



Seventy-Five Years

of

Free Kindergartens

in

NEW ZEALAND

1889-1964



*"He who helps a Child helps Humanity."*

*Compiling this booklet to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the first free kindergarten in New Zealand has been a moving and absorbing experience. It has also been a great privilege.*

*I acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the assistance I have received from many sources—in particular, the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association, who kindly made available early records, and the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, without whose generous financial contribution it would have been impossible for the Union to embark upon the task of publishing its history.*

HELEN DOWNER,  
President,  
New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union Inc.

June, 1964.



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

**One of 235 Kindergartens in New Zealand—1964.**



# FOREWORD

*This booklet records seventy-five years of work in, and for, our free kindergartens. It is a story rich in human interest, a brave story in many respects, and one that is of no small significance in the general history of education in New Zealand.*

*The movement had its origin in the humanitarian efforts of small, isolated groups in the nineteenth century. There followed a long period of slow growth, and then a period of very rapid expansion. In 1938, about half a century after the establishment of the first free kindergarten but before the birth of the play centre movement, the organized pre-school service catered for only 1756 children. Today, twenty-six years later, we have, in round figures, 18,000 three and four-year-old children attending free kindergartens and 6000 attending play centres, 24,000 in all. This is about one in five of the age group—a very high proportion, the highest, perhaps, for any country in the world.*

*This remarkable development has certainly been facilitated by greatly increased State assistance to pre-school education; but it arises basically from the fact that today large numbers of young parents are extremely keen to have organized pre-school education available for their children, and are willing to work quite hard, with the help of many older people, in order to get it. The social function of the kindergarten has, indeed, been transformed. In the early days, it was thought of as a welfare agency—a mitigation of a slum. We now believe that it has much to offer very many children who are in no sense "under-privileged"—in fact, that it can often supplement in valuable ways what the best of homes can provide. In particular, it can satisfy the small child's need for companionship with others of the same age and it gives him opportunities for creative activities beyond the resources of the ordinary home.*

*From its earliest days, there have been many people in the movement who have cared deeply about the quality of the service the kindergartens give. I recall the period when grants were on a per capita basis and the movement could have gained financially by in-*



*creasing the child-teacher ratio. It is much to its credit that, despite its poverty, it put quality first and resolutely resisted the temptation to permit larger groups. It is also to the credit of the movement that so many of its teachers have been at pains to bring the day-to-day practice of the kindergartens into harmony with the best modern knowledge of young children and the best current practice abroad. Here the kindergartens have set an example that has been widely influential, especially in the infant rooms of our primary schools. Some of the results have been quite specific: for example, the idea of using certain types of equipment now common in infant rooms derives directly from kindergarten practice. More generally the kindergartens have done much to spread enlightened views on the nature and needs of young children throughout the community at large and have given a most valuable demonstration of humane and intelligent practice.*

*The achievements of these seventy-five years are the fruit of the joint efforts of many people and many groups—the Union, the Associations and their committees, the training centres, the kindergarten staff, the Kindergarten Teachers' Association, mothers' groups, Ministers and Governments, local authorities, and, I must add, the pre-school officers of the Department of Education. I am sure I shall not be misunderstood if I pay a special tribute to the staff of earlier years—the women who battled on so cheerfully and devotedly at a period when there was very little public recognition of the value of their efforts, when salaries were pitifully low and the service offered neither security nor prospects. We should remember them in these easier times, and try to retain something of their spirit.*

*May I offer the movement my warm congratulations on all its achievements and my best wishes for the future.*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "A. E. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

*Director of Education.*

# SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF FREE KINDERGARTENS IN NEW ZEALAND

1889 - 1964

The seventy-fifth anniversary of an event is something that happens only once in a lifetime. Indeed, it is doubtful if many who were present at its birth survive to enjoy the celebrations planned to mark the occasion; but it must not be allowed to pass without proper tribute being paid to those who conceived it, and encouraged it to full strength and vigour.

That is the prime purpose of this booklet—to pay homage to the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association, the founder of the movement in New Zealand and to record the history of all that has happened since 1889 among those who were inspired by Dunedin's example. In the words of a former Director of Education, Dr. C. E. Beeby, it is "a success story, a gallant story of the devoted work of many people for something which they thought worthwhile." The stories told by all associations are variations on one theme, courage, perseverance, ingenuity and unselfishness, born of a desire to serve the needs of little children.

