

# N.Z. Kindergarten Conference

Remits dealing with various aspects of pre-school education such as equipment, salaries and study leave, will be discussed at one of the sessions of the annual Dominion executive meeting of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers Association which will be held at the Wellington Training Centre on August 22, 23 and 24.

The Minister of Education, Mr Tennent, will meet the executive members during the sessions.

The chairman of the conference will be the president, Miss M. P. Varcoe, of Dunedin. The association is planning another summer school in Dunedin from August 19 to 26, 1962. Senior Lecturer in Education at the Auckland University, Dr D. W. Barney, will be the main lecturer.

From the Auckland district will come the vice-president, Miss M. Patrick, Mrs V. Hudson and Miss A. Frood. Also attending will be Miss J. Ross (Hamilton), Miss E. Neilson (Taupo), Miss Salter (New Plymouth), Miss N. Jones (Wanganui), Mrs McEwan and Miss J. Gardiner (Wellington), Miss G. Moorhouse (Blenheim), Misses E. Milten and M. Dalton (Christchurch), Miss H. McCallum (Timaru).

Miss M. F. Gallagher, Supervisor of Pre-school Services, will address the delegates and members of the association on August 22 at the opening of the meeting.

The New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers Association Post-graduate Bursary were made to Miss A. Johnson, who is studying at Canter-

bury University, and Miss P. Varcoe, of Dunedin.

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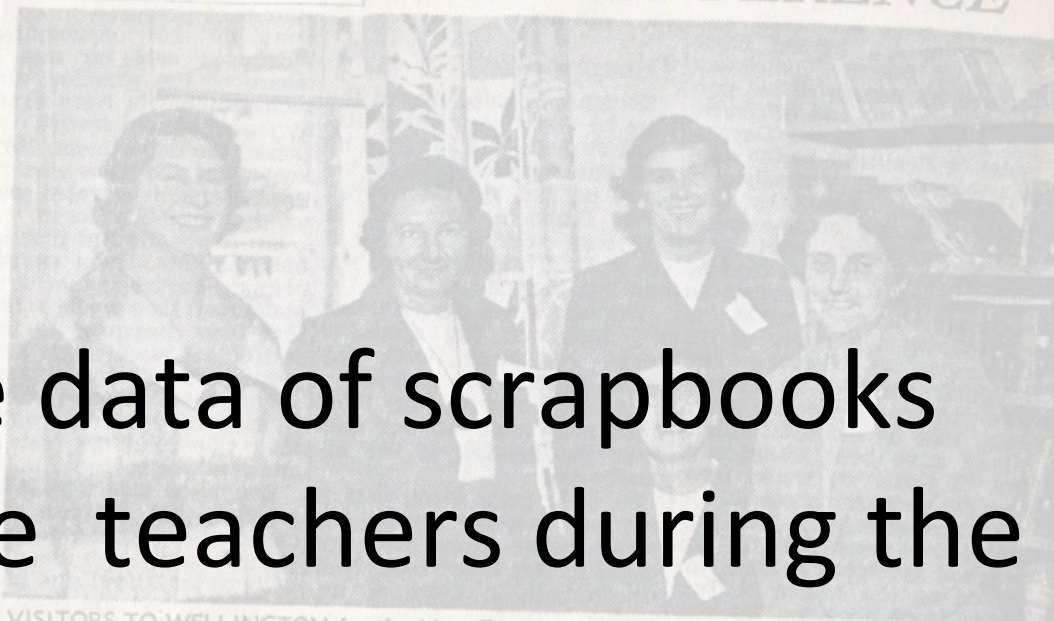
## 20 Kindergarten Delegates

The annual conference of the New Zealand Kindergarten Teachers' Association opened in Wellington today with 20 delegates from 13 centres, and will conclude on Thursday.

Matters for discussion include salaries, study, leave and next year's summer school.

The president of the New Zealand Kindergarten Teachers' Association (Miss P. Varcoe, of Dunedin) is presiding.

## IN CONFERENCE



VISITORS TO WELLINGTON for the New Zealand Kindergarten Teachers' Association Conference. From left to right: Mrs. Wilkinson, Dunedin; Miss E. Neilson, Auckland; Miss M. Patrick, vice-president, Auckland; Miss P. Varcoe, president, Dunedin.

Considering the data of scrapbooks  
compiled by three teachers during the  
years 1940s-1980s

Helen May

Professor of Education, University of Otago

NZARE Conference, University of Otago, 26-28 November 2013

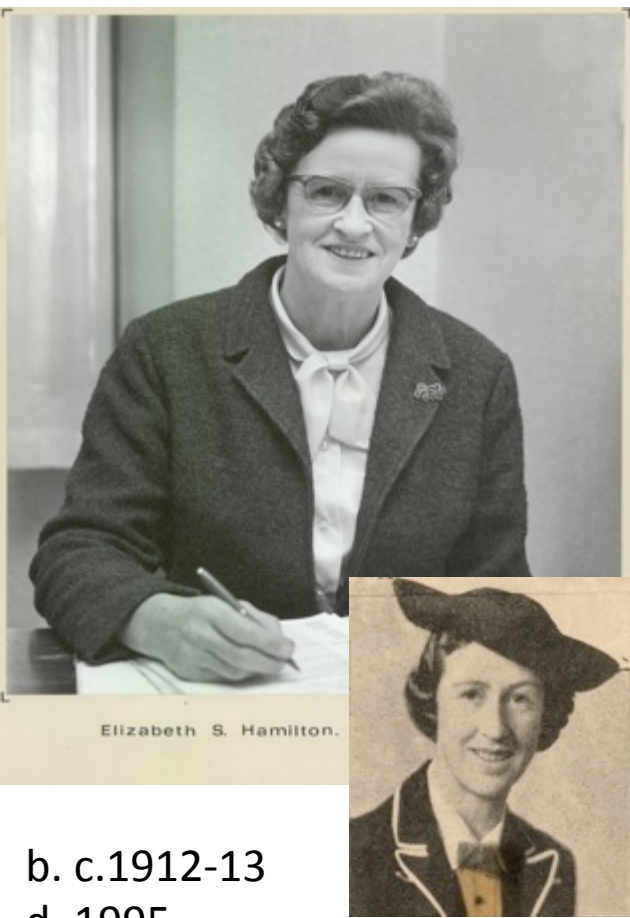
## FIRST FIVE YEARS OF CHILD'S LIFE

Speaking to 20 delegates, representing 300 members of the New Zealand Kindergarten Teachers' Association Conference during their three day conference held at the Training Centre in Wellington, the president, Miss P. Varcoe, started her address with a story of an American teacher.



