

KINDERGARTENS IN NEW ZEALAND

1889-1975





HE WHO HELPS A CHILD HELPS HUMANITY

Bringing the history of the kindergarten movement in New Zealand up to date has been a rewarding experience. In this second edition of the history the same theme is followed — the tireless devotion to a worthwhile cause by many thousands of men and women.

The Union acknowledges with deep gratitude the financial assistance of the Government and the J. R. McKenzie Trust who have helped to make this publication possible.

The Union also records its thanks to Mrs B. J. Brayshaw and Mrs R. A. Elliott for their assistance with the proof reading of this book.

PATRICIA M. LOCKHART,
Dunedin, March, 1975.

N.Z.F.K.U. EXECUTIVE 74 - 75

PRESIDENT:—Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P.

VICE-PRESIDENT:—Mrs K. D. Lockhart.

EXECUTIVE:—Mrs E. Martin, Mrs J. H. M. Miller, Mr S. P. Bussell, Mrs J. Davy, Mr K. J. Hayr, Mrs G. Logan, Mrs T. J. Muir, Mr T. Parker.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:—Mrs B. L. Lindegren, A.C.A.

FOREWORD

When I was first asked to write a foreword to this booklet I felt a good deal of hesitation: I have not been a teacher nor a member of a pre-school organisation, and am not directly involved in most of the frequent meetings that take place between the Department and the Union. Nevertheless, as Director General of Education I am very well aware of the upsurge of interest in pre-school education even among those whose immediate work lies in other areas of education, and of the dramatic increase in the growth of pre-school services of all kinds.

For 85 years the kindergarten movement has been built up by ordinary men and women who have made no claim to special educational expertise but who have wanted to provide the best possible educational start for their children. They have worked long and hard, often in the face of considerable difficulties over money, sites, buildings, or the staff shortages of the past. The healthy partnership that now exists between the kindergarten movement and the Department and the increased State support given over the years reflects the value which the Governments of the time have placed on the voluntary work of the parents of kindergarten children. The present demand for kindergarten services is also, I think, a tribute to those association and committee members who refused to sacrifice quality for quantity and were undaunted by difficulty. They worked for the attractive buildings and grounds, the well-trained professional staff and the lively and educationally sound programmes that we know today.

It is quite obvious to me that several of my successors are going to have the pleasant task of writing forewords to the next kindergarten histories, for the story is not nearly finished. My part is to pay tribute to those whose story is told here, to say how much I appreciate the voluntary work being done for kindergartens now and to encourage those who will follow you to make the next 85 years of kindergarten as exciting and valuable as the last.

A. N. V. DOBBS, M.Com., A.Prof.,
Director General of Education.

THE PRESIDENT . . .

On a number of occasions I have been asked to contribute a page to a publication — it is both a privilege and a responsibility for one's words are recorded for as long as archives exist.

“Kindergartens in New Zealand” records a story of eighty-five years of devotion to early childhood education, by people who know that education is basic to a useful, happy life. Our conviction is that it should be available to all who need it and our goal is to see enough kindergartens to make this a reality.

It is ten years since the first publication on the history of Kindergartens was written. During this ten-year period we have seen our greatest growth, with marked flexibility to cater for varying local needs. This is good, for people differ and children differ for many reasons, and we must, and do, recognise this. The future is hard to predict, but if we retain this ability to recognise that change where it means progress is the keynote of success, then we have nothing to fear.

I never tire of reading the success stories of the Associations which go to make up our Union and am proud to be part of those stories where I am recorded as having officially opened a new kindergarten.

Our publications are few — I am sure this one will be read with interest and will be a useful addition to our literature.

LAURA M. C. INGRAM, M.B.E., J.P.

KINDERGARTENS IN N.Z. 1889 - 1974

The Kindergarten story in the words of a former Director of Education, Dr C. E. Beeby, is a "success story, a gallant story of the devoted work of many people for something which they thought worthwhile". The stories in this book are written by individuals throughout New Zealand, but they all have the same underlying theme, courage, perserverance, ingenuity and unselfishness, born of a desire to serve the needs of little children.

The Rev. Dr Rutherford Wardell came from his native Ireland to Dunedin where he spent forty years as Minister of St Andrews Church. Loved and revered by all who knew him, he was renowned for his modesty, good humour and as a champion of worthy causes. His concern for the number of little ragged, unkempt, barefooted children he encountered daily in Walker Street prompted him to seek help from the editor of the Evening Star, Mr Mark Cohen, who was enthusiastic about the suggestion of establishing a kindergarten to help these children. On March 5, 1889, the Otago Daily Times published a full report of a public meeting held "with the object of forming a public kindergarten in the city". The paper states, "the spacious Town Hall was filled, many ladies being in attendance". The main address was delivered by Bishop Suter, Bishop of Nelson. It was obvious from the report that the Bishop had given much thought to his address. He stressed the fact that each child was an individual and that no two were alike and should never be dealt with as a collection. In his opinion the right choice of teacher was vitally important if children were to benefit from the kindergarten environment. It is interesting to note that the first teacher Miss Wienicke accepted the position on the condition that "she be allowed to teach Christ to the children, as she was a Christian".

Following the Bishop's report a committee was elected with Mrs Rachael Reynolds as the first President. The newspaper stated that the duty of the committee would be to inquire into the question of ways and means to discover the best method of establishing the kindergarten system. How they and their many thousands of successors went about this task is the subject of this book.

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION

(INCORPORATED)

PRESIDENTS

- 1926-1934—Lady Sidey, O.B.E., Dunedin
1934-1941—Mrs A. Kidd, Auckland
1941-1949—Mrs J. Doctor, M.B.E., Wellington
1949-1951—Mrs A. K. Hadfield, M.B.E., Christchurch
1951-1955—Mrs A. F. Johnson, M.B.E., Christchurch
1955-1957—Mrs H. McCreanor, M.B.E., Christchurch
1957-1966—Mrs H. Downer, M.B.E., Rotorua
1966- —Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P., Motueka
-

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

- Mrs Beverley Brayshaw
Mrs Helen Downer, M.B.E.
Miss Vera Hayward, M.B.E.
Miss Laura Ingram, M.B.E., J.P.
Mrs Minnie Johnson, M.B.E.
Mrs Kassie McCreanor, M.B.E.
Mrs Lindsay Rea
Mrs Maureen Ryan
Mrs Nellie Stevenson

THE NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION

In order to effect some form of union a conference was held in Dunedin in 1912 and attended by delegates from the four city associations. In the following year a New Zealand Union was formed, but as war broke out in 1914, no further meeting was held until 1920, when a conference was held in Wellington; but it was not until 1926 that the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, as associations know, became properly constituted.

Delegates from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill agreed then that membership would be open to all associations in receipt of a Government capitation grant, that conferences would be held biennially, and that refresher courses for Principals of Colleges would be held in the intervening years, in one of the training centres. A standing committee of a representative of each affiliated association was set up to meet each year. Lady Sidey, of Dunedin, was elected President, with Miss Alexander, also of Dunedin, as secretary.

As the movement developed and expanded certain changes in the Union's constitution became necessary, but the Union has continued to co-ordinate the work of its members and to uphold high standards of teacher training and kindergarten practice. Until the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association was established and recognised as a service organisation in 1958, the Union pressed tirelessly for an improved salary scale. At the same time it offered encouragement to teachers to increase their academic qualifications, first by the setting up of an overseas scholarship, named in honour of Miss I. M. Jamieson, M.B.E., in appreciation of her service to the movement, and later, by the award of post-graduate bursaries for study in New Zealand.

In 1959, when Kindergarten Regulations were gazetted, the Union was honoured with recognition by the Minister of Education as representing all associations in discussion of all matter of kindergarten policy. This policy is formulated by the 67 member associations, which meet annually, and in consultation with the Department of Education.

There are 384 kindergartens functioning in New Zealand from Kaitia to Bluff. Growth and enthusiasm continue and in very many associations there are committees awaiting permission to build.

From the time when recognition of the movement was granted in 1909, advice, encouragement and practical assistance have been given by officers of the Department of Education. The one to whom the Union owes most is Miss Moira Gallagher, who was appointed Supervisor of Pre-School Services in 1946 and held this position until her retirement in 1965. To every association she was philosopher and friend, advocate and adviser. No record of the progress and development of free kindergarten in New Zealand would be complete without reference to her untiring devotion, which the Union is proud to acknowledge with very sincere appreciation. Her successor is Miss I. J. Christison, who continues to show to associations the same qualities of friendship and co-operation for which her predecessor was admired.

A first step towards international relations was taken in 1955 when, at the invitation of the Australian Pre-School Association, Mrs A. F. Johnson, President of the Union, attended the triennial conference in Melbourne. Since then associations have generously

contributed to a travel fund to meet expenses on those occasions, when it is possible for the Union to be represented overseas. Mrs H. Downer had the privilege of attending the Australian Conference in Hobart in 1961, and again in 1964, in Brisbane. The Union was represented at the Australian Conference in Canberra in 1967 by Mrs J. S. Rae, Vice-President, and by the Principals of Wellington and Auckland Teachers' Colleges.

In 1969 the President, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, and the Secretary, Mrs R. A. Elliott, represented the Union at the A.P.A. Conference held in Adelaide.

In 1959 the Union became a constituent member of the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (O.M.E.P.). It was indeed fortunate, when the ninth assembly was held in London in 1962, that Mrs A. F. Johnson was able to accept the invitation of the Minister of Education to represent New Zealand at that gathering and that the Union, too, was represented by Miss Mary Patrick, Supervising Head Teacher of the Auckland Kindergarten Association.

The tenth assembly which was held in Stockholm in August, 1964, was attended by Miss Phyllis Varcoe, I. M. Jamieson Scholar, on her return journey to New Zealand after completing her studies at Birmingham University and serving as Senior Lecturer at Gloucester Teachers' College.

The Union was again fortunate in 1971, when Mrs H. Downer was able to attend an assembly of O.M.E.P. in Bonn as an observer.

The introduction in 1970 of the Ward system of representation on the Union Executive has proved a valuable innovation. It has meant that each Ward is represented at all times by either the Ward member or an official proxy and that associations are able to get on-the-spot help and advice.

The Union presented submissions to the Committee of Inquiry into pre-school education in 1970. No time has been wasted by the Government in implementing some of the proposals, contained in the published report.

The Minister of Education, Mr P. A. Amos, honoured the Labour Party election promise of greater assistance to pre-school education when at the Annual Meeting in Timaru, 1973, he made the following announcement: (1) that the subsidies for new buildings approved after September 1, 1973, were increased to \$4-\$1. (2) the provision of all sites was to be the responsibility of the Government. (3) the Education Boards would be asked to undertake the planning and supervision of construction of kindergarten buildings of approved design and (4) Boards would be asked to undertake the maintenance of kindergarten buildings after April 1, 1974.

During 1973 the National Advisory Council for Pre-School Education, under the Chairmanship of the deputy Director-General of Education, was set up in Wellington. District Pre-School Committees under the Chairmanship of the District Senior Inspector were established in all Education Board areas. The Union is represented on all of these Committees.

The Kindergarten movement, now 85 years of age, finds itself in 1975 going through an exciting period of rapid change and expansion.

ALEXANDRA

The first director, Miss W. McLean, started duties at the Presbyterian Sunday School Hall on February 18, 1952. With Miss McLean was her assistant Miss L. McTaggart. They moved to the new kindergarten building, which was officially opened by Mr George, M.P., November 9, 1956. The Mothers' Club commenced on March 25, 1952, with regular monthly meetings following.

Throughout the years new equipment has been bought and worn out equipment replaced. A one-way vision window has been added so parents can watch their children at play. A street stall is held each year to raise money and frequent raffles are held.

In September, 1957, the first Kindergarten Float was entered in the Alexandra Blossom Festival Procession. It consisted of huge sunflowers and Kay Rewcastle was our first Princess. The following year floats were entered under the captions, Free Play, Cinderella, Storytime in Kindergarten, Wizard of Oz, Frog Prince and Ride-a-Cock-Horse.

In November, 1961, the Mothers' Club entertained the Alexandra Elderly Citizens' with items and the kindergarten children sang songs. The Mothers' Club holds Mannequin Parades each year with the assistance of a local drapery store. Recently a "Step-toe and Son" Auction realised over \$300.

Miss McLean retired in 1970 after 18 years with the Association and Miss L. McTaggart was appointed Head Teacher.

Life membership has been conferred on the following: Miss McLean, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Lopdell, Mrs Blyth, Messrs Earwaker and Weaver.

ASHBURTON

Over 30 years ago, in the latter part of 1944, the idea of establishing the Ashburton Free Kindergarten Association was conceived. A public meeting was convened by the late Miss Edna Parsons, a gentle and gracious little lady, who was a teacher in charge of the Fairton School and who, at the time, was also President of Mid-Canterbury Teachers' Institute. This meeting, held in the Foresters' Hall, was presided over by the then Mayor of Ashburton, the late Mr E. G. Bathurst. Miss Parsons invited several friends, including, notably, Miss Elizabeth Hamilton of the Pre-School Educational Centre in Dunedin, who gave those present a good idea of the value of the kindergarten movement.

A small committee was set up to explore the situation. The Chairwoman was Mrs Mountfort, the Secretary, Mrs Forrest, and the Treasurer, Mrs Nash (all now living out of Ashburton). The committee, energetic and tenacious of purpose, by dint of scheming and hard work, with much correspondence, with meetings and consultations, finally launched the Association at a meeting held in the Town Clerk's Office on March 15, 1945. Office-bearers were elected: President, Mrs Mountfort, supported by Mrs Forrest as Secretary, Mrs Nash as Treasurer, and Mr A. J. Mason was elected Patron.

Mr Vernon Russell, as Honorary Solicitor, had the task of drawing up the Constitution and effecting the Incorporation of the Association in April, 1945.

The Council of the Association, in their wisdom, decided unanimously to set up the first kindergarten at Ashburton East. After much planning and organising, and a good deal of hard work, the first school was opened in Hampstead Memorial Hall in March, 1946, with Miss Love as Director. Then came Allenton (inseparably linked with the family of Kemp), officially opened (after functioning for some weeks) by the then Minister of Education, Mr T. McCoombs, in March 1949. In October 1953, Ashburton East transferred to its new building, officially opened by Mrs A. F. Johnson, President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

In 1960 the Association approached the Department asking for property to be set aside in a new housing area at Netherby and advice was received in September 1960, that a piece of land in the Kane and Stevens Block was available. In March 1962, the

Tinwald Kindergarten was opened by Mr A. J. Mason and named the Aubrey Mason Kindergarten in honour of his long and faithful service as Patron of the Association.

A further step towards the goal of having kindergartens housed in new buildings was made in June 1964, when Allenton transferred to its new building on an adjacent site, and was officially opened by Miss M. Gallagher, Supervisor of Pre-School Service.

In April 1967, an establishment committee was formed at Netherby and although investigation showed that there were not enough children in the area to warrant building a Grade 1 kindergarten, a Grade 0 kindergarten was opened by Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P., on July 22, 1972.

This new building is named the Merle Leask Kindergarten as a fitting tribute to the memory of Mrs Leask who was a foundation member and an Honorary Life member of the Association.

In October, 1973, Allenton Kindergarten celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a number of social functions.

Looking back over the years we realise our great progress is due to the firm foundations laid by those who pioneered the movement. We have full rolls at all kindergartens, good waiting lists, fully-trained staff and well-maintained buildings and grounds. We feel we must make mention of public support, the co-operation of committees and parents, and the encouragement and leadership of those who have held executive positions.

Our appreciation goes to the Department of Education, Officers of the Pre-School Services, the Union, and the Christchurch Association for their help and advice in our years of progress.

AUCKLAND

The Auckland Kindergarten Association was formed on October 28, 1908, and the first Annual Meeting was held on February 26, 1909. Interest in the establishment of the first free kindergarten was fostered by the late Mrs Leo Myers, and through the generosity of the late Sir John Logan and Lady Campbell, who donated the cost of the Logan Campbell Free Kindergarten building in Auckland, on a site in Victoria Park, obtained from the Auckland Harbour Board.

The Logan Campbell Free Kindergarten commenced operation on February 22, 1910, in the cricket pavilion, Victoria Park, transferring later to the new building, which was officially opened on October 19, 1910, by the late Sir John Logan Campbell, who concluded his remarks with—"Long may it remain so, and may the children be destined to go forth as well-ordered and worthy citizens of the land—the ripened fruit of the Free Kindergarten."

The second free kindergarten was opened in 1912, the next in 1913, and again in 1916. Two more commenced in 1925 and two in 1928. From 1936, after the Depression years, new kindergartens were opened at regular intervals until in 1964 there were 34 free kindergartens operating in the Auckland metropolitan area.

The President of the Association in 1908 and 1909 was Mr L. J. Bagnall. He was succeeded by several prominent business and professional gentlemen until 1938, when the office was assumed by Sir John Allum, who remained President until he resigned in 1958. Mr G. E. Myers was then appointed, and it was indeed fitting that the son of Mrs Leo Myers, who was instrumental in establishing the first kindergarten, should hold this position.

The first Secretary-Treasurer of the Association in 1908 was the late Mr G. O'Halloran. He resigned in 1946 after 38 years' service, and was succeeded by his son, Mr D. C. O'Halloran. A full-time Secretary was appointed in 1948.

In 1948 the Education Department opened a branch office in Auckland, which enabled the Association to establish a much closer liaison with Departmental officers.

After withdrawing in 1941, the Auckland Association rejoined the Union in 1954, and since this date representatives have regularly attended Conferences, and the Association has enjoyed the benefits of belonging to the national organisation.

1957-58 was the Golden Jubilee Year of the Association, and celebrations were held in each kindergarten. The Union Conference was held in Auckland to honour the occasion, and this culminated in a reception and a parade of fashions through the years, at the Auckland Art Gallery. The Association held a Jubilee Ball at which 30 students and daughters of Council members were presented to the President, and a special entertainment in the Town Hall for about 600 children.

An Auckland Director, Miss C. Gilbert, was the recipient of the first I. M. Jamieson Scholarship awarded by the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, and she spent a year in 1957-58 in England attending a course of lectures at London University.

In 1958 the first appointment was made of a Supervising head teacher to be responsible for the supervision of all the kindergartens controlled by the Association, thus relieving the College staff of this duty, and allowing them to concentrate wholly on the training of student teachers.

The Regional Council of kindergartens in the Auckland University area was inaugurated in November, 1959, and regular meetings of representatives were held.

With the opening of the Waikato University in Hamilton the Regional Council included all kindergartens in the Auckland and South Auckland Education Board districts. In 1971, when the new constitution of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union set up Wards, there appeared to be some doubt as to whether Regional Council meetings were necessary, but at the April meeting in 1972 it was unanimously decided to continue meetings dealing mainly with the affairs concerning the Kindergarten Teachers' College.

Mr G. E. Myers, after a long and valued service to the Association as a Council Member from 1951 and as President from 1958, resigned at the Annual Meeting in June, 1965. Mr L. leF. Ensor, O.B.E., J.P., a former Superintendent of Education in Auckland, became President and held office until his sudden death in January, 1968, when Mr J. H. Rose took office.

In June Mrs J. S. Rea was elected Auckland's first lady President and held the office for two years. In 1970 Mr K. J. Hayr, a former principal of Ardmore Teachers' College, became President. The Auckland Association is probably unique in New Zealand in that it has been served for, so long by businessmen and educationalists willing to assume the Presidency. Miss Jessie Neill tendered her resignation in May 31, 1970, after holding the position of General Secretary for over 19 years. She was honoured with Life Membership in 1970. Following Miss Neill's appointment three others were made until eventually the Association appointed Mrs Margaret Dean as Secretary. Mr D. C. O'Halloran continued as Treasurer of the Association, having given, up to 1972, 20 years of outstanding service.

In 1970 three new kindergartens were opened and in 1971 five were built. The Association plans to erect at least five buildings per year and five were ready for approval in 1972. Even with this growth long waiting lists are still a feature and the average entry age of children remains at over four years. Costs of building have increased to such an extent that establishment committees need to raise between \$9,000 and \$10,000 to meet their share. To do this established kindergartens are encouraged to make generous donations to new ones. In two cases, Kingsdene and Yendarra, substantial grants have also been made by the Department of Maori and Island Affairs to meet the special needs of the multi-racial areas of Mangere and Otara.

In 1971 the Association operated under a new constitution which was adopted at a special general meeting in November 1970. The former Executive became the new Council with additional representatives elected by the four areas into which the Association was divided. These areas hold meetings every term and their work and interest have added greatly to the efficiency of the kindergarten movement in the city.

With the growth of kindergartens in the last few years the Department of Education has greatly increased the number of students in training. This placed a heavy burden on the buildings at the College in Arney Road. Two relocatable rooms were added in 1972. The College was controlled by a Board of Studies appointed by the Council with representatives from the region, the Professor of Education, or his nominee, the Principal of the Teachers' College, or his nominee, and other people fully qualified in the theory and practice of education.

The Education Committee, appointed by the Council and including the Principal of the Auckland Kindergarten Teachers' College, as well as persons qualified in the theory and practice of education, was responsible for the professional oversight of kindergartens, including teachers' appointments. This committee relied heavily on the reports received from the Supervising Head Teacher, who generally reported on the problems which were the responsibility of that committee.

Besides these two important committees many sub-committees deal with the pressing needs of this growing Association. Policy and Finance Committee and Sites and Establishment Committee meet regularly between Council meetings and submit written reports.

A new handbook setting out the constitution, kindergarten committee information, duties of the main officers and general advice to establishment committees, prepared mainly by Mrs G. T. Bethell, filled a great need in administration. Mr D. C. O'Halloran prepared a special account book which was made available in 1972 to help treasurers of kindergarten committees to keep their books in such a way that financial facts are readily available.

1972, Yendarra Kindergarten opened in Otara. The first kindergarten to be built on full Government assistance. Lloyd Ellsmore, Mayor of Manukau officiated. Mr Douglas, local member of Parliament was present along with representatives from the Maori and Island Affairs Department and the Education Department.

The number of children on waiting lists in Auckland, between three and five years of age was 5,689 as at December 3, 1972. Resignation, Miss J. M. Burt retired from her position as assistant Principal of the Auckland Kindergarten Teachers College. A farewell function was held at the President's home.

The Union Conference was hosted in Auckland at Logan Park Hotel. The first "live in" conference.

1973, the following kindergartens opened their doors to children this year. Titirangi, Te Atatu South, Hobsonville, Kauri Park and Marlborough.

Thirty students commenced training at North Shore Teachers College for the first time.

National Publicity Week, June 19-24, found kindergartens involved in a variety of activities resulting in the greatest publicity ever experienced.

At the Annual General Meeting in May, Life Membership was bestowed on Mr D. C. O'Halloran, Association Treasurer. Mr O'Halloran's service has extended over a period of 27 years. The Auckland Association is truly fortunate in having a person of Mr O'Halloran's ability and interest as its Treasurer. Mr O'Halloran was presented with a commemorative gift.

1974, Highland Park and Takapuna (re-establishment) kindergartens opened to children in the early part of the year. Six other buildings are expected to open before the close of the financial year. Mangere Bridge, Idlewild, Whiteacres, Sunnyvale, Rathgar and Massey. Three others are on the way. St John's Haecata re-establishment and Hillsborough, with several committees raising funds for buildings.

Mrs Dean, Association Secretary resigned after three years of valuable service. Mr O'Halloran's resignation was also received, bringing to an end an active association by the O'Halloran family for over 60 years.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

The first Principal (or "Trainer") was Miss M. E. Gibson, who commenced her duties in the first term of 1910. Miss Gibson held the higher certificate of the National Froebel Union of Great Britain. During that year 8 first-year and 7 second-year students were in training. The training in 1909 was carried out by students attending lectures at the Auckland Training College and the Technical School, while practical knowledge was gained in the two private affiliated kindergartens operated by graduates from the Sydney Training College. Miss Gibson was succeeded in 1914 by Miss A. Hopkinson until the end of 1919, when Miss Gibson was re-appointed until 1924. Miss C. M. Colegrove commenced as Principal in 1925, and gave the Association 25 years of wonderful service until her retirement in 1949. Miss Colegrove received

her training with the Auckland Association, as did Miss F. Cawkwell, who became Principal in 1950.

An Assistant Principal at the College was appointed in 1945, and a College Assistant in 1948. In 1961 a second College Assistant was appointed, and a further two appointments were made in 1963.

A "Carnegie Scholarship" was granted to Miss Colegrove in 1935-36 and she spent a very valuable year in the United States.

The College first operated in the Cricket Pavilion in Victoria Park, transferring at the end of 1910 to the newly-erected Logan-Campbell Kindergarten building. In 1916 it occupied a portion of Myers Kindergarten, and in 1944 moved to the upper floor of the Myers Kindergarten building. When these premises became too restricted to accommodate the increasing numbers of students in training, the Government, in 1958, purchased a large house at 43 Arney Road, Remuera, and, after considerable alterations had been made to the building, the College was moved there in the third term of 1958. The official opening was performed on April 27, 1959, by His Excellency the Governor-General, the Viscount Cobham, G.C.M.G., accompanied by Her Excellency, the Viscountess Cobham.

Even in the earliest days of the College, students were trained for work in other centres. Of the 15 girls who gained their kindergarten diplomas in 1910 and 1911, four accepted positions in other districts — in Palmerston North, Gisborne, Hamilton and Papatoetoe — while several opened private kindergartens.

In 1963, 105 girls were trained at the College. About 70 per cent of students came from provincial areas.

The "Constance Colegrove Scholarship", to be awarded to the senior student gaining an honours or merit diploma, was established in 1954 by Miss May Colegrove, in memory of her sister who was Principal for so many years.

In 1965, the Executive made a special award to Gloria Thompson, a Maori student who gained her Diploma with Merit. The award was to encourage a study of work with non-European children. As a result of the "special award" the Regional Council established the Helen Downer Award, to enable a student, on the completion of her training, to make a study of children who are culturally-different.

Mrs Betty Cosson, Lecturer in Child Development, Nature and Science, was awarded the I. M. Jamieson Scholarship in 1965. Leave of absence was granted to enable her to continue her studies for the Diploma of Education.

A Pre-School Conference with welfare officers of the Department of Maori Affairs was held at the College in 1963. This conference, organised by the Maori Education Foundation, and attended by Maori students, gave a better understanding of the role of the kindergarten and teachers in pre-school work.

With larger student numbers the Department of Education recognised the need for increased accommodation. A new block of two lecture rooms, kitchen and cloakroom facilities was constructed and officially opened on Saturday, March 4, 1967, by the Hon. A. E. Kinsella, Minister of Education. The grass tennis court was upgraded to an all-weather netball and tennis court. The students raised funds to assist with this work.

In 1967, the principals of the four colleges met at Lordell House with the officer for pre-school education and three others concerned with pre-school education, to discuss a new curriculum which could be developed within each College according to the resources available. This curriculum was adapted to the College requirements in 1968. Field trips, which have become an integral part of the College, were developed and extended under the new curriculum.

The students gave enthusiastic support to the Auckland Council of Tertiary Students, formed in 1967.

The granting of assistance towards the travelling expenses of students while on section helped to ease the financial strain they experienced while training.

The students supported a campaign to raise funds to send a delegate to the 1969 A.P.A. Conference. Their efforts were so successful that four students were able to attend the conference.

Regional Sections, introduced in 1969, proved beneficial to the students because they gained a working knowledge of the daily kindergarten routine in country and rural districts.

Friends of the late Enid O'Halloran decided that a fitting memorial to her work as Chairman of the Education Committee would be a donation of books to the College Library. Each book contains a suitable book plate.

Representatives of kindergartens in the Auckland region agreed that the memorial to the late Fay Cawkwell, Principal of the College from 1950 till her death, March 15, 1971, should be a library. A section of the library, known, as the Fay Cawkwell Memorial Library, houses books purchased from donations received for this purpose.

The last ten years have seen a tremendous development in pre-school education. To meet this demand more students were trained, the lecturing staff at the College was increased to the Principal and eight lecturers, and two relocatable lecture rooms were erected in the grounds.

Following the integration of training with Teachers' College in 1975, the association looks forward to a new and exciting era.

BALCLUTHA

After much discussion in the town a public meeting convened by Mrs G. McLeod was held in December, 1951, to elect a committee to proceed with the establishment of a kindergarten. Mrs McLeod was elected the first President and was later honoured with Life Membership. In 1952 a Constitution was drawn up and adopted. A kindergarten was opened in February, 1953, in the Masonic Lodge Hall. The balance sheet at the first Annual Meeting in April, 1953, showed that \$3,059 had been raised towards the cost of building a kindergarten. A suitable section was acquired in Lanark Street and in April, 1955, Mrs A. F. Johnson officially opened the new kindergarten.

The following nine years, 1964 to 1973, mark a period of consolidation for the Association.

The setting up of a building and maintenance fund, and in latter years, replacing equipment which is being heavily taxed with the introduction of the Pilot scheme in 1969, has been most successful.

Development of the grounds and outside equipment has kept the committee busy with the fund-raising annual bottle drives, bazaars, raffles and coffee mornings (the latter introduced in 1967).

Honorary life membership was conferred on Mrs J. Kirwood in April, 1967, and Mr S. R. Crosby, in May, 1971, in recognition of long and outstanding service to the kindergarten.

In 1967 we staged our first regional conference in Balclutha. Butterflies were aplenty but everything went off smoothly.

April 11, 1972, saw the formation of the establishment committee for Balclutha No. 2 Kindergarten at Rosebank. By May, 1973, over \$2,000 and a section (within the Rosebank Primary School complex) were secured.

Major fund-raising was contract painting, catering, selling hair spray and an International Food Evening.

1974 has been a busy year for the Association. It has accomplished its aim by raising sufficient money to go to the Government for permission to draw up plans for its new kindergarten. Tenders were called for the building in February, 1975. Life memberships were conferred on Mrs P. Ward and Mrs G. Lemm in recognition of long outstanding service to the kindergarten.

November saw the reroofing of the Kindergarten in Lanark Street under way, a major task, but made easier financially by the Government maintenance scheme. We do appreciate this.

President, 1974-75, Mr B. Dawson — Secretary, Mr E. B. Meyer.

BAY OF PLENTY

This is one of the younger associations in the Union but it embraces seven former members with longer individual histories. After two years of investigation and regular meetings, on a trial basis, representatives of Edgcombe, Kawerau, Rotorua, Taupo

Tauranga, Te Puke and Whakatane Associations agreed in November, 1960, to amalgamate into a district association. The final decision was precipitated when Edgecumbe and Whakatane, 10 miles apart, received permission to build and were recommended by the Minister of Education to join forces, as a first step towards recognition of their kindergartens. Rather than embark on this proposal, with limited experience, each requested affiliation with the Rotorua Association, which had then been established for ten years. Although, initially, there may have been some misgiving, it is now unanimously agreed that the advantages which have accrued to all far outweigh any loss of autonomy and local prestige.

Because of its wide area of control, and to avoid constant travelling, the Council meets only three times each year. A small Executive acts as a standing committee to deal with routine business, while each branch, under the rules of the Association, accepts responsibility for domestic management of its affairs. For staff the advantages have been significant, as professional isolation has been overcome by regular meetings.

Edgecumbe — Early in 1954 interest in the establishment of a free kindergarten was aroused by Mrs E. Peters, who was elected as secretary to the first committee and who later conducted a private kindergarten. From June, 1956, when the Association was formed, strenuous efforts were made by an active committee to raise funds for a permanent building on a site purchased from the Whakatane Board Mills. Affiliation with the Bay of Plenty Association took place in June, 1961, when tenders were called. The kindergarten opened in February, 1963, after much delay caused by continual wet weather. It is a source of pride to the community and reflects the energy and enthusiasm of all who worked to establish it.

Three kindergartens in the Rotorua district were developed under the administration of the Rotorua Association which was established at a public meeting convened by Mrs H. Downer in November, 1950. During her teaching service at the High School Mrs Downer had encouraged girls to enter the kindergarten training course and had recognised the need for kindergartens in this rapidly-expanding town. Enthusiastic support led to the opening of the first free kindergarten in the Bay of Plenty, in the Baptist Church Hall, in March, 1951. Just three years later, after strenuous money-raising efforts, the children were moved into a fine new building named, in honour of the President, the Helen Downer Kindergarten.

During these early years an active Mothers' Club built up a reputation for large attendances at well-organised and interesting monthly meetings. For some months, during 1955, with the Department's permission, use of the building was granted to the I.H.C. Society on two afternoons each week, until suitable premises were found for these children.

In response to a request from Mesdames R. A. Elliott and G. A. Shing the Ngongotaha Committee was formed in November, 1953. In this comparatively small and scattered district raising funds was hard work and when the goal was reached, there was a period of waiting for permission to build. The kindergarten welcomed the first children in April, 1961, and was officially opened by Miss Gallagher on July 1, a day so cold that snow fell. Its site, on lease from the Ngongotaha Domain Board, is probably the most beautiful in the country, because of its natural undulations and shelter from well-grown trees.

The Elstree Committee which took its name from the farm of which its site is part, was first called "High Street". It was set up in 1955 when the waiting list at Helen Downer was reaching an alarming length, and proved to be most energetic and successful in raising funds. But it met the same fate as Ngongotaha, having to wait for permission to build. Through the financial failure of the contractor completion of the building was delayed until June, 1961, but it has progressed steadily from that date. It is now well established in attractive grounds with a full roll and a long waiting list.

Tarawera — within months of the occupation of the first houses in Kawerau in 1954, the newly-formed branch of the C.W.I. discussed the need for pre-school services. In the next year, the Housewives' Association began raising money for a play centre and reached the stage of putting in foundation blocks for a building; but when a kindergarten association was established in 1958, they reconsidered their plans and donated their funds, \$818, to the new group, who received further help from the Tasman Pulp

and Paper Company with the promise of timber to the value of \$600. A very active committee raised large sums in various ways the most notable being a drive, which yielded 516 members, and a mystery envelope campaign which brought a profit of \$2,000. Kawerau became a branch of the Bay of Plenty in 1961, at the time when its building was being planned. It was decided to name the kindergarten Tarawera to save confusion when steps were taken to extend pre-school services in this growing town. Miss Gallagher officially opened the building on May 4, 1963, six months after it had gained recognition.

Taupo — This Association, now a branch of the Bay of Plenty, was established at a public meeting sponsored by the Taupo Women's Friendly Club on April 26, 1955, and addressed by Mrs H. Downer and Mr J. S. Sandman, members of the Union Executive. Sufficient money had been raised in two years to meet the cost of a building but, because of the "period of consolidation", operations did not start until 1958 and the first children attended on April 14, 1959. The kindergarten was officially opened by Mrs H. Downer on June 6 of that year. The rapid growth of Taupo pointed to the need for a second kindergarten and a site was acquired and a committee formed to work for the establishment of Hinemoa Kindergarten. The first secretary, Mrs C. Watson, was honoured with life membership in recognition of her devoted service for five years.

Tauranga — Sponsored by the Tauranga Rotary Club, this Association was set up in June, 1957. The Tauranga Borough Council generously allotted a site at a peppercorn rental and fund-raising began. This included a special effort, selling grapefruit, for which the town is famous, which brought a profit of \$300 in one year. With regular assistance from Rotary and Jaycee the committee reached its goal in August, 1959, but had to wait until May, 1963, before its attractive kindergarten was ready to admit the first children. Amalgamation with the Bay of Plenty was effected in May, 1961, and the official opening of the building by the Mayor, Mr D. S. Mitchell, M.B.E., took place on November 23, 1963. Tauranga had established a second committee at Otumotai, where a private kindergarten was opened, but, with the development of the Bay of Plenty Association this became a separate branch.

Te Puke — Sixty people attended a public meeting called by the Rotary Club in March, 1956, when the Te Puke Association was formed. A sites and building sub-committee was optimistically set up, but it was not until six years later that the fruits of their labour were evident. To maintain interest among parents a private play centre was opened in 1958. This service continued until the kindergarten was ready to receive children in September, 1962. Mr G. A. Walsh, M.P. for Tauranga, performed the official opening a few months later. There were months of indecision before this committee accepted the idea of amalgamation but they are the first to say that they have no regrets.

Whakatane — Mrs R. Tong, who was elected president, convened a meeting to set up the Whakatane Association in September, 1957. \$430 was raised in the first six months and in 1959, the magnificent sum of \$1,834 was collected. The Housing Division of the Ministry of Works gave a site in Garaway Street, where trees and shrubs were planted that, today, give pleasant shade for children's play. Permission to build was given in 1960 but there were many delays before the kindergarten was ready for use in February, 1962. Mr P. B. Allen, M.P. for Bay of Plenty, opened it officially in June of that year. The Association took the formal decision to amalgamate at its annual meeting in May, 1961, and has gained much from that action.

The Association was proud to host the Annual Meeting for the Union in Rotorua in 1963.

