

Kindergarnerings

NEW ZEALAND
FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION INC.

NO. 3.

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MORRINSVILLE KINDERGARTEN 30 YEARS LATER

In May, 1949, a meeting was held to form a committee for the establishment of a free kindergarten to replace the private one previously run in the Parish hall but forced to close because of the lack of trained staff. When a suitable site was finally found in 1955, the first fund-raising venture was a house-to-house appeal that raised £43-12-6. A tender for £4581-0-0 was accepted, with the local committee having to contribute £2000-0-0.

The kindergarten opened for children on 9 July, 1956, staffed by Miss N Grace and Miss B Farrow. Among the first-day pupils was Barbara Franklin, now Mrs Lingard, and currently Head Teacher at the kindergarten. Dame Hilda Ross officially opened the building on 8 December 1956.

By 1965 a second kindergarten was needed, but no site could be found. A temporary solution was found with extended rolls and extra staffing. But 1986 was an important year for kindergarten in Morrinsville. An establishment committee for a second kindergarten was set up, and celebrations were held to mark the 30th anniversary of the present kindergarten. And a great barbecue it was too! Among the many present were Mrs Heathcote, Mrs Funston, and Mrs Lingard, all former pupils who are now teachers there. Now that's fairly interesting!!

A MEETING:- where minutes are kept, and hours are lost!

FROM WARD FIVE

Although there is no longer an NZFKU requirement for meetings to be held, the Associations in this Ward - Dannevirke, Central Hawkes Bay, Heretaunga, Napier, Wairoa, and Gisborne - have decided to continue to meet at least once a year, with further meetings able to be called at short notice. As things stand at present, the meeting will be held on the first Sunday in July. (Saturdays seem to coincide with too many sporting and social commitments.)

Each Association will take turns for one year to arrange the meetings - usually held in a Napier or Heretaunga kindergarten, as these are the most central in an area that stretches over 340 kilometres. That Association will then chair, record, and circulate the notes from the meeting. The local kindergarten committee provides a light lunch at a cost of \$2-50 per person, while the executives of the relevant Association provide morning tea. For many years the Ward has operated a pooling scheme for travel. Associations contribute to provide some assistance to offset costs, especially for the four smaller Associations which have to travel the greatest distances.

While the meeting agenda has retained a set pattern with a certain amount of formality, every effort is made to encourage participation from all present, especially the smaller Associations in which there tends to be a greater turn-over of personnel. The aim of these meetings is to share concerns, to act as a sounding-board for local or national issues, to provide clarification on grey areas in Departmental or Union material, and to establish a forum for general discussion.

Guest speakers are sometimes included. The last was the Head Teacher of a local Rudolph Steiner Kindergarten, who told us of the philosophy behind the programmes used in the kindergarten, and something of the programmes themselves.

MARY COLLIER

The handwriting on the wall usually means there's at least
***one small child in the family!

AND ONE SUNDAY IN PALMERSTON NORTH -

Having an Association of our size - 22 kindergartens - does have benefits. We are small enough to feel part of a large family, and we are large enough to group together and use our size in a major fund-raising or public relations exercise.

August 2nd, 1986, saw our Association pull together in such a way. From an idea based on attendances at other organisations' galas, we suggested to all our committees that we run a Monster Gala in a specified pavilion in central Palmerston North. The idea was received with much enthusiasm. Market days in our famous Square had been supported in the past, but double-ups in stall ideas and the weather usually throw spanners in the works.

19 of our 22 kindergartens booked in a stall. 2 kindergartens in Waiouru felt that the distance they would have to travel would make it financially not viable, and one other kindergarten was otherwise committed. Board members scanned stall applications and offered alternatives where there were double-ups, evident only where hot or specialised lines were involved. The Board was to sell balloons. Our Senior Head Teacher offered her services to set up a creche, aptly names Akers Kindergarten, for the day. She and her helpers, and the equipment they provided, were besieged to say the least.

Came the day, and the public were in the pavilion before we were ready. Advertising had been done in the kindergartens, and through the press and radio. If we had tried harder we wouldn't have done any better. Hoards of people played darts, bowls, money golf, rode mini-electric cars, bounced on trampolines, had faces painted, rummaged in mystery tunnels, took zillions of raffles, bought cakes, sweets, veges, produce, sewing, second-hand clothes, bric-a-brac, hot dogs, hot peanuts, candyfloss, threw coins, and generally enjoyed themselves so much that we've decided to produce the show annually.

Half the success must be attributed to the fine way the committees and staff decorated their stalls. We looked good. The average amount made by each Kindergarten was approximately \$200, and this total sum is not to be sneezed at for 3 hours work on a wet

Sunday in Palmerston North. Another big plus was the happy and convivial atmosphere created by all our hard-working committees who enjoyed meeting and working together in what was a first for us in the Ruahine Kindergarten Association.

AND ANOTHER COMBINED EFFORT - BUT ON A
DIFFERENT TRACK

12 of the 13 kindergartens and establishment committees in the Tauranga Regional Association combined to support a train trip through the Kaimai tunnel to Matamata, which was organised by a sub-committee of Executive and committee personnel. The trips were held on consecutive days in a weekend late in March, the first in wet (extraordinarily) and windy (fairly) conditions, the second in ideal weather. Both were most enjoyable for all those who went, and produced a profit per kindergarten of over \$500, plus a donation to the one kindergarten unable to participate. A hectic few days - why do people never buy tickets early?- but well worth the effort made.

***And a warning to all Treasurers. (in spite of both the above!)

When your outgo exceeds your income, the upshot may be your downfall.

FROM THE EDITOR

There is a problem with newsletters. It is necessary to have the news to make such creations readable and useful. This may well be the last of this species. While to some it may be a relief, it does seem to me from the material which has been sent in - for which many thanks - that there is a vast field of knowledge, experience-both good and bad, and information that could usefully be passed on to others to save agony, frustration, money, and time. Perhaps a bi-annual newsletter is not the best way in which to pass on information, issue invitations, record the useful, and warn of the unsuccessful. The Executive would, I am sure, be grateful for any suggestions as to what would be.

LYN BLOW

LIBRARY NOTICE :- NO CHILDREN ALOUD.