**Miss Elizabeth Stewart Hamilton**

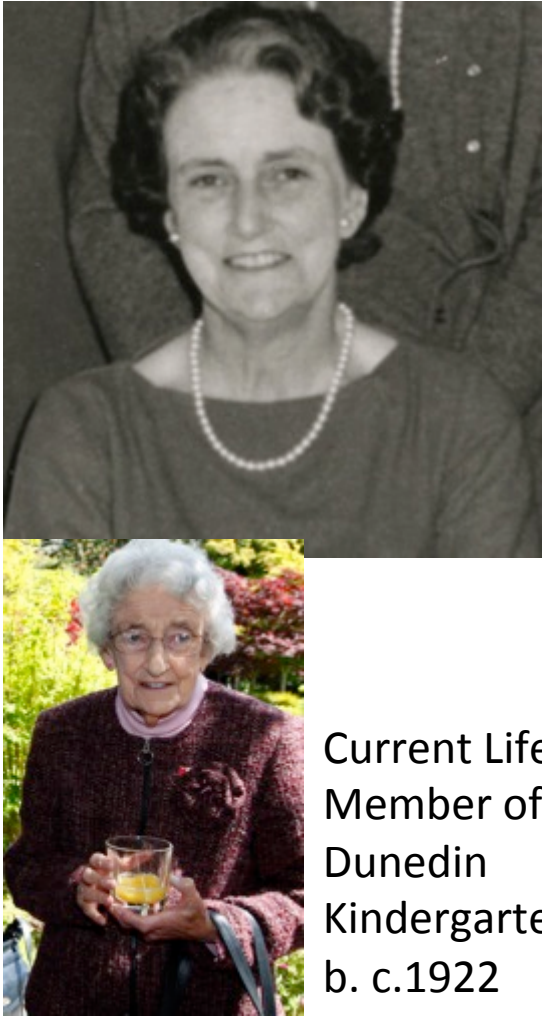
Trained: 1930- 31  
Director Pre-School Educational  
Centre 1941-1945  
Principal DFKA 1946-1967  
(retired)



b. c.1912-13  
d. 1995

**Miss Phyllis Varcoe**

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



Current Life  
Member of  
Dunedin  
Kindergartens  
b. c.1922

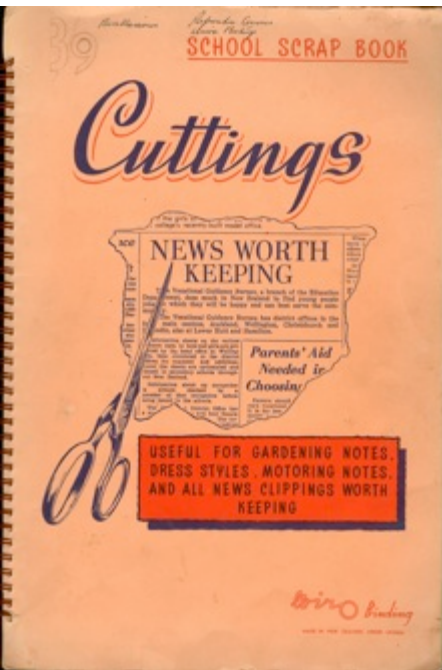
**Miss Margaret Just**

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



b. 1920 d. 2009

# 4 of 18 scrapbooks 1940s-1980s



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

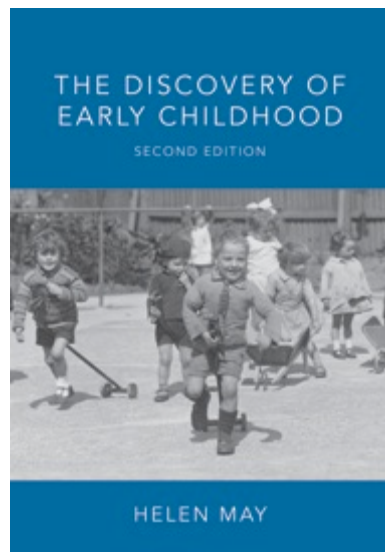
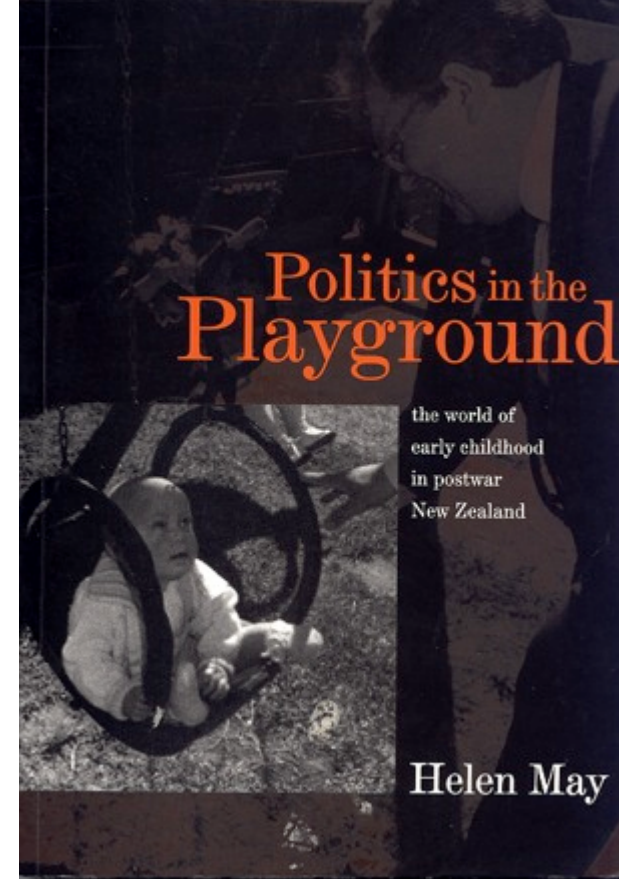
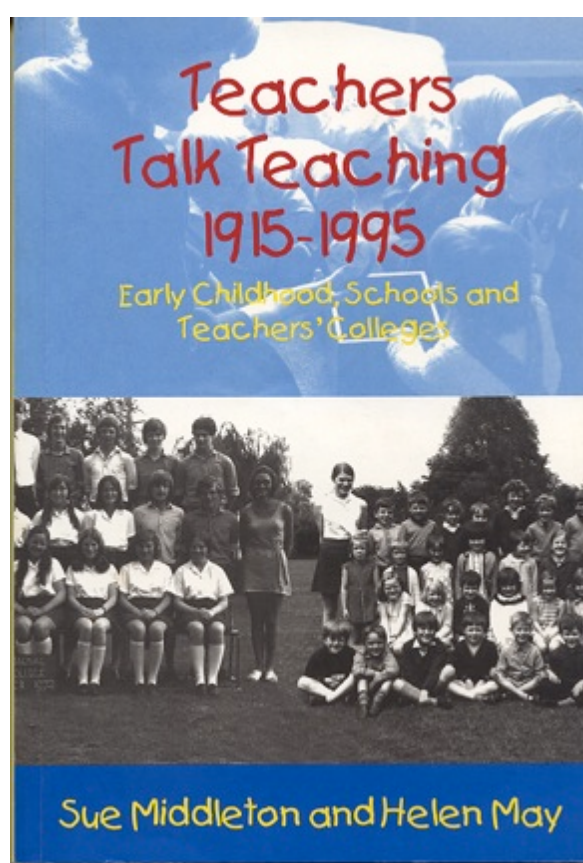
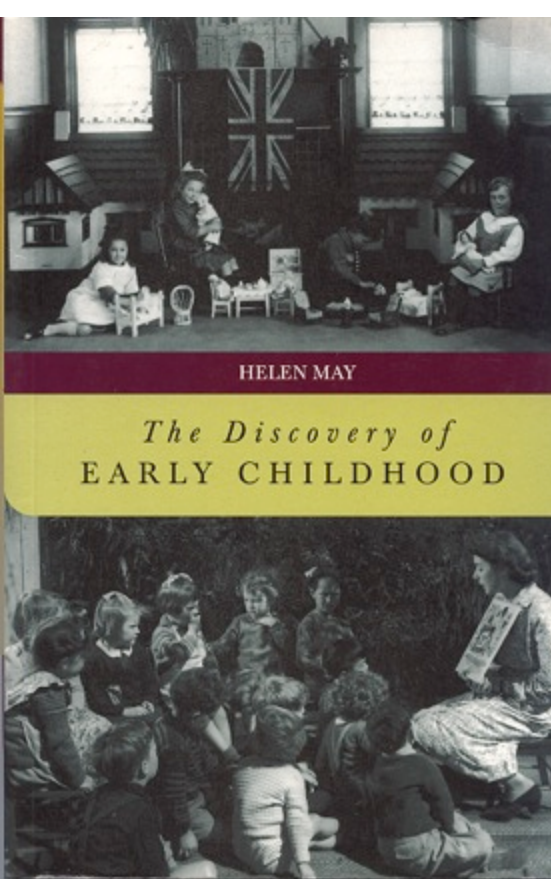