There has been great activity in the Bay since 1964, when only 10 kindergartens existed. There are now 23 and the 24th is under construction. It was a happy coincidence that, in the twenty-first year of service to pre-school education in this area, the twenty-first kindergarten was built. The honour fell to the Gwen Rogers Kindergarten at Mount Maunganui, so named in recognition of a gift of \$3,750 by the trustees administering funds left by the late Mrs Rogers for the education and welfare of children at the Mount.

Other areas where new kindergartens have been established are: Tauranga (Otumotai 1965, Greerton 1968, Brookfield 1971); Taupo (Hinemoa 1970); Turangi 1968; Whakatane (Apanui 1970); Kawerau (Kawerau South 1970); Rotorua (Western Heights 1965, Jackson Park 1968, Fordlands, Selwyn 1972 and Rotorua East 1973).

There is a clear need for further development at Rotorua, Kawerau, Taupo, Tauranga, Te Puke, and Whakatane, where efforts are being made to secure sites. The demand seems unending and the costs frightening. The first kindergarten, built in 1954, cost under \$10,000. The twenty-fourth, to be ready in 1974, will come close to \$30,000.

An association of this size, and covering such a wide area, makes heavy demands on its officers and the need for a supervising head teacher is acute. No one could reasonably expect a senior head teacher to undertake the duties of this appointment and still do justice to her own kindergarten at the same time.

In 1975 the Association plans to mark the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the kindergarten education with functions that will bring together as many as possible of the hundreds of willing workers for the cause, as well as thousands of "old pupils", many of whom are now parents with children enjoying the same opportunities of pre-school experience that they had in their childhood.

Four Official Openings have taken place in the past two years — at Mount Maunganui, where the Gwen Rogers Free Kindergarten was opened by the retiring Mayor, Mr A. R. Harris, at Rotorua, where the President of the Union, Miss L. M. C. Ingram was our special guest for the new Selwyn Free Kindergarten, at Rotorua East, where Dr David Barney, Senior Lecturer in Education, at the University of Auckland, declared the kindergarten open after delivering a most interesting address, and at Tauranga, where our newest building, Maungatapu, was opened by Mrs Ruth Kirk (now Dame).

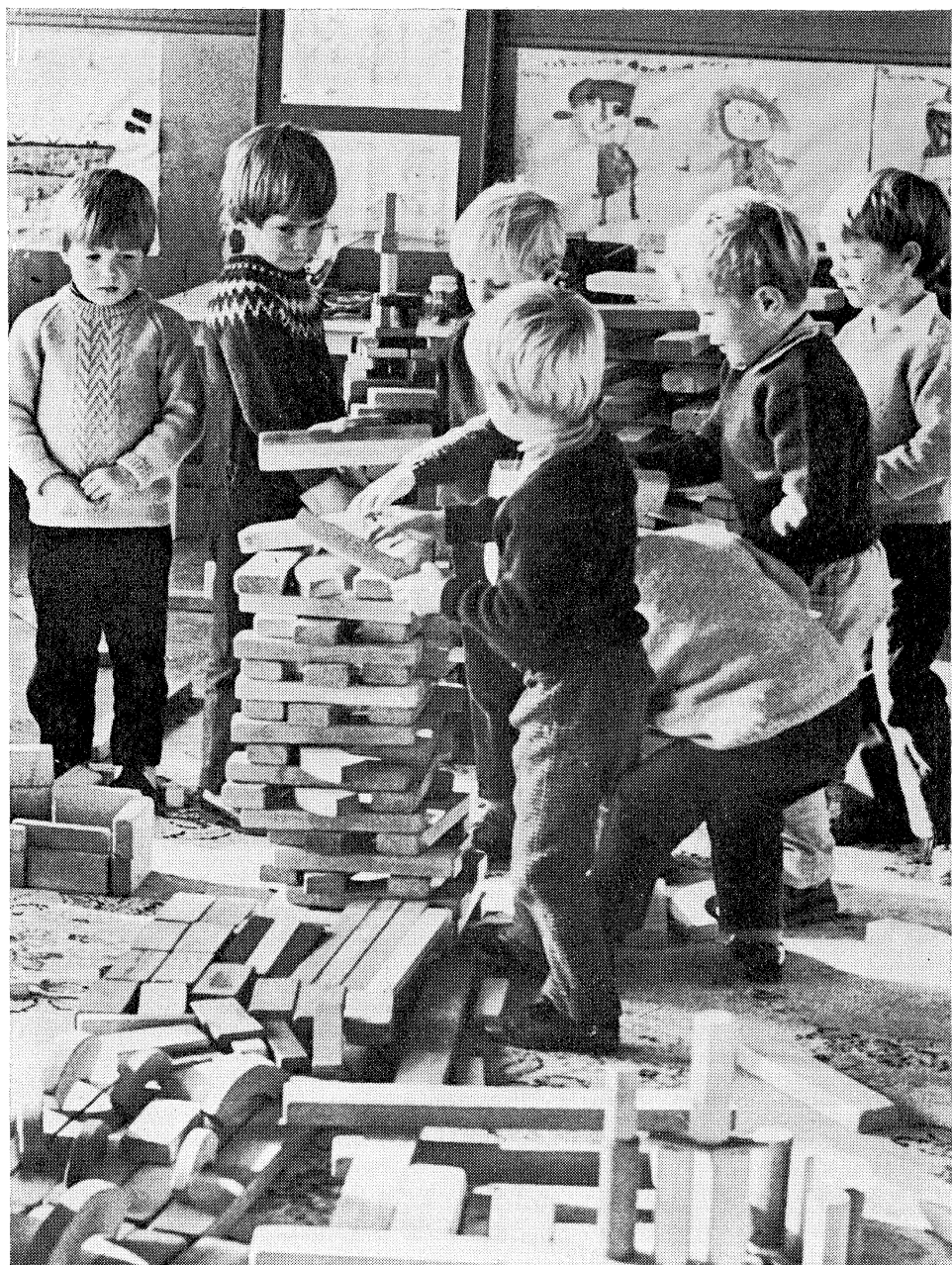
In the last few months of 1974, five new committees have been set up; Waipahihi (Taupo), Homedale (Rotorua), Arataki (Mount Maunganui), Whakatane No. 3 and Tauranga Girls College, where an interesting development is planned to provide kindergarten experience for children of the area and an opportunity for senior girls to observe early childhood behaviour.

BLENHEIM

The Official Opening of Blenheim's first kindergarten at Seymour Street on June 10, 1949, was the culminating point of endeavours which started in 1921. At that time, Mrs F. Cordery, then a newcomer to Blenheim from Christchurch, aroused interest in the possibilities of kindergarten work locally, and a committee which was set up purchased a half-acre section in Richmond Street, and prepared plans for a building. A crippling blow fell when the Education Department condemned both section and plans. As a result the affairs of the committee were wound up and the funds invested.

It was not until 1930 that, at a public meeting addressed by Lady Sidey, then President of the N.Z.F.K.U., and Mrs J. A. Hanan, Secretary, a decision was made to establish a kindergarten in Blenheim. A centre was opened in September, 1930, in the Church of the Nativity Hall, with Miss P. Zohrab as Director. The withdrawal of all Government assistance at the end of 1931 caused the centre to be closed and the Association went into recess. In 1939 there seemed hope that the centre could be reopened but the outbreak of war set aside the scheme for seven years. In March, 1947, a Civic Pre-School Centre was opened under the control of Miss S. Lucas. This bridged the gap until March, 1948, when an approved free kindergarten, recognised and assisted by the Education Department, became a reality. With Mrs P. J. Fogarty as President, and Mrs F. W. Horton as Secretary, the new Council set to work in 1947 and in two years accomplished the task of buying and overseeing the conversion of the canteen building from the Air Force camp at Omaka into a most pleasing kindergarten, set in attractive grounds.

On October 31, 1949, at a public meeting convened by Mrs L. Hounsell, a committee was formed to establish a kindergarten in the rapidly-developing area of Redwood-town. With Mrs Hounsell as its chairman, this enthusiastic committee raised funds so that the kindergarten opened in the Redwood Hall on February 1, 1950, with Miss S. Cutler as Director. In June, 1954, the section next-door to the hall was bought, and the committee, with Mr P. Burgess as chairman, doubled its efforts to augment its building



fund. The attractive Redwoodtown Kindergarten was officially opened on June 2, 1956, by Mrs K. McCreanor, then President of the N.Z.F.K.U.

In 1955, negotiations were begun for a section in the Mayfield area, and an establishment committee was formed. The committee ran a private kindergarten play group during 1957, and in February, 1958, a recognised kindergarten was opened in the Opawa Football Club Hall, with Miss J. Stagg as Director. Three years later, on April 15, 1961, the committee, under Mr H. Thompson's chairmanship, saw the completion and Official Opening by Miss M. Gallagher, of Mayfield Kindergarten in Girling Avenue. Miss G. Moorhouse was appointed Director.

In 1966 interested people in the Witherlea area formed an establishment committee and were fortunate to have a section in Alana Place given to them by the Blenheim Borough Council. Much hard work by successive committees over the intervening years resulted in the building going to tender in September 1972. Witherlea was officially opened by Miss L. M. C. Ingram in June, 1973.

The Seymour Street Kindergarten is being replaced by a new building in Redwood Street and will be known as Seymour Kindergarten. Tenders have been called for the new building. An establishment committee is working towards a kindergarten in Springlands. It will be situated in the school grounds and sketch plans have been submitted to the Department of Education. The Blenheim Association was delighted when Mrs B. J. Brayshaw was honoured with Life Membership of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

BURNHAM

In May, 1954, a meeting was called to form a Kindergarten Association. The Education Board prepared the plans while the Army Department donated a site for the proposed building.

Owing to an initial lack of funds the kindergarten had to make use of a temporary building given by the Army Department. The official opening ceremony was performed by the Hon. Hilda Ross on April 20, 1955. There was a roll of 30 children in the morning and 20 in the afternoon, two afternoons a week.

Miss D. Sambrook was engaged as the first head teacher, and Mrs S. E. Stanbridge as assistant teacher. It was mainly due to their ability that the kindergarten made such a good start.

During the ensuing years the kindergarten carried on with the tremendous assistance and zeal given by successive Councils, and Burnham Camp residents. In particular, the kindergarten is forever indebted to the interest and concern expressed by the Army Department, S.M.D., and Camp Commandants.

The Council for 1962-63 made an all-out effort to raise the last few hundred pounds. This was achieved in 1963, due to a gift of \$1,000 from the U.P.F. of Burnham Camp. Tenders were called for the new kindergarten, and 1964 saw the children of Burnham in their own properly-designed and equipped kindergarten.

In recent years the kindergarten has been fully carpeted and repainted. Equipment has been replaced and the outside play area improved. The waiting list remains at a high level, but with a shifting population this is difficult to assess accurately. Members of the Association have benefitted greatly from regular attendance at the annual conference.

CARTERTON

On September 29, 1955, a public meeting was held to form the Carterton Free Kindergarten Association. A section in Victoria Street was purchased in October 1959. The kindergarten was officially opened in October, 1962, by the Governor-General of the day, Lord Cobham. Our original buildings have not been extended but our local Jaycee Chapter painted the exterior in 1972.

The association has formed an establishment Committee to form a second kindergarten in Carterton. Several fund-raising activities are in progress at the present time. We have applied to the Department of Education for an extended roll system to be put into practise involving three trained teachers as soon as possible.

CENTRAL HAWKES BAY (formerly Waipukurau)

Plans were advanced in 1952 by the Waipukurau Jaycees (Inc.) and a public meeting was held in August of that year to form a branch of the N.Z.F.K.U. Primarily kindergarten sessions were held in the local St John's Hall, but there was insufficient room for the 80 children and necessary equipment. The first president was the then President of the Waipukurau Jaycee (Inc.), Mr C. K. Lee.

The Waipukurau Kindergarten was built in Hunter Park and officially opened on April 14, 1956, by Mrs K. McCreanor of Christchurch, President of the N.Z.F.K.U. The builder was Mr M. J. Chote; Architect, Mr E. Piper and the site given by the Waipukurau Council. Development of the kindergarten also represented much voluntary effort both before and after construction. The site commands a magnificent view, being on a hill overlooking the town, and is well sheltered by trees. The Head Teacher was Mrs J. Curran and she held this position for many years.

1970 brought a Public Meeting to form an Establishment Committee for a second kindergarten in Waipukurau.

1972. A special meeting was held, and the existing Waipukurau kindergarten became the Hunter Park Kindergarten and the second kindergarten was to be called Lakeview Kindergarten.

By March of 1973, \$7,500 had been raised by the Establishment Committee and by the voluntary organisations associated with the town. This money had been raised towards the third share of the building costs.

The kindergarten was built in Lakeview Road on a site which was arranged by negotiations with the Waipukurau Borough Council. The builder was Mr D. Arlidge; the architect, Mr Barsanti — Wanganui Education Board Type A Plan. A building of 2,240 sq. ft exclusive of terraces and outdoor storeshed, cost \$24,472.

Further money was raised during this time and the kindergarten opened for children fully equipped, except for an outdoor complex, on September 10, 1973.

The area the kindergarten serves covers a radius of 25 miles from Waipukurau.

The present Head Teacher is Miss Ann Gillies who has held the position since the kindergarten opened.

The Lakeview Kindergarten was officially opened in November, 1973, in conjunction with the Waipawa Kindergarten — "Day of Openings" by Miss Laura Ingram — President of N.Z.F.K.U.

The third kindergarten in the Association, Waipawa Kindergarten, opened for children in October, 1973.

The Waipawa Kindergarten is an updated building instead of the customary new one. The building which belongs to the H.B. Education Board, had been used by the Board as a manual training centre. The building then lay empty for a few years, when a committee acquired it for use as a Child Care Centre.

After initial renovations costing \$6,000, the building was then used for several years as a Child Care Centre. That body then decided to affiliate with the H.B. Playcentre Association and remained as such for nearly five years. A public meeting was called early 1973, mainly involving parents of playcentre children to discuss the possibilities of setting up a kindergarten in the building, instead of a playcentre.

A unanimous decision was made by the parents to have a kindergarten in Waipawa. Discussions and arrangements were made with the Playcentre Association and the H.B. Education Board.

The building was inspected by the Department of Education in May, 1973, and after renovation costing approximately \$3,000 uprating the building to kindergarten standards, the kindergarten was opened for children as a Grade 0 kindergarten in October, 1973. The Head Teacher is Mrs C. Blake.

In October, 1973, the Waipukurau Free Kindergarten Association Inc. changed its name to the Central Hawke's Bay Kindergarten Association Inc. and the three kindergartens associated are providing pre-school education for the majority of the pre-school children in Central Hawkes Bay.

CHRISTCHURCH

Records show that as long ago as 1878 kindergarten method was introduced into Canterbury schools. Miss Amelia Quinney, who had trained under Froebel, was appointed to the Normal School as kindergarten mistress. The report of the Canterbury Education Board of 1878 states that she achieved considerable success but was hampered by lack of suitable premises and insufficient help, but that the work she did was based on the principles of Pestalozzi and Froebel.

1880 saw a financial recession and there were consequent cuts in the education grant. Kindergarten instruction was discontinued and it was not re-established by the Canterbury Education Board until 1911. Private kindergartens, however, were established and flourished, and in 1898 "The Children's Aid Society", as well as seeking the introduction of legislation to rescue children from undesirable homes, advocated free kindergartens and creches. Mrs Elizabeth McCombs, a staunch advocate of the kindergarten movement, was secretary of the Society and urged the setting up of kindergartens to relieve sick and working mothers. There is reference on the 1904 files of the Department of Education that the Society sought information concerning the method of securing part of the Government grant to free kindergartens which had been initiated that year.

In 1905, 235 children were attending free kindergartens under the Society. Finding costs of establishing and maintaining these kindergartens was an onerous task, and the movement was in danger of closing down when, in May, 1911, Mrs T. E. Taylor, Mayoress of Christchurch, called a public meeting to establish the Association as it is known today. A resolution was passed "that the meeting is of the opinion that it is desirable to establish a Creche and Kindergarten Association in Christchurch". It was further stated that no gift could be more fitting at the time of the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, than one which would benefit scores of little children.

The standards set in 1911 obtain even today — that there should be light, airy buildings with pretty gardens and teachers trained in the latest methods of early childhood education. Records also show that members of the Association waited upon the Inspector General in Wellington and urged upon him the great need for the Department or some such body, to examine kindergarten students and grant diplomas. A syllabus of work, drawn up by members of the Association, was also submitted as a basis for examination. The proposals were received sympathetically but it was pointed out that unanimity with other kindergarten associations was needed. A meeting was arranged but some associations did not think that trained teachers were necessary. However, the 1913-14 reports show that agreement was reached and a Government Kindergarten Certificate was instituted.

Mrs T. E. Taylor resigned as President in 1941, but continued her active interest with the association as a member of the Phillipstown committee. She was succeeded by Mrs A. Peppler, who had been convener of the Sydenham committee, and remained in office until 1923. Mrs M. Thacker succeeded her and remained President for 21 years, retiring in 1944.

In 1923 there were five kindergartens, Sunbeam (1911), Phillipstown (1912), Selwyn (1920) and Richmond (1922). Growth of the association was steady, but the depression years were difficult. It is praiseworthy that during the 1931-33 period when the capitation grant was withdrawn, no kindergartens were closed.

Some students gaining diplomas were not able to find positions. Several of these opened private kindergartens to help cater for the five-years-olds who were excluded from the schools.

There was an increased demand for kindergartens during the Second World War years, and the association had many requests from people to observe in kindergartens,

for the loan of play materials which could be copied for use in play centres, nurseries, Plunket rooms and private kindergartens.

When Mrs Thacker retired in 1944, 12 kindergartens were operating in Christchurch. Linwood (1924), New Brighton (1934), Woolston (1939), Redcliffs and Riccarton (1942), Hillmorton and North Beach (1944). Of these, eight were in permanent buildings.

1945. Mrs A. K. Hadfield became President, and in 1946 Mrs I. O. Shepard was appointed secretary-treasurer, a position she held until May, 1974. Mrs Hadfield had been honorary treasurer since 1924 and had organised all money-raising activities.

This was a period of rapid expansion made possible by the increase in student grants, capitation grants and the introduction of subsidies on a \$1 for \$1 basis on all initial costs.

A new kindergarten was opened at Beckenham.

1948. Payment of salaries by the Department of Education in 1948 and the increase in subsidies to \$2 for \$1 in 1949 were a real incentive for voluntary effort. In the following years new buildings were erected to re-house kindergartens functioning in rented halls and new kindergartens were established, at Fendalton, Papanui and South Brighton.

By 1950 there were 22 kindergartens, Sumner, St James and Waimairi (1947), Upper Riccarton (1949), Risingholme and Shirley (1950).

In 1950 the Woolston Kindergarten moved to its new building in Edmonds Park, and was re-named Edmonds Park Kindergarten in recognition of the financial assistance of Messrs T. J. Edmonds Ltd.

The association has, since the early 1940s, given encouragement, advice and help to kindergarten associations in the smaller towns and in 1950 produced a brochure "About Kindergarten Teaching" to assist with student recruitment.

1951. The conference of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union was held in Christchurch. Mrs A. K. Hadfield, who had been Union President for two years, retired and Mrs A. F. Johnson was elected. Mrs L. W. McCaskill succeeded Mrs Hadfield in October, 1951, as President of the Christchurch Association.

1952. A new building for the Redcliffs Kindergarten was opened and re-named the Beryl McCombs Memorial Kindergarten to honour the founder who had died before the building was completed.

The Kindergarten College building at 80 Park Terrace was purchased by the Department of Education.

1954. Kindergartens were established at Mt Pleasant and Rutland Street, and a new building for Hillmorton was completed.

The Riccarton Kindergarten transferred to its new building in Rattray Street and was re-named McKenzie as a tribute to Mr J. R. McKenzie who donated \$2,000 towards its cost.

A new building for Beckenham was opened.

1955. Mrs F. E. Burrell was elected President. By this time there were 29 kindergartens, 18 of which were in permanent buildings.

The Trengrove Kindergarten in Clyde Road, opened in 1955, honours the memory of Mr W. H. Trengrove who was honorary architect for many years. Pitcairn Crescent Kindergarten was opened in a Church Hall.

Total average roll number was 1,880.

Mrs A. F. Johnson attended the conference of the Australian Pre-School Association in Melbourne as a guest of the Australian Association, thus establishing international relations.

Mrs K. B. McCreanor was elected President of the Union in October.

1956. Cashmere Kindergarten opened in February.

A new building for Upper Riccarton was opened in Haynes Avenue and re-named Lady May, as a tribute to Lady McKenzie who donated \$2,000 to the cost.

1957. Mrs A. F. Johnson was elected President of the Christchurch Free Kindergarten Association.

With the rapid increase in the number of kindergartens and affiliated committees, a complete re-structuring of the administration was necessary. Changes in the Consti-

tution were effected to meet the new circumstances. Sub-committees were formed from the elected Council to deal with the many aspects of kindergarten administration. These included finance, building, zoning, public relations, social activities, staff relations and appointments, student selection, education and college.

A new kindergarten for South Brighton was opened.

1958. With the policy of voluntary amalgamation of kindergarten associations, Lyttelton and Hornby associations affiliated with Christchurch.

A new building for St James Kindergarten was opened in Harakeke Street and re-named Riccarton because it had been erected on land originally part of the Deans Estate of Riccarton.

North New Brighton opened in its new building.

Westminster Kindergarten moved into its new building and was re-named Mairehau.

1959. The Hokitika and Rangiora Associations affiliated with the Christchurch Association bringing the total number of kindergartens to 32, with 28 being permanently housed.

Risingholme Kindergarten opened a new building in Butler Street and was re-named Opawa-St Martins.

The MacFarlane Park Kindergarten, built by voluntary labour, opened in February. With a halt to expansion in 1956, and the policy of controlled expansion based on a system of priorities in 1958, kindergarten committees with the necessary funds applied for places on the priority list.

1960. The new building for Fendalton Kindergarten was opened in Ryeland Avenue.

A new building for Lyttelton Kindergarten was opened.

The Greymouth Association affiliated with Christchurch Association and its new building was already planned.

1961. New kindergartens at Burwood, Hornby and Hei Hei were opened and one for Waimari in Kendal Avenue.

The Christchurch Association presented submissions to the Commission on Education concerning the future administration of free kindergartens in New Zealand and its hopes for future development. These submissions were well received and were later endorsed by the N.Z.F.K.U. Professor Currie, chairman of the Commission, expressed profound admiration for the immense amount of voluntary effort put into work for pre-school children by those who sponsored kindergartens.

The Association celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. To mark the occasion, a new kindergarten, erected on the site of the original Sunbeam Kindergarten in Cornwall Street was officially opened on May 25 fifty years to the day and hour of the founding of the Christchurch Free Kindergarten Association. This was made possible by an anonymous donation of \$2,000 towards the cost of the building. It was later learned, after her death in 1968, that Mrs A. K. Hadfield had been the donor. Mrs Hadfield was awarded an M.B.E. in 1952 for her service to the kindergarten movement.

Functions were held throughout the year to honour past and present committees, executives, staff and students.

In October the conference of the N.Z.F.K.U. was held in Christchurch. There were 2,880 children attending the 36 kindergartens of the association. The accumulated funds in December, 1961, were \$51,518 and in addition the association was administering property valued at \$540,000, \$150,000 of which had been raised by voluntary effort.

1962. Mrs F. M. Suggate was elected President.

The administration cost of the kindergarten training became the responsibility of all associations, thus relieving the burden borne alone by the training centre associations.

Mrs K. B. McCreanor was awarded an M.B.E. for services to the Education Institute and to kindergartens.

Mrs A. F. Johnson retired in March, 1962, and represented the Minister of Education at the Organisation Mondiale pour L'Education Pre-Scolaire Conference in London.

1963. Mrs A. M. Steven was elected President.

New kindergarten buildings for Rutland Street and Rangiora were officially opened.

1966. Mrs A. J. D. Dearsley was elected President.

1967. New kindergartens were opened at Portsmouth Street in Wainoni. Isleworth Road and Avonhead.

Mrs A. F. Johnson was awarded an M.B.E. for her services to the kindergarten movement.

1968. Wigram affiliated with the Christchurch Association, bringing the total number of kindergartens to 41.

1970. Cotswold Avenue Kindergarten was transported to a new site in Smith Street and re-erected. The total cost of the move and the development of the site was borne by Messrs T. J. Edmonds Ltd. The building, ready for occupation in May, 1971, was re-named Edmonds Smith Street Kindergarten.

Submissions to the Committee of Inquiry into Pre-School Education were compiled by the association.

Mrs E. B. Dalmer, a former Principal, was appointed to this committee.

1971. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the Association. To celebrate the occasion the 43rd kindergarten, at Redwood, was officially opened by the Minister of Education, the Hon. B. Talboys, with the President of the Union, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., giving the address. A service of re-dedication in the Christchurch Cathedral was conducted by the Dean of Christchurch, the Very Rev. Michael Underwood, with Mrs A. F. Johnson delivering the address. A social gathering was held at Mona Vale, to honour former committee members and staff, when the Jubilee Cake was cut by an Honorary Life Member, Mrs G. Aitken.

During the 60 years of its establishment, the association has been given professional help and guidance in all matters concerning kindergarten teacher training by members of the University staff, the Teachers' College staff, and members of the Department of Health.

It has also been well served by competent auditors and accountants who have given more than generously of their time, services and resources.

The Honorary Solicitor, Mr G. Salter, a Life Member of the association (and his father before him), was always at hand with legal advice, and on his retirement in 1969, Mr K. S. Hadfield, son of Mrs A. K. Hadfield, consented to become Honorary Solicitor.

In 1971 Mrs G. E. Whale was elected President.

3,540 children were attending the 43 kindergartens.

Accumulated funds stood at \$92,214. Property valued \$450,000 was administered by the association, \$195,000 of which had been raised by voluntary effort.

Plans for a new kindergarten in Rowley Avenue were approved by the Department of Education. When this project was completed it became the 44th kindergarten affiliated to the Association.

1972. Mrs N. Larcombe was elected President of the Association.

Three new Establishment Committees formed, Halswell, Inwoods Road and Queenspark. Negotiations are at last in hand for a site for the Mt Pleasant Kindergarten. This is the only kindergarten in the Christchurch Association still operating in a hall.

1973. Rowley Avenue Kindergarten opened by Miss L. M. C. Ingram, President of New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union. With an average of 80 children in each kindergarten moving on to school throughout the year, in all 3,700 children have received the benefit of pre-school education provided by this association during the year. Plans for the Halswell kindergarten approved and tenders are being called. This will make the 45th kindergarten in the Christchurch Association.

Miss E. Millen, the Supervising Head Teacher resigned at the end of 1973 after 15 years with Christchurch Association.

The Christchurch Association moved into its own premises at 333 Manchester Street, being the first kindergarten association in New Zealand to own its own building.

1974. Mrs D. M. Shepard, Secretary of Christchurch Association for 28 years retired and Miss K. Osborne was appointed.

Wales Street (formerly Halswell Kindergarten) was officially opened by the Minister of Police, Hon. M. Connelly and Christchurch Association now has 45 functioning kindergartens.



Permission for an extended roll at Rowley Avenue Kindergarten was granted and this started at the beginning of Term 3.

Five Establishment Committees formed, Wainoni, Mathers Road, Woolley Street, a second kindergarten in Kaiapoi South, also second kindergarten in Greymouth South.

Miss K. Osborne resigned as secretary, and Miss L. Scott was appointed. Mrs H. Pearce was appointed as Relieving Supervising Head Teacher, This position she held for two terms, and then resigned following maternity leave.

Mrs C. Eggleston was appointed as Relieving Supervising Head Teacher from the beginning of Term 3 and was appointed permanently from November, 1974.

TRAINING CENTRE

When Miss Helena Hull retired in 1936 after 25 years of devoted service, Miss Rene Wilkie, B.Sc(Columbia) Dip.Educ.(N.Z.), who had trained in Dunedin and had been awarded a Carnegie Grant in 1935 for study in America, was appointed Principal and Supervisor of Staff in kindergartens. She carried on enthusiastically the work of Miss

Hull. She encouraged mothers to become active in the Mothers' Club organisation and developed a United Mothers' Club for closer ties among the kindergartens.

In 1938 the first kindergarten Chronicle, edited by Miss Wilkie, was published and this became a yearly contribution to the kindergartens.

Greater emphasis was placed on hard work and the making of suitable toys and equipment by the students, visits to the Karitane Hospital and the School for the Deaf were a yearly experience, and visits by secondary school girls to observe in kindergartens were arranged.

Part-time lectures played an important part in kindergarten teacher training. Sunbeam Kindergarten was used for student training from 1911 until 1941. With the increase in the number of students a room for lectures was made available at the association headquarters at 196 Hereford Street, but in 1943 the Training Centre at 100 Cashel Street was established. Miss I. Orange was appointed Supervisor of Students in 1943, a position she held until 1953 when a third full-time assistant was appointed and Miss Orange was promoted to Assistant Principal.

Following the Consultative Committee's report in 1947, the number of student grants was increased. In 1945 there were 17 grants, in 1946 27 grants and in 1947 these were increased to 32.

A building in Lincoln Road was purchased by the association for a training centre and model kindergarten, and makeshift accommodation was used there until the end of the year, 1951.

The President of the Association, Mrs L. W. McCaskill, with Mrs A. F. Johnson, approached the Prime Minister, Mr S. Holland, to suggest that a valuable property on the market at 80 Park Terrace would make a splendid training centre. As an outcome of the meeting, the Department of Education purchased the property. Its proximity to the Teachers' College has been invaluable.

Over the years extensive alterations and additions have been made to the College. In 1958 a Supervising Head Teacher of the staff was appointed to be responsible for the supervision of staff and kindergartens, thus relieving the college staff of these duties and allowing them to concentrate on student training. Miss Eva Millen, who had been Supervisor of Students, was appointed and gave outstanding service to the association. Her wise guidance and real understanding of every aspect of kindergarten work have already had far reaching results.

Miss Orange retired after 30 years as Vice-Principal. The years had seen many changes and often she had to work under difficult conditions. The vacancy was filled with a part-time lecturer until 1962, when Miss Jean Hay was appointed to the position temporarily.

1962 — Miss Wilkie retired in May after 25 years as Principal. In spite of the changing and often difficult conditions of her work, her dedication to the mothers and children and to the students who trained under her never faltered. In her last report she stated that 370 students had been trained in Christchurch since 1911.

Mrs E. B. Dalmer, B.A., Dip.Educ., was appointed Principal, with Miss Hay as Assistant Principal.

Reports express appreciation of the way they assumed control with little or no interruption in the work of student training. The corporate life of the college was strengthened by a weekly assembly of the 55 students and a full day in college all together once a week. A student council was established.

1963 — There were 104 applicants for the 30 grants available.

1964 — Four students were awarded bursaries for University study. Miss E. R. Brodie, B.A., Dip.Educ., was appointed to succeed Miss Hay as Assistant Principal. Entrance qualifications were raised, but, in spite of this, 127 applications were received for 32 grants.

1965 — The college quota was raised to 65 and the Department agreed to the appointment of a fourth full-time staff member, Mrs A. Andrews, M.A., K.Dip.

1967 — The national curriculum was reconstructed. The Principal reported that the present practice in the Christchurch Kindergarten Teachers' College was in line with the recommended new curriculum.

1968 — The new wing of the college was officially opened.

1969—Mrs Dalmer retired in May. Her work in up-grading kindergarten teacher training and generally planning an enriched programme for students established a pattern consistent with modern needs. Mrs Audrey Haggitt, a Supervisor of Junior Classes in Timaru, was appointed Principal and assumed duties at the beginning of the second term. There were 75 students in training, the 40 first-year students having been selected from 120 applicants.

1970 — It was announced that the Government was to accept greater responsibility for the cost of student training. Renovations and improvements to the College were effected and better facilities for the clerical staff were provided. Several married women, and some who had spent time in other employment, applied for student grants. There were 100 applicants for the 40 grants. Mrs Dorothy Evans, B.A., was awarded her Kindergarten Diploma after 15 months' training, the first graduate student to have trained for kindergarten teaching. The President of the Union, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P., presented the Diploma at a special ceremony.

1971 — Miss Margaret Miller retired as Supervisor of Students and Miss Mary Roberts, B.A., was appointed a full-time lecturer. There were 78 students in training.

1972 — Mrs Audrey Haggitt as Principal maintained the high standard of training students for kindergarten teachers. The College has continued to train between 80 to 90 first and second year students each year, the students being selected from girls with high qualifications. Each year between 200 and 230 applications for training have been received. For the second time the Christchurch Kindergarten Training College has offered a shortened course to a student who already held a degree. The student did the two-year course in one year. Deaf Units were opened at Rutland and Fendalton Kindergartens. Miss Jaycynth Hyde joined the staff at the beginning of 1972 as a Music Specialist and has filled a long-felt need in this field. Mrs E. R. Brodie, B.A., Dip.Ed., who had been Assistant Principal since 1964, resigned in December.

1973 — Mrs F. P. Andrews, M.A., K.Dip., was appointed to the position of Assistant Principal. Mrs Andrews was the first Christchurch Kindergarten Graduate to gain her M.A. Opawa/St Martins opened a Deaf Unit.

1974 — A shortened course was completed by two students with B.A. degrees. Complete amalgamation with Christchurch Primary Teachers' College. The Kindergarten Training College Principal, Mrs A. Haggitt, is appointed to the Senior Lecturer's position in charge of Kindergarten Training.

DANNEVIRKE

A public meeting called on June 20, 1947, by Mrs Ostler, who had been a member of the Christchurch Association, elected a committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a kindergarten. The task of determining the number of pre-school children, the availability of suitable premises and raising finance was given to sub-committees. Their endeavours were rewarded when the first kindergarten was opened in the Coronation Hall in February, 1949. The State Advances Corporation made available a suitable site on which to erect a permanent building and after many years hard work the kindergarten was officially opened on March 21, 1956.

The building which was opened by Mr (now Sir) Keith Holyoake cost \$11,958. Honorary Life Membership has been bestowed on Mrs Ostler, the first President, Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Gibbard for their outstanding contributions to the Association.

Many amenities have been added to the building — a concrete apron has proved a great success in eliminating those "attractive" puddles — the laying out of the lawns, concrete paths, proper gates, swings, sandpits, etc., and lastly a tricycle and equipment shed in the grounds.

An establishment committee for a second kindergarten was formed in June, 1974. 1975 will see the commencement of an extended roll scheme which will enable many more children to attend kindergarten.

DARGAVILLE

The first enquiries for advice on the establishment of a free kindergarten were made in March, 1952, by Miss M. F. Flood, then infant mistress at the Dargaville School. No action was taken at this time but further information was sought in October, 1952, by Mrs H. Harding, who later became Secretary of the Association, which was formed at a public meeting held on September 2, 1953.

By October 1 of that year \$470 had been raised and a fortnight later \$592 was in the Association's account. This was sufficient to purchase equipment needed to set up a kindergarten in the Holy Trinity Church Hall where children began attendance under the direction of two trained teachers in February, 1954.

In June a building committee was formed, and by means of a Baby Contest and other efforts \$3,400 had been raised by October, 1954, and \$4,052 by February, 1955. This, with Government subsidy was ample to build a kindergarten on a site leased to the Association by the Borough Council at a peppercorn rental. The new building was occupied in November, 1955, a little over two years from the inaugural meeting, and officially opened by Miss M. F. Gallagher, Supervisor of Pre-School Services, on April 14, 1956.

Since 1964 this Association has functioned as in the previous years. Some of the successful fund raising efforts have been a Baby Photo Contest, Bride of the Year and Street Stalls. The first Kindergarten Ball was held in 1967 and since then has continued as an annual event which has proved successful both socially and financially.

In 1967 the Association was granted an extra piece of land from the Borough Council which gave us a bigger playing area.

In 1970 it was found that a new storeshed was needed as the old one proved to be too small for all equipment.

A "pre-school" week held in conjunction with other pre-school organisations in our area in July, 1969, was very successful.

During National Education Week in July, 1970, we held open sessions at the kindergarten, a parents' club luncheon followed by a panel discussion dealing with education at all levels, and displays in local shops and newspapers.

Parents' club seems to have disappeared over the last year despite efforts to revive it.

