

Miss Phyllis Varcoe, biography

Phyllis Varcoe was born in 1919 and was educated at the Lawrence District High School. She attended Teachers College in 1939-40 and taught for three years. She had a year's leave and qualified for a Kindergarten Teachers' Diploma. From 1944 taught in kindergartens and became a lecturer at the College. She continued university study and qualified for a Diploma in Education, and a Diploma in Teaching. In 1962-63 as the I. M. Jamieson Scholarship holder she gained a Diploma in Childhood Psychology at Birmingham University. She was Senior Lecturer in Education at Gloucester Teachers' College before returning to Dunedin College. In 1967 she was appointed Principal, and when the Colleges integrated with the Teachers' Colleges she was appointed Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education. Phyllis was interested and very supportive of the NZ Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association and was President and Secretary at the national and local level as she realised teachers needed a "voice" in Early Childhood Education. Retirement brought other interests as a volunteer in the community, and time to return to University study to gain a B.Theol and Diploma for Graduates. Various club activities, U3A Courses, gardening and reading together with recreational activities are still enjoyed. My interest in ECE is still paramount, and I feel honoured to have been awarded life-membership of the NZ Kindergarten Association and of the Dunedin Kindergarten Association. Phyllis Varcoe died on the 5th August 2017.

K.T.A Project, Judith Duncan archives

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