# Jessica Helfand (2008) *Scrapbooks: an American History*

Scrapbooks are the bane of archival processes, conservation practices, and of librarians in general, as the books bulge grossly with acidic tape, material objects, and loose pages. For the cultural historian, scrapbooks represent, in their unregulated messiness, a mountain of interpretive challenges. The creators of scrapbooks disordered the world around them and reordered it on the pages of their own book...

Review by Helen Schuemaker *American Studies*, Vol 50, No.1/2, 2009, p.172.



1997-2013

Snippets of stories about the contribution of Hamilton, Just and Varcoe to Kindergarten had featured in various books.

Interview with P. Varcoe, 1994

Interview with M. Just, 1994.





# **People, places and play in the 'child gardens' of Dunedin**

## **Dunedin Kindergartens - Mana Manaaki Puawai O Otepoti**

125 years old

- 
- A young girl in a pink dress and a boy in a striped shirt are playing in a garden. The girl is holding a small yellow object, and the boy is holding a red bucket. They are surrounded by green foliage and a blue and white striped awning.
1. Germanic origins  
1830s-1870s
  2. The 'Devil's Half Acre' in  
Dunedin 1880s-1900s
  3. Patronage and purpose  
1910s-1930s
  4. Healthy alliances  
1940s-1950s
  5. Recognition and growth  
1950-1960s
  6. **Scrapbook stories**  
**1940s-1970s**
  7. Changing times  
1970s-1990s
  8. Curriculum and culture  
1990s-2010s
  9. Roller coaster of change  
2000s-2010s
  10. Peoples places and  
programmes at 125 years  
old





1850s-1930s







1940s-1970s







1990s-2000





2010s







Cameras in the hands of children, 2010s



# Misses Hamilton, Just and Varcoe

- Mid century careers
- Single women
- Kindergarten as a life long professional career
- International experience, scholarships, fellowships, personal travel
- Careers mainly within the DFKA
- Followed each other into positions: PEC, Principal
- Led experiments in new pedagogy and programmes
- Forged national professional links
- Cautiously entered the political



# Some scrapbook themes

- Biography
- Expansion of kindergarten
- Plunket kindergarten alliance
- Career for girls
- Kindergarten Teachers Association
- Changing times

EXCELLENT FOR DRAWING & PAINTING



# American Child Psychology New Zealand Teacher Finds Unique School

For the "New Zealanders" - "Lance."

WITH new and interesting ideas from America on child psychology, Miss Stewart Hamilton, director of the Wellington South Free Kindergarten, recently returned to Wellington from a two years' absence abroad.

After an enjoyable tour of England, Scotland and parts of the Continent, Miss Hamilton spent a year studying at the London University under Dr. Susan Isaacs, an eminent authority on child education. After her year of study, she went to America to observe the latest practical methods in nursery schools.

An innovation in Chicago was the incorporating of the nursery and junior schools. The fundamental idea was to give children at the ages of 11, 12 and 13 direct contact with very young children. In many cases the American family consisted of an only child, who knew little or nothing of the habits of the modern nursery. It is for these children

Subjects include carpentry, weaving in a specially equipped room with miniature looms; finger-painting, a form of expression with the finger and specially prepared paint as the mediums; potato printing on fabrics or paper; clay modelling; reading and studying of selected books and pictures; fancy dress designing; dressing dolls, for which ideas are drawn from a complete set of dolls of all nations; mural art, for which the students are equipped with step ladders and specially designed easels.

A rigid rule of the school bars all visitors. People interested in its work are invited to see the school after six o'clock when the children have been dismissed. A moving picture of the classes in action is then shown. Miss Pepper reasons that intruders spoil the atmosphere as children are apt to pantomime if given a suitable audience. The only person other than Mrs. Ford, a frequent and much loved visitor, to enter the school, is the charlady, who has proved her sincere understanding of the children and is therefore welcome to classes.

Of the school's success there is very little doubt. Miss Pepper is inundated with requests to lecture on child psychology all over the States. Through the summer holidays she visits refresher camps and summer schools imparting her knowledge to other teachers.

It is Miss Hamilton's earnest wish that through the medium of the Free Kindergartens some of these enlightening methods will be introduced to Wellington children.



Miss Stewart Hamilton: "I have come back to the Dominion with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for kindergarten work." The course is especially beneficial as it includes child growth development, biology and dietetics. The last is taught by an experienced physician who supervises the junior pupils in the preparation of the nurseries luncheon. In quite a few cases entire families have moved to the Wimmera district in Chicago which is the centre of this system.

## BY BLUE DOMINO

New Venture.

DUNEDIN gains by Wellington's loss, in the person of Stewart Hamilton, who has been director of the Newtown Free Kindergarten since her return to New Zealand from overseas. This clever girl is to direct an educational venture new to New Zealand, and is to have charge of the new pre-school educational centre to be opened in one of the cottages in the grounds of the Truby King-Harris Hospital at Anderson's Bay. This centre which will be attended all day by children from two to five years, will form a link between Karitane and kindergarten training for the trainees. Miss Hamilton, who left Wellington last week, received her early kindergarten training here, afterwards going abroad and specialising in child development at London University under Dr. Susan Isaacs, with practical training and observation at the 'achael McMillan School at Deptford, besides other up-to-date schools. For further study

she travelled to America and the Columbia Unive Research Centre for pr pen, and also studied in cisco under Dr. Louisa

# JAMIESON SCHOLAR RETURNS TO DUNEDIN

The winner of the I. M. Jamieson scholarship for advanced university study overseas, Miss Phyllis Varcoe, supervisor of students at the Dunedin Kindergarten Training College, returned recently from Birmingham University.

There she gained a diploma in the psychology of childhood and delayed her return to the Kindergarten Training College here so she could lecture in education for a year at the Gloucester Teachers' College.