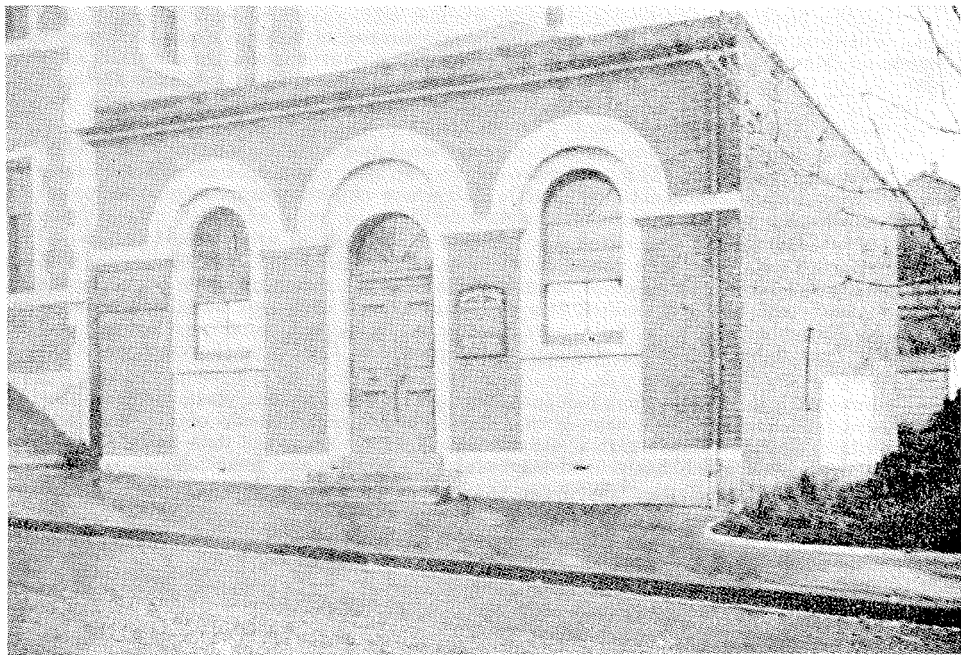
Staffing has fluctuated over the years but generally we have had one trained teacher on our staff.

With an ever increasing waiting list and the obvious need for a second kindergarten a public meeting was held and an Establishment Committee was formed in August 1971. Now with the acquisition of a site next to the Selwyn Park School and sufficient funds raised over the last three years this kindergarten will be occupied about the middle of 1975.

In 1974 we took a step forward in affiliating the Ruawai Play Centre to our Association. Ruawai had previously catered for the pre-school needs of the area as a private kindergarten, but with pressing building problems decided to run as a Play Centre and built their own building in 1972. Now, with increased demands for pre-schooling and problems acquiring staff they have decided to change to a kindergarten once more. We have experienced minor problems with this changeover as evidently this is one of the few Play Centres to be changed into a kindergarten. But when minor alterations to the interior of the building have been completed early in 1975 this will be occupied as our first Grade O Kindergarten.

Staff has been fairly stable in Dargaville over the past three years. With three kindergartens under our control in 1975 we hope the staffing situation will remain the same and that we do not experience any problems in this area.

Association Office Bearers for 1974-75 are as follows: President, Mrs L. A. Sowter, Vice-presidents, Mr H. W. I. Hammond and Mrs Y. Osbaldiston, Secretary, Mrs A. J. Edward, Treasurer, Mrs T. M. Oud.



The Walker Street Mission Hall, Dunedin. The first Free Kindergarten in New Zealand, 1889.

DUNEDIN

1889 — Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association formed, with Mrs W. H. Reynolds as President. The first kindergarten opened on June 10 in the Mission Hall, Walker Street (now Carroll).

1891 — Yaralla Kindergarten opened on October 19. Miss Walker, of Sydney, donated \$200 and the kindergarten was duly named after her residence.

1905 — Hanover Street Kindergarten opened, later moved to Moray Place, but eventually closed.

1906 — South Dunedin Kindergarten opened in St Peter's Church Hall, Cargill Road. In 1911, it was shifted to the Wesleyan Church Schoolroom, and during the same year, through the keen enthusiasm of Miss R. Darling, the Director, a start was made to raise funds to build a kindergarten. A section was bought in due course and in 1913 the foundation stone was laid for the Rachael Reynolds Kindergarten.

1908 — A kindergarten was opened in the Caversham Presbyterian Church Hall. Later it was shifted to a cottage lent by the City Council and later still, in 1926, to its own beautiful building, given by Messrs Hudson as a memorial to their father.

1914 — Rachael Reynolds Kindergarten, claimed to be the first up-to-date and most fully-equipped kindergarten in the Dominion, was formally opened in October — a fitting tribute to the inspiration and hard work of the Director, staff and parents. During this year 279 children attended the three kindergartens. First Mothers' Club formed by Miss Dutton.

1922 — St Kilda Kindergarten opened in the Presbyterian Church Hall. Later moved to the Scout Hall in 1929, and, in 1939, to the house in Queens Drive, owned by the Musselburgh Presbyterian Church.

1924 — Kaikorai Kindergarten opened in the Presbyterian Church Hall, and remained there till 1960.

1926 — Richard Hudson Kindergarten shifted to the lovely new building in Caversham. North-East Valley Kindergarten opened in Millar Street Hall, later moved to Bowling Green pavilion. Closed during depression years and re-opened in 1937. Closed again in 1944, but re-opened in Presbyterian Church Hall. New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union formed, with Lady Sidey as President.

1941 — Pre-School Educational Centre opened at Truby King-Harris Hospital, Andersons Bay.

1943 — Wakari Kindergarten opened in Presbyterian Church Hall.

1944 — Abbotsford Kindergarten opened in a cottage, but closed on sale of property in 1946, to reopen in their own building in 1950.

1945 — First Play Centre opened in Richard Hudson Kindergarten.

1947 — Mosgiel Kindergarten opened in Scout Hall.

1948 — Government decided to provide a 2-1 subsidy on new free kindergartens of approved design.

1949 — Jubilee Ball held in May to mark the 50th anniversary of the Association. Staffing a decided problem during the year — numerous resignations and only four graduates for 1949 adding to the difficulties. Untrained assistants helped to keep the kindergartens open. 500 children attended during the year, 200 of these at the play centres operating for two afternoons weekly at every kindergarten.

1950 — Education Department raised the student quota for Dunedin to 40. Eleven senior students in February were joined by 23 juniors, 34 in all. The Education Department gave the Association the Student Training Centre in Macandrew Road. Ten kindergartens operating and 550 children in attendance. Student Council formed with Miss Pat Harrington as President. The 1950 graduates were the first to receive the Union Diploma.

1952 — Miss Anne Duthie made a life-member of the Association. Twenty senior and 17 junior students training at the College. Abbotsford Kindergarten opened, free of debt. Twenty-first birthday party of the Combined Mothers' Clubs held in the Concert Chamber.

1953 — Jonathan Rhodes Kindergarten opened in third term. Local Committees given wider powers under new administration. New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union Conference held in Dunedin, 34 Associations being represented. Principals' Conference held here in October. 698 children in kindergartens, with mother helper scheme in operation. New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association founded. A kindergarten formed at Waverley.

1954 — 714 children on rolls. Pre-School Education Centre officially opened by the Hon. Hilda Ross on February 12, though children had been attending since November 1, 1953. Approximately \$12,000 had to be contributed jointly by the Plunket Society and our Association, the balance provided as subsidy by the Government. The Sargood Trust donated \$4,000 towards the Association's share of this cost. Mosgiel Kindergarten Association recognised as a separate Association. Half-day kindergarten established at Andersons Bay in November, 1954. Mother and child pre-entry groups developed at Kelsey-Yaralla and Rachael Reynolds Kindergartens.

1955 — Successful regional refresher course held from May 6-10, attended by 37 kindergarten teachers. Retirement of Mrs R. A. Ewing, Past President.

1956 — Wakari Kindergarten officially opened on February 28. The Association purchased a large, single-storey house in Roslyn for conversion to a kindergarten, which was opened officially on October 8. Grants Braes Kindergarten (formerly Waverley) opened its lovely new building on September 4 — the official opening taking place on November 13. 709 children attended the 11 kindergartens during the year. Death of Doctor Helen Deem, and as a tribute to her memory, the Pre-School Centre was named after her. Mrs A. N. Haggitt was made a Life Member.

1957 — St Kilda Kindergarten opened by Mr J. G. Barnes, M.P., on April 3 — over 30 years after its foundation in 1922. St Kilda became established in its beautiful new kindergarten. Port Chalmers Kindergarten, formed in 1956, opened its building on March 16, the official opening being performed by Mrs E. E. McMillan, M.P. Twelve of the 13 kindergartens were conducted in their own permanent buildings with 825 children on the rolls. Regional Conference held on November 30, seven other Associations being present.

1958 — Thirteen kindergartens operating with 888 children on the rolls. Mrs Dora Smeaton, Association President, 1945-52, died. Consolidation period in force. Thirty-four students in College, 17 senior, and 17 junior.

1959 — 904 children enrolled. 70th Anniversary of Association. Period of consolidation still in force, two prospective kindergartens on the "waiting list".

1960 — Official opening of the new kindergarten at Kaikorai, on November 1. All of our 13 kindergartens now in their own buildings. Miss Phyllis Varcoe awarded the I. M. Jamieson Scholarship, given by the Union for study abroad. Miss Varcoe again received the Union and N.Z. Teachers' Association bursary for University studies and was re-elected as President of the New Zealand Kindergarten Teachers' Association for a further term.

1961 — Otago and Southland Teachers' Association held a residential weekend course at Pleasant Valley. The Training College moved to its handsome new premises in York Place on February 13. This College was officially opened on March 4 by the Hon. W. B. Tennyson, Minister of Education. Mornington Kindergarten opened its beautiful new building in August, making the fourteenth kindergarten in its own premises. Eighteen senior and 28 junior students in training, the full quota for the first time for some years. Retirement of Mrs H. M. James, Association President 1956-59. Regional Conference at Gore.

1962 — Full quota of students at Training College, eighteen senior and 28 junior in training, the result of a continuous recruiting campaign by the Principal Miss E. S. Hamilton and her staff. Annual conference at Christchurch, four delegates attending. A Regional Conference at Oamaru was well-attended. Four staff members attended the third summer school organised by Teachers' Association of New Zealand. Co-operation between Education and Health authorities and the Association has resulted in increased visits to kindergartens by student groups.

1963 — Corstorphine Kindergarten opened its lovely, modern building on May 7, when Mr T. K. S. Sidey performed the official ceremony. This kindergarten became the fifteenth to be housed in its own building. More than 1,100 children attend the 15 kindergartens, 12 of which have been built since 1948. Retirement of Mrs E. D'Ath (Past-President).

1964 — Seventy-fifth year of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association.

N.Z.F.K. Union Conference held in Dunedin. Anniversary celebrations were held on June 10 in the Dunedin Town Hall. 400 guests braved a heavy snow storm to attend a dinner, concert, cake-cutting ceremony, supper and dancing. Principals of the four Colleges met in Dunedin to discuss matters of common interest and to attend some of the conference sessions.

1965 — Retirement of Mrs W. Patrick, Dunedin representative on the N.Z.F.K. Union Executive. Resignation of Mrs R. M. Boyd, the Association President, whose family transferred to Wellington. Deaths recorded of two Life Members, Mrs R. A. Ewing and Mrs H. M. James.

1966 — Retirement of Miss Elizabeth Hamilton who for 20 years had been Principal of our College. Appointment of our first Supervising Head Teacher, Miss Dorothy Ross. Mrs W. E. Hall elected to the N.Z.F.K. Union Executive. Start made on Brockville Kindergarten.

1967 — Miss Phyllis Varcoe appointed Principal of our College. Brockville, our sixteenth kindergarten, opened for commencement of second term. Honorary Life Membership conferred on Miss Elizabeth Hamilton at the Association's Annual Meeting. Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P., conferred Honorary Life Membership of the N.Z.F.K. Union on Miss V. A. Hayward, M.B.E. Death recorded of Mrs W. B. Taverner, one of our Life Members. Pre-school/Junior School Liaison group formed with members of staff taking an active part. Mrs W. E. Hall elected President.



VISIT OF LADY BLUNDELL, Patroness of the Union, to Andersons Bay Kindergarten, Dunedin, July, 1973.

1968 — First major fund-raising effort for several years conducted by the Association, a raffle which netted \$1,590. Resignation of Miss J. M. Stewart who had given 34 years of service to the Association — 22 of them as a lecturer, and then as the College Vice-President. Miss Stewart's main interest lay in music for young children and two books of songs for youngsters which she wrote have been published. Our former Principal, Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, was honoured by the N.Z.F.K. Teachers' Association when they made her their first Honorary Life Member. Mrs M. C. Rutherford, Head Teacher at Roslyn Kindergarten awarded the I. M. Jamieson Scholarship.

1969 — Seventy students in the College. College staff increased from three to four. The decision of the Department to introduce an extra afternoon session every week was welcomed by all. The Association records the passing of Mrs J. A. Hanan in her hundredth year. Mrs Hanan was an Honorary Life Member of both the Association and the N.Z.F.K. Union. She was the first honorary secretary of the Union, in 1926. Twenty graduates.

1970 — A survey conducted by the Teachers' College revealed that 70 per cent of the children now entering primary school in Dunedin had enjoyed some form of pre-school education. Miss Ross, Supervising Head Teacher, initiated a circulating library of children's books. The scheme was made possible through the generosity of many committees and has proved to be extremely popular and beneficial to all concerned. Mrs N. L. Millar elected President. Miss V. A. Hayward was elected to Honorary Life Membership of the Association following 23 years of continuous and outstanding service. A past Principal of the College, Miss Anne Duthie, passed away. International Education

Year week (July 19-25). All kindergartens and the College played an active part in this. Twenty-six graduates.

1971 — Concord-Green Island Establishment Committee was formed in April and by the end of the year had raised over \$2,000. The publication of an excellent cook book raised a large part of the money for this busy group of people. A generous donation by Mrs Jonathan Rhodes (after whose husband one of our kindergartens is named) was the purchase of a section adjoining that building. This has been developed into an adventure playground and provides much needed playing area for the children. Eighty-one students at the College, making it the highest number ever. This Association was very proud to be the first to receive a visit from the Governor-General, Sir Arthur Porritt. During his visit to the Richard Hudson Memorial Kindergarten, and the Helen Deem Centre for Pre-School Education, His Excellency showed tremendous interest and enthusiasm for the work being done for our pre-schoolers. Thirty-four graduates presented with the N.Z.F.K.U. diploma.

1972 — A large raffle conducted by the Association raised the possibility of establishing a kindergarten in the Halfway Bush area. A request from the City Planning Officer for information on the establishment of a kindergarten in the city's Palmyra redevelopment scheme was received. This scheme aims to provide a housing complex with all amenities in the central area and we are thrilled that a kindergarten is to be part of it. As we approach our 83rd birthday we look forward confidently to the future when both these kindergartens are a reality. Miss L. C. Watson awarded the I. M. Jamieson scholarship. Mrs W. E. Hall retired as the Ward (Otago and Southland) representative on the Union Executive. Mrs K. D. Lockhart became the new representative. Thirty-seven graduates received their diplomas at a ceremony at the Museum auditorium when Mr T. A. Ross, S.M., was the guest speaker.

1973 — Establishment committees formed at Halfway Bush, after suitable land being made available, and at Highcliff-Waverley. A highlight of the year was the visit of Lady Blundell, wife of the Governor-General, to Andersons Bay and Rachael Reynolds Kindergartens. With the proposed widening of Macandrew Road, Rachael Reynolds, the first kindergarten to be built as such, lost one third of its play area and two very large and valuable trees. We are very grateful to the Dunedin City Council and the Department of Education for their generous support in acquiring for us an adjoining property which will in time be developed as an adventure playground. Concord-Green Island establishment committee awaiting permission to go ahead with a building. Kai-korai Kindergarten celebrated their 50th anniversary. Mrs K. D. Lockhart elected President, Honorary Life Membership conferred on Mrs G. Snell, a past President, who, to date, has given 41 years of service to the Association. The association farewelled its secretary of nineteen years, Mr T. W. Wight at a morning tea function.

1974 — Abbotsford Kindergarten celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with a number of functions. Helen Deem Centre for Pre-School Education celebrated its coming of age on November 1. A presentation was made to Miss Margaret Just who has been head teacher since the opening of the Centre. The establishment committees continued to work hard, but land negotiations held up approval to proceed with building in all but Halfway Bush whose plans are now being prepared. The association celebrated its 85th birthday with a morning tea. Mrs K. D. Lockhart elected Vice-President of the union.

EAST COAST BAYS

At the time when Torbay began to think of establishing a free kindergarten, the Department of Education had decreed that an association could not open a new kindergarten unless all existing kindergartens under its control were fully staffed with trained teachers. This development was an attempt to slow down expansion and prevent any loss of standards through the use of untrained assistants. Torbay decided that, instead of becoming a committee of the Auckland Association, which might mean a long delay in opening a kindergarten, it would form its own association. This action was taken in 1953, but, because of the acute shortage of staff, it was not until 1956 that the services of a trained teacher were obtained.



85TH JUBILEE MORNING TEA, JUNE 10, 1974. Left to right: Miss V. A. Hayward, L.M.; Mrs A. N. Haggitt, L.M.; Mrs E. Theomin, L.M.; Mrs K. D. Lockhart, President; Mrs G. Snell, L.M.

Recognition of the Torbay Kindergarten was granted in September, 1956, but there have always been difficulties in attracting and holding teachers to keep that recognition. More than once "the period of consolidation" has saved the day.

Although a site was secured in 1955 and there were high hopes that money would be raised quickly by various means for a permanent building, there were disappointments and delays in achieving this goal and the kindergarten was still being conducted in temporary premises, a situation which contributed to the problem of staffing for several years, and it was not until 1965 that the turning point was reached.

For the first time two fully-trained teachers were employed although the kindergarten sessions were still being conducted in the Torbay Hall. Sketch plans were under way for the section, acquired 10 years previously, as a result of concentrated money-raising over two years. A more active part was also taken in kindergarten affairs at a national level; a delegate was sent to the Union Conference for the first time in six years; regional meetings were attended; staff encouraged to participate in in-service training courses. This representation has been actively continued.

The association's name was changed to East Coast Bays in 1966, as being more representative of the area it now covered. Rapid growth had frequently made it necessary to hold two or three meetings a month to cope with triple functions of establishment committee, kindergarten committee and Council. It was therefore decided to have a separate committee for the Torbay Kindergarten. An establishment committee was formed at Orewa just prior to this, increasing the work of the association even more.

After considerable delay, working drawings were finally approved for the Torbay Kindergarten in 1967 and the building commenced in February, 1968. Special permission to move into the finished kindergarten building was granted by the Department before the grounds were completed because of the unsatisfactory state of the hall premises. In July, 1968, all essential site work was done after this in record time by voluntary labour, an achievement worthy of praise. At last after years in a hall, the kindergarten was a reality, the official opening taking place in May, 1969. Since then it has flourished, with many added amenities, particularly in the playground, where a construction has been erected, designed to fit in with other activities.

Staff relations have always been good and special credit must be given to Mrs Anne Christian, who completed 7½ years as Head Teacher at the kindergarten.

The Hibiscus Coast Kindergarten

From a growing need for pre-school education in the district a public meeting was held to form an establishment committee under the auspices of the association in 1965. For the next 2½ years the raising of \$5,000 was the major task, with many successful ventures being undertaken. Since 1966, two council members have come from the establishment committee and in latter years this has increased by two.

A suitable section posed problems to begin with; not less than three sites being rejected. Finally, at the end of 1967, thanks to the co-operation of the Orewa District High School Committee, the Education Board generously donated a quarter-acre of the school grounds in front of the infant block. This is where the kindergarten now stands and the liaison between school and kindergarten is excellent.

By March, 1968, the committee's name had been placed on the priority list and sketch plans drawn up. Unfortunately the "survey" revealed an apparent lack of children. This caused a delay for at least a year before approval was given for a Grade 0 kindergarten to be built. In September, 1970, the successful tenderers began on the building, while committee members and volunteers worked very hard forming the playground and doing essential site work. Public meetings were well attended, the final one combining with A.G.M. in May, 1971, just prior to commencement of sessions. The kindergarten was officially opened in November, 1971, and is functioning well with one trained teacher and an untrained assistant.

Taiatotea and Rangitoto

Two further establishment committees have been formed since 1967; North Cross, now known as Taiatotea, and Rangitoto.

A public meeting was held in March, 1969, at North Cross to form an establishment committee, because land adjacent to a proposed primary school had been allocated as a kindergarten site. Unfortunately, this site did not eventuate and, after much searching, a section was promised in the proposed Brown's Bay Civic Centre.

Lack of public support made it difficult to gain funds but gradually a vigorous and hard working committee reached the financial target entitling it to a place on the priority list. Two members of the present committee also serve on the council.

The Rangitoto Establishment Committee was formed from a successful public meeting held in March, 1970. Indicative of the tremendous response, 40 members were elected. Their policy "think big", raised \$5,000 in two years, an achievement we think exceptional. A site was acquired in Hythe Terrace, Mairangi Bay, and approved by the Department in 1971, enabling the committee to gain a place on the priority list. From a partial survey of the pre-schoolers in the area, 842 names were collected, this indicating clearly the need for increased pre-school facilities in the East Coast Bays. The council includes three members from this establishment committee.

Mention should be made of two council members who have given many years'

service. Mrs Pat Davies, who completed seven years as Secretary, was elected to the committee in 1963. Mrs Pam Dalton, elected in 1964, became President in 1965. In 1968 she was elected to the Board of Studies of the Auckland Kindergarten Association.

1972. At the beginning of the year Rangitoto Kindergarten was placed on the priority list. Mrs L. Chrystall was engaged to design the building in March and plans were approved in October. We successfully obtained a State Advances Loan for \$4,000 at 3% interest.

Taiaotea Establishment Committee (previously known as North Cross) received a loan of \$1,200 from the Brown's Bay Ratepayers. After many difficulties the E.C.B.B. Council found us a site in Woodlands Crescent, Brown's Bay, and Mr G. Paterson was engaged to draw up plans.

1973. Rangitoto Establishment Committee commenced building in August. Hibiscus Coast Kindergarten had sketch plans drawn for extending their kindergarten from a Grade 0 to Grade 1.

Glamorgan Establishment Committee formed, and a site adjacent to the Glamorgan Primary School was found.

1974. Rangitoto Kindergarten was opened on February 6th and officially opened by Air Commodore Gill, M.P. for East Coast Bays on November 2nd, 1974.

Sketch plans have been approved for Glamorgan Kindergarten and working drawings are under way.

Taiaotea Kindergarten building was completed and opened for Term 1, 1975.

Torbay Kindergarten built a porch on the front entrance for protection against the prevailing wind.

FOXTON

Foxton Kindergarten was officially opened by the Minister of Education on July 4, 1970. The entire funds for the building and equipment were raised in one effort during a five-week period commencing on July 4, 1969. The building was completed and handed over to us in March, 1970, when we commenced admitting children. By the official opening we were up to full strength with 40 children on the morning and afternoon rolls, plus a waiting list. We were not so fortunate with staff and 1970 saw us with one trained and one untrained teacher. This continued in 1972, but in 1973 we managed to obtain the services of two fully-trained staff members.

A major fund-raising effort was held in September-October, 1972, which raised enough funds for the administrative running of the Kindergarten for the following three years.

FRANKLIN

The first meeting of this Association was held in the Pukekohe Kindergarten on May 26, 1960. The Council was formed from representatives from each of the three kindergarten committees in the area: Pukekohe, Papakura and Waiuku.

With the formation of the Waiuku committee on June 11, 1946, and the raising of funds for their kindergarten, it became necessary for them to affiliate with an established Association in order to gain recognition by the Minister of Education. The time seemed ripe for the Papakura Association to take steps to join forces with Pukekohe and Waiuku.

The Papakura Association was first formed at a public meeting held on May 1, 1962, called by the Rotary Club, following a decision at their meeting of February 28, to work for a kindergarten in Papakura. The kindergarten was opened on February 6, 1956, with Miss L. C. Stevenson as Director. She held the position until July 20, 1961, when forced to resign because of ill-health.

At a meeting on October 15, 1959, which was addressed by Mrs Downer, Papakura passed a motion to de-register their association and become affiliated to the Pukekohe Association.

The Pukekohe Association was the first to work for the kindergarten movement in this area. At a public meeting held on March 26, 1946, a committee was formed to raise the required money. In the meantime a private kindergarten was established in the Presbyterian Church Hall. A section on the corner of Harrington Avenue was given by the Borough Council and, following the usual money-raising activities, the building was erected and officially opened on March 13, 1954, by the late Hon. Hilda Ross, M.P.

One of the first functions of the new Franklin Association was the official opening of the Waiuku Kindergarten on May 28, 1960, by Mrs H. Downer, President of the Union, Mr A. E. Allen, M.P. also being present.

In July, 1961, representatives from newly-formed Manurewa Establishment Committee were welcomed on the Council of the Association. This committee raised over the necessary \$4,000 in less than five months and the kindergarten was opened in 1965.

PUKEKOHE SOUTH KINDERGARTEN

Situated at 8 Mason Ave., Pukekohe, was officially opened by the Hon. A. E. Allen, M.P. in September, 1969. The first group of children attended this kindergarten in July, 1969.

SETTLEMENT ROAD KINDERGARTEN

Situated in Papakura, was officially opened by the Hon. A. E. Allen, M.P. in September, 1969. The first group of children attended in March, 1969. This kindergarten is approximately two miles from the Post Office at Papakura and one and a-half miles from the railway station.

HILL PARK KINDERGARTEN

Situated at 53 Grand Vue Road, Manurewa, it was officially opened by the Hon. G. F. Gair in September, 1972. The first group of children attended in August, 1971. This kindergarten is adjacent to the grounds of the Hill Park School and is of unusual design. It is situated approximately one mile from the main bus route and two miles from the railway station.

MANUREWA SOUTH-WEST KINDERGARTEN

Situated in Solo Place, Manurewa, it received a supplementary grant from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs, and was opened in February, 1973. This kindergarten is four miles from the main bus route and railway station, but is served by an infrequent local bus service.

LEABANK KINDERGARTEN

Opened for children on March 5, 1973. Officially opened by the Minister of Education, the Hon. P. A. Amos, on April 6, 1974.

PAPAKURA WEST KINDERGARTEN

Opened for children on Monday, September 17, 1973. Officially opened by the Minister of Education, the Hon. P. A. Amos, on April 6, 1974. This kindergarten has a State Advances loan of \$4,000. This kindergarten is running a special period for a group of handicapped children, three mornings a week.

NINA BUSING KINDERGARTEN

Ran a pilot scheme for 1974: Two groups of 30 children in the afternoons and one group of 40 children in the mornings. This was discontinued at the end of 1974.

GISBORNE

The genesis of the Gisborne Free Kindergarten was a public meeting called in 1955 and presided over by the Mayor, Mr H. H. Barker. There was an attendance of twenty-two who enthusiastically supported the proposal to form an association and establish the first kindergarten in the city.

A strong committee was elected, with Mrs H. H. Barker as president and Mr S. Riley as secretary. In a comparatively short time sufficient members were obtained to



form an association. Monthly meetings were held at the home of the president and various fund-raising activities were embarked upon.

The association was fortunate in having its own financial efforts supplemented by a donation of £500 from the Heathcote Beale Trust and one of £300 from the Wise Trust. It was materially assisted, also, by the grant of a most suitable section by the Gisborne City Council.

The first free kindergarten building was erected in 1962 and the first children entered on February 21, 1963. Miss C. Pettitt was appointed head teacher, with Miss Ruth Williams an untrained assistant. Later in the year the latter was replaced by Miss Dianne Kinder. In 1946, Miss Lesleigh Law was appointed as a trained assistant. Mrs Barker was the president and the secretary was Mr R. J. Crombie.

The association wishes to place on record its appreciation of the assistance given by Miss M. Gallagher, supervisor of pre-school service, who visited Gisborne to assist the council in 1956 and who was most willing to give advice. The council is also indebted to Miss L. Shaw, who made regular visits. The Dominion President, Mrs H. Downer, of Rotorua, never failed with her advice and assistance at all times and particularly when the building was being designed and erected.

The kindergarten was officially opened by Mrs Downer on April 4, 1964.

For many years the Association has tried to establish a second kindergarten in the outer Kaiti area, mainly a State housing block with four hundred homes. A great need for pre-school education was seen very early in this development. Money was found difficult to raise and one establishment committee faded out of existence. Not until the previous Government realized that assistance should be given to a high-density Maori and Island area was interest again stimulated. With some money provided by the Association, the Maori and Island Affairs Department made up the required one-third of the price of the building. The establishment committee meantime was very active in

raising finance for equipment. The kindergarten opened for children at the beginning of Term 1, 1973. The building was officially opened by Miss Laura Ingram, M.B.E., on March 17, 1973.

An establishment committee for a third kindergarten sited in Riverdale was formed in June 1973. To date a suitable site has not been found for this kindergarten.

GORE

For some years prior to the opening of our first building the Gore Free Kindergarten functioned in the Pipe Band Hall under the direction of Miss C. Sutherland. During these years the members of the Council and Mothers Club concentrated all their efforts towards raising sufficient funds to build their own Kindergarten. After four years they had obtained the amount required to commence the project.

On September the 3rd, 1955, our goal had been achieved, and in the presence of past Executive, foundation members and friends, our first Kindergarten became a reality, and was declared open by Mr T. L. McDonald, M.P. for the District. Among the foundation members present at the opening was Mrs Abby Brown, our first Life Member, through whose efforts we became an affiliated member of the Free Kindergarten Union.

In 1967 a committee was formed to establish a Kindergarten in East Gore. As this committee was faced with many delays over the purchase of a suitable section a Child Care Centre was established in the East Gore Hall as an interim measure. This Centre was to be run on a temporary basis only, but the delays caused it to operate for some six years. After many frustrations in obtaining a suitable section, a local building contractor, Mr W. H. Walker donated a section to the Establishment Committee for the erection of the Oxford Kindergarten. Plans were drawn in 1973 for which we received final departmental approval in 1974. The official opening was conducted by Mr J. B. Gordon, M.P., on May 3, 1975.

With this project almost behind us and with the increased public awareness of the value of pre-school education we confidently look forward to the support required for the town's third Kindergarten in the near future.

Among the many who have contributed much to the Association are Mesdames Keown, Adair, and Howard who were made Life Members in 1965.

GREYTOWN

The Greytown Kindergarten was opened in October, 1955, and the eighteen months between the inaugural meeting and the opening of the building were high-lighted by the raising of \$5,000 in six weeks by the community. Since its inception, the Kindergarten has progressed rapidly, due to the spirit of the public, and the initiative of the residents of Greytown.

Each year a bottle drive and shop day are held to assist with funds. The finances soared as a result of a very successful Mothers' Club cabaret. This means that there is some very fine and up-to-date equipment in a well-maintained Kindergarten, to benefit the children.

The first head teacher was Mrs I. Harland.

The only life member is Mr J. Tustin and the patron is Mr T. Trotman. The Council members have naturally changed over the years, but we have known some devoted and enthusiastic workers who, combined with parents, have given freely of time and labour for the betterment of the Kindergarten.

GERALDINE

In February, 1950, the first kindergarten was opened in the old Salvation Army building. Miss Winifred McLean was the first Director and her mature years were a great asset in establishing the spirit for the hard work to be done in the years that lay ahead. When the building was sold the Association had to look for alternative accommodation which was offered by the Presbyterian Hall Committee. Kindergarten continued there but it was not very satisfactory as there had to be continual stacking away of furniture and equipment. There was only one thing left to do — build a new kindergarten.

The committee worked very hard, running country dances, gymkhanas, street stalls, and catering to raise the necessary funds. A good section, handy to the town, came up for sale and this was bought and the building begun. The new kindergarten was officially opened on October 1, 1955, by the then President of the Union, Mrs A. F. Johnson. With her at this function were three members of the Executive of the Union, Mesdames N. C. Jenkin, (Timaru) and H. Downer, (Rotorua) and Miss I. M. Jamieson, (Hamilton).

The intervening years have been busy ones for the Geraldine Kindergarten Association. A greater awareness of the value of pre-school education has been apparent and this has been helped by the excellent liaison with the primary schools of the area and the local newspaper. It has been interesting to note that more and more country children are attending, some coming considerable distances.

The Association has been most fortunate to have had enthusiastic and hard-working members on the council and, as a result of their work, the kindergarten today is extremely well-equipped.

No member did more for the kindergarten in Geraldine than Mrs R. A. Brett, who resigned after 21 years. Mrs Brett had been the "backbone" of the council and her advice and assistance so willingly given, have been an example to all. An engraved stainless steel tray and a framed photograph of the kindergarten were presented to her in recognition of her work over the years.

A varied and wide range of fund-raising schemes has been organised by the different councils. The most successful have been catering, sale of recipe books, fashion parades, fancy dress and the weekly euchre evenings. The euchre evenings were run for two terms each year by a sub-committee which raised \$600. As a result of these efforts, the equipment inside and outside was improved and increased and a new piano was purchased. The council is grateful to the parents' club and the local Jaycees' wives who also contributed to this particular purchase. The parents' club has endeavoured to cover a wide range of topics to interest parents, but the response at times has been most disappointing.

A milestone was reached in 1969 when the 1,000th pupil was enrolled at the Kindergarten. To commemorate the event a bank account was opened for the child.

The Association "came of age" in September, 1970, and the occasion was highlighted by a special social evening for all past and present council and staff members. The birthday cake was cut by the first teacher of the kindergarten, Miss W. McLean.

Being a small country town we have had staffing problems, but we have been very fortunate with the teachers we have had over the years particularly with the present staff who have been together now for three years. These girls have done much to emphasise the value of the pre-school education in the community and are a credit to their profession.

It is to be hoped that the councils of the future will carry on the good work done by the previous councils and ultimately aim for pre-school education for every child in this district.

The Geraldine Association celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on 24th September, 1974. During its 25 years the Kindergarten has been well supported by the community. The celebratory dinner was attended by many members of the first Committee and the birthday cake was cut by the first Teacher and one of her earliest pupils. Trees were planted in the grounds to commemorate the occasion.

Waiting lists for the Kindergarten sessions are always small — all parents who want pre-school education for their children are able to send them for at least a year.

HAMILTON

A free kindergarten association was established in Hamilton at the end of 1920 and a free kindergarten was opened in the St. George's Sunday School in the Frankton area in 1921, with Miss Violet Robson as Director. When alterations to this building were carried out the kindergarten moved to Liberty Hall. There are records of students receiving training and of at least three gaining their "Elementary Kindergarten Certificate." At the request of the Hamilton Association this examination was conducted in Hamilton, the first time it had been held outside one of the four main centres. The Council regarded its work as a form of social service but in spite of its enthusiastic efforts the kindergarten was closed in 1923. The furniture was taken over by the Auckland Education Board and given to the Hamilton Technical College.

In 1945 at the end of the war, people were once more returning to normal life. Women were freed from war work and a large number of people transferred to the Research Stations, where they were living in flats which had been built for munitions workers and had the use of the Community Centre in Peachgrove Road. This inspired Mrs Gordon Paul to organise the parents in the area to establish a private kindergarten and at the same time form the Hamilton Free Kindergarten Association. Unfortunately she left Hamilton before preliminary investigations were completed but enough interest had been aroused for the project to be carried through. At a public meeting called by Dr E. B. Davies and presided over by the Mayor, Mr H. D. Caro, the Hamilton Free Kindergarten Association was once more established. Miss I. M. Jamieson was the first President and Mrs V. M. Gruar the first Secretary-Treasurer. The new Association inherited considerable interest and experience from the previous Association. Mr F. de la Mare, Treasurer, and a very active member, gave invaluable help especially in drawing up the Constitution. The first Life Members, whose subscriptions gave the first financial support, were members of the old Association. Help and co-operation were also received from the three existing private kindergartens. It was fortunate that Miss Betty Joseph, Director of the Claudelands kindergarten, was a trained teacher. Thus in May, 1946, Claudelands was able to open as the first free kindergarten. Later land was purchased from the Valder estate in River Road on what had once been part of the Miro-piko Pa. When the new building opened in 1952, the name was changed to "Miro-piko" and at an Arbor Day celebration Miss Jamieson planted a Miro tree at the gate.

Then followed the usual pattern of hard-working and enthusiastic committees opening kindergartens in Sunday Schools and halls until sufficient money was raised for building. Peachgrove worked latterly in very cramped conditions in the Peachgrove Hall until its own building was opened in 1957. Frankton opened in the Methodist Sunday School in 1947 and transferred to its own building in 1956. Whitiora opened in the pavilion of the Rostrevor Street Tennis Courts in 1949. Their building, opened in 1953, was the second in Hamilton. Mrs M. Wakefield was concerned for the children in the Transit Camp and set to work to open a kindergarten in the Little Theatre in 1950. After several moves the kindergarten opened in its own building in 1957. After an unsuccessful attempt in 1948 the Maeroa residents established a kindergarten in the Methodist Hall in 1953. When their building was opened in 1958 they named it "Jamieson" in honour of our President. This was probably the last official function attended by the late Dame Hilda Ross. Fairfield, established in the Methodist Sunday School in 1955, opened its building in 1958. Melville and Cambridge were caught up in the period of controlled expansion. Melville opened a private kindergarten in 1957 and in November 1962 both Melville and Cambridge Kindergartens opened their doors to children, celebrating their official openings on the same day in February, 1963. A new committee was formed in 1963 to work for a kindergarten in Chartwell and this building was opened in October 1967. June, 1967 saw the opening of St Andrews Kindergarten after 9 years of money raising. Hillcrest and Leamington Kindergartens were completed for the beginning of the new year 1969.

