

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT SYMPOSIUM.

1. FUND-RAISING: For many years, the FAIR KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEMBERS RAISED THE MONEY TO BUILD & MAINTAIN KINDIES IN THE WGTN AREA, CALLING FOR & GETTING FULL SUPPORT, HELP & EFFORT FROM PARENTS IN THE AREAS.

DURING MY TIME AT BERTHAMPORE & NGAIO AS DIRECTOR IN THE 40S, A SMALL FEE WAS ASKED FOR PER WEEK, BUT NOT ENFORCED FOR CLEARLY HARD-UP PARENTS, & RE CHR. AT RE B'PORE ORPHANAGE.

FUND-RAISING TOOK RE FORM OF AN ANNUAL STALL EACH YEAR, FOR WHICH RE MOTHERS KNITTED, SEWED AND GATHERED MATERIAL FOR MONTHS AHEAD, & RE PROVIDED COPIOUS BAKING ON THE DAY.

TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE ASSIGNED TO EACH KINDIE, & PAID ANNUAL FORMAL VISITS, & CAME TO OPEN (& FINANCIALLY SUPPORT) THE ANNUAL STALL.

THE MOTHERS' CLUBS WERE RE HUBS OF MANY OF RE ACTIVITIES, AND ALWAYS SUPPORTED STAFF WITH MENDING, TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES WHEN ASKED (AS SUPERVISOR HELPERS OR CUTTERS E.G.), REPAIRING OR CURTAINING ETC. REY HAD A MONTHLY STALL TOO, AT RE MEETINGS.

WHEN RE TALENTS' EVENINGS BEGAN, BERTHAMPORE HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED THESE EVENING CONCERT FUND-RAISING OCCASIONS, AND THEN COMBINED WITH OTHER CLUBS, HOSTED THESE AT B'PORE UNTIL THEY GOT TOO BIG.

FATHERS WERE ALWAYS READY TO A) MEND EQUIPMENT, SUPPORT SUNDAY FATHERS' MORNINGS, SET UP STALLS, & RUN GAMES FOR RE CHR. ON ANNUAL STALL DAY.

MY PREVIOUS DIRECTOR AT B'PORE, JUNE M^CBRIDE (MORRIS) BEGAN THE FIRST FATHERS' CLUBS HELD MONTHLY AT B'PORE WITH SOME REAL SUCCESS - NOT IN NUMBERS, BUT IN QUALITY OF THE SPEAKERS WE INVITED, & THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF RE 20 odd WHO CAME.

THE PROPERTY WAS OWNED BY RE ASSOC., BUT MAINTAINED MAINLY BY PARENTS - LAWN-CUTTING, GARDENING, PAINTING ETC, ASSISTED BY STAFF WHEN POSSIBLE.

EQUIPMENT EACH KINDY HAD; A SAND-PIT, (LATER WITH COVER) TRUCKS TO PUSH AROUND,

A few 3-wheeler tricycles, a swing, small wheel-barrow, a water-container for water-play at child's height; a climbing frame with steps & safety bars; skipping ropes, balls of diff. sizes, & big pipes to crawl through, plus sand-pit buckets, spades etc.

Molles formed an annual roster to provide & serve morning tea to staff, & apples & water/milk to chn.

They then cleaned up & took tea-trays to wash. Ray often joined in activities afterwards.

The parent Committees met regularly - mainly fathers in my day, & kept a sharp eye out on Staff, building maintenance & cleanliness - kept the books & accounted at Annual Meetings each year.

Programmes -

As a student, after the first weeks of initial theory; we spent the mornings observing in various Kindies, & returning to the Kind. Training College in Taranaki in the afternoons for lectures. As the year progressed, we took an active part in activities, & were encouraged to initiate new ones & supervise them.

The Training College proceeded upstairs, above the Nursery School below. This was open from 8 - 4 for parents to carry out enforced work in factories during the war.

The chn. were given morning & aftn. snacks, & a hot nutritious meal mid-day, followed by a compulsory hour's sleep on stretchers, in curtain-drawn rooms.

In these early days, the chn. were divided into groups named TINIES (3 - 3½), MIDDLES (3½ to 4½) & TOPS (4+5).

The Tinies met for half the morning in the smaller room on left of front of Kindy; the Tops in the main Hall, & the Middles in the Sun-room at back, for stories, singing, news talks & some group play or outings; then joined the others for free play out & indoors.

PLAY Blockplay (large smoothed-off solid blocks of all lengths & some bridge - 1.1k =)