Miss Varcoe was awarded the scholarship in 1960, but postponed her trip, to study education at the Otago University by way of preparatory study for her course in Birmingham.

The scholarship is awarded every four years by the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and was instituted in 1956. Miss Varcoe is the second winner.

The scholarship was named after Miss I. M. Jamieson, who worked for many years in the kindergarten movement in Christchurch and Hamilton. Miss Jamieson died last year.

## 4,000 STUDENTS

The Birmingham University was a large one with 4,000 students and Miss Varcoe said it was not unusual to wait 20min in the lunch queue.

The residential college in which Miss Varcoe lived was one of the Selly Oak Colleges run by many religious denominations. The one in which Miss Varcoe stayed, Woodbrook College, was administered by the Society of Friends.

During the time Miss Varcoe was there students from 23 nations were staying in the college, 16 were doing university work and the others studying Quakerism and international relations, among other subjects.

Lecturing at the Gloucester Teachers' College was a little different from the work she has done at the Kindergarten College here, in that

she was teaching and training primary and domestic science teachers, though Miss Varcoe found the philosophy of education the same.

## TEACHER SHORTAGE

Visits to many kindergartens showed Miss Varcoe that interest in pre-school training was just as great as it

hood Education conference in Stockholm, Miss Varcoe visited kindergartens and outdoor playgrounds there which she found "a great delight." The playgrounds were supervised and all age groups in the community made use of the areas.

Miss Varcoe feels that her two years at Birmingham and Gloucester has broadened her outlook through meeting other educationists from many countries.



MISS VARCOE

was in New Zealand, but progress in England had been halted because of the great and desperate need for teachers in other educational fields, Miss Varcoe said.

The erection of large block of flats, many storeys high, in Birmingham meant that mothers missed the "chattering over the back fence" type of social life, and interest in the kindergartens was one way to meet other women and mothers.

New Zealand kindergartens, equipment and programmes compared more than favourably with those she saw overseas, Miss Varcoe said, most were following the free activity patterns, though some were more formal than others.

While attending the World Organisation for Early Child

'This clever girl'

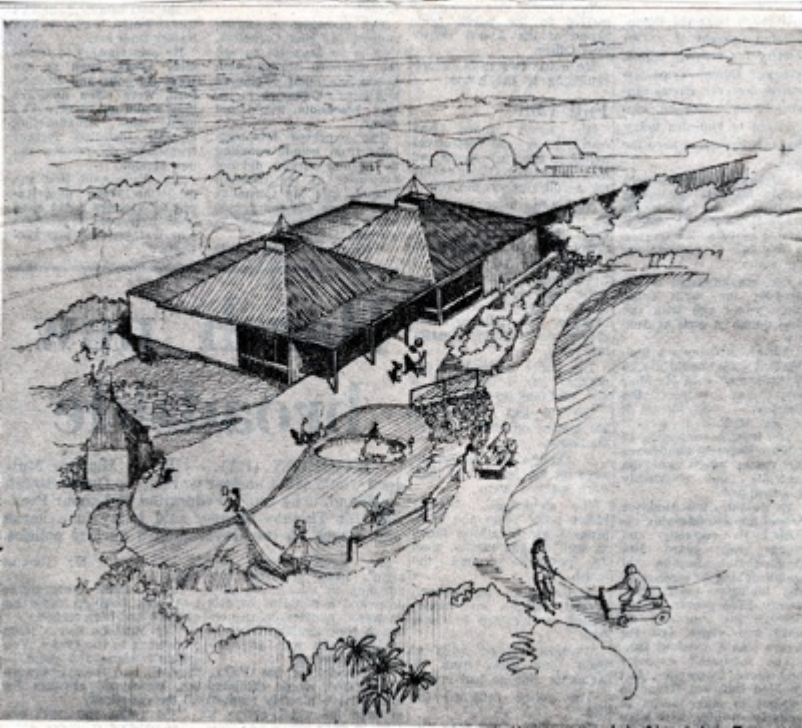
Graduate and postgraduate studies



‘Looking forward in Pre-School Education.’  
**1946 National Kindergarten Conference**





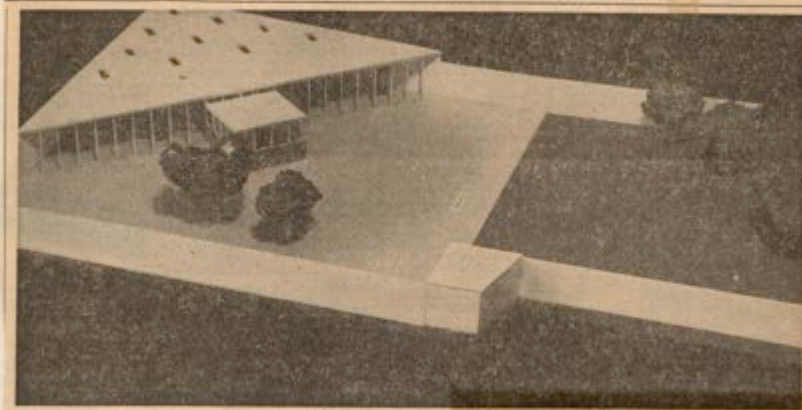


FATHERS at work at the new Kalkorai Valley Kindergarten in Greenock Street after completing drainlaying operations during a "Working Bee" at the weekend. From left: Messrs L. Brown, F. A. Fitzpatrick, H. Crane, B. Camplin and W. Wight.

PHONES:  
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**The Evening Star**

DUNEDIN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1961.



## Kindergarten to Be Revolutionary

Tenders have recently been called for the erection of a revolutionary kindergarten for Canterbury Free Kindergarten Committee.

REVOLUTIONARY in every aspect, this architect's model of the new Canterbury kindergarten would delight the heart of Pythagoras of right-angle triangle fame. Tenders were called recently for the building, which is estimated to cost £4,500.

Growth and expansion



Sept 10<sup>th</sup>  
1961.



Mornington kindergarten

## Kindergarten is Opened in English Avenue

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

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

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

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

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

THE PRESIDENT  
of

THE DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

requests the pleasure of the company of

Miss B. J. Hamilton

at the official opening of the new

MORNINGTON KINDERGARTEN

95 English Avenue

by

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

on

MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER, 1961,

at 2.30 p.m.

