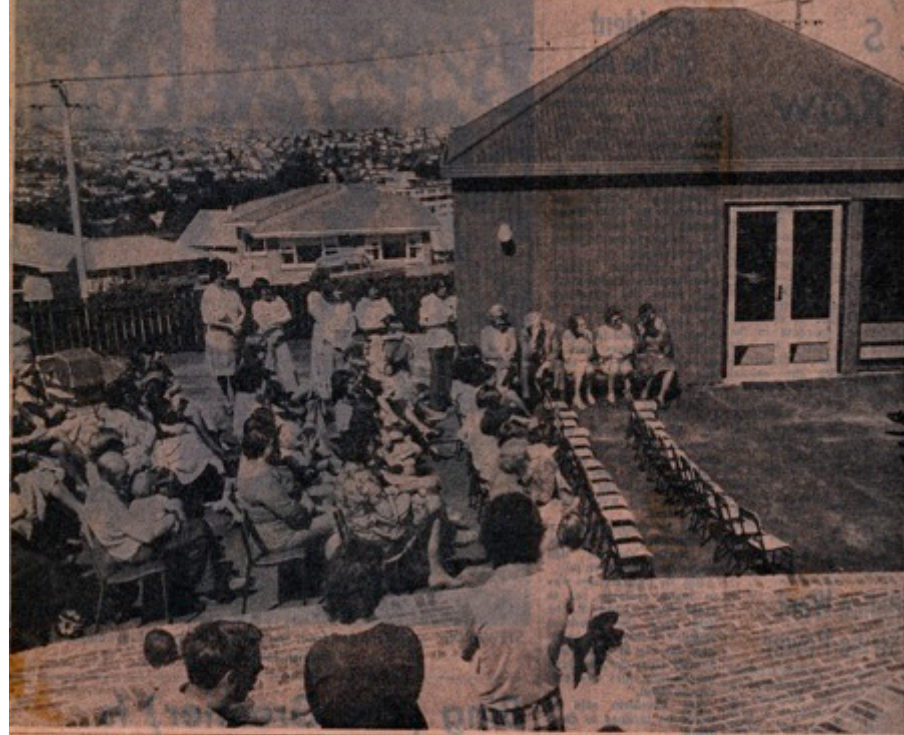
R.S.V.P. to:-

The Secretary,
P.O. Box 497,
DUNEDIN

OR Phone 78-230

by

Tuesday, 5 September.



The President and Executive of
DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSN.
invite

Miss P. Varcoe
to the

OPENING OF THE HALFWAY BUSH
KINDERGARTEN

in Salmond Street on 5th March, 1977 at
2 p.m. The official ceremony will be conducted by Mrs. K. D. Lockhart (President)
New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

R.S.V.P. by 28th February to
Miss M. Ayers, Secretary, P.O. Box 797 Dunedin

MR R. F. WALLS, M.P., addresses the crowd gathered for the official opening of the Halfway Bush Kindergarten on Saturday. Although it is the city's seventeenth kindergarten, it is the first new one in the city for 11 years and cost about \$50,000. Situated in Salmond Street, it already has 20 children enrolled. The president of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, Mrs. K. D. Lockhart, praised the organising committee for their foresight and determination.

Times
June 26th.

A School Of Twist

"Come on, baby, let's do the twist," says the song, and 4-year-olds at the Mornington Kindergarten have taken the message to heart.



Little Glenda Jarvis (front left) did the twist with the former Miss New Zealand, Leone Main, when she was teaching the dance in Dunedin earlier this year.

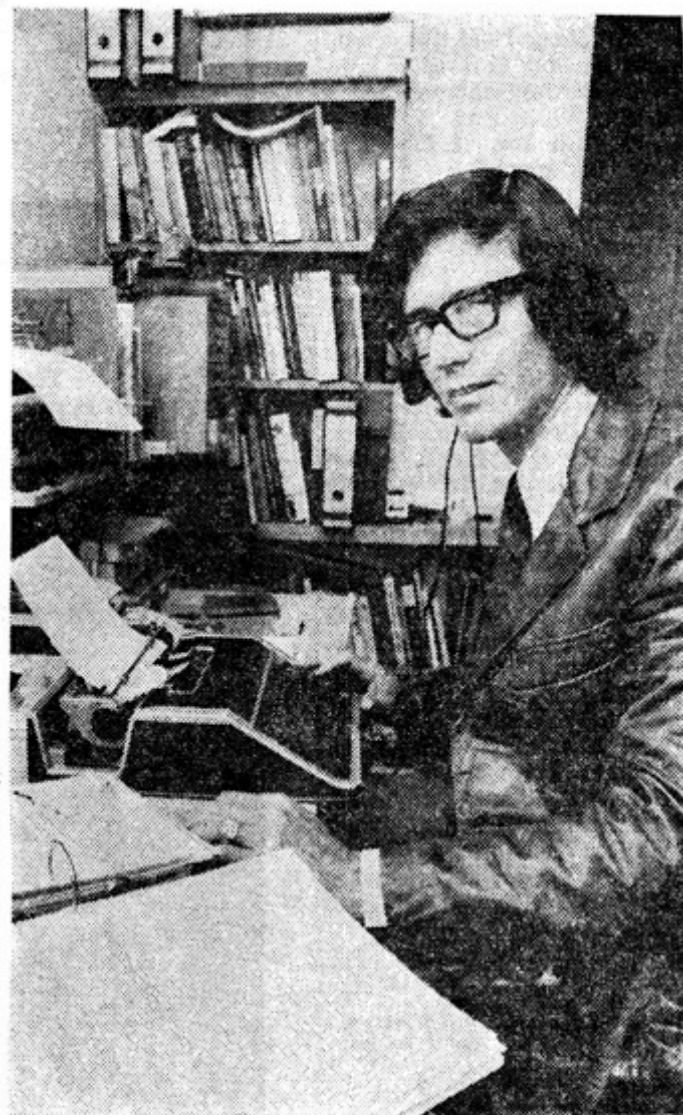
Janine Rose (front centre) is a Yorkshire lass who is returning to England in August. She picked up the dance by watching a twist film and also doubles with a toy guitar to mimic actress Hayley Mills singing "Let's Get Together."

Without encouragement from the staff ("we didn't know how to do the dance," said kindergarten director, Miss R. Philipps) the girls began impromptu demonstrations to other children, who soon picked up the movements.

Soon the children were asking for twist music on the piano, and the dance became a regular activity.

When a Daily Times reporter called, the novice class had just ended some stormy gyrations and gave the floor to the veterans and their best followers mainly girls.

The group was soon twisting at speed, performing many of the more professional variations of the dance, sinking to the floor and rising up again, still twisting — faces showing intense concentration and delight, oblivious of a photographer near at hand.



MR DAVID CARMICHAEL, who yesterday graduated as New Zealand's first male kindergarten teacher. Mr Carmichael was presented with his diploma at a ceremony for Dunedin Teachers College graduates in the Town Hall. Mr Carmichael was for three years a lecturer at the Kindergarten Teachers College when it was an independent institution.

ODT, June 26, 1962

Changing Times

NZ's first male kindergarten teacher, 1975



Cameras in the hands of children, 2010s