New committees were formed in Glenview and Enderley (name later changed to Insoil) in 1968. Glenview Kindergarten was included in the 1972 building programme and completed for the beginning of the new year 1973. The Glenview committee honoured Mrs T. J. Muir by naming the kindergarten the Shirley Muir Free Kindergarten.



Hukanui committee was formed in 1970 and Hukanui Kindergarten was completed for the beginning of the new year 1975. Grandview, Pukete and Deanwell committees were established in 1973 and a committee was formed, in late 1974, to establish a third kindergarten in the Cambridge area. It is expected that Grandview Kindergarten will be opened during 1975. With the rapid expansion of Hamilton City, there seems to be no end to the need for pre-school services and at the time of writing more areas are under consideration for the formation of new committees.

Mrs M. Wakefield was elected President of the Association in 1962 and remained in office for three years, followed by Mrs T. J. Muir, who was elected President in 1965 and held the position for six years. Mrs S. Clay was elected President in 1971 and remained in office for 2 years. Mrs J. Bailey was elected President in 1973.

Mrs E. B. Davies, who had been Honorary Secretary of the Association since 1948, resigned from office in 1965. Mrs W. M. Dingle was appointed Secretary and for the first time remuneration was paid. Mrs Dingle resigned her position in 1970 and the decision was made to establish a permanent office. The amount of correspondence, records, etc. accumulated over the years had reached proportions of some magnitude and it was unreasonable to expect that these should be accommodated in a private home. Offices were obtained in the main street of Hamilton and the change has been invaluable. Mrs Street was appointed Honorary Secretary to initiate the change and establish the new routine before appointing a new Secretary. Mrs C. Clark was appointed clerical assistant and in 1971 was appointed Secretary.

In 1974 Mrs A. Timmins was appointed by the Association, to the position of Professional Supervisor, on a part-time basis, to help overcome the Association's need for a Supervising Head Teacher.

Mention must be made of a few outstanding events. After working for a year, we staged a most successful 'Floral Carpet Fair' in 1952. The profits put our building fund on a sound financial basis. In 1960 and again in 1970 we were privileged to act

as host association to the Union Conference. In 1962 we received our first legacy from the Violet Gruar estate and with this money we established a library for the use of staff and parents.

Two of our staff members have gained distinction. Miss Mary Brooker who conducted 'Kindergarten of the Air' and Miss Leone Shaw, District Pre-School Adviser for this area, were both members of our staff.

The greatest honour which we have received was the award of the M.B.E. to Miss I. M. Jamieson, President until 1962, for her services to education.

Mrs T. J. Muir was elected to the National Executive in 1970, a position which she still holds under the present Ward System, and for 3 years was regional representative on the Board of Studies at Auckland Kindergarten Teachers College. Mrs Muir was elected to the District Pre-School Committee in 1973, and she was also elected to the Pre-School Committee of the Hamilton Teachers Training College in 1973.

HASTINGS

Early in 1928, two Hastings citizens, Mr and Mrs K. Chamberlain, saw the necessity of establishing a kindergarten for the care of small children. They convened several meetings in their home before the first recorded public meeting was held in July of that year. A small band of women canvassed the town prior to the opening of the kindergarten in the Y.M.C.A. lounge in February, 1929, with Mrs McLeod as voluntary director and a roll of 38. Mrs McLeod continued till the end of that year when Mrs Black was appointed, with Miss Frost as assistant. A mothers' club was formed with Mrs Bennett as secretary, and very early in the records we read that they donated £3 towards the cost of tables and chairs.

In 1930 the kindergarten was moved to the S.D.A. rooms but, due to the growing numbers, was shifted back to the Y.M.C.A. where it was housed when the disastrous earthquake compelled it to close down temporarily in 1931. In 1930 the Association became an incorporated society. In this year the southern area was canvassed with a view to starting a kindergarten there, and it was found that 78 children were eligible to attend. In July of that year the association became affiliated to the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and delegates attended the Conference. The first shop day was held in September and realised \$131.60.

In March 1931, the kindergarten was reopened in the Hastings Tennis Club's pavilion with 13 children. During the period between the earthquake and the reopening, the president, Mrs Bauchop, and the secretary, Miss Ford (who held that position for 17 years), were untiring in their efforts, devoting much time to visiting the children and their mothers in their homes and keeping the affairs of the kindergarten up-to-date.

In the winter months of 1932 the local milk vendors supplied the kindergarten with milk daily, free of charge. The following year an Art Union grant, instead of Government assistance, was received and with the increasing roll (now 64) the head teacher's salary was raised to \$248 and the assistant's to \$40. The advisability of engaging a second assistant at \$20 a year was considered.

Between 1933 and 1948 the kindergarten was housed in a variety of halls for varying lengths of time, and towards the end of this period a stronger desire for permanent premises developed. In 1946 a section was purchased. A committee was formed to raise funds and more than \$800 was quickly collected. A permit to build was sought on April 16, 1948, but it was not until March 25, 1949, that final agreement was reached and building commenced. In July, 1950, a local committee was formed to administer the affairs of this kindergarten. The first establishment committee to be formed was at Mahora in August, 1949. The third establishment committee, Parkvale, was formed in November, 1950, and by early 1951, kindergartens were functioning in these areas. On November 10, 1961, Central, our first "home to call our own," was opened by Mrs S. I. Jones, wife of the local Member of Parliament.

Work soon commenced on our next building at Mahora and this was opened in February, 1957. A section was purchased for Parkvale, a fourth kindergarten started at

Raureka and an establishment committee formed for Mayfair in a short time. Parkvale's building proceeded and was opened in 1959. Raureka soon followed in 1961 and Mayfair in 1962. At the same time a local committee was formed in the Lumley area and, after many setbacks, this kindergarten was eventually opened in 1970. It was built in Camberley area so the name was changed. In the new suburb of Flaxmere an establishment committee was formed and we were most fortunate to have Miss L. M. C. Ingram, President of the Union, come to Hastings to open this kindergarten in 1972.

In November, 1972, we formed an Establishment Committee to raise funds for a second Kindergarten in Flaxmere, to be called the Ellen Stevenson Kindergarten. It is to be built in Chatham Road, as there was no available land at the nearby school. We have spent the last two years raising funds for this Kindergarten. Building commenced mid-November 1974, and we hope to have it completed early April, 1975.

Immediately this building has been completed, we hope to form another Establishment Committee for a third Kindergarten in the Flaxmere area, where a survey taken earlier this year shows there are in excess of 700 pre-school children in the immediate district.

Flaxmere Kindergarten has had such a large waiting list of four-year-olds that we applied in May for a 45/45 extended roll, to be effective for the next two years. This was granted in September, with approval to appoint a trained teacher three half days per week.

We are not due to celebrate our 50th anniversary of the opening of our first Kindergarten until 1977, but already our thoughts are turning towards this occasion.

HAVELOCK NORTH

The establishment of the free kindergarten in Havelock North was achieved, in the main, through sheer tenacity of purpose on the part of a small group of women, who, in June, 1952, called a public meeting with the object of opening a kindergarten in the village.

The first annual report was presented by Mrs Bradley in February, 1953. At this meeting the Association became an Incorporated Society and the constitution was adopted.

As no suitable premises were available to rent, the council set out to raise the necessary funds to acquire a section and erect their own building. Many setbacks were faced with determination and by mid-1956 sufficient progress had been made to enable the kindergarten to function in temporary premises. Credit goes to the Borough Council who made these premises available and who assisted in the purchase of a section. Early in 1957 the building was commenced and on July 27 of that year Miss M. Gallagher, Supervisor of Pre-school Services, officially opened it. Much work still had to be done and working bees coped adequately with this.

Following the formation of an Establishment Committee in 1962, necessary funds were raised for the erection of a second Kindergarten in the McDuff block. This kindergarten, named Lucknow, was completed and opened in 1967 and was soon running as a very competent pre-school training centre.

The Council continued to work hard and we were very sorry to receive the resignation of Mrs Hursthouse who had given many years of service to the movement. She had been President for a number of years but as Mrs Nimon had previously done, she had joined the Local Body Council and could not continue.

In 1969 the Association found it once again necessary to form another Establishment Committee because of the vast increase in the population in Havelock North, many being of pre-school age.

The first meeting however, was not successful, but in 1970, when another meeting was called, a Committee was formed with the result that in two years they raised enough finance to have the third Kindergarten built. Plans were accepted by the Education Department and the third Kindergarten Te Mata was erected.

Te Mata Kindergarten was completed in August, 1973, and opened with great joy

in the third term of the same year. Further progress has been made for future Kindergartens in the area. Approaches to local Borough Council for land for future buildings have been made and every consideration by them will be made to allocate sections for our use in proposed new areas.

KAPITI

The association was formed at a public meeting held in July, 1966, and work towards the establishment of a free kindergarten in the Paraparaumu area begun.

In March, 1968, it was proposed that three Establishment Committees be convened to raise funds for the building of kindergartens at Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu Beach and Paraparaumu town.

The kindergarten at Raumati Beach was officially opened by Mrs B. J. Brayshaw (vice-president, New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union) in February, 1973. This kindergarten is sited within the boundaries of the Raumati Beach Primary School.

Shortly after this permission was granted to commence work on the building of Paraparaumu Beach Free Kindergarten on land provided by the Hutt County Council.

The site selected for Paraparaumu town was a portion of land given by the Wellington Education Board at Kapiti School. It was agreed that this kindergarten should be known as Ngahina (Young Maiden).

Although several months separated the granting of building permission for these buildings they were both officially opened by the Minister of Education, Mr P. A. Amos, in July, 1974.

In April, 1973, residents of Waikanae approached the association and an Establishment Committee has since then been working to raise the necessary finance to establish a Kindergarten in the Russell Reserve. Plans are well advanced and building should commence shortly.

It is realised that ours is a rapidly expanding district and approaches have been made to the Education Department for the acquisition of a further site in the area between Raumati and Paraparaumu Beach. This is the first of a number of buildings which will have to be considered in order that our increasing population can benefit fully from pre-school education.

HUNTLY

The Huntly Free Kindergarten Association was inaugurated after a public meeting, called by the Huntly Plunket Mothers' Club, in September, 1949, voted unanimously to proceed with the task of establishing a free kindergarten for the district.

By February, 1951, sufficient funds and the use of a suitable hall made it possible to enrol the first 10 pupils. It has been a source of regret that the Council did not think to have a photograph taken on this first day. Our first trained head teacher, with an untrained assistant, received further enrolments over the next few weeks until a full role of 40 children was obtained for the morning sessions. As we became established, the kindergarten roll was built up in a short space of time Huntly had an active kindergarten.

The inadequacy of a hired hall sped the Council on to more and more varied money-raising efforts until we were able to purchase a section and make plans for our own building.

Suitable central land was very scarce and although the initial outlay for our section was approximately \$1,200, subsequent improvements in the form of drainage and filling finally increased the cost to nearly \$2,400. With the completion in January, 1958, of our building, the kindergarten opened in February. The new site and building have proved to be very satisfactory, but, as it is situated in a built-up area the provision of a 6ft corrugated iron fence has proved most valuable for protection.

The highlight of our career came with the official opening by Mr D. Carter, M.P., in June, 1958, a perfect day, and the interest shown by our many distinguished visitors made it a very happy occasion.

We have been fortunate in that, at most times, we have had the services of trained teachers and the Council has at all times been impressed by the high calibre of these girls who give of their best and very often do many more hours and duties than the regulations require.

Through the ensuing years, with generous financial and material support from the district, we have been able to progress steadily until the Huntly Free Kindergarten Association has become an established part of our community life.

The Council takes a full part in the regional and Dominion conferences and is always grateful for help and advice so freely given by the "Mothers" of the movement who have striven over a great number of years to give us the enviable standards which we now enjoy.

An approach was made to the association from members of the Maori Women's Welfare League requesting information for a kindergarten at Huntly West. A public meeting was called for November 26, 1964, in the Huntly West Hall. Dr Willoughby (Patron of the association) presided and Mesdames Davies, Wakefield and Muir, from the Hamilton Kindergarten Association, gave some idea of what the committee's obligation would be. After further discussion it was formally moved that a kindergarten committee be formed in Huntly West. Council members took a survey of the area and obtained names of all pre-school children. What was considered an ideal section had been set aside by the Government several years before, and once it was decided to build a new kindergarten, it was only a matter of raising the necessary money. In the usual enthusiastic manner with which all such projects have been approached in Huntly, fund-raising projects, including fashion parades, street stall, whoppa swoppa contest, bottle drives, and catering, were carried out, and with the support of the public, and a lot of hard work by various committees, we were soon under way. In a period of just over three years enough funds were in hand to apply for permission to build.

Mr Care-Cottrell, of Hamilton, was nominated to prepare sketch plans and approval was received to proceed with the kindergarten in the 1969/70 building programme. After many years of concentrated planning and hard work the Huntly West Kindergarten was opened. The completion of a dream to extend kindergarten facilities not only to the Pakeha race but more to the Maori children, who made up a great proportion of the Huntly West population, was at last fulfilled when the Huntly West Kindergarten was officially opened by Miss L. Ingram, President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union on April 3, 1971. The first Head Teacher employed was Miss Diane Taylor, who was ably assisted by Miss G. Weatherley, an untrained teacher.

During this period the association had not been idle. A special meeting was held in June to discuss the formation of a council and local committees.

On June 15, 1968, a luncheon was held in the Huntly Hotel to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the first kindergarten. Mothers of the kindergarten children, past, present and future together attended this very enjoyable function and the opportunity was taken to confer Life Membership on Mrs Grace Baker, a foundation member of the first committee which was formed in 1949. Mrs Baker will be known to members of the Union as she attended and spoke at a number of conferences. Life Membership has also been conferred on Mesdames G. McWhinney (first President of the association), G. Hamer, A. Ryburn, P. Wight, J. Davies and I. Porteous in recognition of their valuable service to the association over a great number of years.

On July 10, 1972, two of our most valuable members, namely Mrs Irene Porteous and Mrs Jean Davies, were honoured with a Life Membership of the association for over 20 years' service to the movement in this district.

Huntly association took part in "National Kindergarten Week" held in June, 1973. This proved to be most successful and citizens of the town and surrounding districts were made aware of what kindergarten has to offer their children.

In July, 1973, the President, Mrs D. Perry, was presented with a cheque for \$300 from the Rotary Club of Huntly, to be used for the formation of an adventure playground at the Huntly West Kindergarten. This was accepted most gratefully and with the help of parents at Huntly West they now have a playground to be proud of.

A high point of the 1974 year was the 25th Jubilee Ball, held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, June 29. Guests included the Patron, Mrs D. Carter and her husband, Mr D. J. Carter, Mrs G. McWhinney, the first President of the association, Life Members and past and present members.

The Power Project is bringing many changes to this community, which will continue over the next five years. This association is now working towards its third kindergarten to help meet the demand for pre-school education in this area, and are confident that the continued co-operation of the public and the Departments concerned, the coming year will prove a momentous one, and the establishment of a well-equipped third kindergarten will become a reality.

KAIKOHE

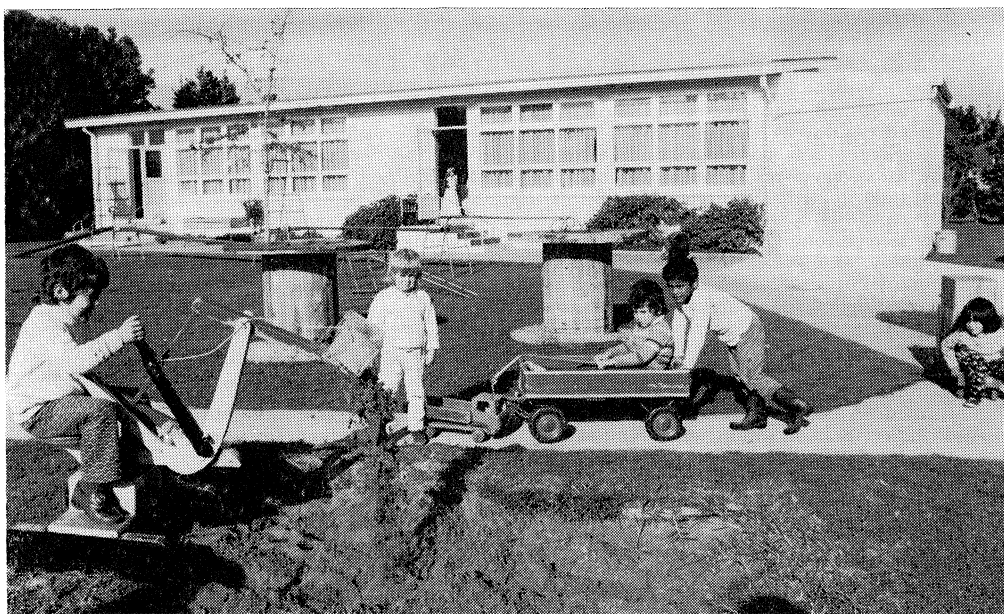
The inaugural meeting of this association was held on July 30, 1951. \$3,000 was raised and in March, 1954, an architect was appointed. Tenders were called in July, 1954, and the first children attended on February 16, 1955. The tender price for this kindergarten was \$9,400. Funds were raised at a time when the district was engaged in a local appeal for \$60,000 for a War Memorial Hall, and when the Borough population was 3,000.

In February, 1964, it became apparent that our pre-school population was increasing and the Council made preliminary inquiries about a second site. The choice of our first site adjacent to a primary school encouraged us to seek a new site near the second primary school, by then established at Kaitoke. With much good-will on the part of the Education Board and the local Borough Council, and by the exchange of a small piece of land between these two bodies, our new site was duly granted.

The first meeting to form a building committee was held on September 23, 1964. While the numbers of pre-school children were not sufficient to warrant an intensive campaign to raise funds, the new committee set about their task quietly and determinedly, hoping that when the need arose, the finance would be available. By early 1970, we had engaged an architect and preliminary drawings for a Grade 1 building were ready. However, the Department then intimated that the new kindergarten would be authorised for Grade 0 only, and we were too late that year to have the plans altered in time to receive permission to proceed. In August, 1971, tenders were called for the Grade 0 kindergarten and it is a reflection of our depreciating money value that, for a building of approximately half the playroom area, the quote in 1971 was \$15,700 against the 1955 price of \$9,400.

As geographical centre for the northern-most regions, we have been privileged to act as host association for most of the annual regional meetings. Since 1952 we have been represented at the Dominion conferences, even though in the first year of our existence it took some persuasion on the part of Union Executive members that money spent on conference is a sound investment. We are as convinced of this today as we were in our early years.

In our earliest years the committee became aware that the rolls contained none, and then a mere handful of children from Maori homes. The school roll pointed to a proportion of 50 per cent Maori and European children. We tried for many years to encourage more children from Maori homes, but with little success. In 1960, we were able to appoint a qualified Maori assistant teacher. In 1961, this teacher was promoted to head teacher and this was a major step forward. In 1962, from two applicants we chose another Maori trained teacher as assistant teacher and from that point our rolls grew to the same proportion of Maori/European as in the schools.



In contrast to the chronic shortages of trained staff in the 1950s, we count ourselves fortunate to have a fully-qualified staff in 1972. In a Borough population of under 4,000, we are happy to be able to offer attendance at one of our kindergartens to every child whose parents are willing to take advantage of it.

KAITAIA

On October 19, 1949, at a public meeting convened by Mrs A. M. Morrison, it was decided to establish a free kindergarten in Kaitaia. Mr F. Weber was elected chairman. It was hoped to start operating in a local hall, but when it was found that the rent for halls was expensive, the committee decided to work towards a permanent building.

The War Memorial Committee was approached relative to incorporating the kindergarten in the War Memorial Scheme, and this was agreed to. The Kaitaia Borough Council then agreed to let the committee have a section owned by the Borough on the corner of Worth Street and Dominion Road. When this section was cleared of scrub and standing tea-tree, it was found that a tremendous amount of filling would be required, which would become uneconomic.

The Borough Council then agreed to allow the committee a quarter-acre of the playing area in the State House Block. In March, 1951, application was made to the Commissioner of Crown Lands for this site, which was approved by the Education Department in July, 1951, but it was not till November, 1951, that the committee finally received confirmation of title to the section.

In 1954, the committee had \$2,880 in hand, and Mr Weber agreed to stand guarantor at the bank for an overdraft of \$1,700 so that the Education Department would allow the committee to proceed. By the end of 1955 the building was completed

but no trained staff was available. It was decided to open as a private kindergarten in 1956, and it was operated as such until October.

On November 6, 1956, the building was officially opened by Mrs H. Batten, Vice-President of the Auckland Association. In 1959, the overdraft was finally cleared. A store shed was erected, and the area behind the kindergarten sealed and a road formed to allow vehicular access. The road and sealing cost \$640.

Since 1956 Kaitaia Kindergarten has served the needs of pre-school children in the area very well. Council members have worked very hard to maintain the building and to keep all the equipment in tip-top order.

In 1964, Council members began in a very modest way to make jig-saw puzzles for sale throughout New Zealand. This has since developed into a minor cottage industry, and puzzles have been supplied to schools, kindergartens, play centres, speech therapy clinics, Plunket Societies, I.H.C. schools, day nurseries and to private individuals. It is estimated that about 2,000 puzzles have been sold.

In recent years there has been a very rapid increase in the number of children on the waiting list who are able to attend kindergarten, and the association is faced with the task of building a second kindergarten in Kaitaia.

At a public meeting held on June 10, 1974, an Establishment Committee was formed. A site has been made available on Education Board land adjacent to the Primary School, and, with fund-raising activities well advanced, the committee is hopeful that building will commence in the next financial year.

As an interim measure the association applied to operate an Extended Roll Scheme and permission was granted in June, 1974, to allow 10 extra children to attend the present kindergarten. An untrained assistant was then employed to assist at the after-noon sessions.

The present kindergarten had a storeroom added in June 1972, to provide extra storage capacity.

LEVIN

On April 30, 1952, a public meeting was held at the Borough Council Chambers which was attended by fifty-five people. It was resolved, despite some opposition, to form a Free Kindergarten Association. The project, which won the Peter B. Watts Award, was sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. By April, 1953, nearly \$6,000 had been raised. This was an average of \$200 per week. The population of Levin at the time was 4,727. The main money-raiser was a baby photographic contest, which produced nearly \$3,400. The campaign was started with a Nigger Minstrel Show which raised \$100 one Friday night. A large amount came from a mock mayoral contest, a mock court, a professional wrestling match, concerts and dances. Donations came from many interested people, such as the Kimberley Farm and Training School and the architect. The land was a gift from the Borough Council to the Kindergarten and Plunket Society jointly. On December 17, 1953, the tender of Messrs Speak and White for \$11,024 was accepted. Mr B. E. Orchiston, of Wellington, was the architect of the modern building designed on the open plan. An attractive oil painting of children playing outside the kindergarten was donated by Mrs M. Waters to the kindergarten in 1961. The kindergarten was opened to the first ten children on September 20, 1954, by Mr Marshall. The rolls were soon built up to 80 children in the morning and afternoon classes. There are now 200 children on the waiting list. The first Director was a local girl, Miss B. McMinn and her assistant was Miss J. Jones. The chairman of the first committee, Mr D. Tomlinson, was the Patron of our association. Our present (1973) Patron is Mrs B. Montford — a member of the Kindergarten Association for many years. Mr K. Beyer and Mrs J. Turley have been made Life Members in recognition of their services to the association. At the 1973 Annual General Meeting, Mr G. Green — then secretary — was also given Life Membership for his work in the Kindergarten Movement. In the last ten years, despite ups and downs, the hard work of the Head Teacher, association members, Mothers' Clubs and parents, have kept the kindergarten open for service to little children.

After seven years of hard work, Levin's No. 2 kindergarten, Parsons Avenue, was built. In mid-1971 tenders were called for the building, at a price of \$23,000. It was completed and opened for the first children on March 1, 1972. It was officially opened on September 16, by Mr A. McCreedy, M.P. for the district.

The rolls built up quickly and both afternoon and morning rolls were soon filled. The first Head Teacher was Miss G. Johnson (now Mrs Binns) and her assistant was Miss V. Bull.

An adventure playground, built by Levin Jaycees, has proved a most suitable asset to the grounds.

The area in which this kindergarten was built is steadily expanding and roll numbers still steadily rise.

The Otaki Establishment Committee was, in October, 1972, allocated a section which is part of Otaki School, to build a Free Kindergarten to replace the present private one.

A hard-working committee and most successful baby photo contest brought forward the necessary dollars to build this kindergarten.

Tenders were called and let in July, 1974, at a price of \$34,300. This kindergarten is at present under construction and should be ready for opening in early 1975.

LOWER HUTT

The first free kindergarten in Lower Hutt was opened on October 27, 1928, under the capable direction of Miss M. B. Riley, who saw the need in the Moera district. Known first as the Moera Kindergarten, its name was later changed to "Riley" to honour the work of its teacher. Next a local committee was set up to operate a free kindergarten in Woburn. The Mothers' Clubs of these two kindergartens functioned very well and combined for various meetings quite early in their history. A further committee was organised in the V.I.C. area and a free kindergarten was opened in Knox Church in High Street.

With the development of State Housing settlements in Lower Hutt, three new areas, Epuni, Nae Nae and Taita set up committees and established "Community Kindergartens" as a start towards free kindergartens. When sufficient trained staff became available, Epuni and Nae Nae were able to be recognised as free kindergartens, operating in halls. By 1950 the association was administering five kindergartens. Taita, being without trained staff, remained as a community kindergarten until 1956, when it was decided to disband and work for funds for a permanent building. The association permitted Taita to have a liaison delegate on its Council.

From 1950 all local committees raised funds for new buildings. The first, V.I.C., was opened in June, 1956, almost opposite Knox Church where they had been for years. This was followed later in the same year by the Woburn Committee, which first called the kindergarten "Collingwood" but later changed to "Waterloo" as this is the district which it serves. On March 30, 1957, the Riley Free Kindergarten was opened in a new building on a site made available by the Lower Hutt City Council. Epuni and Nae Nae followed in quick succession.

Taita had the task of raising funds by selling a "dream". Two periods of consolidation in the free kindergarten movement held back their building programme, but finally, in October, 1962, the first children were admitted to a recognised free kindergarten.

Credit for the steady growth of Lower Hutt Free Kindergartens must go to Miss Hazel Gorrie, Head Teacher at Riley Kindergarten for many years and Senior Head

Teacher for some time. She was most co-operative and encouraging to new committees and Mothers' Clubs. The association has also been well served by parents. In April, 1951, the United Mothers' Club was formed. Their social gatherings have developed into annual Talents Evenings, now held for two nights in the Lower Hutt Town Hall which seats 1,000 people. Proceeds have been used for equipment and donations to building funds. In 1963, the total of \$170 was handed over to Wainuiomata. A further sum was held in trust for a free kindergarten at Avalon, a rapidly-growing area.

In June, 1965, Lower Hutt's seventh kindergarten was officially opened by Miss L. M. C. Ingram, President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union. The opening of this kindergarten in Wainuiomata was only made possible by the loan of money by all established kindergartens in the association, as people in the district had lost interest after working for seven years with very little to show for their efforts. This example stressed the need for a scheme such as has been introduced now by the State Advances Corporation.

In 1965 the association took part in the Lower Hutt City Jubilee celebrations. A fancy dress party for pre-school children was held in the Lower Hutt Town Hall at which there was a record attendance. Judges were Mr and Mrs Harcourt (Kate) and Mrs Orchiston from "Kindergarten of the Air".

In late 1966 the first public meeting in Stokes Valley was called and, with the help of debentures and a loan from the association's Central Building Fund (into which each established kindergarten pays \$100 per year), the kindergarten was opened by the Director-General of Education, Mr A. N. V. Dobbs, at the end of October, 1971. The trust fund set up in 1967 for the money raised by an establishment committee in Avalon is still held as no other establishment committee has been formed. The association is at present negotiating for a site in Avalon with a view to building a kindergarten in the very near future to relieve the waiting lists of established kindergartens in the area.

The association had a second site made available in Wainuiomata early in 1971. This site was at Parkway and an establishment committee, which had begun work in 1968, was able to see a future for its work. Parkway was placed on the priority list in early 1972, and with the help of the Department of Maori and Island Affairs (due to the large number of these children in the area), was able to go to tender in October, 1972.

The association was advised that a site was available in Maungaraki in 1971. An inaugural meeting was held in late March, 1972, and by October the same year a record \$4,000 had been raised by the usual fund-raising ventures and the sale of debentures. Maungaraki was placed on the priority list in September, 1972. The association applied for a \$3,000 loan from the State Advances Corporation and the kindergarten went to tender in December, 1972.

The association was able to procure a site at Kelson under the scheme whereby Education Boards purchase an extra quarter-acre of land when purchasing school sites.

Mrs Rita Stockbridge, J.P., was elected a Life Member of the association in 1971, after 17 years of outstanding service to the Association. Our thanks must also go to the Lower Hutt City Council for their co-operation and help over the years.

The United Mothers' Club has continued to stage its "Talents" annually in the Little Theatre. Most of the Mothers' Clubs have participated over the years and the performances have proved to be popular with the public.

In November, 1972, the association made representations to the Wellington Education Board with a view to them making land available on school sites for kindergartens. After negotiations with the Board, School Committee and Department of Education, it was agreed that a kindergarten be built in the Dyer Street School grounds in central Lower Hutt. The design of this building would be a new concept — one of modular construction and relocatable. The problems associated with initiating this concept took longer than anticipated, but the Grade 0 Dyer Street Kindergarten was put out to tender in October, 1974.

National Free Kindergarten Week was held from June 18-24, 1973, and the Lower Hutt Association received tremendous support from parents and the public



during this time. The kindergarten movement as a whole profited substantially in its publicity over this period.

Steps were taken early in 1973 to establish a second kindergarten in Stokes Valley (Koraunui) on a site which had been vested in the association by the Wellington Education Board. A committee was formed and fund-raising commenced. However, problems arose because of site difficulties and efforts were made to find an alternative. These proved fruitless and in May, 1974, permission was given by the Department to go ahead to erect the kindergarten on the original site.

The Parkway Kindergarten at Wainuiomata was officially opened on August 11, 1973, by the Hon. R. Bailey, M.P. for Heretaunga, who substituted for the Hon. F. Coleman, M.P. for the district, who was at that time overseas.

Maungaraki Kindergarten was opened on February 16, 1974, by Mr J. Kennedy-Good, Mayor of Lower Hutt. Both of these kindergartens already have long waiting lists.

In May, 1973, the association was advised that a site could be available for a combined Plunket Room and Grade 0 kindergarten at Norfolk Street, Wainuiomata (Arakura Kindergarten) and negotiations were commenced immediately to confer with the Plunket Society to work towards this end.

At the end of 1974 the association was awaiting Health Department approval to allow this project to proceed, although an establishment committee had been set up and were fund-raising for this building.

In July, 1973, a public meeting was called in Kelson and a committee formed to establish a kindergarten in that area. It was decided that the kindergarten should be known as Taieri Crescent, and work was commenced immediately towards establishing this kindergarten. Tenders were called prior to Christmas, 1974, and it is anticipated the building will be in use in the middle of 1975.

Mrs M. P. Blackburne resigned from the position of Association Secretary in

February, 1974, after many years of service to the Lower Hutt Association.

Also in 1973 the association decided to erect its own central office, which would be attached to the Waterloo Kindergarten. Local committees generously supported the request for financial assistance. The building was erected during 1974 with the assistance of the carpentry apprentices training at the Central Institute of Technology, together with voluntary help from association members. The office has proved to be of immense value to the association, and together with the appointment of a part-time permanent secretary (Mrs G. Tilly), has contributed considerably to the smooth running of the association.

In July, 1974, the Lower Hutt Association hosted the Annual Conference of the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union. The association was particularly pleased with the success of the occasion and appreciated the assistance it received from local committees and Mothers' Clubs within the association.

MANAWATU

In August, 1948, the Palmerston North Play Centres Association discussed the building of a free kindergarten in the city. With this in view Mrs Barnard, of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, addressed a meeting of representatives of the Play Centre Association and other interested organisations on November 3 of that year.

An interim committee was appointed in April, 1949, and this committee advised a public meeting — attended by 43 people — on June 28, that a head teacher (Miss Audrey Cooper) and the All Saints Hall had been obtained for the kindergarten. A committee was appointed and on this date the Palmerston North Free Kindergarten Association was created. By the end of the year well over \$400 had been raised and the kindergarten opened on March 3, 1950, with Miss Audrey Cooper as Head Teacher and Miss C. Newman as Assistant. By August, 1954, this kindergarten had moved into two more halls and finally in September, 1955, Mrs A. F. Johnson, then President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, officially opened the kindergarten building in Campbell Street.

Late in 1950 a committee was formed for the proposed Northern Kindergarten, but due to lack of suitable premises the committee went into recess in 1953.

The Roslyn Kindergarten committee was formed at a public meeting on November 1, 1951, and the kindergarten opened in the Methodist Youth Centre in February 1952, where sessions were held until the kindergarten moved into its own building on February 17, 1958.

The first Milverton Park committee was appointed on July 2, 1953, and the kindergarten started its own building in February, 1955, as a private kindergarten — i.e. the parents paid fees. On July 10, 1956, the kindergarten was recognised by the Education Department.

The first committee for West End was convened in November, 1953. Until 1961, this kindergarten met in the Methodist Hall in Botanical Road, but their building was officially opened on May 27, 1961, by the Hon. Blair Tennant, Minister of Education.

Two months after the West End residents had met to form a committee, another committee was appointed in Hokowhitu, in January, 1954, and their building was opened officially on May 24, 1958, on the same day as Roslyn, by the Hon. P. O. Skoglund, then Minister of Education.

The association was happy to approve the application of the newly-formed Feilding committee to affiliate in May, 1958. This committee raised money so successfully that, in March, 1959, we asked that its name be put on the waiting list for approval to build. This approval was given in June, 1960, and the building began to take shape in 1961. Official opening on March 24, 1962 by the Hon. Blair Tennant.

The Takaro Kindergarten started functioning early in 1959 in a hall. A building site was obtained and sufficient finance raised. Permission to build was granted in 1964. The building was officially opened on July 3, 1965, by Mr Mason Durie, O.B.E. Riverdale was opened by Miss M. Gallagher in February, 1969. This was followed by Highbury — opened by Mr L. Gandar on August 7, 1971.

In October, 1957, the name of the association was changed from the Palmerston North to the Manawatu Free Kindergarten Association Inc.

In the 22 years since the first kindergarten started in a hall, this association has financed nine buildings and has a tenth waiting for permission to build this year. Advance planning has secured pre-school sites strategically placed throughout our region and, as housing developments spread into new areas, so we are able to keep pace with the pre-school needs of the children. With a site available and money guaranteed by the association, we are in a happy position of being able to initiate interest in a new community and quickly organise a committee dedicated to the establishment of yet another kindergarten.

In 1955 our first kindergarten was built for \$9,000. Now we face building costs in the vicinity of \$23,000. We never fail to applaud the energy and enthusiasm with which our committees tackle this immense financial obligation and annually undertake to meet ever-spiralling operational costs.

With the changing pattern of society we recognise the need to provide a kindergarten which caters for children of parents who, for a valid reason, need to pursue full-time work. With the excellent co-operation of our City Council, a suitable central site has been reserved for this purpose, and this year we intend to investigate the possibility of establishing a Day Care Centre which is so urgently needed. We know we have the backing of other related organisations, so if this history of the free kindergarten movement is extended to a third edition, we hope to tell you of our latest success story in keeping up with the needs of our modern society.

Opening of the Lowther Kindergarten by the Hon. P. Amos, on May 26, 1973. This was originally the Milson Kindergarten, but re-named the Lowther Kindergarten at the official opening in recognition of the work done by Mrs Kay Lowther to establish the kindergartens.

1973—Manawatu Association celebrated its Silver Jubilee — 25 years — with an Open Week at all kindergartens in July. A very successful Cocktail Hour was held for staff and Council Executives — past and present — and this was followed by a cabaret. In all, 25 years of kindergarten in the Manawatu were celebrated very successfully.

Extended rolls have opened at both the Feilding Kindergarten and the Riverdale Kindergarten, and are operating very successfully.

Establishment Committee set up in Awapuni, Palmerston North, April, 1972. Building has commenced and will be opening in 1975.

Establishment Committee set up in Ashhurst, Manawatu, June, 1974.

Establishment Committee set up in Manchester area, Feilding, in May, 1973. Building has commenced and will be opening in 1975.

Establishment Committee set up in Parkland area, Palmerston North, in November, 1973. Building commenced, and opening in 1975.

MARTON

A public meeting called on August 4, 1949, elected a committee for the purpose of forming a kindergarten association in Marton. By December the committee had raised \$400. Suitable premises were acquired and a kindergarten, with Mrs D. Collier as acting Head Teacher, opened in March, 1950. A permanent Head Teacher was appointed in 1951. Plans for the new kindergarten were finally approved and the building was officially opened in July, 1953. Since that time Marton pre-school children have been able to reap the benefit of a well-equipped model kindergarten.