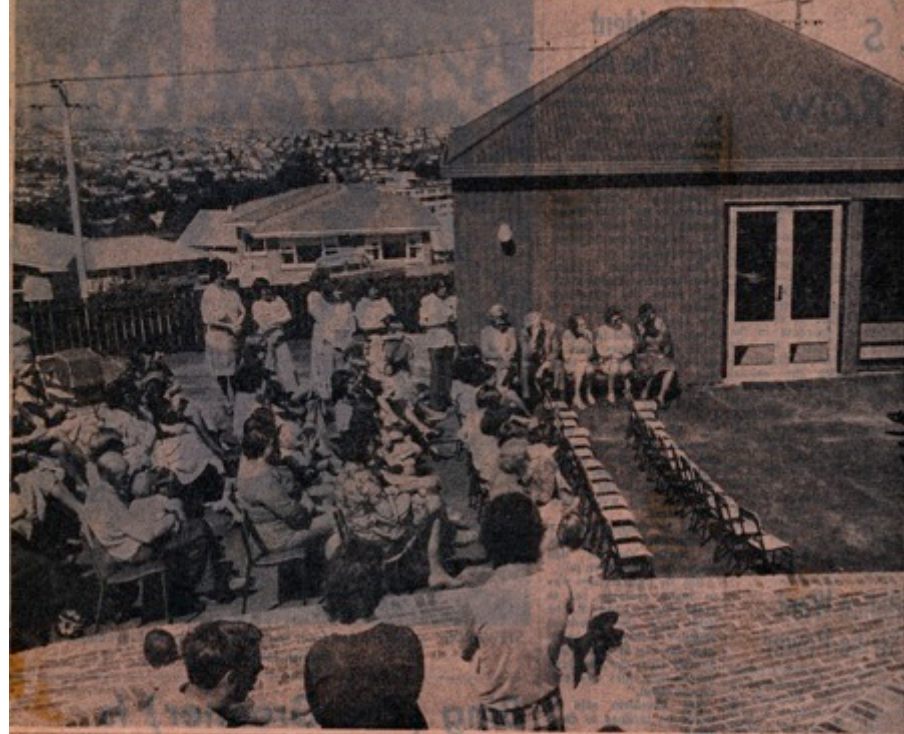
R.S.V.P. to:-

The Secretary,  
P.O. Box 497,  
DUNEDIN

OR Phone 78-230

by

Tuesday, 5 September.



The President and Executive of  
DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSN.  
invite

Miss P. Varcoe  
to the

OPENING OF THE HALFWAY BUSH  
KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

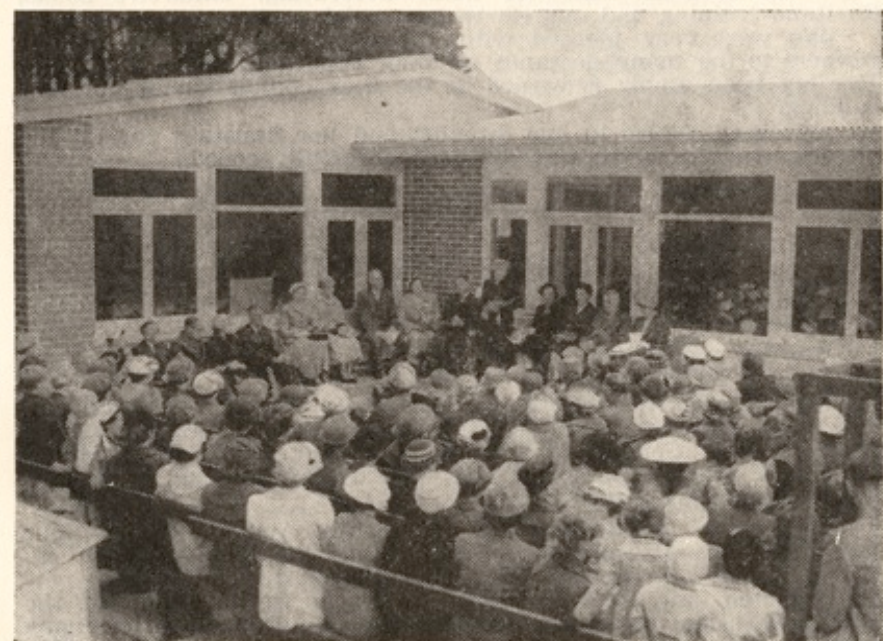




OFFICIAL OPENING ROSLYN KINDERGARTEN



OFFICIAL OPENING GRANT S BRAES KINDERGARTEN



OFFICIAL OPENING ST. KILDA KINDERGARTEN



NEW PORT CHALMERS KINDERGARTEN



# Joint Plunket- Kindergarten venture initiated by Dr Helen Deem

- Pre-School Educational Centre and opened 1941 with E.S. Hamilton as Director and Dr Helen Deem as Medical Officer of Plunket
- 1955 purpose built designed centre opened and named Helen Deem Centre (after the death of Dr Deem). M. Just Director
- Influence of international nursery school models
- Training centre for karitane and kindergarten teachers
- Health- education alliance
- Plunket routines and progressive freedoms





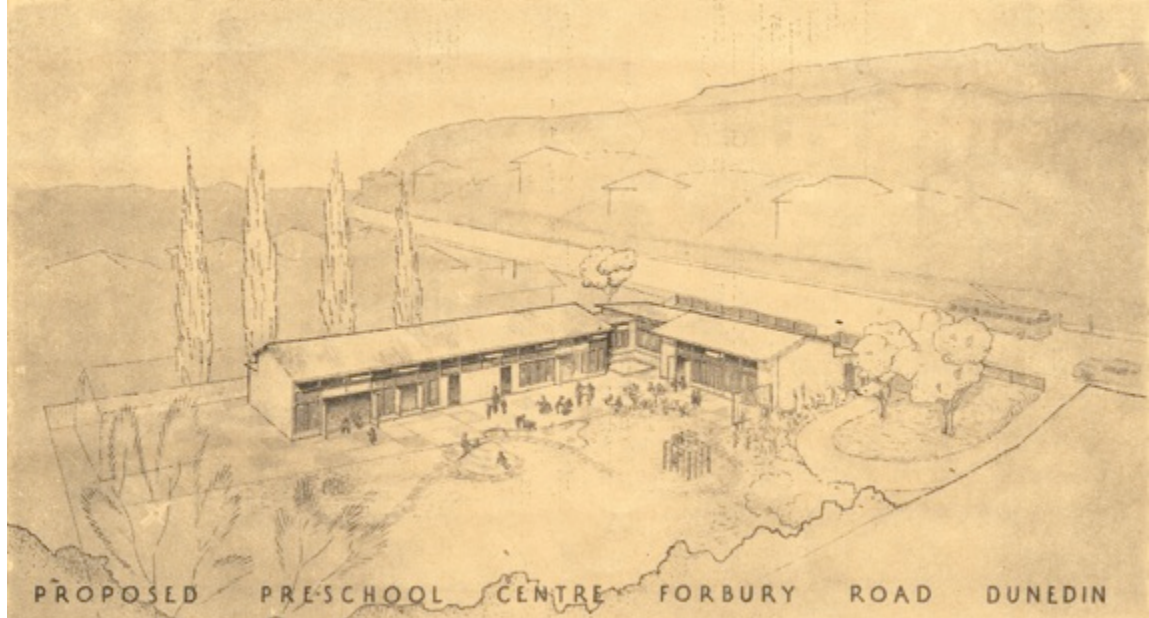
Dr Helen Deem  
Healthy habits





Free Play





Helen Deem Centre 1955



Otago Daily Times, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1960

CAREERS FOR GIRLS

# Work Is Play At The 'Kindy'

## Would You Like To Teach In One?

If you would, and you are really fond of little children, you'll be happy and interested in your work. A kindergarten teacher has a considerable amount of responsibility, for the pre-school age is, many believe, the most important in a child's life. But she has the satisfaction of knowing that she is helping children to be contented, co-operative people and good citizens. And as a mother of the future, she, herself, receives an excellent training through her work in the kindergarten. In the meantime, she is rewarded with adequate holidays and salary.

### How You Train

Applicants for training must be 17 years of age, and must have a minimum of three years' post-primary education. Subjects with school certificate are preferred, but those without this qualification may be accepted.

The applicant must attend an interview in the centre in which she wishes to train. Three interviews are held during the third term of each year.

Personality is, of course, a most important factor. Good health, the ability to play single

manic and an aptitude for art and craft work are desirable, too.

Once accepted for training the student may take the two-year course offered by the Free Kindergarten Association at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch or Dunedin.

Before starting her training the student must sign a declaration stating her intention to finish the course and teach for at least three years in a recognised kindergarten after receiving her diploma.

Roughly the course is divided between theoretical back-



AT THE CRAFTS GLASS: Students in training learn how to make toys from waste material. Puppets, jigsaw puzzles, cotton reel trains, scrap books all make their way into local kindergartens. Dolls made by students are clothed so that they can be easily dressed and undressed by the children, and are sturdy enough to stand up to rough handling. From left, Miss Lyn McLeay, Miss Rose Robinson, and Miss Wendy Adams. In the background are (left) Miss Jane Sinclair and Miss Pauline Nibbel.

ground and practical experience with children, under the guidance of trained teachers in kindergartens and supervising college staff.

Subjects dealt with include history of education, child development and child psychology, kindergarten methods and administration, committee work, co-operation with parents, child health, English language and literature (with

special reference to books written for children), nature study, music, art and crafts.

In the curriculum of the intensive training course, the student's own well-being is not forgotten. A course in physical education designed for her recreation and development is included.

This course covers rhythmic art, folk movements, posture, tension and relaxation, balance

Free Kindergarten Association throughout the country.

As an assistant does will receive a salary from £390 to £475, a deduction of £10 is made for board.

Salaries for kindergartens range from £400. Senior pupil training centres carry up to £415, with most university entrance a variety of degrees.

Some kindergartens untrained assistants, salaries range from £255.

Hours of work for a daytime teacher are usually from 9 in the morning to 3.30 p.m., with an hour for lunch, during a week.

Girls who are interested in this work, or who need more information, should apply to the office of the Training Centre, Elizabeth Hamilton, 747, Dunedin, in the scale of any of the six training centres.

The Dunedin centre is at present at 313 Macrae road, but before that time had moved to a new college in York street.

She extended thanks and congratulations to Miss Stewart, the association principal, who has recently had a book of songs published, and to Miss Varcoe, the junior supervisor, who was recently awarded the Jamison Scholarship entitling her to a year's study in England.

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Mr. Sibley, and Mrs. Sibley, who said, and also from Mrs. H. Dorman, the Dominion reporter, who had sent a message, "Thinking of you all and wishing I could be present. Congratulate the students on their diplomas and thank the principal, college staff, and association for their service to the pre-school during the year."

Miss E. S. Hamilton, principal of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Training Centre, thanked Mr. Hayward for her kind remarks, the committee for their

The Dunedin Kindergarten Teachers' Training College, Macandrew road, although it has only been properly set up with its own buildings and equipment for the past seven of the 63 years of kindergarten history in the city, is to-day an indispensable part of the service not only in Dunedin but throughout Otago and Southland, and draws students from as far afield as Timaru.

Students have been trained in Dunedin right since the very beginnings of kindergarten work in the city, Miss Wiencke, the first principal, being appointed in 1880. Although the succession of principals was broken at two points when training was in the care of head teachers, there have always been students under instruction since those first days. But before the college was started numbers were always small, and as late as the 30s there were several years when not more than two or three girls graduated.

In 1949, the year before the college opened, there were only 25 students, meeting for lectures in one or other of the kindergartens when work was finished for the day. In 1950 the quota was increased to 35 and has remained in the 35-40 region ever since. But next year there is to be a further rise to cope with the shortage of kindergartens which, excepting only in Otago, is acute throughout the Dominion.

### FULL COURSE

The course taken by the students is a full one. It lasts two years, during

Stewart and Miss P. M. Varcoe and several part-time lecturers.

### VALUABLE

A great help to the college, Miss Hamilton says, is the Helen Deem Centre for Education of Pre-School Children, opened in 1954 at a section in Forbury road adjoining the college. Kindergartners have to watch the health of their children much more closely than do primary-school teachers, so that the training given by Sister J. Woodhead, (who also instructs Plunket trainees), is most valuable.

Although the students mostly find their own board, the college authorities maintain a continuous check to see that they are happily and suitably settled.

Although teachers' salaries and students' allowances are still rather below those of primary teachers, the scales have recently been improved considerably and are now drawing more into line with those of other professions.

Moreover, prospects of advancement are good—because of the shortage of teachers and the fact that few kindergartners run to more than

the kindergarten and of child-rearing generally are discussed between the mothers and the teachers. While fathers do not generally enter into the organisation to the same extent as their wives do—although many of them willingly offer for working bees when buildings or equipment are to be required—most kindergartners have special occasions when fathers are particularly invited, and they are welcomed to look in at any time just as the mothers are. Moreover, several kindergarten committees include men amongst their numbers, and at one Dunedin kindergarten — Roslyn—the president of the committee is a man.

Probably the biggest asset in kindergarten circles today is the lack of students offering for training. Girls of the required standard of education — School Certificate preferably, but in any case three years' post-primary education — tend to look more to office work, where pay in the early stages is usually slightly better, or to a more widely-advertised primary school service. Students in training are paid a bursary of £185 a year, with £35 boarding allowance if they have to live

teachers' salaries start and increase by annual £140. Directors rise up to £500. There are a few highly-paid positions of the training college.

### ION

t shortage of teachers the North Island, where there are more open positions rapidly than the four main centres. Even in Dunedin there has been a great exodus in the past 12 months as kindergartners have had while three others have been built. There are now 13 in the city as well as in the country.

ment pays teachers' students' allowances two-to-one subsidy on a new equipment, assistance is given with part of equipment. To subsidies are thus there is still a chance which kindergartners have to raise from sources, which they do through sales, stalls and parties, as well as by from the parents of children.

s thinks the present stem, even though it is not and organisers in any event, is preferably supported entirely by the Government. If the Government did not have to ensure that school children were provided with facilities, which would increase the size of the kindergartens and the present personal ch parents have.

## Graduation Ceremony for Kindergarten Students

Miss V. A. Hayward, president of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association, welcomed about 230 representatives of the association, including some from Gore, Invercargill, Mosgiel and Balclutha, student graduates and their parents to the kindergarten students graduation ceremony in the Tudor Hall, Savoy, last night.

On behalf of the association, help and Miss Varcoe and Miss Stewart for their work. She was proud, she said, to be associated with them. She then asked Mrs. H. James to present the diplomas.

The 18 graduates were, Misses Wendy Adams, Patricia Dodgson, Adrienne Edmond, Patricia Gawn, Vivienne Gibbons, Elizabeth McDonald, Lyndsey McKellar, Lyndsey McLeay, Pauline Nibbel, Gay Norrington, Potolua Pagonis, Rose Robinson, Margaret Rooney, Jane Sinclair, Rosemary Smith and Janet Tait.