In the period 1964-1972 the major achievements of this association have been the establishment of Marton's second kindergarten in Mill Street, which was opened in February, 1970, and the considerable upgrading of facilities at the Follett Street Kindergarten, which opened in 1949.

Few districts in New Zealand can match Marton's number of kindergarten places available on a per capita basis, and this situation has been brought about by the active work and enthusiasm of council members, mothers' clubs and local kindergarten committees over many years.



Most of the Association's contribution to the new Mill Street Kindergarten was raised in 1962 when a building fund of \$4,000 was established, but the proceeds of the first edition of the Marton Free Kindergarten cook book, published in 1968, also played an important part.

During the past eight years, the Marton kindergartens have been extremely lucky to have Miss Jan Stewart and Mrs Marge Zander as head teachers and their continuity of service has contributed greatly to the high standard of teaching that has been maintained over these years.

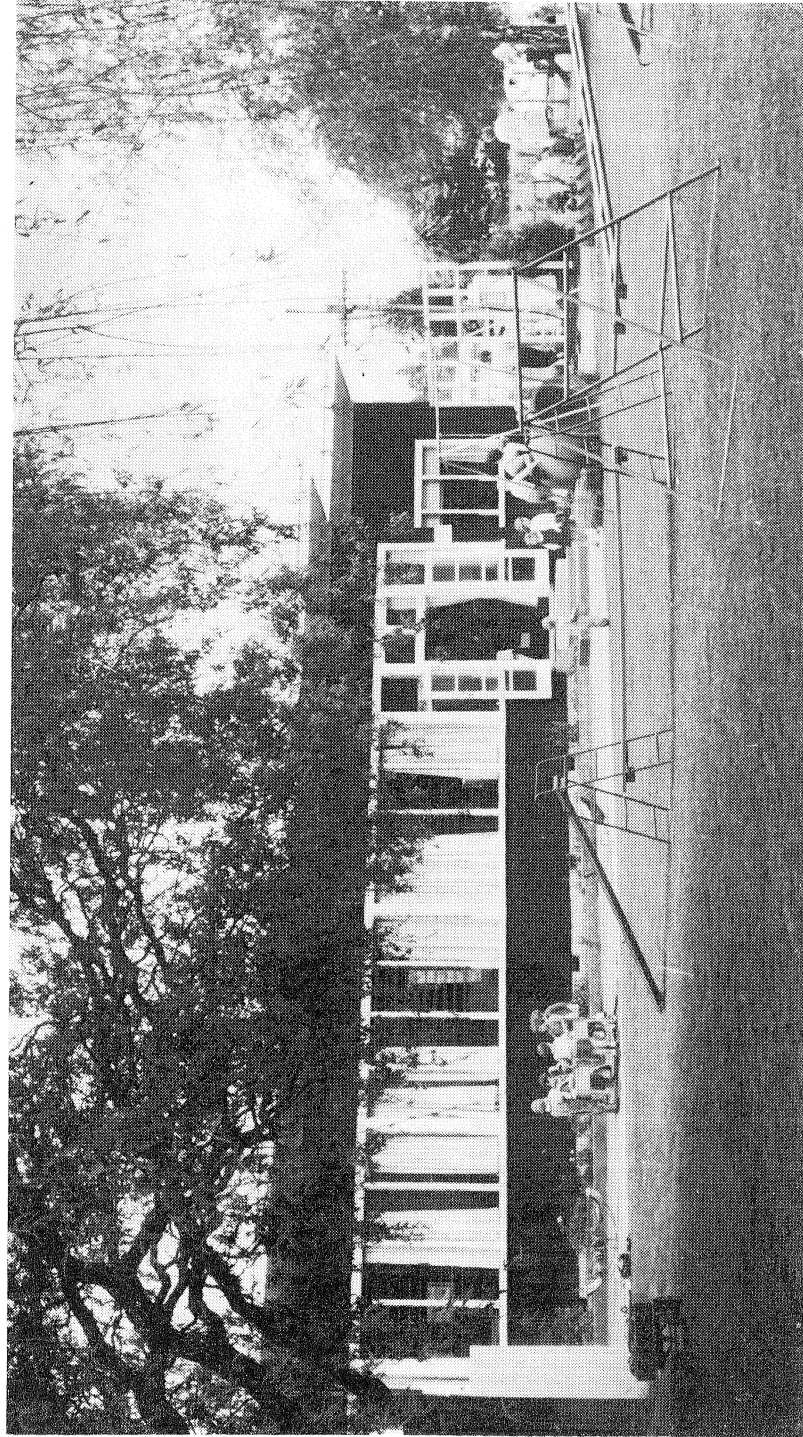
Some of the highlights of this period 1964-72 have been:—

1965 — The mammoth undertaking of fencing the 850ft of boundary at the Follett Street Kindergarten was begun, with a series of working bees that lasted nearly three years.

1967 — The initial house to house survey for the second kindergarten was undertaken, and the need established. The Follett Street Kindergarten was reroofed, curtains were hung and shrubs planted.

1968—Well attended working bees at Follett Street installed the following outdoor play equipment — a giraffe, a concrete pipe caterpillar, a telegraph pole aeroplane, a concrete pipe Y, vertical climbing poles, and a 300ft cycle track which skirted the "rough play area" was completed. The exterior of the kindergarten was painted and a 120 square foot storeroom was added at the Follett Street Kindergarten. The Mill Street section was purchased, a foundation committee established, and finally the kindergarten was placed on the priority list of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

1969 — The interior of Follett Street was repainted. The Mill Street Kindergarten was included in the 1969 building programme and the building commenced in mid 1969. In the latter part of 1969 the inaugural Mill Street Committee did a tremendous amount of work in raising money for and in making some of the required indoor furniture and outdoor play equipment.



One of 235 Kindergartens in New Zealand — 1964.



CONFERENCE — LOWER HUTT, 1974.



THE NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON — 1926. Front row, fifth from left: Lady Sidey, O.B.E., President. Front row, fourth from left: Mrs J. A. Hanan, Hon. Secretary. Front row, second from left: Mrs A. Kidd (Auckland), President, 1934-1941.

1970 — The Mill Street Kindergarten was opened by the Hon. N. L. Shelton on February 14, 1970. An envelope system for the voluntary donations was introduced and an investigation into how the number of Maori children at the kindergarten could be increased, was initiated.

1971 — A log cabin and stockade was built at Follett Street. A child development seminar was held and a second publication of the kindergarten "Cook Book" was arranged — this time 10,000 copies were printed and nationally distributed.

1972 — Paddling pool areas were added at both kindergartens and an attractive ramp over the cycle track installed at Mill Street.

Many factors have contributed to the real enthusiasm that is evident in all committees associated with the Marton kindergartens, but undoubtedly important facts have been:

1. The sharing of fund-raising between the Mothers' Clubs (Shop Days) and kindergarten committees (Gala Day), thereby enabling the Mothers' Club to specify how the money they have raised is to be spent.

2. The fact that many men actively participate on the council and on kindergarten committees.

3. The quality of the head teachers and their continuity of service over the past eight years.

4. The close association and co-operation that has existed between staff members and their kindergarten committees.

In November, 1973, this Association purchased approximately three-eighths of an acre of land adjacent to the Mill Street Kindergarten and this area is being developed as a playground area.

A survey of pre-school children is at present being carried out in Bulls. The results of this survey will indicate whether or not there is a need for a kindergarten in this area.

MATAMATA

This Association situated in the heart of the Waikato was established in 1954. Six months after the inaugural meeting, which was chaired by Miss I. M. Jamieson, of Hamilton, a kindergarten was opened with trained staff in the Band Hall.

The Council members, all women, had many and varied tasks, from slashing long grass to make a play area for the children, planting hedges, endeavouring to cultivate a flower garden, to the various ways and means of raising money. After two years of a female Council we were able to interest some men of the town in kindergarten work and since then we have always had a mixed council.

We knew our sister Association over the Mamaku hills had opened three years and three months from their first public meeting in their own modern kindergarten building. This was a challenge to us and we were determined to beat their record.

An ideal section had been donated to us and approved by the Department of Education, so in great heart we started our money-raising efforts. Our first \$4,000 came in very smartly, architects were engaged and plans approved — we were sure we had an easy win, but alas, through a hold up with the sub-division we could not get the Title Deeds to the land.

For over two years we patiently waited and great was the excitement when they finally came to hand. "Good things come to those who wait" the proverb says and it certainly proved right in our case. We were more than lucky that when we were ready to build, there was a drop in building prices and the estimated cost of the building in weatherboards had dropped by \$4,000 when the tenders were in. We recalled for tenders for brick with very pleasing results. Money-raising had continued over the whole period, with the result that five years to the day from starting in the hall we were able to open in a brand new, fully-equipped kindergarten with sand pit, paddling pool, jungle gym, slide, swings, concrete paths, asphalt drive, lawns, shrubs and gardens all in first-class order.

Our Official Opening came two months later, with Mrs H. Downer, after an excellent address, declaring the kindergarten open. From that time on, we have continued to progress — from a small Mothers' Club to a flourishing Parents' Club. The waiting-list increased daily, with the result, our thoughts turned to the necessity of a second kindergarten in the not-too-distant future.

The second kindergarten, Rawhiti, was opened by Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E. J.P., on August 16, 1969. It is situated in Konini Place and is staffed by our head teacher and one assistant teacher; like the Mill Crescent Kindergarten, it has a long waiting list. Both kindergartens are now well established and running smoothly. With the opening of the Teachers College at Hamilton students are a welcome addition to the kindergartens throughout the year.

MOTUEKA

Early in 1954, Mrs S. Bassett convened a meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a kindergarten in Motueka as facilities for conducting pre-school education were incorporated in the Memorial Hall project, then nearing completion. At this meeting an interim committee was set up.

On October 27, 1954, the Motueka Free Kindergarten Association was formed and a Council elected with Miss L. M. C. Ingram, President, Mrs F. Harvey, Secretary and Mrs D. Calder, Treasurer. It was then that the real work began — money raising — a target to be reached, if possible by the beginning of the 1955 school year.

In charge of equipment was Mrs M. Anderson and finance, Mrs C. Irvine. It was an "all-out" effort to get things ready for inspection by Miss M. F. Gallagher in February. The task was accomplished and the first children began pre-school in the Borough of Motueka on March 1, 1955. Although we had sufficient children for full morning and afternoon rolls we had to start with a small "breaking-in" group. How happy we are to be able to say that our nine years have been capacity ones of eighty children on daily register and a waiting list to keep it that way.

We were pleased to be able to open our hall kindergarten with a trained head teacher, Miss B. Ayres, and an untrained assistant, Mrs J. Martin, who, but for a short period in 1958, has been with us for some years.

Looking back, our greatest worry has been lack of trained staff, with the thought ever over our heads that one day we might have to pay salaries because our "period of grace" was fast running out. Our one consolation — if it can be called that — was the list of vacancies in the Education Gazette which showed others in similar plight.

In 1959 we realised that operating in a hall was not attractive to trained teachers and a firm decision was made to build. With hopes alternately raised and lowered, we finally secured a lovely section in Motueka Memorial Park, and 1960 saw our building under way.

There is no need to enumerate the hundred and one ways used to raise money but we must acknowledge help from the Motueka Borough Council, the Nelson Education Board, Motueka Jaycee, the Selwyn Toogood Show, our ever-responsive business people and the public, always ready to buy a raffle ticket!

March 31, 1962, was the day we will always remember. As the late Hon. C. F. Skinner, who was present at the opening, said: "This is D Day (Dede's Day) for kindergarten in Motueka." Mrs H. Downer, President of the Union, came from Rotorua to officially declare the Laura Ingram Kindergarten open and Miss M. F. Gallagher also made time in her very busy programme to be with us.

Today this lovely curry-coloured concrete block building stands as a monument to the efforts of those whose belief in pre-school education was sufficient to keep them loyal to the project. Ours is a small community and the raising of \$4,000 above what was required to conduct a kindergarten kept us ever scheming.

No record of our story would be complete without special mention of Mrs S. Bassett, our senior Vice-President for nine years, Mrs D. Calder, Treasurer for five years, Mrs C. G. Wilkinson, Secretary for four years, Mrs J. Poulter, Treasurer for

three years, Mrs J. Reid, who held the position of secretary for many years. Council members have served for varying terms and all have been a pleasure to work with.

Since we have been in our own building, a Mothers' Club has been a wonderful help. Their Opening Day gift of a piano has been followed up with equally-fine efforts. Socially, too, they have kept the good name of kindergarten ever before the public.

1965. Pioneer Garage Proprietors gave us \$100 to add to our playground equipment.

1966. The outstanding event was our President, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, being elected National President. We had our first fair, and Mrs S. Bassett was elected our Patroness.

1967 stands out for our "Bride of the Year" contest, the first to be held in Motueka, and a tribute to the organising of Mrs T. Rowell and her committee.

1968. The Union Conference at Blenheim when we were able to help with fruit and cigarettes.

1969. We started our pilot scheme with ninety children and a teachers' aide added to the staff — we hope to extend this to 120 children.

1970. "Past and Present Kindergarten Council Members Luncheon" with Jo Baker leaving no stone unturned to make it a great success. One member, Mrs Harold Holyoake, came from Napier to be present and many others travelled quite long distances.

1971. The Lion's Club helped us to install central heating in the kindergarten — the staff will remember this year. With the hope of an enlarged roll our thoughts have turned to fund-raising for a more interesting and extensive playground and building.

1972. With the "Alison Holst Evening" and the fair, this year was a real effort by everyone.

1974. With the addition of the new room, the shape of our kindergarten has altered. This could also alter the shape of the service we anticipate being provided for the future. We will be operating a Grade 2 extended roll kindergarten with 120 children.

1975. It was a great thrill for us to entertain the Maori Queen to Morning coffee. The native shrubs she planted will be a significant reminder of her visit. We hope to have our new extension, which we have named "The Sittingroom" (for quiet activities), opened after Easter, by Miss Margaret Bennett, District Pre-School Advisor.

Over the years we have honoured several of our members with Life Membership of the Association, Mrs Leila Bassett, Miss Laura Ingram, Mrs Joelle Reid, Mrs Faye Grace, Mrs J. Baker, and Mrs Thelma Rowell. Miss Ingram is still our President, but to help her while she holds the National President's office, Mrs Jo Baker and Mrs Arohanui Fransen have acted as President.

Our association is indeed fortunate in the calibre of people willing to serve on the council and all have played a full part in providing the wonderful advantage for the children of the district of attending kindergarten pre-school education.

Whose is the best kindergarten in New Zealand? Why, ours, of course! There is nothing wrong with "just pride". If we all think that, then the kindergarten movement must move to an even greater place in the education system of our country. With so much more to learn in a life span which remains the same, may we always find people who know the great satisfaction derived from voluntary effort.

MORRINSVILLE

Following an address by Miss I. M. Jamieson at a public meeting in 1949, a committee was elected to form the Morrinsville Free Kindergarten Association. A constitution was drawn up at the first meeting of the newly-formed Council. The unsuitability of a hall in which a private kindergarten had opened and operated, and

the lack of trained staff, brought the association to a standstill until 1953. After a setback with the first site chosen, a second suitable one was found adjacent to the primary school. In 1955, after a concentrated fund-raising period, permission to proceed with the building was given.

Mention must be made here of the helpful advice and assistance given by Mrs H. Downer. The building admitted the first children on July 9, 1956, and the official opening on December 8, 1956, was performed by the late Dame Hilda Ross.

Over the years this kindergarten has continued to progress steadily and after 16 years it has become an established part of our community life. The rolls are full and the waiting list is approximately 200 children. Amenities have been added, including an enlarged store shed and an adventure playground with cart track and sandpits, climbing frame, rope ladders plus sets of wooden boxes and planks.

Many and varied have been the means of fund-raising over the years to enable us to be in a financial position to carry out maintenance and to keep our kindergarten equipment up to a high standard, the most successful of these being an annual "Woman of the Year" contest.

We have a large council with 32 hard-working members taking an active part in running of the kindergarten, and our staff over the years has been excellent.

MOSGIEL

In 1946 it was decided by the Plunket Society to form a "Ways and Means" Committee to establish a branch of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association. Letters were written to various organisations in Mosgiel and a house-to-house collection undertaken to raise sufficient funds to begin. Negotiations were entered into with the Mosgiel Scout Committee for the use of their hall, and, with the equipment purchased and donated, the first kindergarten, with Miss Sykes as Director, was opened on August 4, 1947.

During 1954 it was decided to form a separate association and in November a public meeting was called when the Mosgiel Free Kindergarten Association was established.

In 1957 the new building, which was the culmination of ten years' work, was opened in Irvine Street, Mosgiel, with a roll of eighty children.

A second kindergarten, named Reid Park, was opened on April 10, 1967

NAPIER

The Napier Free Kindergarten Association is now 23 years old. On July 12, 1951, a public meeting was called by the then Mayor of Napier, Mr E. R. Spriggs, at the request of a band of present enthusiasts, led by Mrs H. Johnson and Mrs A. P. Spackmand Junior, who were President and Secretary respectively of the Napier Plunket Society. There were 48 people present at the first meeting held in the Napier City Council Chambers, many of whom remained to work for the kindergarten movement for many years. Our neighbouring city of Hastings had already enjoyed 23 years of kindergarten and their association President, Mrs Hopkins, and Senior Head Teacher, Miss Person, were invited to attend as guest speakers to tell the Napier parents the great necessity of bringing the opportunity of pre-school experience to their children.

An interim committee was formed that night, Miss I. W. Bain, a former infant mistress was elected chairman and Mr Tom Johnson as secretary. Mr Johnson remained with the association for the next 12 years and the value of his work in the association's growth cannot be measured in words. When the association became an incorporated society by the end of 1951, elected as President was Mrs N. E. McKeever, who had been interested in the kindergarten movement in Invercargill for 25 years; her knowledge placed the Napier Association in the unique position of being able to progress



immediately without the trial and error experiences that beset most new associations. Contrary to present practices, kindergartens were allowed to operate in temporary premises; within 18 months Napier had two kindergartens operating, one in the Ahuriri area and the other at Marewa.

In 1955, Mrs McKeever retired and Mrs F. K. Malcolm became President. By this time the Napier City Council had made a building site available on the Bedford Road Reserve alongside the Plunket section. Plans to build a permanent building for Marewa were started. With a first donation of \$500 from the Hawkes Bay U.F.S. Dispensary, fund-raising became very serious. In the eleven years Mrs Malcolm was President the association prospered and grew very fast. Marewa's new building was opened in 1956. By 1957 the Ahuriri Kindergarten had been re-named Carlyle, and a new building erected on the Carlyle Street Council Reserve. Maraenui Kindergarten, built on Crown land next to the school, was opened in 1962 and named "Mary Richmond" in honour of a New Zealand Free Kindergarten foundation member and also because Maraenui suburb was built on "Richmond Block". In 1962 a kindergarten was also built at Taradale and the association then became officially named "Napier-Taradale" for the next nine years, being changed back to just Napier in 1971 when the two Councils (Napier City and Taradale Borough) amalgamated. 1965 saw the opening of the Onekawa Kindergarten built on Onekawa Park.

In 1965, Mr F. R. Zillwood was elected President and Mrs Malcolm resigned. During that year an establishment Committee was formed at Pirimai and by 1971 a new building erected and opened on Pirimai reserve. Mr Zillwood resigned in 1970 and Mr K. Mennie became President for a short time, resigning in October of the same year when Mrs C. P. Reading then became President. In 1973, Mrs D. M. Tyler succeeded Mrs Reading, but unfortunately, owing to her husband's transfer away from Napier towards the end of the year, the association lost an enthusiastic and trusted leader. The Vice-President, Mr R. P. Jeffery, acted as interim President until 1974's Annual General Meeting when Mr F. R. Zillwood was re-elected to this office.

The next Establishment Committee to be formed was for the Bette Christie Kindergarten in Hurst Avenue adjacent to the Richmond School. This was in 1971, when a group of women who had already raised \$3,000 for a pre-school in the Maraenui South area joined the association. Due to their continued hard work with assistance from the six established kindergartens in form of subsidies, this kindergarten was built and in operation by February, 1973. By now building levies were an accepted financial commitment of all kindergartens — \$150 was paid each year by each operating kindergarten, the money going into a central building fund and used to boost the funds of the next kindergarten waiting to build.

In June of 1971 another Establishment Committee was formed for a much needed kindergarten in Greenmeadows. Their section was made available immediately by the City Council, part of a reserve in Osier Road. This, along with the tremendous support for their fund-raising from the service clubs and retailers of both Taradale and Greenmeadows gave the committee such enthusiasm that by the beginning of 1973 they had sufficient funds in hand to call tenders for the building. This kindergarten opened for the children at the beginning of the third term of 1973 and the official opening ceremony was conducted by Miss L. M. C. Ingram on November 24. This day became known as "Opening Day". Miss Ingram also "officially" opened kindergartens in both Waipawa and Waipukurau on the same day.

The rapid growth of the new suburb of Tamatea made it evident that a kindergarten must be established there as soon as possible. The first public meeting was held in June, 1972. It was well-attended and an Establishment Committee formed. Fund-raising proceeded smoothly and the target of \$9,000 reached quickly enabling a tender of \$35,100 to be let in August, 1974. The children will commence at the beginning of the 1975 school year. This kindergarten was Napier's first to qualify for the new 4:1 subsidy on a building, the site having been donated by the City Council. Also the first to be supervised by the Hawkes Bay Education Board, the plan used being a proven design made available by the association's architect, Mr F. K. Malcolm.

By this time the Onekawa and Pirimai waiting lists were hopelessly long — One-

kawa already had for the last five years an extended roll of 40 extra children and a part-time trained teacher for five half days. Marewa for three years, until change of staff made it impractical, an extended roll of 20 extra children with a part-time trained teacher for three half days. The only solution was to form another Establishment committee within the area bounded by Marewa, Onekawa and Pirimai, this being done in August, 1973. Although a site has been made available by the City Council it is not altogether suitable at present and alternative sites are being investigated. This committee was given an initial boost by a donation of \$1,000 from the Ngati Pirinui Club, a goal of 1975 was set for the building of this Kindergarten.

By the beginning of 1974, Taradale's waiting list was up to 150 over-threes, so an Establishment Committee was formed on the eastern side of the suburb. It is known as Riversdale. An enthusiastic committee hope to have sufficient funds in hand to build in 1976. When opened this will give Napier 11 kindergartens. At the beginning of 1975 a No. 2 Establishment Committee will be formed at Tamatea, while the possibility of a Grade 0 kindergarten is also being investigated for the Bayview area. It is the policy of this association to have no more than three Establishment Committees at one time as it is felt that a city this size cannot be expected to support an increased number for fund-raising.

At this point it is well to mention that when Mr E. R. Spriggs was Mayor of Napier he was instrumental in initiating the policy of the City Council granting sections on reserves to kindergartens — at peppercorn rentals, a scheme our next Mayor, Mr P. Tait, continued. We owe a great deal of our rapid growth to the City Council, not every local body in New Zealand has the foresight to appreciate the importance of kindergartens in the newly-developed areas and plan accordingly.

Throughout the development of this association there have been many people, clubs, and associations, too numerous to mention, who have been part of fund-raising, combining hard work, contests, Queen carnivals, boys' and girls' week, teenage dances, street day appeals and other ventures. Our architects, Messrs Malcolm, Sweet, Holland and Parker, accepted only the Government subsidy for their services to the first five kindergartens, saving the association over \$1,000. We have benefited from the T. R. Moore Trust, Eastern and Central Savings Bank and many other organisations.

The association's first secretary, Mr T. Johnson, retired in 1962 and was replaced by Mr J. R. Price, a registered accountant, who gave eight years of strong guidance. The present secretary, Mrs J. E. Collier, an ex-kindergarten teacher, took over the position in 1970, and has given untiring work and assistance. In a voluntary organisation it is important to have a stable and central office which is open at all times to both staff and committees. This has been achieved by the building (with donated materials and voluntary labour) a small exterior room on skids which can be transported from the present secretary's garden to the next when the time arrives.

There is no doubt that there will be extensive alterations to the running and administering of free kindergartens. Changes that sometimes will not be well received, but meanwhile the Napier association is fortunate to belong to a co-operative Ward which is at present enjoying strong leadership; having a neighbouring association, Hastings, of approximately the same size with whom ideas can be exchanged, help received and given; above all, 11 dependable committees, stable Council led by a hard working Executive, who in return receive strong support from both parents and members of the public. Only by a continuation of this situation will the association go on making rapid and harmonious progress.

NELSON

The free kindergarten movement was first established in Nelson in 1948. In March of that year a meeting was held of representatives of various Nelson organisations, including the Plunket Society, the Women Teachers' Association and the Day Nursery Society, to discuss the establishment of a free kindergarten. This was followed by further meetings and, in July of the same year, at a public meeting

presided over by the then Mayor of Nelson, Mr J. A. Harley, and addressed by the Inspector of Schools, Mr K. H. O'Halloran, it was unanimously resolved to form a Nelson Free Kindergarten Association. Mrs E. R. Neale became the first President.

Nelson's first free kindergarten was established in a public hall at Nelson South in October, 1948. The Bridge Street Kindergarten opened in May, 1949, to be followed by Richmond in February, 1950, and Stoke later in the same year.

This was all accomplished by dint of very considerable voluntary effort. It soon became obvious, however, that to obtain any significant improvement in the kindergartens and to expand the movement on a higher standard it was essential to house each in its own properly-designed premises. This now became the Council's policy and the movement embarked on a new phase of development in which the chief challenges were wise planning, a good public relations' policy and a formidable money-raising programme. The early establishment of a central building fund greatly facilitated the financing of kindergarten buildings. This fund has been drawn upon by each kindergarten in turn and repaid as the kindergarten was able, to become available to finance the next building required.

All of the original four kindergartens now have their own buildings. Grove Street having opened in December, 1956, Nelson South in July, 1958, Stoke in November, 1960, and Richmond in September, 1963. A fifth, Tahunanui, was founded as a private kindergarten in 1953, but had just joined the association when a change in Department policy ruled that no new free kindergarten would be recognised until it opened in its own approved premises. In spite of the handicap of having to meet all its own running expenses, including equipment and salaries, Tahunanui now has its building, the fifth kindergarten in the Nelson association.

Nelson has been very fortunate in obtaining excellent sites; Grove Street, Nelson South, Stoke and Tahunanui having been provided with sections by the Nelson City Council on a nominal rental basis, while Richmond leases a Crown section.

Since the incorporation of the Nelson Free Kindergarten Association in 1948 up to 1964, the Nelson association had five Grade 1 kindergartens operating in their own buildings, and had been granted sections in Richmond and Stoke by the Nelson Education Board for further buildings. Nayland Kindergarten, in Nayland Road, Stoke, was officially opened in November, 1967, and Henley Kindergarten in Gilbert Street, Richmond, was opened on October 17, 1970. These two kindergartens are of particular interest as each is a part of an educational complex catering for children from pre-school age to form seven.

NORTH TARANAKI (formerly New Plymouth)

The North Taranaki Kindergarten Association was originally sponsored by the Frankleigh Park Progressive Association which called a public meeting in the Frankleigh Park Hall on June 6, 1949. At this meeting a Council was elected; five men and five women to prepare and open, as soon as possible, investigations and negotiations for the formation of a Free Kindergarten Association in New Plymouth. And so the kindergarten movement was introduced. The first kindergarten was opened on Monday, February 1, 1950, in the Frankleigh Park Hall with a roll limited to 25 due to the accommodation then available. A special Building Committee was set up early in 1950 to prepare plans, specifications and estimates for the addition of kindergarten rooms to the Public Hall at Frankleigh Park. These were opened on April 7, 1951, and the kindergarten was raised to Grade 1 status. The opening was a great occasion for those who had worked so hard as they had set the wheels in motion and had introduced many people and organisations in other suburbs and in outlying districts to the kindergarten movement.

In May of 1950, a committee was formed in Fitzroy and later in that same year a committee was elected in the Central District to be known later as the Pukekura Kindergarten Committee.

In 1952, three kindergartens commenced operating in halls, the Central Kindergarten in the basement of the Baptist Church in Liardet Street, Fitzroy in the Buffalo Hall, Sackville Street, and Westown in the Omata Road Hall. The Central Committee was the first of these to move into its own building. They were fortunate to secure a lease of a section from the New Plymouth City Council adjacent to one of New Zealand's most beautiful parks. The Pukekura Kindergarten, as it was to be known, was opened in 1957. The Westown and Fitzroy Committees saw the opening of their buildings in 1958. The years between 1950 and 1958 had been years of hard work with continual fund-raising activities for these three committees.

In February, 1956, the Moturoa Kindergarten was commenced in the St Augustine's Church Hall in South Road.

Thus, by 1958, five Grade 1 kindergartens were operating in New Plymouth. Interest was not, however, confined to New Plymouth. Twelve miles away in Inglewood, an active committee was formed in November, 1955. October, 1959, marked the opening of Inglewood's building, which has under-floor heating, considered necessary in the town's colder climate.

In 1959, the Waitara Free Kindergarten Association amalgamated with New Plymouth and due to a sterling effort by the local committee, the association's seventh kindergarten was opened in Waitara on March 18, 1961.

And so during a period extending a little over ten years the New Plymouth Association had seen six new buildings opened and nine operating.

Committees at Merrilands and Brooklands saw the fulfilment of their objectives in 1963 when new buildings were opened and recognised.

Bell Block Kindergarten. — Opened February 16, 1973. Mr Thomson, M.P. for the Stratford Electorate, attended the official opening together with representatives from the Taranaki County Council and members from the North Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association.

Waitara West Kindergarten. — Opened for children, October 14, 1974. No official opening planned.

Spotswood Kindergarten. — Opened for children, May 22, 1973. No official function held.

Brooklands Kindergarten — was granted an extended roll from the beginning of the second term, 1974, and all appears well regarding this.

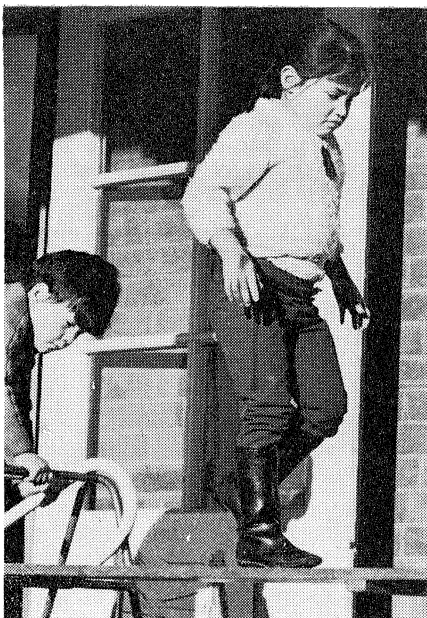
The association is proud of what has been achieved and of those who have done so much to make it possible. The association has been fortunate through the years to have had many able and willing people serving it. There are many who have given much assistance to the kindergarten movement in New Plymouth and district, but there are four whose record of service is worthy of special note. Mr E. J. Stone, 23 years on Council and 17 as President. Mr J. Renwick, who has been on the Council for 11 years, ten of these as Secretary-Treasurer to the Association in New Plymouth, Mr J. Stewart, now of Auckland, whose energy and inspiration was responsible for the formation of the association in New Plymouth and Mrs A. G. Williamson, Council member for 21 years.

No city and district could have more loyal and enthusiastic supporters, nor have put more time and foresight into interesting girls in kindergarten training. This effort has been well repaid in the large number of trained staff always available.

Our grateful thanks go to the Education Department and their officers, and to the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union for their kind advice and help over the whole period of the association history.

NGARUAWAHIA

The inaugural meeting, addressed by Mrs Chapman of the Hamilton Free Kindergarten Association, was held on December 9, 1948, when a Council of men and women was appointed. Through their efforts a kindergarten was opened in the Masonic Lodge Hall on April 5, 1949, but it was not until February, 1952, that a trained teacher was appointed. Funds must have been very low at this time for our records



show that we could not afford to join the Union until November of that year, when a building fund was started.

During the following year we made tremendous strides, under the leadership of Mrs A. B. Galbraith. In six weeks, proceeds from a King Carnival yielded \$3,530, and left the town poor for some time. A section was purchased, plans were submitted and approved and the building of our kindergarten was begun in 1954. The official opening, by Dame Hilda Ross, followed in May, 1955. A plaque in the building acknowledges the debt owed to Mrs Galbraith for her untiring efforts.

To honour Mrs Galbraith, the kindergarten was subsequently re-named Galbraith.

A milestone in the kindergarten movement's history was the opening of Newcastle Kindergarten in 1972. It has been modelled on some of the best features of kindergartens throughout the country, and these have been incorporated in the design of the kindergarten.

Mr C. C. Badley, President of the association at that time, expressed that the kindergarten and grounds were the culmination of hard work carried out by townspeople, business people and residents in the area. He expressed thanks to Galbraith Kindergarten for their donation of \$290, to the Department of Maori and Island Affairs for their generous donation of \$5,000, and the Turangawaewae Trust Board for the provision of land.

The donation from the Maori and Island Affairs was the first time that they had ever given money for the building of a kindergarten, thus making our kindergarten a special one.

Dame Te Atairangikaahu, the Maori Queen, is Patroness and it was through her the land was made available.

Newcastle Kindergarten was previously known as Te Awhina and had been operating as a sub-branch of Galbraith Kindergarten since 1967, in a small building on the Turangawaewae Marae.

A children's competition was run to find a name for the kindergarten. This was

won by Miss M. Apiata, naming it Newcastle, which was the early settlers' name for Ngaruawahia.

Newcastle opened on May 22, 1972, and the official opening on July 15, 1972. Miss L. Ingram, M.B.E., officially declared the kindergarten open. A tree-planting ceremony was held to mark the important occasion; Miss Ingram, assisted by Miss Apiata in the presence of Dame Te Atairangikaahu, planted a small kauri tree.

OAMARU

The Oamaru association owes its birth in 1950 to the dogged determination of a group of people who bridged a wide gap of indifference and antagonism to convince the citizens of the town that a kindergarten was a necessity. Among these were Mrs Hilda Gardiner, and Mr and Mrs C. F. Jones, who had come from Christchurch. The association, with the meticulous secretaryship of Mr C. F. Jones at its disposal, fought and won long battles during the establishment of its first kindergarten, McCulloch, which had been visualised as a new building, but was, in fact, to be an old house which had been acquired at a reasonable price. The second, Arundel, operated for two years in the Sunday School of the North End Methodist Church, rent free. Both opened in 1952, to be followed two years later by Casa Nova, which was built on land adjacent to the school of the same name. The official opening was performed by Mrs A. F. Johnson, President of the N.Z.F.K.U. After only four years in existence the Oamaru Association owned two buildings of its own.

The association pays tribute to the many individuals, business houses and organisations who helped so willingly when the association became a reality.

1965 saw Oamaru conducting a survey to ascertain the geographical needs for a third kindergarten. From then onwards it was a case of "building the penny pile". Two Establishment Committees commenced fund-raising — Fernbrook and Glendale (later changed to Holmes) — but after a further survey it was realised that the southern area of town was in greater need and the Fernbrook Establishment Committee went into recess. They had raised \$1,200, which was a magnificent effort, and were disappointed, but the need for a further kindergarten in this area could arise sometime in the future.

The Oamaru Borough Council made a generous community gesture in offering to lease to the association a section in Glendale at a nominal rental of 9 cents p.a. Plans for the new Holmes Kindergarten were included in the building programme in late 1968 and were ready to go to tender by March, 1969. Building commenced and the design was much admired by many. Fortunately most of the building was up before the frantic escalation of costs which took place in 1970 and the final cost was less than \$100 over the estimate.

The second term, 1970, saw the official opening by Mr A. D. Dick, M.P. and Under-Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, with staff of Mrs M. L. Divers and Miss A. M. Hay. An interesting coincidence emerged that Mrs Divers (then Letty Bradfield) had been head teacher at McCulloch and the Arundel Street Kindergartens when they opened.

Fund-raising continues as the waiting lists build up and we are once more considering the need for a fourth kindergarten in Oamaru.

Presidents of the Oamaru Free Kindergarten Association: Mesdames Edna C. McCulloch, Hilda B. Gardiner, Janet McCallum, Joan Gillies, Vera McCallum, Jean Spear, M. Parker, L. Lawrence, J. Allan.

The Twenty-first Birthday of McCulloch Kindergarten was held in May 1973. Present were many 'old' pupils! — as well as ex-members of Council, Local Committees and Staff, Patronesses Mesdames H. Gardiner, M.B.E., T. L. Hayman and E. McCulloch were there to celebrate the occasion with the Head Teacher, Mrs Letty Divers and her assistant, Miss Robyn Landreth.

Permission has been granted for the replacement of McCulloch Kindergarten. We hope this will become a reality in 1975.

PAEROA

31 August, 1949 — A committee formed to run a private kindergarten in Methodist Hall. Mrs L. Bogue — Secretary. Mrs L. Hair — Teacher.