Mrs. R. C. Anderson, president of the Combined Mothers Club, presented the two prizes which were awarded annually by the club to two students. This year, she said, Miss Hamilton had decided that they should be awarded for practical work. They were awarded to Misses Lyndsey McKellar, graduate, and Shirley Max, junior.

### Crucial Step

The guest speaker was Associate Professor A. Smithells, director of the School of Physical Education, Otago University.

"The Kindergarten is often the first outside influence in a child's life and as it is always a crucial step when a child first leaves its mother, you must not underestimate the fact that you are often the crucial step in the child's attitude to later teachers," he said.

He quoted from a "Dames" school textbook of 1865 which stressed that all children were fundamentally evil but 10 years before there had been some educationists who realised that children were fundamentally good. The children then at the age of five were given more advanced formal teaching including extraordinary details of physiology, astronomy and optics.

"As far back as 1888, people began thinking, more clearly about punishment than they do today. Even then some intelligent people saw the futility of corporal punishment. Today I feel there is too much emphasis on corporal punishment."

"Remember that one of the great tests of education is whether it produces tolerant people as opposed to prejudiced and this is begun in the kindergarten work today."

Mr. F. Gawn, father of one of the graduates, said:



## Student Teachers In Training With Their Young Charges

AT THE NATURE INTEREST TABLE in the Helen Deem Centre for Pre-school Education (above)

Miss Gay Northcoat shows (from left) Monica Challis, Beverly Ross and Jim Aitken how bulbs are grown. Top right, Miss Betty Goddard watches while Tony Brook (left) and Anthony Hill play outdoors on the slide. Right, Dressing up can be fun—Miss Rosemary Smith looks at the



and rhythm, guidance in outdoor activities, such as basketball, hockey, tennis, swimming, and recreation, to mention only a few.

During training the student allowance is £215 for 10 weeks, £220, with £30 extra in each case if the student has passed the university entrance examination. Where applicable, a boarding allowance of £60 is paid.

At the end of the two-year course, there are examinations in theory and practice and the successful candidates are awarded the Diploma of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.





Student group c. 1950s (above) and 1940s



Graduates with Miss Hamilton 1958 (above) and 1940s







1947: Art and PE – Dunedin Teachers College – crafts on display at Kindergarten College







*College Choir at 293 York Place, 1961's.*



## DIPLOMAS PRESENTED TO KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

DRESSED in their best for yesterday's Dunedin Kindergarten Teachers College graduation ceremony were these attractive students. From left: Misses N.

1960s students with Miss Varcoe



Times  
June 26th.

# A School Of Twist

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



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

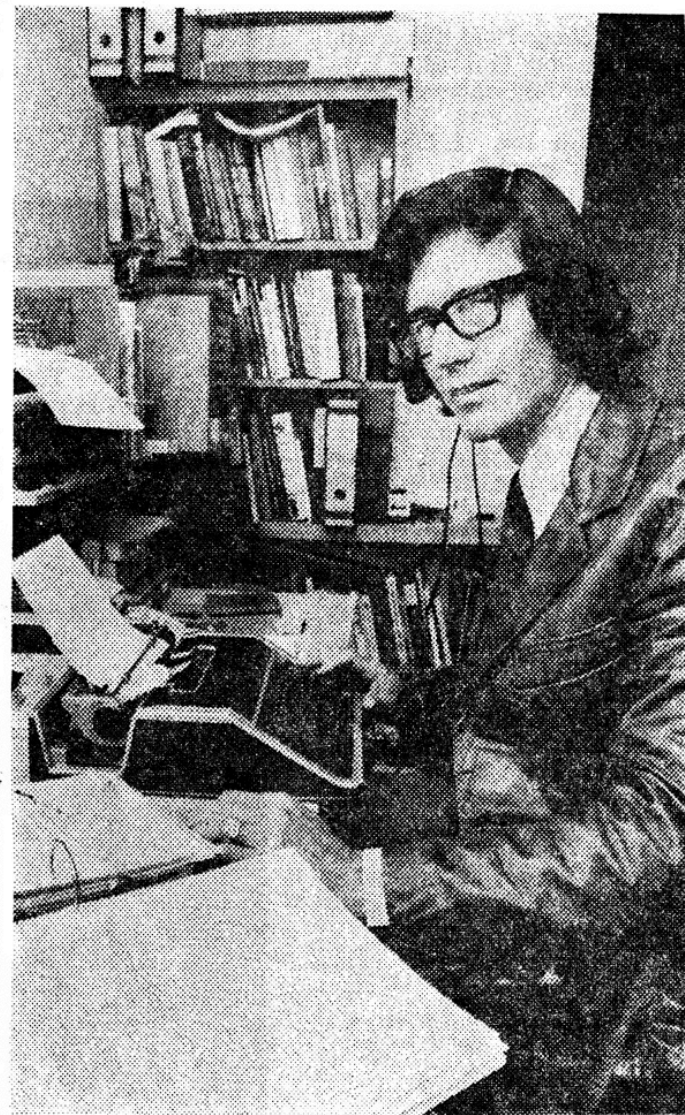
Janine Rose (front centre) is a Yorkshire lass who is returning to England in August. She picked up the dance by watching a twist film and also doubles with a toy guitar to mimic actress Hayley Mills singing "Let's Get Together."

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

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

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

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



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

ODT, June 26, 1962

## Changing Times

NZ's first male kindergarten teacher, 1975





KINDERGARTEN mothers were the stars for the night in the Concert Chamber yesterday, when the combined Kindergarten Mother's Clubs held a concert with items presented by various city kindergarten clubs. Pictured are the Kelsey-Yaralla Club, which presented Indian songs and dances.

### Kindergarten Anniversary:

## MANY VISITORS FOR CELEBRATIONS

Many visitors from all parts of the country will be in Dunedin this week for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association.



"AND THEN there were three . . ." The Ten Little Nigger Boys are counted off by the pupils of the Kelsey-Yaralla Kindergarten as they sat out in the sunshine with their teacher, Miss L. McKellar, today.

And a sign of the times (1960s) P. Varcoe Scrapbook



# Establishing a union for kindergarten teachers



**E.S. Hamilton scrapbook**





THREE OF THE DELEGATES who will attend the Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association executive conference in Wellington which starts today. From left they are Mrs. V. Hudson, a delegate from the Auckland branch, Miss M. H. Patrick, vice-president of the national executive, and representing the Auckland branch, and the national executive president, Miss P. M. Varcoe, of Dunedin.

c.1960 P. Varcoe scrapbooks

NZFKTA

Link with professional development and an annual national inservice course

## Kindergarten Teachers' Three-day Meeting

Delegates from all parts of New Zealand have arrived in Wellington for the Kindergarten Teachers' Dominion executive conference which starts today.

The 16 delegates have come from Auckland, Pahiatua, Te Awamutu, Wellington, Hokitika, Huntly and Timaru. Today they will be addressed by the president of the national executive, Miss P. M. Varcoe, of Dunedin.

Tomorrow afternoon the conference will be addressed by Mr. A. E. Campbell, assistant director of education.