28 September, 1950 — Miss Cawkwell, Principal Auckland Kindergarten Teachers' College, addressed a public meeting explaining free kindergarten associations.

October, 1950 — Committee decided to become Paeroa Free Kindergarten Association Inc.

March, 1951 — Successful Gala Day on Domain.

April, 1951 — Annual Meeting. Bank Balance, \$312.16. Mrs Bogue resigned as Secretary. Mrs Kinsella became Secretary/Treasurer. This committee had difficulty finding a suitable hall for a kindergarten. At times it was necessary to use garages and homes for kindergartens. No hall would meet the requirements needed by the Department of Education before they would appoint a Government trained and paid teacher. The committee struggled until 1953 when it collapsed leaving a bank account of \$500.

Private Kindergarten — Mrs John Evans was given the equipment of the association to run a private kindergarten in the Band Hall until it was needed by the Association. This kindergarten functioned for about ten years.

1966 — Mrs Donovan, later assisted by Mrs Hasnip, started another private kindergarten in the Methodist Hall.

1968 — Mrs Bennett and Mrs Duggan continued the private kindergarten.

All these ladies provided a valuable service for the town at small remuneration to themselves. Most had to clean their own halls as well as care for the children.

First Meeting — 22 March, 1966: The Kindergarten Committee was re-formed by Mrs A. Lowe, Secretary and Mrs L. Roberts, President. Mrs Roberts had been a member of the 1953 Committee.

By the Annual Meeting, March 20, 1967, the new committee had collected a further \$1,000 towards the \$5,000 required by the Department to be in hand before they would consider building plans.

Mrs L. Gleadow took on the job of Secretary and immediately launched a direct telephone appeal and subscription list which resulted in a further \$5,200 being added to the funds.

September, 1967 — The Primrose Hill Free Kindergarten Site was approved by the Department.

December, 1967 — The Constitution was adopted and the Association affiliated to the Kindergarten Union.

By the Annual meeting on February 21, 1968, there was \$2,500 in the kindergarten account. The Association appointed Mr Barry Morgan, architect, of Hamilton, to draw up plans for the Association to submit to the Department.

February 21, 1968 — Mrs Judy Lake became Treasurer.

August, 1968 — The Association had nearly \$4,300 in its fund-raising account and, with the money from the 1950 Committee transferred, they had the necessary \$4,900 to begin negotiations with the Department for subsidy of building costs.

September, 1968 — Pre-school photograph fund-raising contest organised by the Secretary, Mrs L. Gleadow, was launched and seven committees succeeded in collecting a further \$2,424.

Michelle Roberts Committee was the winner, followed closely by the Hinu Wilkinson Committee. This brought the total in the bank account to \$6,914.7, with \$200 promised from the Lions Club and \$800 for the local Jaycee group.

March 2, 1969 — Mr R. F. Hill became President of the Association with Mrs Gleadow, Secretary, and Mrs Judy Lake, Treasurer.

June, 1969 — Building subsidy approved.

July, 1969 — Building contract let to Walmsley Bros.

Mrs Hill led a sub-committee which selected all the equipment. Mr Hill negotiated with architects, builders, etc. and co-ordinated committee work.

Mrs Grant and committee looked after the planning and ordering of equipment for the grounds.

Mrs Lake's sub-committee kept a check on finances, subsidy, claims, etc.

March 2, 1970 — Minister of Education officially recognised the Paeroa Free Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten was built through the efforts of a large number of people and the generosity of the local businesses.

In 1974 the Association incorporated a lending library in the kindergarten. The Waihi establishment committee was set up to work for another kindergarten.

PAHIATUA

The Pahiatua Association was formed in April, 1949. In October, 1950, a section was purchased and plans to erect the kindergarten were well advanced. With the assistance of the citizens of Pahiatua money was raised fairly quickly. The kindergarten was officially opened by Mr (now Sir) Keith Holyoake in October, 1951. A second room was added at a later date.

Pahiatua boasts a delightful kindergarten where everything possible is done to provide interesting and worthwhile sessions for the children. In recent years a small swimming pool has been built and proves a valuable asset.

An extended roll was introduced in the third term, 1974, in an endeavour to reduce the long waiting list. Volunteers redecorated the interior of the building prior to the opening of the third term. The Association celebrated their 25th year of existence with a cabaret evening in June, 1974. With the planting of a large tree to provide shade for an outdoor 'story time' the kindergarten continues to provide a delightful play-work place for Pahiatua's pre-schoolers.

PAREMATA

The inaugural meeting of the Paremata Free Kindergarten Association was held on November 29, 1949. Permission was obtained to open a kindergarten in the Paremata Hall. After a fund-raising drive to provide certain amenities at the hall the kindergarten opened in February, 1951. Difficulties in obtaining trained staff were experienced during 1953, but the hard-working committee kept its fund-raising campaign going to obtain its own building. A trained teacher was employed at the beginning of 1954 and the roll numbers increased. The committee was given permission to build a Grade O kindergarten and this was ready for occupation at the beginning of 1957. This kindergarten was upgraded to Grade 1 in 1962.

For twenty-five years, Paremata Free Kindergarten Association (Inc.) supported only one kindergarten, set in pleasant surroundings next to the beautiful Pauatahanui Inlet. Growth was slow and steady.

But in the last few years, the area of Paremata has undergone very rapid growth, with large new subdivisions opening up and hundreds of new young families settling here. This has put great pressure on the existing service and led to a long waiting list.

A site for a second kindergarten in the area was put aside on the Discovery School site at Whitby, and an Establishment Committee set up in November, 1973. An intense fund-raising effort has meant that this kindergarten should be built early in 1975.

Papakowhai is another large subdivision in the area, but no pre-school site was originally provided here. However, earthworks on the school site enabled the creation of a new platform of half an acre, and this was designated pre-school. A public meeting in September, 1974, elected that this be a kindergarten site, and an Establishment Committee was formed. 1977 is the anticipated date for building this kindergarten.

Another kindergarten site is available on the Postgate School site in Whitby, so as Paremata continues to expand, it is hoped that adequate kindergarten services will be available.

PUTARURU

Putaruru's first kindergarten — Charles Crescent — was opened in 1956, after much enthusiastic work done by an establishment committee, chaired by Mr W. Figgins. Some of those involved in building and administering this kindergarten in its early years included Mr and Mrs B. J. Howland, Mrs C. R. Robinson, Mrs R. Morgan, Mrs J. Dove, Mrs D. Radick, Mrs A. Brown, Mrs A. Holdaway, Mrs M. Bernie, Mr and Mrs D. Gibb, Mrs D. Friedlander, Mr and Mrs J. Moore and Mrs V. Ambridge. These names will be familiar to most Putaruru residents as those of people who contributed much in the field of community service in the district.

1964 — Investigations and surveys held to assess need for second kindergarten.

November, 1965 — Interim Committee set up and first public meeting called for setting up establishment committee to raise local share of cost of Glenshea Kindergarten. Mr J. Ritchie was chairman of this committee.

February, 1966 — First fund-raising effort for new building at A. and P. Show. Negotiations to obtain site at old No. 1 school successful. Mrs J. Junger, chairman until dissolution of establishment committee. Many varied fund-raising schemes continued for the next eighteen months, including Putaruru's first-ever Film Premiere, a monster auction of goods donated by local business firms and a telephone appeal to town and country residents. Half the required share of total cost was raised in this period.

November, 1967 — Jubilee Ball held to celebrate 10th Anniversary of the Association.

Funds now standing at \$4,000 — target of \$5,500 in sight.

February, 1969 — Target reached — building put on priority list. Government subsidy approved. Tenders let for building. Putaruru Home Builders successful. Final cost \$16,275. In August Miss K. Warrender, who had been employed as Director of Charles Crescent Kindergarten since 1962, was accorded an official farewell by all parents.

February, 1970 — Building completed and first pupils commenced. First Head Teacher, Miss J. Chapman. In August building was officially opened by Mrs R. Stevenson, M.P. Mrs J. Junger granted Honorary Life Membership. June Thomas Memorial Library dedicated by Rev. R. Eades. During this year Mr C. Lockley undertook to landscape grounds. This work marked the completion of the project.

October, 1971 — Mrs J. Junger was elected to Board of Studies of Auckland Kindergarten Teachers College.

October, 1972 — With setting up of kindergarten training facilities at Hamilton Teachers College, Mrs J. Junger was elected to represent Ward 2 on the College Council of Management Pre-School Committee.

SOUTHLAND

In 1919, just 30 years after the first kindergarten in the Dominion was started in Dunedin, two members of the Southland Hospital Board, Miss Helen Birss, and Mrs P. Cruickshank, later Mrs A. Walker, were visiting homes, giving assistance to parents suffering the after-effects of the influenza epidemic. These ladies recognised the need of a "home" for children whose mothers were convalescent, or who were in hospital. Although the public was enthusiastic about these ideas, the Government was not so sure and was little inclined to give the people of Invercargill a grant to start a kindergarten.

The women were not daunted, though it was not until two years of hard pioneering had passed that the first kindergarten was opened in 1921. A public meeting was held to discuss the proposal. Lady Sidey, of the Dunedin Association, presided, and a Council and a Men's Advisory Board were formed.

Advisory Board: Messrs H. W. Royds (Hon. Treasurer), R. J. Cumming, F. Burwell (Town Clerk), and H. Farrant.

Ladies Council: Mrs F. Burwell (President), Mesdames P. Cruickshank, and G. Chewings (Vice Presidents), J. Strathern, P. Wilson, W. Hamilton, H. Denton, J. Fraser,

G. Henderson, A. Hanan, J. D. Campbell, T. Pryde, W. P. Wicks and Miss H. E. Birss (Committee). Added to the Committee later was Mrs E. McKeever.

The Council had very few funds, and it was through the generosity of the late Sir Robert Anderson, who was then living in what is now known as Kindhaven, that it procured its first property. Sir Robert bought the adjoining section and house owned and occupied by the late Mr Neill, and donated this property, which amounted to half an acre, to the Council.

The house was then converted, the front into the two large rooms required by Government regulations. The back, however, was left as living quarters for the staff, as their salaries were not adequate to pay board. This was later known as "Children's House." The first directors to the "Children's House" were Misses Small and Guthrie, and later Misses Hamilton and King.

The new kindergarten was open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day, and the children took their own lunch.

In 1923 the parents of South Invercargill, with \$60 in hand, and help from the Council, formed a most enthusiastic committee. In 1926 Lady Alice Fergusson visited the city and opened the new South Invercargill Kindergarten.

The first head teacher was Miss W. N. Hamilton, and she was assisted later by Miss P. Jenkins (now Mrs H. Rout).

When the Director of Education, Mr J. Caughley, visited the city, in March, 1927, and inspected the kindergartens, he expressed hope that the Council would soon be able to open a third kindergarten in the vicinity of Liddell and Clyde Streets. The Pipe and Drum Band, owners of the Liddell Street Hall, offered their buildings to the Council, free of charge to be used as the third kindergarten. By the end of the year the Council felt that it was time to appoint a head teacher for Liddell Street, and Miss Burton of Dunedin was chosen.

The land around Liddell Street was becoming more and more industrialised, the roll number was beginning to fall away, and as the Liddell Street building was a public hall, it was both insanitary and costly to maintain, so the Council and the committee decided to move to a more central position. The committee purchased a section in Bowmont Street south, for about \$100.

In 1931 the Bowmont Street Kindergarten was opened by Lady Bledisloe. As this was the second kindergarten in the southern area the two South Invercargill Kindergartens began to be confusing, hence they were rechristened "Wharepuna" for Bowmont Street and "Ranui" for the original South Invercargill Kindergarten.

As it was the beginning of the depression, the Council was running low in funds. In 1932 they procured a building near the Waikiwi tram terminus, from Thomas' Nursery and were able to keep this going for only one year as the Education Department would not grant funds. The reason this kindergarten was not recognised was that the building was on the Main Road, which was considered dangerous for the children as they left the school and it did not have sewerage, although the council had gone to the expense of putting in suitable toilets and wash basins. At the end of the year, after paying the head teacher's and her assistant's salaries, the Waikiwi Kindergarten was forced to close down.

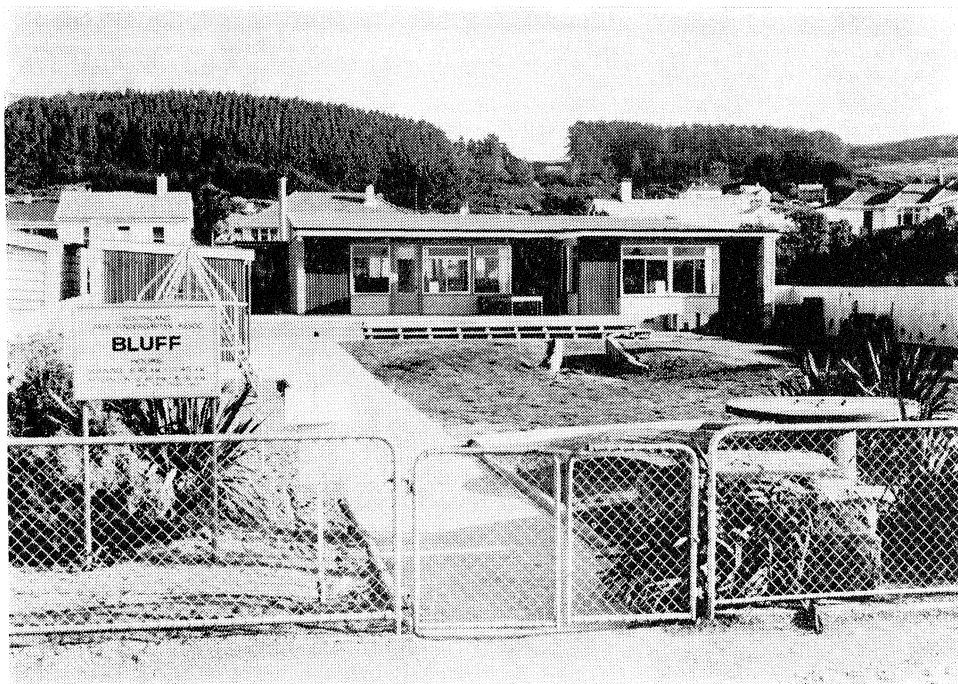
In 1933, the parents of the Kew area formed a committee and although the depression was well on, the enthusiastic Kew residents worked in perfect harmony, this reflecting in the satisfactory results. With a donation from the Reginald MacKinnon Trust, and the use of Wharepuna Kindergarten for weekly dances, money was raised.

1934 — The Kew Kindergarten was begun in the St Aidan's Hall, but this was not particularly suitable, so the Council procured a half acre section on the corner of Selwyn and Conon Streets.

1936 — The most outstanding event in this year was the opening, on May 26, of the Kew Kindergarten, built entirely without Government assistance. Later the quarter acre section not in use and owned by Kew was sold and the money used to lay concrete.

Up until 1936, the kindergartens were without Mothers' Clubs, and when these were formed they proved a great help. In 1936, Miss Joyce Barns, now of Wellington, was appointed assistant at Ranui, before going to Dunedin for training.

The "Children's House" in Gala Street was now proving to be unsatisfactory, and



in this year, preliminary movements were made towards establishing a new kindergarten further east. The property was sold and the kindergarten temporarily moved to the Sunday School in Ritchie Street, "Sylvan Bank." Help was given by the First Church Deacons Court, and Miss Nola Scandrett (now Mrs J. Robertson) was appointed head teacher.

In March, 1937, Mr R. J. Cumming purchased the section in Mitchell Street. This previously was part of the Dougan property and was bought for \$330.

1938 — The new Mitchell Street Kindergarten was opened with \$1,800 paid on the building. This left only a small amount to be paid off. The late Hon. Peter Fraser was asked to open the new school, but he apologised that he was unable to come.

The position of Association Treasurer which had been occupied by Mr R. J. Cumming, became vacant and the office was filled by Mr C. Francis.

1946 — Miss Birss retired as President and Mrs A. H. Aldridge took over.

Up until 1947, the Invercargill Council had not sent an official delegate to the Union Conference. The matter was taken up by the various committees and a special meeting was called, where it was decided that, as Invercargill was the fifth Association affiliated, Invercargill should be like Dunedin, Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington, and send a delegate. Mrs Aldridge was nominated.

1948 — A meeting was held on March 10, at the Wharepuna Kindergarten, to discuss with committee representatives the regulations of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and to consider the proposed rules carefully as well as the constitution. Up until now the association had had no proper constitution. Later, another special meeting was called to adopt the constitution of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association.

July 8, 1948 — The President explained that the association had adopted the new

constitution and rules in order to participate in the Government subsidising scheme. This meant that all affairs must now be carefully recorded. Miss Gallagher, of the Education Department, Pre-School Services, addressed the meeting, and explained fully the Department's scheme for increased financial aid and the association's responsibilities and duties under the new arrangements. All the meetings of the council and advisory board were held in the board room of Adamson, Francis and Harrington's office.

On Monday, May 2, 1949, two ladies from the Gladstone area met the executive at a special meeting to consider the building of a kindergarten in their area. It was suggested that the All Saints Hall would be suitable but after the council had re-considered everything the President explained it would not be at all wise to open again in any hall.

1950 — The council had a building fund of \$500, invested in the Southland Building Society, and it was decided to buy a section in the Gladstone area, and if possible in the North Invercargill area. A section was inspected in Lees Street, part of which had not been formed. This was purchased for \$750, and a committee appointed to carry out the arrangements.

1952 — On March 11, the Invercargill Free Kindergarten Association held a meeting in the North Invercargill Methodist Church for residents of that area interested in building a kindergarten in the vicinity of Herbert and Ward Streets on a Government section.

It was thought that this area did not warrant a kindergarten, but it was decided to apply to the Department to purchase a section on the corner of Exmouth and Bourke Streets. However, this section was too small to meet the Government regulations. Further steps were taken and the George Street section was purchased.

Residents of Heidelberg were interested in building a kindergarten and the Association procured a section in Centre Street East (from Mr F. Sutherland) and a committee was formed in 1959 to raise the necessary finance. By 1964 sufficient funds had been raised to qualify for a position on the Union's priority list.

In 1955 Mrs Aldridge was honoured for her services over a period of 31 years by the award of the M.B.E. and on her retirement, she was succeeded as president by Mrs M. S. Rillstone.

In July, 1960, the Winton Association amalgamated with Invercargill, resulting in the change of name to the Southland Free Kindergarten Association.

Mrs A. Valentine became President upon Mrs Rillstone's retirement in 1962.

By 1964 Newfield-Heidelberg had sufficient money to qualify for a position on the Union's priority list, but it was not until February 11, 1969, that the kindergarten was officially opened by Miss Ingram, President of the Union.

That year, 1969, also saw Glengarry and Grasmere after a long struggle, and Bluff after a comparatively short period, with plans ready and awaiting Government approval to call tenders.

In 1971 these three kindergartens were opened, thus giving the Southland Association eleven kindergartens. With the growth of Invercargill going ahead at an alarming rate, more kindergartens will be needed, and with this aim in view, committees are already taking surveys in Kingswell and Otatara areas.

In 1969 the Southland Association celebrated 50 years in the kindergarten movement, and we were delighted to be hosts to the Annual Conference in that year, an experience which will long live in our memories.

Kindergartens at Te Anau and Otatara are at present being planned and it is hoped that they will be opened in 1975.

Life Members: Council — Miss B. Selby, Miss E. Hanan, Mesdames: L. W. Foster, H. P. Semmons, E. Shepherd, E. V. McKeever, B. F. Eastlake, B. B. Jones, H. M. Rout, E. Campbell, N. L. Robertson, J. R. Sutton, C. Walker, J. Gilbertson, A. H. Aldridge, M.B.E.

SOUTH TARANAKI

Kindergarten was pioneered in South Taranaki by Mrs Margaret Smith. A school teacher with a keen interest in the Pre-School child she had established a private kinder-

garten in her own home. When the first Free Kindergarten was established at Hawera in the Methodist Hall, it was her experience and knowledge that made the venture a success.

1957 — The first building was opened in Pata Street, Hawera, and named the Hawera Free Kindergarten. On the amalgamation with the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association the kindergarten adopted the name of Pata Street Kindergarten. In 1970 when the Hawera Borough Council changed the name of Pata Street to Kauri Crescent the kindergarten reverted to the name of Hawera Kindergarten.

1961 — In April of that year, Mrs H. Downer, the Dominion President chaired a meeting at which was formed the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association. This was formed through the amalgamation of Hawera Free Kindergarten Association, consisting of Hawera Kindergarten, establishment committee of Tawhiti and the Kindergarten establishment committee at Eltham.

The Kindergarten movement in Stratford was first sponsored by the Stratford Junior Chamber of Commerce in the late 1940's. The Stratford Association was incorporated in August, 1950, and recognition of the Cloton Road Kindergarten was received in February, 1951. The Cloton Road Kindergarten was operated at the time in the old Stratford Primary School. A new Kindergarten named the Avon Kindergarten was opened in Avon Street, Stratford, on March 13, 1962. At the Stratford Association Annual Meeting of 1962 it was agreed that the Association would amalgamate with the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association and that the two committees should become part of that Association.

In May of 1962 both committees joined the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association.

The Kindergarten movement in Patea was supported by the local Jaycees and an establishment committee was formed to build a Kindergarten for the town. Patea Kindergarten Establishment Committee joined the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association at the end of 1961.

1962 — By the end of this year the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association consisted of Pata Street, Hawera, and Avon Stratford operating in their own buildings. Cloton Road was housed in the old Stratford Primary School. There were three establishment committees at Patea, Eltham and Tawhiti Hawera. The objects of the new Association was to carry on Free Kindergartens in Hawera, Eltham, Stratford, Kaponga, Manaia, Opunake and Patea Districts.

1963 — Eltham Kindergarten was opened at the beginning of the year and since that time has served the district so well that the waiting list there is now causing concern.

1964 — Tawhiti Establishment Committee purchased a section for their new Kindergarten at Douglas Street, Hawera.

Central (Cloton Road), Stratford purchased a section for their new Kindergarten in Cordellia Street, Stratford, to erect a building of their own.

1965 — Patea Establishment Committee obtained a site in Derby Street, Patea.

1968 — Tawhiti Kindergarten opened at the beginning of the year and Patea was ready in time for the second term.

1969 — Central Kindergarten went into its own building, Cordellia Street.

1974 — After a period of consolidation the South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association is working towards a third kindergarten for Hawera and is studying the Impact Report for the Maui Gas project.

TAIHAPE

1957. Public meeting to establish a kindergarten. Committee elected and target set.

1958. Kindergarten opened in Railway Hall by Mr N. Shelton. First attendance at Union conference by representatives of Taihape association. Money-raising pursued with much success.

1959. A visit from Mrs H. Downer gave valuable stimulus to the association.

1960. Approval given for purchase of site at Mataroa in October. A further survey of pre-school children conducted at the request of the Department of Education.

1961. Playcentre supervisor in charge of the kindergarten from Term 1. Sketch plans drawn up and money-raising continued.

1962. Final plans approved and tenders called.

1963. Kindergarten officially opened by Hon. N. L. Shelton. Other guests present were Mrs H. Downer, President of the Union and Miss M. Bennett, Pre-School Advisor.

1964—March saw the completion of the first year in our new kindergarten; the rolls were full and there was a small waiting list. A total of \$1,580 was received from money-raising efforts and voluntary donations.

1965—Fund-raising was the order of the day, with a fashion show, sponsored by Bowlers Ltd., being the outstanding event of the year, followed by a baby photo contest, bicycle raffle, jumble sales and the "Bar" at the local Picnic races all helping to swell funds. A social to farewell Mrs Jill Ackroyd was held in November. Jill had been Secretary/Treasurer since 1957, and her presence was greatly missed on the Council.

1966—Miss Gillian Urwin, Head Teacher since 1963, resigned in view of her forthcoming marriage and was replaced by Mrs Joan Flack as Director with Mrs Beverley Brown as assistant. The rolls were full and there was a lengthy waiting list. Fund-raising had continued during the year and a considerable sum of money was raised to help towards the day-to-day running costs of the kindergarten.

1967—The Kindergarten was going from strength to strength and much was achieved during this year. The outside play area had been tarsealed, the roof painted and many new items of equipment purchased. Voluntary donations and fund-raising had been most satisfactory.

1968—For the first time ever the kindergarten had fully-trained staff. Fish, birds and two guinea pigs were added to our menagerie, and what a joy they were to the children. Plans to extend the grounds to allow for more equipment were under way and the Mothers' Club re-decorated the dolls corner. Four Council Members attended the N.Z.F.K.U. Conference at Napier — all agreeing that they had derived much benefit from attending. A record bottle-drive, jumble sales and a fashion show were the main money-raising efforts and working bees had received good support from parents.

1969—A new piano, a magnificent carpenters' bench, new chairs, sandpit and climbing frame were added to the equipment during the year. Council members continued to give generously of their time and talents for the betterment of our kindergarten. Mothers' Club, as usual, were working in close co-operation with the Council, both socially and financially.

1970—Saw the introduction of the extra afternoon session, and, after a short settling-in period, the added benefit to the children was noticed by both parents and staff. The Executive visited Wanganui to discuss the proposed Ward System which was hoped to benefit all kindergarten councils. In August we were the hosts for the annual area meeting, with representatives being present from Marton, Palmerston North, Levin and Feilding.

1971—A year of smooth progress, during which a very successful Education Week programme was held. Both the president and secretary attended the area meeting in Pahiatua and the conference at Hamilton. Mothers' Club generously provided the kindergarten with new drapes which certainly enhanced the building as well as helping to retain the heat in the rooms. A most successful cabaret was held and enjoyed by all.

1972—A most successful bottle drive was held — our annual fund-raising event — but with lamentably few new helpers. How grateful we are to those stalwarts who help us year after year long after their children have moved on to school. A most attractive log cabin has been built by a council member, Mr Colin Spackman, and is proving a real "gem" to the children. Upgrading our access road is the main target and already much has been achieved towards this end. This year has seen us with many staff changes, but thanks to our ex-kindergarten teachers residing in Taihape, we have been able to fill the gaps with qualified, devoted and efficient staff. We feel we could not conclude this brief history without special mention of the consideration and courtesy

we have always received from the Department of Education and its officers. They have helped considerably, maintaining the esteem in which the kindergarten movement and Taihape Kindergarten are held in this community and district.

TAUMARUNUI

In May, 1949, a public meeting was convened by Mr J. Aston and Mrs S. Fraser to seek support for a free kindergarten association in Taumarunui. The response was most gratifying, a keen committee was formed and a list of prospective children taken. From that first meeting there was a waiting list of fifty children, over half being three and four years old.

To help create interest and gain support for a money-raising campaign, the committee decided to sponsor a morning kindergarten. This was opened in the Tarrangower Golf Club House for the first term of 1950, with Mrs Williams and Mrs I. Manson in charge. When the golf season commenced the kindergarten was transferred to the Athletic Football Club Hall where it operated until the building was completed in May, 1954.

In 1951, when the services of a trained teacher, Miss N. Marston, were obtained, the kindergarten was recognised by the Government and the Association received the benefit of subsidies and salaries.

Designed by Auckland architects, Messrs Massey, Beatson, Rix-Trott and Carter and built by Taumarunui contractor, Mr E. J. Walford, the building is situated on the corner of Parone and Wackrow Streets. Miss Marion Burmeister was the first Head Teacher to enjoy its use. It was officially opened by Mrs Ross (the late Dame Hilda), Minister for the Welfare of Women and Children.

Extending a welcome to Mrs Ross, the chairman said all would share with the Association a pride in the magnificent building which was the result of five years of strenuous and constant work by a number of people. Mrs Ross congratulated the Association on its work and said, "I hope God will bless this building and that much happiness will come to the children who attend and to their mothers and fathers." The press report of the opening began its remarks by saying: "Of all the committees who have set out in recent years in Taumarunui to achieve some seemingly-impossible object, the Kindergarten Association has been the most strikingly successful."

1966—Establishment committee formed to raise funds for proposed Tarrangower Kindergarten, and a section purchased in Manson Street.

1971—The Association celebrated its 21st Anniversary with a dinner and dance.

1972—Approval was received to call tenders for the building of Tarrangower Kindergarten.

On March 24, 1973, the Tarrangower Kindergarten was officially opened by Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P., President of the Union. The attractive building was designed by Mr John Wink and constructed by Max McKenzie Ltd. at a cost of approximately \$24,000. The committee has developed the site as an interesting and exciting playground for the children.

TAWA

The Borough of Tawa is situated about 10 miles from Wellington, and can probably be described as a dormitory suburb of the Capital City. Until 1945 Tawa had been mainly a farming community, but post-war development brought its share of progress to this small settlement and by 1951 the population had risen to just over 2,400.

It was early in 1951 that a general interest in providing the people of Tawa with pre-school facilities was turned into action, and the Tawa Free Kindergarten Association was established following a public meeting held on March 14, 1951. Since that time the Association has grown to the extent that it now fosters the interests of kindergarten not only in Tawa but throughout the City of Porirua, and while much has been achieved, the



Association recognises there is still a long way to go before all the children in its area can be offered adequate pre-school facilities.

Significant milestones in the history of the Association have been recorded, and it is fitting to remember that the development of kindergarten facilities was brought about through the unflagging efforts of the very many people who, over the years, served on the Council of the Association, on local committees, and as staff members. There can be no doubt whatsoever that the Association is truly a community organisation, providing facilities for its youngest citizens.

1951—The Tawa Free Kindergarten Association came into being following a public meeting held on March 14th. Fund-raising efforts initiated for the \$4,000 required as the local contribution towards first kindergarten.

1955—Tawa Kindergarten at Coronation Park was officially opened in November.

1959—A fund-raising committee was formed in May, with a view to providing kindergarten for Linden. This committee affiliated with Tawa Free Kindergarten Association.

1961—In April, a group of residents in the rapidly expanding Borough (at that time) of Porirua formed a fund-raising committee and affiliated with Tawa Free Kindergarten Association.

1963—Tawa too, continued to grow and as its population reached the 8,000 mark, the need for a second kindergarten in the main part of the borough was recognised. In October a group of residents in North Tawa formed a committee and affiliated with the Tawa Free Kindergarten Association.

1964—The 'Tui Park' Kindergarten at Linden was officially opened.

1965—On 25th February, a second Porirua committee was established, this time at Elsdon, on the western side of the City. By this time the population of Porirua had reached almost 22,000.

1966—First Porirua Kindergarten officially opened on June 11th. Named after Miss Moira Gallagher who was Pre-School officer of the Education Department, and did so much for the Association — working with such dedication for the well-being of pre-school children.

1968—A further committee was established in Tawa, this time in the southern part of the borough, but lack of interest and inability to procure a suitable site — this was a private subdivision — saw it disbanded after a short while.

1968—In July, a committee was formed at Waitangirua, Porirua East to raise funds for a kindergarten in that area.

1969—The kindergarten at north Tawa was officially opened in February, to be named as the “Brian Webb Kindergarten” after one of our Presidents who died prematurely.

1969—The Education Department, with the co-operation of the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union, worked with the Education Board, the Maori Island Affairs Department, the Tairangi School in Porirua East and the Association, to establish an experimental Kindergarten within a spare classroom at the Tairangi School. This experiment was one of the first attempts at providing pre-school facilities within the confines of a school, the aim being to offer a kindergarten service in a newly developing area at the earliest possible time.

1970—The Tairangi Experimental Kindergarten in Porirua East opened at the beginning of the year, catering for 75 children in three sessions of 25 — one morning session and two in the afternoons. An advisory committee comprising representatives of the sponsoring departments, the school and the Association, was formed to oversee the project, and to have responsibility for one aspect of the experiment — the admission of children on a selected basis.

1970—On May 27, a fund-raising committee was set up with the objective of building a permanent kindergarten on a site adjacent to the Tairangi School.

1971—On May 5 the Elsom Kindergarten opened its doors to children in the area, the culmination of six years' fund-raising. This building was officially opened some weeks later and named the Katoa Kindergarten.

1971—The Waitangirua Kindergarten was not far behind the Elsom project in being completed, and the first intake of children started during the month of June.

1972—On March 15, a committee was formed at Titahi Bay (this is another part of the Porirua City) to raise funds for kindergarten facilities in the area.

1972—Another fund-raising committee is formed with the help of the Association, this time at Pukerua Bay, on August 15.

1973—We applied for special assistance for the building of Tairangi Kindergarten and were advised that the Education Department would pay two-thirds of the cost and the Maori and Island Affairs Department would pay the other one-third. This enabled us to call for tenders and the building was commenced in June 1973 — however, due to many hold-ups and set backs the building was ready for the intake of children in March, 1975.

1975—We have two more buildings in the pipe-line — one at the Muraroa School and another in the Ascot Park area — both of these in the Porirua area.

At present most of our building has been taking place in the Porirua area where there is a great need (this is a Government housing area) but also because the sites are more readily available — however, with the Government's new policy of purchasing sites we are hopeful of obtaining more sites and erecting buildings in the Tawa area which is a privately subdivided area.

In November, 1972, the association held a function to celebrate 21 years of progress in establishing and operating pre-school facilities in the Tawa and Porirua areas. Seven kindergartens had been opened during this time and a number of others were in the planning “pipe-line”.

With Tawa having a population of 12,000 and Porirua 42,000 there is still a lot to be done in the pre-school field. However, we are proud of our achievements from such a small beginning and feel that we are carrying out the objects of the constitution to the best of our ability.

TE AWAMUTU

This association was formed at a public meeting on June 30, 1954. The conveners of the meeting, Mrs R. Illingworth and Mrs J. R. Cuthbert were elected President and Secretary of the first committee, which raised over \$1,000 in six months. Following alterations to an old unused school in Roche Street, the Te Awamutu Free Kindergarten was recognised by the Department of Education, and was opened in February, 1955, with two teachers, Miss Sutherland and Miss Wilson. An active Mothers' Club was inaugurated during the following month.

By early 1958, by means of numerous fund-raising activities the association had attained a sound financial position and was ready to build its own kindergarten. As early as October, 1954, negotiations were begun to obtain a suitable site for a future building. Difficulties occurred in this connection but by September, 1958, plans were approved by the Department of Education for the construction of a building in Bank Street.

Unfortunately, further complications arose in obtaining the title to this section, and the site was abandoned in favour of a less central position in Rewi Street, in order that the building programme should not be further delayed.

This time all went well, and our fine new building was opened in February, 1960.

At the same time, a second site on the opposite side of town was approved by the Department for a second kindergarten.

The Eastside Kindergarten was built and re-named Hazelmere Free Kindergarten. On February 17, 1968, Hazelmere and Kihikihi were both opened.

Hazelmere Kindergarten was opened at 11 a.m. and Kihikihi at 2 p.m. The opening ceremonies were carried out by the Member of Parliament for Waitomo, Mr D. C. Seath. Other guest speakers included Mr H. H. Craig, Regional Superintendent of Education, Mrs L. Rea, representing New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, Mrs Freeman, Mayor of Te Awamutu and Mrs H. Downer, Past President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

A kindergarten publicity week prior to the opening of the kindergartens was held with displays in shop windows and in the Waikato Savings Bank.

One of the first teachers at Kihikihi Kindergarten was the wife of the superintendent of the Waikeria Detention Centre who arranged for inmates to work on the grounds. They constructed one of the first adventure playgrounds in New Zealand.

The Te Awamutu Free Kindergarten Association is planning a fourth kindergarten and is currently awaiting approval of a site.

TE AROHA

In May, 1957, the Te Aroha Chamber of Commerce convened a public meeting to ascertain the need for a kindergarten in Te Aroha, with the result that after much investigation by a committee, the inaugural meeting of the Te Aroha Free Kindergarten Association was held in July of the same year.

Mrs H. Downer was the guest speaker at this meeting and the association feels that, with this interesting and informative address, "the seal" was really set for the continuation of ways and means of establishing a kindergarten in the town of Te Aroha, which is 33 miles from Hamilton. Mrs Downer explained the period of consolidation which would, of course, affect new associations and in view of this fact and after much bargaining, a hall was rented and brought up to requirements for kindergarten use. In the meantime the ever-increasing money-raising activities were continuing for the purchase of equipment.

This association was very fortunate in gaining the services of ex-school teachers for the staff. Through the vigorous enterprises of the Council members the kindergarten was opened early in March, 1958. The smooth running of sessions and the popularity of the kindergarten were responsible for the gradual build up of a good waiting list over the years, which naturally put beyond any doubt our qualifications for a building once the money was raised.

Each year our funds increased until after the 1960 Conference in Hamilton, our delegate was so fired with enthusiasm that an all-out effort was made to raise \$5,000. Once again with the wholehearted support of the Chamber of Commerce a fund-raising campaign was launched for eight weeks early in 1961 and the amount was obtained. \$5,000 was placed on fixed deposit in the bank and earned valuable interest whilst we eagerly awaited our turn for permission to build and thereby qualify for Government subsidy.