### Summer School

As the first summer school held at Lincoln College in January of this year was an undoubted success, plans are now well advanced for a similar school to be held at Massey College, Palmerston North, from January 20 to 27, 1961.

Four awards of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and Teachers' Association post-graduate bursary were made this year to Mrs. B. Cosson who is studying at Auckland University, Miss J. Pedley and Miss J. Dowker, who are at Victoria University and Miss P. Varcoe at Otago.

During the year the third newsletter was distributed to members. The branch associations are increasing their activities, and reports will be presented at the meeting. This is the first time the executive has met for three

instead of two days. Remits dealing with salaries, appointments, the functioning of kindergartens, professional status, and reports from sub-committees will be discussed.

## Kindergarten Conference Off To Brisk Start

The first day of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association executive conference got away to a brisk start yesterday with a discussion on the bursary awards for students' university study.

Each year four £25 bursaries are made available for kindergarten teachers to enable them to attend lectures at university. They are awarded to the most suitable applicants the selection committee considers will benefit from the higher education with regard to kindergarten work.

The Dominion president, Miss P. M. Varcoe, who herself has benefited from two such awards, feels that the applicant must have that single-minded approach to her work in following the highest ideals of kindergarten teaching.

Those present agreed that even one year's study would prove of immense value to the teacher though it meant coping with a full day's kindergarten work in

## FUNCTION OF THE KINDERGARTEN IN THE COMMUNITY

While New Zealand's population has increased, families have become smaller, the president of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association, Miss P. M. Varcoe, of Dunedin, told the Dominion executive conference in Wellington yesterday.

Changes in the New Zealand pattern of living had come about as a result of smaller families, she said.

"Many children live their early life in relative isolation. Parents have to seek playmates for their children as substitutes for brothers and sisters."

### Education System

Here the kindergarten proved its worth. Through it these "substitutes" were provided under an educational system which prepared the four-year-old for primary school.

Miss Varcoe said another important consequence of the shrinking family was that parents not only lavished all the advantages on the child but also tended to focus on him all their anxieties, and often sought in his achievements the fulfilment of their own aspirations.

"They often find it hard to let a child be himself.

"Through the work of the kindergarten teacher runs the reminder to keep in mind what has

been taught regarding the nature of children and the kind of society they are being educated for," the president advised. "Democratic education must see each individual as he is in terms of what he may become, and the release of creative potentialities in each person must be our major effort. We shall succeed if we assure each child of adult security and freedom—a programme which makes our total society an educational enterprise.

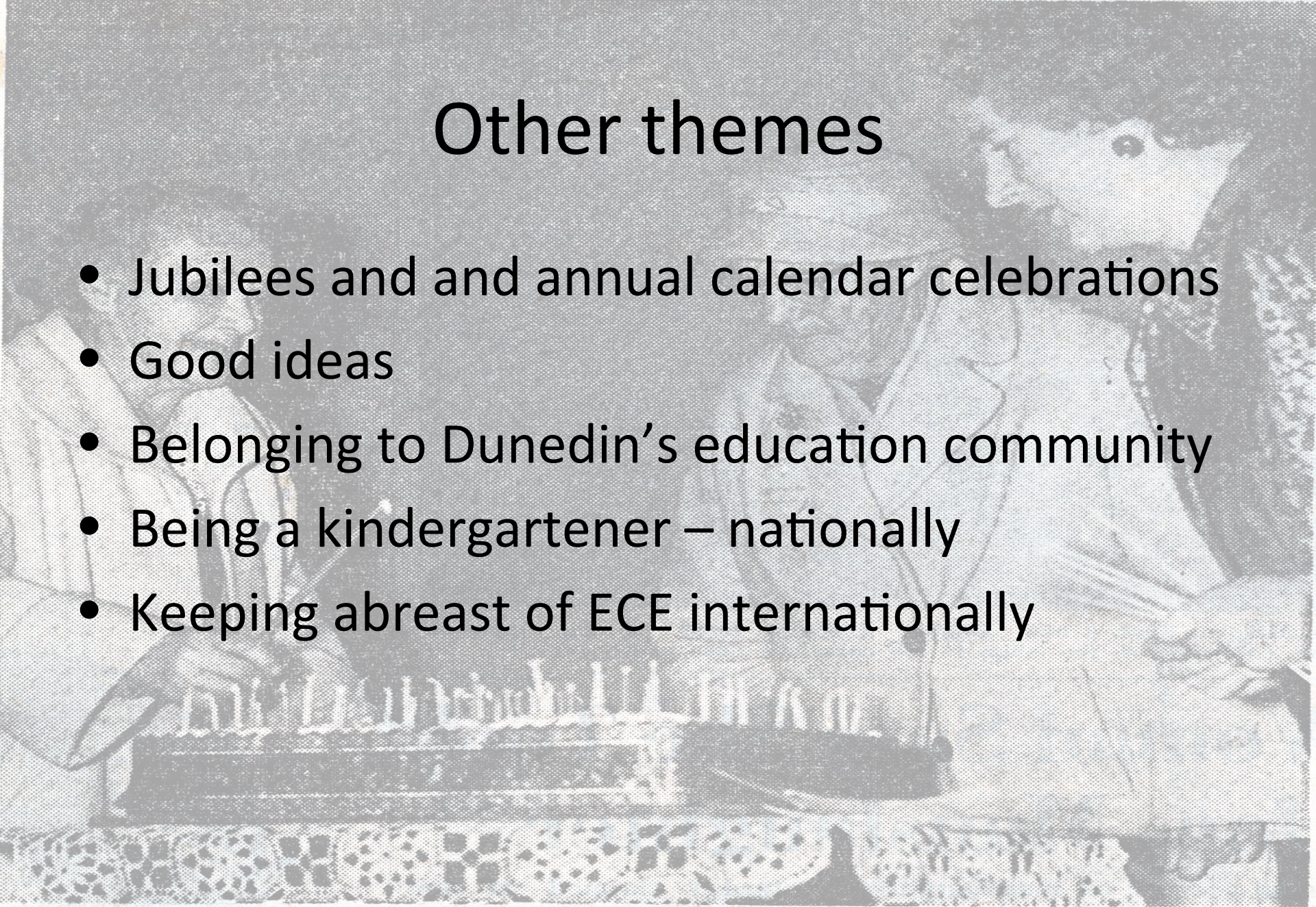
"We must translate the full meaning of our traditions into realities in kindergarten and community.

"Education is a long-term operation—life itself educates. Social change is very rapid and education must be continuous with life and geared to solve current problems and trends in world affairs."



# Other themes

- Jubilees and annual calendar celebrations
- Good ideas
- Belonging to Dunedin's education community
- Being a kindergartener – nationally
- Keeping abreast of ECE internationally



TWO of the first kindergarten's original pupils, Mrs W. Meiklejohn (centre) and Mrs J. Moodie (left) lighting a candle at the association's seventieth anniversary celebrations last night. Mrs L. Snell is at the right.



# In summary: 'order' and 'disorder'

- Insights outside of the official archive documents
- Longevity of the collection
- Utilitarian rather than works of art
- Intimacy of the Dunedin kindergarten community
- Players in the local education scene and the national ECE scene
- Exclusion of wider ece services and changing landscape of ECE