In July, 1962, it became imperative for us to close down in the hall rented, or purchase a suitable "home" until such a time as we could proceed with our building. We were fortunate in obtaining a disused country hall which we transported to our permanent building site in the town and had it so placed that sessions were able to be maintained during the course of construction of new premises.

Many arduous hours were spent painting the new hall and the local Lions Club voluntarily built a lean-to, containing entry hall and cloak room facilities.

All salaries, equipment and maintenance were borne solely by the committee's money-raising activities.

"D" Day came for us in May, 1963, when we received an invitation to submit our sketch plans for Minister's approval.

1964—May: Commenced holding two afternoon sessions weekly instead of the former one. May 25: Agreement was reached over the working drawings and specifications between the building committee and the architect. May 26: Architect authorised to call for tenders. August: Site bulldozed as site was unsatisfactory. August 6: Official letter for the Department of Education granting subsidy. September 10: Building commenced. Several delays in building programme — (1) Builder experienced a fortnight's delay over the issuing of a permit. (2) The siting of the building had to be changed. (3) Site wet after bulldozing and had to dry out. (4) Building ceased for five weeks on account of shortage of timber for the roof frame. (5) The iron roof, which had just been placed in position, was blown off by a freak wind. Iron a write-off. New iron had to be ordered. (6) Tremendous difficulty experienced in procuring linoleum. Lateness of its arrival caused considerable holds-ups in finishing details.

1965—January: Temporary kindergarten building removed from section. Lion's Club spent eight weekends at working bees getting grounds ready for further voluntary labour. February 15: Head teacher and assistant moved into new building. February 22: First ten children admitted. September 11: Official opening. Mrs H. Downer officiated.

TE KUITI

An inaugural meeting was held on April 19, 1961, with the purpose of establishing a kindergarten. After much hard work and fund-raising, some of which involved a rodeo, now one of the main fund-raising projects, kindergarten started at the beginning of February 1965, with a roll of 10. By April, 1965, there was a full morning and afternoon session and 58 on the waiting list.

The kindergarten has gone from strength to strength and is constantly improving equipment. A very popular adventure playground was built in 1972 and in 1974 plans were in hand for the building of a swimming pool.

TEMUKA

Has any other kindergarten association held its early Council meetings in dental rooms? Temuka did, from mid-1948 for several months, whilst encouraging interest and raising funds towards the establishment of a kindergarten.

February, 1949, saw the opening of a kindergarten in the Parish Hall, with taxi transport for children from a distance, as this hall, the only place available, was on

one side of the Borough. We had to vacate this building at the end of 1952 and February, 1953, saw us established in the former Methodist Church, after some modification of the building and improvements to the grounds. Then, from April, we were obliged to carry on with untrained staff, one of whom had had previous experience, plus generous mother help. By this time our building fund had grown from \$110 in January, 1955, to \$1,232. In these days, and for a small town being educated to the value of kindergarten, we felt it a creditable effort. Second term we were without staff but rather than close our kindergarten, Council members willingly supervised two afternoon sessions weekly until the end of the year.

The joy of having two trained teachers commencing in February, 1954, was the commencement of a stable period in staffing. However, the knowledge that we would have to vacate the building by the end of May meant increased endeavour towards our own building. The wheels seemed to be turning slowly but sketch plans were to hand. Thanks to the Masonic fraternity we found a home in their hall from June, 1954, until, with delight and great satisfaction, we transferred to our own building in early August, 1955. The local Rotary Club provided labour, erected fences, donated shrubs and a clock, and assisted our Men's Advisory Committee at working-bees.

1957 saw completion of a practical storeshed, but only temporary staff — one untrained — for the first two terms, whilst in the third term, Council members, with some mother help, maintained sessions three mornings and two afternoons weekly, so keeping interest in kindergarten alive. "Kindergarten of the Air" was a boon to us. Since February, 1958, we have been fortunate to have trained staff.

In May, 1964, we were deeply grieved at the sudden passing of our President, Mrs R. D. Richards, who had given fifteen years of service to the kindergarten movement, nine of these as President and, for two years, as a member of the Council of the Regional Area Group of Free Kindergartens. She gave unsparingly to many deserving organisations in the community.

During this year we were honoured by a visit from Her Excellency, Lady Fergusson, who inspected the kindergarten, while on an official visit to Temuka with Sir Bernard.

1966—After ten years of sponsoring a Lebanese child, the sponsorship was discontinued for she no longer needed assistance. We understand Temuka was the first group of kindergarten mothers to assist the Save the Children Fund by sponsorship of a child.

1967—With the cancellation of the free milk in schools the council, after consultation with parents, introduced a trial period on a non-profit basis whereby the children were supplied with milk for a small charge of 5c per family per week. The children really do appreciate this continued supply.

1968—A log cabin was built on the playing area and this has proved very popular with the children. Our main achievement this year was the building of a second shed to store additional outdoor equipment. At the same time we took the opportunity to lay down the dobbin track which has proved a great boon for the children. Our secretary was elected to the Board of Studies, one of three representatives of the non-training associations. The association considers this a great honour.

1969—was the 21st year of kindergarten activity in Temuka and to celebrate this important occasion a Birthday Ball was held in August. This proved to be a very successful function and our thanks go to a very energetic sub-committee.

1971—saw the replacement of our old piano with a new Yamaha, a valuable addition to our equipment, and a new stereo record player. A generous donation from Mothers' Club has helped keep us abreast of the times.

We have three Honorary Life Members: Mrs W. G. Corbett, first President of our association from 1948-1955; Mrs B. E. Gale, who was the first secretary of our association and later a senior Vice-President; Mrs W. Jackson, very conscientious Mothers' Club member and later an association member from 1960-1969.

Our present President is in her ninth year of office and only our third President in 24 years.

The waiting list has grown steadily over the years and in 1974 an Establishment Committee began the task of establishing a second kindergarten.

THAMES

Since the official opening in 1956, the Thames Free Kindergarten has progressed steadily to the present day when we have a full roll and a waiting list of 180 children. A steering committee is looking into establishing a second kindergarten in Thames, and as the town is fast expanding, we hope that this will take place in the not too distant future.

Improvements to the kindergarten have been considerable, a new equipment shed has been built, and a large area of concrete has been laid in front of the main building. We feel fortunate that we have always had a high proportion of men on our committee; in 1970 seven were elected. This is always an advantage for working bees and equipment repairs. The Council, with the help of the Parent Club, is continually engaged in fund-raising efforts, and in this way we have always received the generous support of the public.

During the first year in our new building, Mr Peter Stevenson was President. Mr Ray Lomas, who had played an active part in the establishment of the present building continued as President until 1971. Now both Mr and Mrs Lomas have been honoured by Life Membership.

1974 saw at last the beginning of our second kindergarten. Early in the year a site was granted to us and as a result an Establishment Committee was formed and fund-raising began in earnest.

We commenced with a Telephone Appeal and a major raffle for a motorbike. Later in the year another major raffle for a stereo, and a very successful Gala Day were staged.

These efforts brought in quite a tidy sum of money and we will raise the rest of our local share with a State Advances loan. At the end of 1974 we now await patiently the green light from the Education Board and we hope that by the end of next year our dreams will be fulfilled and a second kindergarten will be serving our rapidly growing town.

TIMARU

The establishment of a Free Kindergarten Association in Timaru was unanimously decided at a well-attended public meeting held in the Timaru City Council Chambers on September 12, 1944. Prompted by the Mayor, Mr A. E. S. Hanan, the meeting was convened by Mrs Hanan, following an announcement in the Timaru "Herald" that the Government had decided to re-introduce subsidies for the maintenance of free kindergartens in New Zealand and following correspondence with, and advice from Miss M. England, the Honorary Secretary of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

At a later meeting the constitution was prepared for registration and the Council proceeded with plans for the establishment of Timaru's first free kindergarten. The Timaru association became the ninth to be established in New Zealand.

A survey of the district revealed very few halls suitable for the establishment of kindergartens and few sections available. In compliance with a request, the Vestry of St Peter's Church, in the Kensington district in the south end of Timaru, placed the Sunday School hall at the disposal of the association. Consequently, a meeting convened by the President was held and a local committee formed, with Mrs C. W. Locke as chairwoman.

The Kensington Committee immediately made plans and worked with energy and enthusiasm and Timaru's first free kindergarten was officially opened on April 4, 1945, by the Mayor, Mr A. E. S. Hanan. Miss A. J. Duthie, Principal of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Training College, was the guest speaker, presenting valuable information regarding the importance of early training by specialised teachers. The association was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Patricia Burrell, Head Teacher, and Miss Heather Hancock, Assistant, both Dunedin honours graduates.



At a later date, acting on a suggestion by the Mayor, negotiations were set in motion with the City Council for a section in College Road. The association was grateful for a very valuable section being granted.

When a request for a free kindergarten came from the West End of Timaru, a meeting was convened for November 19, 1946, at the West End Hall, and an enthusiastic committee was elected, with Mrs J. C. Kay as chairwoman. The West End Ratepayers' Association made their hall available for a kindergarten. The West End Kindergarten was officially opened on February 11, 1947, by the Mayor, Mr A. E. S. Hanan. The Medical Officer of Health for South Canterbury gave a very interesting address to the large number of parents present. Miss J. Blakie was appointed Head Teacher and Miss E. Foote, Assistant.

The Waimataitai Committee was elected on July 13, 1948, at a meeting convened by the President and Executive of the Council, and held at the Waimataitai School Assembly Hall. Mrs A. Garland was elected chairwoman. Unfortunately there was not a suitable building in this area, but undaunted, the enthusiastic committee worked to raise funds. Pending the acquisition of a building, a kindergarten-play centre was

opened at Ashbury Motor Camp, and run two afternoons weekly under the supervision of the association's teachers.

In response to a request from the north end of Timaru, where a beginning had been made with the construction of 240 homes, a meeting was convened and held at All Saints Hall on April 17, 1948. A local committee was elected, with Mr R. B. Menzies as chairman, a decision being made to name the kindergarten "Ranui". Dr E. H. Densem gave an interesting address to the parents.

The Ranui Kindergarten was officially opened on November 21, 1949, by the Mayor, Mr A. E. S. Hanan, in the new church hall made available by the Vestry of St John's Church. The guest speaker was Miss N. M. Dickie, M.A., Principal of the Timaru Girls' High School. Staff appointed were: Mrs Una Anderson, Head Teacher, Mrs M. Edyvean, Assistant. The provision of a site for the Ranui Kindergarten building was made by the State Housing Division.

With the welcome increase of Government subsidies and the decision of the Education Department to accept full liability for the salaries of kindergarten teachers, it was possible to proceed with the building plans. A building committee comprising Mrs N. C. Jenkin, Mr M. C. Gresson and Dr E. H. Densem was elected to supervise all necessary details of administration connected with the buildings.

With the foresight of the Mayor, negotiations were made with the City Council for the acquisition of building sites, one in Ashbury Park for Waimataitai, and one in Kiwi Drive for West End, both in beautiful surroundings.

On August 2, 1950, the Council was saddened by the death of Mr A. E. S. Hanan, a member of the Advisory Committee and a valued supporter of the association since its inception.

In 1951, plans drawn by the Honorary Architect, Mr P. W. Rule, for the building of the Kensington Kindergarten in College Road and, submitted to the Department of Education, were approved, and, in 1952, construction of the building commenced. Mr Rule's professional services were generously given to the association and it was with deep regret that it was learned in May, 1953, that he had passed away after a short illness. The model kindergarten in College Road was his design and is a constant reminder of his architectural contribution. This kindergarten was officially opened on September 5, 1953, by the Minister for the Welfare of Women and Children, the Hon. Hilda Ross. The Mayor, Mr W. L. Richards, presided at the opening ceremony, which was attended by a large and representative gathering and included the Rev. Clyde Carr, M.P., and Mrs A. F. Johnson, President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union. The kindergarten was named the Hanan Kindergarten in recognition of the devoted work of Mrs Hanan and her late husband, Mr A. E. S. Hanan, during his term of office as Mayor of Timaru.

In 1954, plans were prepared by the architects, Messrs Heaney and Beaven, for the buildings of the West End Kindergarten at Kiwi Drive and for the Waimataitai Kindergarten at Ashbury Park. West End Kindergarten was begun on June 4, 1954.

At the 11th Annual Meeting, in 1955, Mrs Hanan retired from the office as President and Mrs E. H. Densem was elected. Mrs M. J. Symon was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of her untiring work of collecting funds since the inception of the association. Her gifts to the Council and to all kindergartens are too numerous to mention, but a remarkable contribution has been a new piano to each of the four kindergartens, financed by the proceeds of sales of her own hand work, card parties and competitions.

The West End Kindergarten was officially opened on June 19, 1955, by the President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, Mrs A. F. Johnson. The Mayor, Mr R. E. White presided, and Miss I. Christison, Assistant Pre-school Supervisor, addressed the large gathering of parents and friends in the lovely playground.

The Waimataitai Kindergarten in Ashbury Park was officially opened on February 18, 1956, by Mrs A. E. S. Hanan. The Mayor, Mr R. E. White, presided, there being a large and representative gathering in the beautiful surroundings.

At the 13th Annual Meeting of the Council, Mrs E. H. Densem retired from office and grateful acknowledgment was made of her work. Mrs N. C. Jenkin was elected President.

The Ranui Kindergarten in Selwyn Street was completed in 1957, and was officially opened on August 17, 1957, by Mrs H. McCreanor, President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union. This kindergarten is very attractive and is situated next to the Marchweil Reserve with a magnificent view. This made the fourth debt-free kindergarten in Timaru. The Mayor, Mr R. E. White, presided at the opening and congratulated the association on its achievements.

At the end of 1957, Mrs N. C. Jenkin, who was a member of the Executive of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union for some years, resigned from her office as President of the Timaru Council because of her transfer to Wellington and Mrs M. C. Gresson was elected.

The Mackenzie Committee was elected in 1959, finance was raised within one year and the chosen site approved. Unfortunately it was unable to meet the requirements in roll numbers and therefore operated a private kindergarten.

Plans were made for two additional kindergartens in the Timaru area, one in Fairlie to be named the Mackenzie Kindergarten, and one in Timaru in a new housing sub-division in Courtney Block, to be named the Kowhai Kindergarten.

The Kowhai committee raised the necessary money for its share of the cost of building before the end of 1964. Government approval was given, the contract was let and the highlight of 1965 was the official opening of our fifth kindergarten, on September 11, by His Worship, the Mayor, Mr C. E. Thompson.

The Mackenzie Kindergarten at Fairlie continued to function as a very successful private kindergarten, although a survey of pre-school children in the district completed early in 1972 showed the possibility of upgrading to a Grade 0 kindergarten.

The sudden growth of a new suburb in the Highfield-Gleniti area caused such long waiting lists at both Ranui and West End Kindergartens, that it became apparent that a new kindergarten was needed, and an Establishment Committee was formed at a public meeting in November, 1968. The name Glenview was chosen and the next problem was to find a suitable section. It was unfortunate that land the association thought had been set aside for its future use was not forthcoming. Eventually, two adjoining sections were purchased, with the approval of the Department of Education.

On October 22, 1969, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of our association with a Wine and Cheese evening in the Caroline Bay Tearooms. This proved a most enjoyable gathering when many original members met once again. Also during 1969 we were very proud to have Hanan Kindergarten chosen as a place to run a special session for pre-school deaf children. This proved a great benefit to the children concerned.

The Glenview Committee, with the help of Council and local committees continued to raise the necessary finance for the kindergarten at Gleniti. Local committees agreed to invest their money (except for approximately \$500) in a common pool which has proved to be of great benefit to the association.

In May 1972, another public meeting was held for the Glenview Kindergarten, and in the same month an approach was made to the Ministry of Works at Twizel for a suitable building for a kindergarten to replace the already established Child Care Centre. A meeting arranged in June at Twizel, had to be cancelled because of ice and snow on the roads, but the pre-school adviser, Miss M. Branch, later met with the M.O.W. and reported on the situation.

During this time plans were being drawn up for the Glenview building by the association architect, Mr R. L. Dohig, and many fund-raising activities were being held. The house on the section was cleared, the fences removed and in February, 1973, tenders were called.

On February 1, 1973, a public meeting was held at Twizel, when members of the association and Miss Branch were present, and on February 12, the Twizel Free Kindergarten was opened with Mrs J. E. Cook Head Teacher, and Miss M. Pettit her assistant. Four untrained assistants, who had been employed at the Child Care Centre were also on the staff of this kindergarten, as approval had been given for an extended roll. The official opening took place on Saturday, June 23, 1973, by Miss M. Branch, the pre-school adviser for the Southern Regional District. The plaque was unveiled by Mr S. M. J. Smith, the M.O.W. Project Manager at Twizel. Other

speakers included Mr R. L. G. Talbot, M.P. for South Canterbury, Mrs C. G. R. Taylor, the association President, and Mr J. H. M. Dawson, the Ward member.

It soon became evident that a second kindergarten would be required for Twizel, and the Department of Education granted permission for a relocatable classroom to be built and placed on the adjacent site to the Twizel Kindergarten. A public meeting was held and the name "Ohau" chosen for this second kindergarten.

Also in 1972, the Department of Education agreed that the private kindergarten, Mackenzie, at Fairlie, should be upgraded and become a Grade 0 kindergarten. A public meeting was called, plans were drawn up and tenders called.

The association was host for the 1973 Annual Meeting of the Union, and this proved a very happy and worthwhile venture.

Due to the shortages of materials, the buildings took some time to complete, but finally, on November 11, 1973, Glenview admitted its first children, with Mrs H. L. Clifflin Head Teacher, and Miss L. Shelkar an untrained teacher. The official opening was performed by the Union President, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P. Other speakers were the President of the association, Mrs C. G. R. Taylor, Sir Basil Arthur, M.P. for Timaru and Miss M. Branch.

The Ohau Kindergarten situated alongside the Twizel Kindergarten opened on June 17, 1974, with Miss E. F. Keane Head Teacher and Miss F. Robertson as assistant. Two of the untrained teachers from Twizel were transferred to this kindergarten, which also has an extended roll, and runs a combined waiting list with the Twizel Kindergarten.

The official opening took place on Saturday, November 23, by the Union President, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E., J.P. Other speakers included Mrs J. W. G. Lewis, the association President, and Mr R. L. G. Talbot, M.P. for South Canterbury.

The Mackenzie Kindergarten, Fairlie, admitted the first children on March 11, 1974, with Mrs J. L. Jones Head Teacher, and Miss M. Jones the untrained teacher. Again Miss Ingram officially opened this kindergarten on Saturday, November 23, with Mr R. L. G. Talbot, M.P., Mrs Lewis, the association President and Miss M. Branch as the main speakers.

The Timaru association were the hosts for the Ward meeting in October, with their secretary, Mrs F. H. Davey, presiding as the new Ward member. Mrs Davey also represents the association on the Christchurch Kindergarten Teachers' College Board of Studies.

Looking back, the Timaru association has grown rapidly over the past years. The executive were disappointed to find that no section had been set aside for a kindergarten in Balmoral Street, where a primary school is to be built. The members are looking for a suitable site in this area, but at the time of going to print nothing is available. We trust that before too long a section will be acquired and another kindergarten erected for the children in the northern area of the city.

TOKOROA

At a public meeting called in August, 1952, details of forming a Free Kindergarten Association were given by a kindergarten director. It was agreed by the meeting to become affiliated with N.Z.F.K.U. The first kindergarten was opened in 1953 in the Community Centre.

Land was procured and an energetic committee set to work to raise funds for a permanent building. This was officially opened by Mrs H. Downer on April 4, 1959.

By 1964, Tokoroa had one kindergarten which had been operating six years and in March, 1964, approval was given for a site offered to the association by the Matamata County Council for a second kindergarten.

The first public meeting for the Ettrick Place Kindergarten was held on July 30, 1964, in the Methodist Hall, Kelso Street, the guest speaker being Mrs H. Downer, President of the N.Z.F.K.U. This meeting was attended by 100 people.

The building of Ettrick Place Kindergarten was about to start when the first public meeting for a third kindergarten was held on June 15, 1966, attended by 31 people. Negotiations were taking place at this time with the Matamata County

Council for the acquisition of a suitable site in the northern part of Tokoroa. When these were completed, a section was finally approved by the Department of Education on the corner of Paraonui Road and Totara Street and the committee for this proposed kindergarten was therefore named Paraonui.

In her annual report for 1966, Mrs Paton, Head Teacher of Clyde Street Kindergarten, stated that the waiting list was growing at an alarming rate, due not only to the mushroom growth of Tokoroa, but also to an awareness of the many and varied benefits that a child gains from pre-school education. By March, 1966, Clyde Street's waiting list had a total of 370 names, with the period before entry being 27 months.

Etrick Place Kindergarten was officially recognised in June of 1967, and Miss L. Jolley was appointed as the first head teacher.

At 11 a.m. on March 30, 1968, Miss L. M. C. Ingram, President of the N.Z.F.K.U. officially opened Tokoroa's new Etrick Place Kindergarten.

On October 7, 1968, Clyde Street celebrated its 10th anniversary and, to mark the occasion, an afternoon tea was held to which past presidents were invited. They were, in order of office: Mrs J. Gayford (1952-53), Mrs H. Morris (1954-55), Mrs J. Voight (1956-59), Mrs L. C. Webber (1959-60), Mrs J. M. Staples (1960-61), Mrs J. Cragg (1961-62) and Mrs L. Grayburn (1962-65). Also invited were Mrs M. MacPherson, Honorary Life Member and director at Clyde Street in 1958, and the two past chairwomen of Clyde Street, Mrs M. Jowett and Mrs H. Jones. The guests of honour were presented with an orchid spray. Only one past president, Mrs M. Harpur (1954), was unable to attend.

In June, 1969, Mrs D. Davenport, President of the Tokoroa Association and Mrs E. Eng, inspected a site in the Balmoral area with a representative from N.Z. Forest Products Limited as a proposed siting for Tokoroa's fourth kindergarten. Mention must be made at this point of the attainment of this fourth kindergarten by N.Z. Forest Products Limited.

At the first public meeting at which the Balmoral Committee was formed, Miss C. O'Donoghue, pre-school adviser to the Department of Education, addressed the meeting saying that she considered a fourth kindergarten an absolute necessity and asked parents to work urgently towards a fifth and sixth.

The venue of this meeting was the Balmoral School where the Headmaster, Mr Simpson, presided. The other guest speaker, Mr J. Hassall, South Auckland Education Board representative, gave the meeting information regarding the number of pre-school children in Tokoroa.

Towards the end of 1970 it was felt that it was time to inquire about a site for the fifth kindergarten which should be near David Henry School and inquiries were instigated with the Parks and Reserves Committee.

The work-load of the association was increased and by April, 1971, the association was the proud possessor of a typewriter and Gestetner.

Meantime, Paraonui Kindergarten was in the process of being built and both Paraonui and Balmoral committees were working hard with their fund-raising functions.

A public meeting held for the purpose of forming an Establishment Committee for the proposed kindergarten near David Henry School at which Mrs Shirley Muir, Ward member for Ward No. 2, was guest speaker, was poorly attended, only 13 people being present. The association is awaiting Department of Education approval of the section offered to us by the Parks and Reserves Committee and it is intended to establish a committee in the very near future.

On Saturday, March 18, 1972, this association was proud to have Miss L. M. C. Ingram officially open Paraonui Kindergarten which was the result of six years of very hard work for people connected with the association.

This association wishes to record that, at the Annual General Meeting on April 19, 1971, Mrs Dawn Davenport, retiring president of five years (1965-70), was made an Honorary Life Member and presented with a Royal Albert tea service in appreciation of her untiring contribution to pre-school education in Tokoroa.

Mrs Margaret Jowett also had a presentation made to her at this time in appreciation of 12 years of faithful service.

Balmoral Kindergarten was officially recognised on September 16, 1974, and David Henry early in 1975.

UPPER HUTT

1946—Association formed in September. Silverstream operating private kindergarten. Trentham and Upper Hutt Establishment Committees formed.

1948—Association affiliated to New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union. April: Upper Hutt opened in Red Cross Rooms. October: Trentham opened in Salvation Army Hall.

1950—Silverstream site purchased.

1953—Silverstream building completed and opened November 6 by Lady Norrie.

1954—Trentham site (Crown land) vested in the association. Site for Upper Hutt leased from the Borough Council.

1955—Mrs Irmgard Ritchie appointed as the association's first senior head teacher. Cottle Committee inaugurated.

1956—Trentham building completed; opened on March 24 by Dame Hilda Ross. Upper Hutt completed and opened April 28, by Hon. R. M. Algie. Site purchased for Cottle.

1957—Cottle opened private kindergarten in the Rose of Sharon Hall.

1959—McLeod Committee inaugurated in March.

1960—Trained staff in all kindergartens for the first time in association's history.

1961—McLeod Committee changed name to Irmgard Ritchie in memory of our former senior director. Mrs Amiria Johnson became first Maori senior head teacher in New Zealand.

1962—Cottle opened by Mr George Cottle, February 17.

1963—Mrs D. T. Nicholson (President) was elected to the executive of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

1965—Irmgard Ritchie Kindergarten opened May 1, by former President Mr R. Beddow.

1966—Site purchased in Ruru Street, Heretaunga. Heretaunga Committee formed.

1967—Negotiations in train to obtain a site for proposed kindergarten north of Upper Hutt.

1969—Heretaunga Kindergarten officially opened March 8.

1971—Establishment Committee formed in Totara Park.

1973—March: Land set aside in Denver Grove, Totara Park, for a kindergarten. August 28: Kindergarten North officially opened, named Doris Nicholson Kindergarten by His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Denis Blundell.

1974—Inaugural meeting held for kindergarten in Brown Owl area. Land provided by Education Board under new policy. October: Tenders called for Totara Park Kindergarten. October: Brown Owl Kindergarten plans under way.

WAIMATE

The Waimate Free Kindergarten Association was formed and the first Council elected at a meeting in February, 1948.

The kindergarten was first started in the Parish Hall of St Augustine's Church and was officially opened by Miss Tyndall, of the Department of Education, in February, 1949. Miss Mary Aubrey was the first head teacher. The untrained assistant was Miss June Ruddenklau. Later the kindergarten functioned for a time at Knox Church Hall and also in the old Silver Band Hall.

In July, 1949, a parent group was formed and helped the Council with money-raising efforts towards building a permanent kindergarten. These special efforts included a fancy-dress party, a doll show, a paper drive, dances, catering, shop days, fat lamb drives, canteen work and Money-go-round presented by Mr Selwyn Toogood.

A canteen was started in the Football Grounds at Manchester Park in May, 1948. The County Council lent a stove which was towed to the Park. The Borough Council then supplied timber and a hut was erected by voluntary effort. The Canteen,



staffed by mothers and Council members working by roster, continued to function every Saturday during the football season and apart from parents' donations it was the kindergarten's largest source of income.

A kindergarten was subsequently built in John Street. It was officially opened on July 3, 1953, by Mr D. C. Kidd, M.P., with Miss I. Marshall as head teacher and Miss A. Melton as trained assistant. The property has continued to be improved and furnished and now presents a very attractive appearance.

On June 23, 1974, a cabaret evening was held to celebrate the 25th Jubilee of the association.

WAIOURU

The first kindergarten was opened in a newly-renovated old Guard House in August, 1955. At the first Annual Meeting in 1954 the Waiouru Association, under the Presidency of the Camp Commandant, the Constitution was adopted.

The major problem during the years has been the shortage of trained staff. On several occasions the Department of Education threatened to cease payment of staff salaries if no trained teacher could be found. Throughout these trying times the committee worked hard to raise funds for a new building, which was officially opened on May 20, 1961, by Mr Roy Jack, M.P.

In 1964 the first term commenced with two trained teachers — a fitting reward after so many trials and tribulations.

1968 saw the start of the arduous task of planning for a second kindergarten in Waiouru. It was obvious even then that the waiting list of over 100 was unlikely to diminish. The Army offered the Council a site some distance away from the present kindergarten and this was accepted by both the Department of Education and the association. Fund-raising was started with a vengeance, as the building had to be commenced by 1975 or our option on the land would cease.

1969-70—Up until this time only \$600 had been raised towards the necessary \$8,000 required, and the task was made more difficult by the Council having to act as the fund-raising committee as well as administer the existing kindergarten, a problem that still existed in 1972. Lady Porritt visited the Waiouru Kindergarten in December, 1969, to present the prizes to Master and Miss Waiouru, a contest organised by the association for the second kindergarten. Expenditure on the existing kindergarten was ever-increasing with the high fuel and electricity accounts.

1970-71—During this period, as, in fact, the whole time the kindergarten movement has been operating in Waiouru, the teaching staff and councils changed year by year. The lack of accommodation caused the staffing problem but, when the Department of Education Teachers' Hostel was opened, it was obvious that this was the solution. Funds grew slowly but surely, and at the end of 1971, \$1,500 had been raised. A monster Gala Day was held, and as well as the usual cake stalls etc., a charity golf match was held. By this stage there was no one left of the Council that had originally started planning for the second kindergarten, and a totally new Council was nothing new for Waiouru.

1971-72—At the A.G.M. this year, \$2,700 had been raised, a long way from the original target of \$1,500 per year up until 1975. In December a Queen Carnival was held, with various charities participating, and kindergarten benefited, financially, extremely well. At the end of this year we lost our President, Mrs Poanaga. The Council was very sad to see her go as she had been its mainstay for the past two years, and we wished her well for the two-year posting to England. The loan scheme released by the State Advances Corporation and the Department of Education was good news to us all. At last the plans of 1968 will come to fruition, nearly two years ahead of our target.

We will have an even bigger staff problem then, with four trained teachers to find, but as usual that bridge will be crossed, as have all the others, and we are confident for the future of our two kindergartens in Waiouru.

WAIRARAPA (formerly Masterton)

Founded in war time, the kindergarten movement in Masterton grew slowly in its early years when patriotic effort demanded most of the time, talents and treasure available. However, an enthusiastic band of women, headed by Mrs Una Williams pushed steadily onwards with their task of amassing the materials and money required to establish the service. It was appreciated, at an early stage, that united effort offered the best opportunity for attaining the objective, and the Masterton Free Kindergarten Association was formed in 1941. By 1945, funds in hand were sufficient to equip two kindergartens which opened in halls at West and Lansdowne, to be followed in 1948 by East. The last was the first to be provided with its own building, which, named in honour of Mrs Williams, opened in 1953. At that stage land had been acquired for the

West building, and after the building was completed in 1956 efforts were concentrated on the accumulation of funds necessary for a Lansdowne Kindergarten. With the assistance of a grant from the Masterton Trust Lands Trust and the supreme effort by the local committee, these had been raised by 1960.

While the association had thus achieved its original objective, it recognised that it had not yet satisfied the demand for extended kindergarten services and the formation of an Establishment Committee in the Solway area in 1960 pointed the direction towards which efforts continued. It was not until 1966 however, that the Solway Kindergarten was finally built.

At this point in history there was quite a radical departure in the nature of the work of the Wairarapa association. Early in 1967, it came to the notice of the association that the Featherston Kindergarten Association, a small township 26 miles from Masterton, was, after 19 years, still endeavouring to obtain its first kindergarten. After discussions between the two, Featherston was admitted to the Wairarapa association in June 1967, and the construction of their kindergarten commenced in July 1968, enabling it to open at the beginning of 1969.

The Wairarapa association, however, was still not convinced that there were sufficient kindergartens operating in Masterton itself. In August, 1968, a decision was made to investigate the possibility of acquiring a further site. And in February, 1969, a firm step was taken to acquire a site from the Masterton Borough Council in Short Street. At this stage no Establishment Committee had been elected, as the area of need had no suburban boundaries and children from the area were attending a number of different kindergartens. The association and the other local committees of Masterton and Featherston pledged themselves to meet the local contribution. Building commenced in 1971 and the association was pleased to open its sixth kindergarten at the commencement of 1972.

In 1974, it was decided to change the name from Masterton to Wairarapa Association. At present we are investigating the possibilities of further sites in Lansdowne and Featherston.

WAIROA

At the beginning of 1962, the Borough of Wairoa had an approximate pre-school population of 450 and, with only one play centre, the town was lacking badly in pre-school services.

On September 12, 1962, Mesdames C. U. Tait, L. A. Joblin and J. E. Collier (an ex-kindergarten head teacher) convened, and the Mayor, Mr R. E. Shortt, presided over a very well-attended public meeting to discuss the need for a free kindergarten. Guests for the evening were Mrs K. Malcolm, President of the Napier Free Kindergarten Association Inc., and Mrs A. Doole, a senior director. Mrs Malcolm addressed the meeting and this was followed by a lively floor discussion which resulted in the decision to form a Wairoa Free Kindergarten Association, whereupon a President, Dr C. U. Tait, treasurer, Mr G. McIntyre, secretary, Mrs J. E. Collier and committee of nine were elected.

In 1962, the committee became involved in a concentrated money-raising project including raffles, jumble sales, gala days, waste paper drive, Christmas cave, sale of sweet corn at the January carnival, etc., with the result that just over \$4,000 was in the bank.

Negotiations for a suitable site had been undertaken and after much deliberation, conferring with officials of the Education Department, and with Borough Council co-operation, a site was found and approved by the Department of Education.

After more than three years of hard work our first kindergarten was opened at the beginning of 1966. Since that time the kindergarten has become an established part of the Wairoa educational system and is most popular. We have had a few difficulties with staffing but have always managed to get help when required. In 1972, a waiting list of close to 100 prompted the association to look into the question of

providing another kindergarten in North Clyde. A section backing onto the North Clyde School was available and within a matter of months \$6,000 was raised. The survey of children in the area showed an 85 per cent Maori roll. The kindergarten was officially opened on March 17, 1973, by Miss L. M. C. Ingram, M.B.E. and now all children in Wairoa have the opportunity for pre-school education.

WANGANUI

Perhaps it is not surprising that the people of Wanganui have adopted, welcomed and encourage their kindergartens, for our cultural centre in Queen's Park is a source of great civic pride and a well-known feature of our city's life. So too, the development of our youngest citizens, the future trustees of this fine heritage, is a natural follow-up of our city's great love of beauty.

The Wanganui Free Kindergarten Association was formed in 1948, and its first President was Miss J. Sewell. The public meeting held under the auspices of the National Council of Women was arranged by Mrs J. A. McFarland, who became President in 1953. No movement could owe more to any one person than the kindergarten movement in Wanganui owes to Mrs McFarland. A well-known personality to almost every kindergartener in New Zealand, she has been the mainstay and an inspiration to the Wanganui association from its inception.

The formation of Wanganui Association was quickly followed by the opening of our first kindergarten in Baden Powell Hall, Durie Hill, in September, 1948. Other suburbs, where young parents quickly realised their value, were soon feverishly raising money in order to open kindergartens and in 1949, pre-school services were established in the central area of the city and at Wanganui East, in 1950, at Aramoho and in 1951, at Gonville and St John's Hill.

But all these kindergartens were in inadequate halls and it soon became the ambition of each of these committees to erect permanent buildings. In this they were given every encouragement by the Wanganui City Council, who granted sections in the suburbs of Wanganui East, Durie Hill, St John's Hill and Gonville. Housing Division allotted a section to Aramoho. In the crowded central area, however, a section was completely unobtainable and so an old home was purchased and converted to a kindergarten. Central became the first "home" of the association and was officially opened on March 27, 1954.

Aramoho was the next suburb to acquire its own home — our association's first new kindergarten, which was opened in 1956. What a spur and incentive this was to our other committees, still trying so hard to reach that golden target.

On September 13, 1958, a new building was opened at Wanganui East and then on March 21, 1959, Wanganui Association achieved its proudest day, for, during the morning, a new building was opened on St John's Hill and, in the afternoon, Polson Park Kindergarten, Durie Hill, was opened.

In the meantime, the parents in the suburb of Gonville were having a particularly frustrating time. Because of the inadequacy of the hall their kindergarten had never been recognised. At their Mothers' Club Birthday Party in September, 1956, a committee of fathers handed to the Committee a cheque for \$2,500, sufficient to meet the cost of a building when added to the funds already raised. But on the same day advice had been received of the period of consolidation which halted progress. But the long delay served to make the final achievement all the dearer to the parents of Gonville — on June 11, 1960, their new kindergarten was opened.

The Marie McFarland Free Kindergarten, at Castlecliff, was opened on September 18, 1965, by Mrs Marie McFarland, in whose honour the kindergarten was named.

The Gonville Free Kindergarten erected in 1960 was destroyed by an act of arson in December, 1967. However, kindergarten continued as usual in a nearby hall until a new building was opened to children in May, 1968.

The Harriette-Vine Free Kindergarten, opened in 1969, serves the children of the Carlton area. The section on which it is built was bequeathed to the City by the late Miss

Harriette-Vine, to be used for the enjoyment of young children. The committee worked for five years, operating and maintaining the Carlton Private Kindergarten and raising funds for their own building.

The Barsanti Free Kindergarten, which was opened in June, 1971, was named in honour of our Hon. Architect, Mr L. S. Barsanti, in appreciation of his untiring efforts to the Association. This kindergarten was financed by the Association on a long loan basis, to enable children to gain kindergarten experience without delay. We have a large population of Maori and Island children in this area, and we are very pleased to welcome so many of them into the kindergarten.

The Hinemoa (Wanganui) Free Kindergarten at Wanganui East, opened to children on February 23, 1972. Parents worked for some years for this building, while at the same time operating and maintaining the Pepper Block Private Kindergarten. This is the first Grade O Kindergarten in Wanganui, and one of which we are all justly proud. We would like to record our grateful thanks to the people of the Pepper Block area for their untiring efforts for the kindergarten movement.

Our 25th Jubilee Year was celebrated in 1972 with a Kindergarten Queen Contest and Cabaret mid-year, and in December a buffet dinner for past members, preceded by the presentation of a Nativity Play by the pupils of the Gonville Free Kindergarten.

In September, 1974, the residents of Upper Aramoho decided on Kindergarten Education for their children and formed the Aramoho Park Free Kindergarten Establishment Committee. This committee is working extremely well and is hopeful of gaining approval to build in the 1975-76 year.

In October, 1974, the Putiki Private Kindergarten affiliated with the Wanganui Association and application for acceptance as an establishment committee was made.

WELLINGTON

The Wellington Free Kindergarten Association owes its origin to Miss Mary Richmond who, (to quote an extract from the President's speech in 1922 at the unveiling of a Sundial in Miss Richmond's honour) "was President of the Froebel Society in Wellington. In the streets Miss Richmond saw little ones too small to go to school, sitting about in the dirt on pavements, dusty and grubby, learning language which was certainly no good to them, and her tender mother-heart ached for these neglected babies. 'We must have kindergartens for these children' she said, and set to work to get them."

In 1905, Miss Richmond spoke at over 100 afternoon teas, and twenty centres were formed in the city, the head of each centre promising \$30 per annum. The original scheme only provided for the raising of funds to support an experimental kindergarten for three years, and in 1906, this kindergarten was opened in the Tory Street Mission Hall, under the direction of Miss Banks, assisted by one student. On the first day of opening 13 children were present, this number increasing in two weeks to 38, showing the need for the movement and the delight with which the mothers welcomed it.

In 1909, a second kindergarten was opened in Constable Street, and the original one moved to larger quarters. A newspaper report of that date states that "Wellington is setting its approval on this work. Many of the leading ladies of our social world are joining hands to help forward the movement, and many mothers have come forward to co-operate."

In 1911, an experienced head mistress, Miss Freeman, was appointed. She held a National Froebel Union Certificate of England, and on her arrival the systematic training of students was organised. By 1915 there were four kindergartens in different parts of Wellington (Taranaki Street, Constable Street, Maranui and Brooklyn). These were known as Richmond Kindergartens after the founder, and in this year the Women's Council called to its aid a committee of men to advise them on financial matters. The following year "The Richmond Free Kindergarten Women's Council, feeling that it could no longer carry on the work of their Central School in three small hot rooms over a Chinese fruiterer's shop in Taranaki Street, bought a section of land in the same local-



ity." With this purchase it became necessary to raise a large sum of money. Unfortunately the name "Richmond Kindergarten Association" was found to be a drawback, and, in 1917, the name was changed to the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, and plans were drawn up for a new building, at an estimated cost of £3,000. However, because of increased cost of building materials it was found impossible to undertake the building of a new school, and four buildings (two houses, one shop, one factory) adjacent to the ground already owned, were purchased, the factory being altered to become a Kindergarten Training Centre, and the other buildings rented. This was also the year of the influenza epidemic, and schools were closed while students looked after babies and children at the Kelburn Training College.

1920—Thorndon Kindergarten closed after two years, through lack of children attending.

1921—Second kindergarten opened at Newtown in Trinity Church Schoolroom. Even at this date annual reports complain of shortage of students and large waiting lists.

1924—Mrs T. H. Gill retired as President after 15 years in office. Mrs D. C. Peacock became the new President.

1926—Lady Alice Fergusson became Patroness. A feature of these days was the demonstrations of kindergarten activities in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, and open to the public.

1929—A new kindergarten was built at Berhampore, a section procured at Petone, and in Ngaio a committee was formed to open a new kindergarten. In September Mrs Peacock resigned as President and was followed by Mrs W. R. Davidson.

Lady Alice Fergusson relinquished office as Patroness upon her departure from New Zealand, and Lady Bledisloe consented to assume the vacant office.

July, 1930—The Hon. H. Atmore laid the foundation stone of the new Petone Kindergarten at the corner of Campbell Terrace and Victoria Street. The building was opened by Her Excellency Lady Bledisloe in February, 1931. This year Mrs H. E. Gibbs took office as President, and three days before the Christmas holidays the Government announced its decision to withhold financial assistance to kindergartens in the interest of national economy. Public interest increased, special efforts were made and the "Evening Post" opened a subscription list column to keep the kindergartens open. The Secretary and several staff relinquished part of their salaries, and two graduates gave their services gratuitously. Mothers' Clubs raised over \$800.

1934—Mrs J. A. Doctor became President and in the next two years Wellington South and Miramar Kindergartens were opened. The kindergarten in Brooklyn closed owing to lack of local interest and support.

In 1939 a Model Kindergarten was built and donated as a special feature of the Centennial Exhibition.

1941—The Governor-General, Viscount Galway, generously offered to make available a portion of Government House grounds for a kindergarten and playground. This land, in Hospital Road, was formerly a horse paddock, and later a vegetable garden for unemployed.

1942—At the request of the Education Department the Taranaki Street and Petone Kindergartens were opened as All Day Nursery Kindergartens to meet the needs of children whose mothers were engaged upon work of national importance. The model kindergarten in Hospital Road was still being used as a mess room by men called from the country to undertake work of national importance. The kindergarten was eventually opened by Mr Peter Fraser in November, 1943.

Further kindergartens were opened in Hataitai (Realm Hall) and East Harbour.

1948—Kindergarten teachers were allowed to visit homes of children once a week during the infantile paralysis epidemic, when schools and kindergartens were closed.

1949-50—Ngaio opened in a new building shared with Plunket Rooms, Khandallah in St. Barnabas Sunday School Hall, Northland in Church Hall, and Miramar North in the tennis pavilion. A new kindergarten in Island Bay was opened by Lady Freyberg.

1954—Mrs J. A. Doctor retired after twenty years as President of the Association and eight years as Dominion President. Mrs R. B. Gibbons was elected President and remained in office until 1961, and was followed by Mrs B. E. Orchiston.

1962—The old buildings in Taranaki Street were sold and a new Training College for students was opened in Tinakori Road by Her Excellency the Viscountess Cobham.

1963—Position of Supervising Director (later known as Supervising Head Teacher) created.

1965—Wellington Association relinquished its control (on a three-year trial basis) of the Kindergarten College to the Regional Council of Management.

1966—Retirement of Mrs B. E. Orchiston as President, when Mrs D. P. Ryan took over.

1968—Nursery School at Newtown discontinued, and Kindergarten there established on a firm basis. Official opening of Newlands Kindergarten. Decision made for Regional Council of Management of the Wellington Kindergarten Teachers' College to continue in control for another three years.

1960—Opening of two more kindergartens — Paparangi and Karori.

1971—Agreement that Regional Council of Management of the Wellington Kindergarten Teachers' College continue for yet another three-year period. President Mrs D. P. Ryan resigned. Mrs W. J. Lindegren appointed. Honour to Mrs D. P. Ryan when she was made a Life Member of the N.Z.F.K.U. and also a Life Member of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association.

1972—Association Library formed with books for distribution to Kindergartens and Staff.

1973—Association Hand Book printed. In June the Petone/Wharehoa scheme experimental unit opened at Wharehoa Polynesian Centre, and recognised in December as Grade 0 kindergarten. Three more sites acquired for kindergartens.

1974—Contracts let for building two more Kindergartens.



WELLSFORD

Pre-School education in Wellsford dates back to 1953. It was on April 19, 1953, that a meeting was called to discuss the needs of local pre-schoolers. From this early stage it was obvious that it would be many years before Wellsford had sufficient numbers to qualify for the status of free kindergarten with the Department of Education, and be eligible for any Government assistance. So it was planned to open a kindergarten-play centre to be run by a local committee. This group commenced that year and although numbers were small, it was of benefit to the three to five-year-olds in the district. Early sessions were held in a rented building in the main street of the town. When the lease of the building expired two years later it was obvious that the space available was not sufficient for the increasing numbers, so sessions were moved to the Methodist Church hall which was rented until the opening of the new building.

Numbers continued to increase, and the committee of 1958 was able to foresee the day when the church hall would not be large enough, and in that year, they commenced inquiries regarding the purchase of a site for a building of their own. Fund-raising was always a matter of concern and efforts continued despite the fact that it was October, 1964, before a suitable site was obtained, and even then much time and expense were needed to prepare the site for a building.

Finance over the years had been accumulating in a building fund, and excess money from the running of the kindergarten-play centre was transferred to the fund.

Money-making efforts varied from beetle evenings, street stalls, bottle drives, catering, to fashion shows, a Selwyn Toogood Show and publishing a recipe book.

Wellsford Kindergarten was most fortunate in having support from the community, and in particular the Jaycees. As well as supporting the committee, the Jaycees opened their own building account for kindergarten and their efforts over the years amounted to over four thousand dollars.

Enthusiasm was boosted in March, 1965, when a weekend of work by man and machine transformed the site from a wilderness to a workable piece of land. Despite the local enthusiasts' effort, and representations to authorities regarding the possibility of a free kindergarten, Wellsford seemed doomed. The population was not large enough YET. Local determination kept on. In 1965 the local committee decided to press on for a forty-child kindergarten, but found itself \$3,000 short of the estimated cost of such a kindergarten.



It was at this stage that a most generous offer was made regarding a real estate deal, and it was estimated that profits from this should enable this deficiency to be met. It would be neglectful to overlook the fact that all the timber required for a kindergarten building had been donated, and was even then waiting at the timber yard, for the approval to be given by the Government.

With a site prepared, and the required finance (with no allowances having been made for subsidy) all but in their hands, a deputation of those concerned met Mrs H. Downer, President of the Union, in Auckland to discuss further prospects for a building, but although Mrs Downer was sympathetic, she too felt that the numbers were not yet high enough to keep a kindergarten running. A saddened party returned to Wellsford that day.

None the less, a foundation committee was set up in November, 1965, and then in July, 1966, the inaugural meeting of the Wellsford District Free Kindergarten Association Inc. was held.

An application for Government approval to build was rejected in July, 1967, so there was great jubilation later that year when it was announced at Conference in Napier that approval was to be given by the Government to build three new kindergartens, and that Wellsford was to be one of these. No time was lost and tenders were called in December, 1967. The successful tenderer was advised in April, 1968, and work proceeded fairly promptly.

The first Head Teacher, Miss P. Snelling, was appointed in October, 1968, and an assistant, Miss J. Aickin, in November, to commence duties the following year.

As a result of many years working and waiting, it was a thrill to all to see the first children entering their own kindergarten in February, 1969, and it is interesting to note that rather than the children of the parents concerned in 1953, starting, it was only a year or two before it was the grandchildren of some.

Thus on April 19, 1969 (16 long years from that original meeting regarding pre-school in Wellsford) the Hon. W. J. Scott, M.P., officially opened the Wellsford District Free Kindergarten, which was erected in memory of Avis Westwater, who called the first meeting, but who unfortunately did not live long enough to see the culmination of her interest.

Many are the parents and children of the district who are grateful for the time and effort of those who persevered to the last and saw the kindergarten running smoothly.

Recently the play area has been extended to more than twice its original size. A large sandpit has been constructed at ground level and many trees have been planted for shelter. To provide shelter in the hot, sunny weather and a play area in adverse weather, a large verandah has been added to the building.

WESTPORT

Our history began in April, 1950, when a public meeting was called for the purpose of establishing a Free Kindergarten Association in Westport. Since then committees have worked hard to raise funds by means of dances, garden parties, card evenings and have been given assistance by local organisations, particularly the Savage Club and the Jaycees.

Eventually when the sum of \$4,000 was assured, a section of the Community Centre grounds was obtained and a building commenced, to the design and under the supervision of the architect of the Nelson Education Board. During 1957, the building was used for a private kindergarten, under the control of Mrs Ella Mathews, until the services of trained staff were obtained. The free kindergarten opened in February, 1958, with Miss D. Young as head teacher and a trained assistant. The official opening by the late Hon. C. F. Skinner, then Deputy Prime Minister, was held on March 4, 1958, when Mrs M. Larsen was President of the Association.

At that time and in the years following much assistance in the conduct of the kindergarten has been received from the Pre-School Advisers of the Department of Education and today we have a well-equipped building which caters for the pre-school needs of 80 Westport children.

In the last 12 months we have replaced our entire roof with aluminium.

Three women have been honoured with Life Membership for outstanding service to the association, Mrs W. Champion, Mrs L. Neill, and Mrs B. Smith.

WHANGAREI

In October, 1946, a public meeting chaired by the Mayor of Whangarei, Mr W. Jones, was called and as a result an interim committee was elected to investigate the possibilities of setting up a kindergarten. The interest and enthusiasm were such that by February, 1947, the first kindergarten was functioning in a church hall, charging a fee of \$4 per term per child and the teaching was done by an untrained teacher. At the beginning of 1953 the kindergarten became free and the time had come for planning a permanent building.

Towards the end of 1953, a section in Princes Street was placed at the disposal of the kindergarten association by the Whangarei Borough Council, and the committee worked hard to get approval from Government and other institutions for the erection of the new building.

In October, 1956, just ten years after the first meeting had been called, the first kindergarten building was officially opened (Mairtown).

In the middle of 1954, in another part of Whangarei, a meeting of interested parents was held and a private kindergarten in a small church hall was opened in September, 1954, catering for up to 20 children. Several church halls were occupied, money-raising efforts were held and this kindergarten, known as Hora Hora, became free in May, 1957.

During 1959, Hora Hora affiliated with the Whangarei Free Kindergarten Association and through the splendid effort of successive committees, another building situated in First Avenue was opened in November of that year.

During 1957, interested people in Kamo formed a committee to run a private kindergarten. In 1959, this was affiliated with the Whangarei Free Kindergarten Association, and, in 1960, obtained the services of a trained teacher. A section was

procured in Farmer Street and the committee worked hard to get the necessary funds for a building. This was finally opened in July, 1967, after a series of interminable delays and setbacks.

The "boom-time" expansion in Whangarei City during the early 1960s increased the need for pre-school services and this demand was reflected in the opening in quick succession of the Tikipunga Kindergarten (March, 1969) and the Raumanga Kindergarten (September, 1970).

The association accepted the affiliation of two private kindergartens. These were Hikurangi (affiliated September, 1967), and Portland (affiliated March, 1969). With the problems peculiar to themselves, these periphery kindergartens face many difficulties in achieving ownership of their own buildings. However, it is hoped that with the assistance, guidance, and if necessary, financial support of the association, they may one day achieve their target.

With five recognised kindergartens active in Whangarei City the association controls fixed assets in the form of buildings and equipment to the value of \$65,000. The Government pays into the district over \$17,500 each year in the form of salaries for the ten trained kindergarten teachers employed by the association.

The association's administrative machinery and procedures are gradually being overhauled and up-graded to keep pace with expansion in material assets.

Having established a sound base for pre-school education in Whangarei City, the association looks to the future with confidence.

In 1974 tenders were called for two new buildings — Portland and Riverside. These two kindergartens, when completed, will provide much-needed facilities for a fast-growing area.



Mrs Beverley Brayshaw



Mrs Helen Downer,
M.B.E.

MRS B. J. BRAYSHAW

Mrs Brayshaw's involvement in the kindergarten movement commenced in Blenheim in 1950. She was President of that Association for five years and secretary for three years.

During her eight years on the Union Executive, three as Vice-President, Mrs Brayshaw contributed much at national level. She was one of the first Union representatives on the National Advisory Council for Pre-School Education and National Council of Women representative for many years. Mrs Brayshaw was honoured with Honorary Life Membership on her resignation from the Union in 1974.

MRS H. DOWNER, M.B.E.

Mrs Downer convened a public meeting in November, 1950, which established the Rotorua Free Kindergarten Association and was elected President. She continued in that office until the Association was de-registered and became part of the Bay of Plenty Free Kindergarten Association in November, 1960, when she was elected president of that body. She still holds this position and it is mainly through her efforts that such significant growth has taken place in the development of new kindergartens throughout the Bay of Plenty.

The first kindergarten established in Rotorua bears her name as a tribute to her leadership.

Mrs Downer was elected to the Executive of the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union in 1952 and as Vice-President in 1955. She became President in 1957 and held office until 1966.

In 1961 Mrs Downer was awarded the M.B.E. in recognition of her work for the community and in particular for kindergarten.

The Union honoured Mrs Downer with Honorary Life Membership in 1967 for her outstanding contribution to the work of the movement.



Miss Vera Hayward,
M.B.E.



Miss Laura Ingram,
M.B.E., J.P.

MISS V. A. HAYWARD, M.B.E.

Miss Hayward, President of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association from 1959-62, represented that Association on the Union Executive from 1956-63. She held the position of Vice-President of the Union in 1960 and 1961.

Miss Hayward's contribution at both local and national level earned her considerable respect throughout the country. She was made an Honorary Life Member of the Union in 1967 and in 1970 was honoured by the Dunedin Association in a similar manner. Miss Hayward was adviser to a special committee which was set up in 1952 to form the Kindergarten Teachers Association.

MISS LAURA M. C. INGRAM, M.B.E., J.P.

President of N.Z.F.K.U. — 1966—

Made an Honorary Life Member — 1972.

Was elected to the Executive at the first Annual General Meeting she attended in 1955. The longest service at National level of any person since Kindergarten began in New Zealand — 20 years plus.

She will be remembered for her tremendous drive, evidenced by the numbers of Kindergartens built in the last 8 years and the flexibility she has encouraged in all aspects of early childhood education.

Miss Ingram has many interests. Her services to local body government is equally outstanding — 27 years. The first woman in the Nelson province to serve as a Councillor and is the longest-serving member of the Nelson Hospital Board. As a Justice of the Peace the first woman in her province to serve in Court.



Mrs Lindsay Rea



Mrs Maureen Ryan

MRS J. S. REA

Union Executive Member — 1965-1970

Vice-President of the Union — 1966-1970

Mrs Rea a past president of the Auckland Kindergarten Association holds the honour of being the first and only woman president of that Association. During her term as President much valuable work was done in the establishment of new kindergartens.

Mrs Rea was made an Honorary Life Member in 1971 for her valuable contribution to the Union.

MRS D. RYAN

Mrs Ryan has maintained an interest in the Kindergarten movement since 1946.

A past president and Life Member of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association Mrs Ryan represented that Association on the Union Executive from 1965 to 1969.

She was elected Vice-President of the Union in 1970. In 1971 following her resignation from the Union, Honorary Life Membership was conferred on her for outstanding service to the movement.

For many years Mrs Ryan has been the Union's representative to the N.Z.B.C.

She has made a tremendous contribution towards the success of "Kindergarten of the Air", "Listening with Mother" and latterly "Let's Join In" programmes.



Mrs Nellie Stevenson

MRS R. STEVENSON

Mrs Stevenson's interest in Kindergarten commenced in Hastings and dates back to 1943.

President of the Hastings Association from 1954 to 1957, she became a member of the Union Executive in 1957. Mrs Stevenson held the position of Vice-President of the Union in 1965. She resigned from the Executive in 1967 and was made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of the work she had done over many years. Still interested in the movement, a kindergarten in Hastings has been named after her.

BROADCASTS TO SCHOOLS — THE PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMME, 1950 - 1974

One of the Union's most notable achievements was the successful approach to the New Zealand Broadcasting Service, as it was once known, to secure a programme for pre-school children in country districts. In 1950, after hearing a recording of "Kindergarten of the Air" from Australia, the Executive requested its Publicity Committee to see what could be done to establish a similar service. Information and assistance were received from the Australian Broadcasting Commission, who in 1942, had pioneered the first educational programme in the world for the pre-school child and suggestions from this source were acted upon in New Zealand.

Discussions with the Directors of Broadcasting and Education and the Headmaster of the Correspondence School led to an advisory committee being formed in 1951. This comprised four members, representing the New Zealand Broadcasting Service, the Department of Education, the Headmaster of the Correspondence School, the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and a liaison officer. At preliminary meetings it was decided that the programme would:

1. Provide for children, in outlying districts and in smaller towns, the opportunity of listening to a programme which would give some of the experiences enjoyed by children attending kindergartens.
2. Help these children to enjoy their own environment more fully, and give them some feeling of belonging to a larger group.

It was realised that mothers should play an important part in sharing these experiences and that they would be given guidance in the selection of books, stories, music and toys for young children and in suitable activities, using materials at hand in the home.

The content of the broadcasts was drawn up, covering topics which would offer stimulus, variety and repetition throughout the year. It included short welcome talks, health talks, physical activities, music, rhythm, simple voice production, language, hand-work and hints for mothers. It was not suggested that all these aspects should be covered in one session. Rather, it was a guide to broadcasters to show the breadth of material which was available, and on which they should draw. It was recommended that the principle of building each programme should be based on alternations of activity and listening, but using proportions of time elastically. For the overall programme 26 minutes was decided upon as a suitable length of broadcast; the day of the session was to be Monday; and the time most suitable for listening mothers and children, allowing for other programme commitments, was 9.04 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

Applications were invited from trained and experienced kindergarten teachers and finally, Mrs Loma Jones, a former head teacher in the Wellington Association, was engaged. Programmes were planned in the manner laid down by the Committee and included simple songs and games, a story and an activity. Announcements and publicity were given, prior to the first broadcast of "Kindergarten of the Air", to inform people of the new step being taken towards listening sessions for pre-school children. The first programme was broadcast on Monday, March 10, 1952, at 9.04 a.m., and weekly broadcasts followed.

Much interest was shown and there were many comments from listeners, among whom some objection was raised to the day and time of the session. Consequently, the broadcasts were changed to Thursdays, but at the same time.

In 1952 a suggestion was made that there should be an additional "Kindergarten of the Air" programme, a shorter one, to bridge the gap between the weekly sessions. So in 1954 a quarter-hour programme was planned as a recapitulation of the main Thursday session, using the same songs, a new story, with the listening children singing and taking part, to be broadcast on Mondays at 9.17 a.m. The reactions to the two broadcasts were most favourable and the plan continued through 1955 and 1956, the only alteration being that there was some interchange between the session director and the pianist, which tended to make the programme additionally lively and interesting.

Since 1956, when the need for the programme was made obvious by a growing audience some major alterations have taken place. First the programme was extended to

three 20 minute sessions per week, broadcast at 9.20 a.m. Following a major change in policy in 1961 the sessions were increased to four of 15 minutes each week, beginning at 8.45 a.m. After some initial criticism from urban mothers, the audience appeared to accept the new starting time. However, the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation felt that the length of broadcast was too short and it would improve by reverting to 20 minutes. From early in 1963 the session was broadcast five times weekly, each fifth or Friday broadcast being a recapitulation of the previous four broadcasts. The session reverted to 20 minutes' duration and began at 8.38 a.m.

This coincided with a decision by the N.Z.B.C. to change the title of "Kindergarten of the Air" to "Listen with Mother". It was felt that over the past few years a greater interest in pre-school education had developed and as more than one organisation was engaged in this activity, the time was opportune to widen the scope of the programme and encourage and recognise the part mothers play, by participation in it. In 1964 it was decided to revert to the time placement of 9.04 a.m.

This time (9.04) was adhered to until 1973 when it was changed to 9.25-9.45, which proved to be satisfactory. In 1970 the male voice was to be introduced and therefore the name of the session was again changed to "Let's Join In". This has proved a valuable asset.

In twelve years there were only three changes among those conducting this session — Loma Jones, 1952-1959; Mary Brooker, 1960-1963; Kate Harcourt, 1964-1971. All were trained kindergarten teachers who, with the able assistance of their accompanists, established a programme dear to the hearts of all their listeners. Special mention must be made of Alisa Martin, also a trained kindergarten teacher, for the pleasure she gave with her singing as well as her piano accompaniments.

Anna Veitch conducted the sessions in 1972 and from 1973 to the present Diane Leslie has conducted them.

The Union pays its tribute, too, to the officers of the N.Z.B.C. and the Department of Education for their co-operation and interest.

The Union also pays tribute to Mrs Maureen Ryan who has been connected with the programmes since 1969. With the changes in the broadcasting service, "Let's Join In" is now featured Monday to Thursday from 9.25 a.m. to 9.45 a.m. on the YC stations.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER TRAINING

Free kindergarten associations, first established in the four main centres, very early recognised the need to train teachers for the important task of providing professional guidance in the kindergartens under their control. There was no Government assistance, although, as early as 1909, "recognition" of the service by the Department of Education took the form of a capitation grant of \$4 on the average attendance of children, provided an equal sum was raised locally. The Department also undertook to inspect all free kindergartens. Students paid a fee to be trained, and each centre conducted its own course, which was largely practical. Students were, in effect, helpers in the kindergartens, and, as there was no afternoon session, this time was used for some theoretical training. Each centre had its own examinations and standard of work and each awarded its own certificate. There was a period in the late 1920s and early '30s, when, at least in one centre, more teachers were trained than were needed and it became the practice for some to set up private kindergartens. They would hire a hall, supply some equipment and charge an admission fee. This service was welcomed by parents, especially at the time when five-year-old children were excluded from primary schools. The numbers taken ranged from about 10 to 20.

As the movement began to expand, the Department of Education made available, in 1941, the first allowances to students, but the cost of training remained the responsibility of the four associations, with some small assistance from the Government. The position changed when the Government assumed responsibility for salaries in 1948,

following representations by the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and the presentation and acceptance of the findings of a Consultative Committee, set up in 1945, to enquire into pre-school services in New Zealand.

With this development the ratio of teachers to children was fixed at twenty children to each trained teacher, (previously associations had worked on the ratio of fifteen children to one teacher), a full-time weekly schedule of duties for teachers was set down, minimum standards for buildings and equipment were determined, subsidies on a \$4 for \$2 basis were introduced and the capitation grants were discontinued.

In 1947, the Education Committees of the training associations, with the Union Executive, drew up the first syllabus for training which was national in character. In 1950, the first Diplomas of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union were issued, replacing those awarded by each training association. The number of student grants in any one year is determined by the Minister of Education who also allocates the quota to each College.

Government assistance amounted to approximately nine-tenths of the total cost of training and was supplied in the following ways: Salaries of full-time staff members, a grant of \$1.25 per lecture towards the cost of part-time lecturers' fees, bursaries to students and boarding allowances, where applicable, buildings for Training Colleges, subsidy on the cost of approved reference library books.

The training associations were responsible for: All administration, maintenance and running costs, including secretarial services, one-third of the cost of all College furniture, equipment and reference library books, the additional cost of part-time lecturer's fees, the selection of students. Each centre appointed a Selection Committee, approved by the Department of Education, and an Education Committee which advised on student training, examinations, examiners, etc., interviewed applications for professional positions in the College, gave advice on the suitability of part-time lecturers and recommended their appointment. Government regulations recognised this pattern and no change was made without Government approval.

Until 1961, the cost of administration of training was borne by the training associations, while all associations benefitted from their service. As a result of a decision taken at the Union Conference, the financial burden was shared equally by all recognised kindergartens. At the same time an approach was made to the Department training. An agreement was reached between the Department of Education and the of Education for a reconsideration of the system of administering kindergarten teacher Union that each of the Colleges should set up, in place of its Education Committee, a professional committee to be known as a Board of Studies and that there might be, for a specified period, a transfer of authority, in one or two centres who may request it, from the association to a Regional Council of Management.

These changes which required amendments to the Kindergarten Regulations, 1959, were Gazetted in 1965.

In the same year Wellington applied for permission to undertake a change of authority for three years and subsequently adopted the scheme on a permanent basis. No other training association undertook this method of administration.

In 1971, the Department of Education undertook to pay kindergarten college costs on the same basis as primary Teachers Colleges. The Union welcomed this forward step, but for some training associations it meant serious financial difficulties. As all help from other associations was discontinued with the announcement, deficits of over \$2,000 had to be borne by individual associations until a refund was made by the Department up to eighteen months later. Not all expenditure was refunded and this was a cost against a training association. With the transfer of training to Teachers Colleges in 1975, associations are no longer responsible for any expenditure in this area.

The kindergarten teacher training course covers a period of two years and includes a study of education, child development, psychology, English language and literature, music, arts and crafts and physical education as well as providing an opportunity for practical work with children in kindergartens. School Certificate was the minimum academic qualification and the applicant must enter into a bond of \$400 to serve for two years after the completion of her course.

In 1967 the four principals met at Lopdell House with members of the Department of Education, Teachers Colleges and university. The purpose of this course was to discuss and review the courses and functioning of the the kindergarten colleges. Extension studies — i.e. studies in depth of subjects relevant to the student's own personal development and interests were added to the course. The curriculum areas were extended to include a study of the beginnings of mathematics and reading. Closer liaison with the primary Teachers Colleges was also discussed.

The course now had three sections — education (child development, pre-school principles, kindergarten administration, working with parents etc.); curriculum studies (literature, environmental studies, expressive activities); and extension studies (English, social sciences, art, music, drama, etc.).

Although School Certificate was still the minimum entry qualification, the number of students with higher qualifications was increasing, as was the number studying at university.

In 1973, pre-school units were established at North Shore and Hamilton Teachers Colleges, and in 1974, one at Palmerston North Teachers College.

A working party on teacher training for early childhood education was held at Hogben House, Christchurch in May, 1974. The two major tasks of the working party were:—

- (a) To study the implications of the proposal to integrate the present kindergarten teacher training programme with primary teacher training, and make recommendations about the administrative and professional procedures that would be necessary to achieve this.
- (b) To consider the proposal to extend the kindergarten teacher training course by one year and make recommendations on the nature and organisation of such a course.

Consideration was also given to related issues — selection procedures, probationary teaching year, associate teachers, "normal" kindergartens, representation of pre-school interests on Teachers College Councils, lecturers' salary scales and safeguards, in-service training and certification. Teacher training resources and pre-school resources available and likely to be available in the immediate future were taken into account in all the discussions and recommendations made by the working party.

Integration with Primary Teachers' Colleges

Following the Hogben House working party, preparation for the integration began to proceed at local and national level.

The student allowances and entrance qualifications were at parity with Division A (primary students). The Department of Education was represented on the Selection Committee by the District Senior Inspector or his nominee.

Planning, however, was hindered by the delay in the decision regarding staffing and the consequent advertising of the Senior Lecturer and Lecturers' positions.

In the course planning, as much integration as possible with Division A was provided for, but the particular early childhood elements, i.e. Principles of pre-school education, curriculum studies 3-5 years, working with parents, and kindergarten administration and organisation, were retained within the two-year course.

With some variations from college to college, courses include education; principles of pre-school education; curriculum studies (music, art and craft, mathematics, social studies, science, language and literature); selected studies; English; and observation and teaching sessions. Students also participate in electives, sports and social activities, as well as being represented on the Student Executive.

The course for the 1975 second year students had to be specially planned to ensure that this was a continuation of the course commenced at Kindergarten Teachers' College.

The unit is known as Division E — early childhood education.

Kindergarten College buildings are being used by the college as additional accommodation.

Therefore the control of the training has been transferred from the Kindergarten Associations to the Teachers College Councils and provision has been made for representation on the Teachers College Council. An Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Education has been established in each college and all interested parties are represented. So this integration marks the end of an era.

There are advantages such as increased facilities, more specialist staff, wider range of selected studies, increased breadth of study. While staff will experience wider professional contacts, the students would also be stimulated from being in a larger institution and sharing a greater range of student activities too.

Integration is a step towards extending the training by a year and to the implementation of some related issues discussed by the Hogben House working party.

In April, 1959, when His Excellency, the Viscount Cobham, then Governor General of New Zealand, officially opened the Kindergarten Teachers' College in Auckland, he used the words of Henry Adams—"A teacher affects Eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." This is probably more true of a kindergarten teacher than any other, as she is dealing with children at their most eager stage of learning and has a profound influence on their mental and emotional development.

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association aims are:

1. To advance the cause of education among pre-school children.
2. To uphold and maintain the just claims of members and student members of the Association individually and collectively.
3. To take any steps as may be thought fit to improve the working conditions, status and qualifications of teachers and to negotiate on behalf of the students and teachers for improved salaries, working conditions and privileges in regard to standards of training and the status of teachers.
4. To act in the interest of teachers and students in any way.

The Association was formed on the suggestion of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and was started in 1952, when a conference of principals and vice-principals was being held in Auckland, with Miss E. S. Hamilton and Miss J. Stewart from Dunedin, Miss R. Wilkie from Christchurch, Miss M. Baucke and Miss I. Christison from Wellington, and Miss F. Cawkwell and Miss J. M. Burt, Auckland.

An interim committee was formed at this meeting, with Miss Hamilton, Chairman, Miss Stewart, Hon. Secretary, and with Miss V. Hayward, also of Dunedin, as adviser. The initial work of founding the N.Z.F.K.T.A. was finalised in 1953 and a provisional constitution was drafted by the four principals.

The constitution was accepted in 1957, and the Association was registered under the Incorporated Societies Act of 1908. Recognition as a service organisation came in 1958, and this gave direct approach to the Minister and the first salary case was submitted.

In 1957, the first newsletter was published, and until 1970 each branch in turn accepted the responsibility for editing the newsletter. In that year an Editorial Committee, with Mrs J. Brockett as convener, was responsible for the publication of Pre-School Education, the official journal of the N.Z.F.K.T.A. Other publications include Recognised Free Kindergartens in New Zealand, Information on Establishing and Conducting In-Service Courses, Handbook for Teachers (1971) and two pamphlets on Excursions and Learning to Talk, and a pamphlet on pre-school education for the 1969 General Election campaign. A policy Booklet is in the process of preparation for publication.

In 1959, the first Summer School was held at Lincoln College, and further schools were held at Massey College in 1960 and 1962, and at Lincoln College in 1964 and 1967. Branches are actively engaged in planning In-Service Courses for their members.

Before the department made teachers' bursaries for University study available to kindergarten teachers, the Association combined with the N.Z.F.K.U. to finance four

bursaries for university study for kindergarten teachers. Mrs A. Andrews gained an M.A. at Canterbury University. Mrs B. Cosson and Miss P. Varcoe gained a Diploma in Education from Auckland and Otago Universities respectively.

The Association concerns itself with salary, professional status, conditions of employment, research into pre-school education, extended rolls, teachers' aides, buildings, equipment, associate teachers, teacher training, and the continuing education of teachers, children with special needs, students' welfare and various matters related to New Zealand pre-school education.

The Association made extensive submissions to the Committee of Inquiry into pre-school education, is represented on the N.Z.C.E.A. (Combined Education Association), C.S.S.O. (Combined State Services Organisation) and the Music Society (Auckland). N.Z.F.K.T.A. was represented at the Advisory Council for Educational Planning seminar, and the Educational Priorities Conference. Until 1972 the Association had sent representatives to the Australian Pre-School Association Conference. When the Pre-School Advisory Council and District Committees were established, N.Z.F.K.T.A. was given representation at national and branch level.

With the growth of pre-school education and the increased involvement of the association, changes were needed in the administration of the association's affairs. With, as in the past, the advice and co-operation of the New Zealand Educational Institute, a national co-ordinator was appointed and the President and a standing committee were based in Wellington. Such moves were necessary to build on the firm foundation already established for the N.Z.F.K.T.A. to continue to be an effective organisation as the voice of the kindergarten teachers and students in policy making for the future of children and teachers.

Life Members: Miss E. S. Hamilton, Dunedin; Miss G. Gilbert, Auckland; Miss J. Burt, Auckland; Mrs B. Cosson, Auckland; Miss E. Millen, Christchurch.

Presidents: 1954-56, Miss J. Burt; 1956-62, Miss P. Varcoe; 1962-66, Miss E. Tunks; 1966-68, Mrs B. Cosson; 1968-72, Miss M. Just; 1972-73 Mrs K. Watson; 1973-74, Mrs V. Kelly; 1974-75, Miss W. Lee.

POSTSCRIPT

Since this book went to print the following kindergartens have opened their doors.

Massey, Mangere Bridge, Idlewild Sunnyvale (Auckland Association), Putaki (Wanganui), Tairangi (Tawa), Otaki (Horowhenua), Manchester, Awapuni (Manawatu), Tamatea (Napier), Oxford (Gore), Johnsonville West (Wellington), George Street, Waiuku (Franklin).

With the opening of these kindergartens the number of Free Kindergartens has now reached 397.

Many more are in the building or planning stages.

Earlier this year Levin Association changed their name to Horowhenua.

Compiled and edited by P. M. Lockhart with the assistance of members of the 67 Associations who supplied their own histories, Miss P. M. Varcoe of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association, and Mrs Maureen Ryan, Union representative to Radio New Zealand