How did it all begin? The following letter from the late Reverend Dr. Waddell, written from Auckland on April 15, 1913, at the time of the laying of the foundation stone of the Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten, gives the answer:

*My dear Mr Cohen,*

*Reverting to the subject of our conversation on the eve of my departure from Dunedin, I desire to put on record—so that there may be no dispute thereafter about them—the facts connected with the establishment of the first free kindergarten in Dunedin, where it was first planted in this Dominion.*

*Years ago, I cannot tell you at this moment the exact year, but that is easily ascertainable, because the Dunedin newspapers reported the preliminary proceedings—when I was passing up and down Walker Street daily, I was often impressed with the number of little, ragged unkempt, barefooted children spilt about the street. The sight of these little ones, especially in the cold wet days of winter, crowding about the corners and doorsteps, made me ask myself: Could nothing be done for them? Their homes were poor, and there was little room for them inside the house, so they were turned out into the street. It thus occurred to me that we might gather them into our Church Hall, provide a fire and get some of our young ladies who were unemployed to entertain them. In this way they should find—the children, I mean, housing accommodation and good influences, and, moreover, it would be providing Christian work for some of our young ladies with time on their hands. The idea of the kindergarten was in the back of my thoughts, and I fancied I might get it developed gradually. Then I went to see you. I forget just now what led me to consult you, but I*

fancy it was the fact of your association with educational work, and your interest particularly in kindergarten affairs. I think you may have published some articles on the latter in the "Star." Anyhow I went to see you. You at once jumped at the idea of a kindergarten. You suggested that I should secure the interest of Mrs Reynolds, which I did. We then discussed matters. I have a notion that Miss Kelsey was the next consulted, as she was then doing something in the kindergarten way in her school. You were distinctly of the opinion that we should try to get a trained teacher. But where was she to be got, and where was the money to come from to pay her salary? I set to work to see if I could raise the necessary funds for the latter. Amongst others I called on Mr James Gray (Reid and Gray). He surprised me by promising £25 a year for two years. I remember the thrill of exultation I had as I came out of Mr Gray's office. I felt that the salary of the teacher—we had reckoned it at £50—was within our grasp. So it proved. Then we heard of a trained teacher—I think from Miss Kelsey—one who was interested more, perhaps, in the mission than the educational side of the work—Miss Wienicke. She had a sort of kindergarten in a small way at Papanui, Christchurch. By this time our small company had grown into a committee. Who the others were I do not remember. But my holiday time had come round, and as I was going up Christchurch

—: ☆ :—

**RUTHERFORD WADDELL, M.A., D.D.**, was born in Northern Ireland where he graduated from Dublin University. With his bride he came to New Zealand to serve the Presbyterian Church. The last forty years of his ministry were spent at St. Andrew's Church in Dunedin.

Loved and revered by all who knew him, he was renowned for his modesty, good humour and as a champion of worthy causes. The free kindergarten movement owes its birth to his appreciation of the needs of little children.

He was a dynamic preacher. In fact, one sermon entitled "The Sin of Cheapness," which assailed the sweating system in the making of various garments, so shocked public conscience that an Act of Parliament was passed and a Tailoresses' Union was formed, of which he became the first president.

He was also a brilliant writer. For 27 years he contributed a weekly column to the Dunedin "Star" which was much prized by readers. He founded and was first editor of "The Outlook," the journal of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand.



*Yours in His Service*  
*Rutherford Waddell*

way I was commissioned to make enquiries regarding Miss Wienicke. I did. I explained matters to her and she expressed her willingness to come. It was the mission side of the scheme that commended it most to her. When I returned I told the committee of my interview with Miss Wienicke, and advised that her services be secured. This was agreed to. She came. My office-bearers, at my request, gave the building free of charge. Miss Wienicke was installed and the work begun. That was the origin of the free kindergarten movement in Dunedin. Its history after Miss Wienicke's appointment will be familiar to you. The idea of it originated in my mind in the way I have indicated. Of that I am positive. Its elaboration on more definitely kindergarten lines was suggested by you. Mrs Reynold's aid was then secured. The greater part of the funds for two years was raised by me, Mr Gray's contribution providing at once one-half of the salary. And our church gave for years the free use of the hall, and many of its members helped the movement in various ways. This, as far as my memory goes, is the early history of the free kindergarten movement in Dunedin.

I am glad to hear of the new building in Dunedin South which will be a permanent memorial of Mrs Reynolds's life-long services to the community, and hope that you will have a successful function, but regret my inability to be with you on the occasion.

Old records show that Miss Wienicke was also asked, at this time, for her memories of the first kindergarten, and that Dr. Waddell was correct when he believed that it was "the mission side of the scheme" which appealed to her, for she wrote:

Edendale,

May 2, 13.

Dear Mrs Reynolds,

So sorry this will not reach you on Saturday morning. Having been out all day, I got your letter only just  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour ago. But I do hope that the early express takes the mail from here, then you ought to get it about 1 o'clock on Saturday.

It was Miss Freeman, accompanied by Miss Verdo, who came to see me first. As I was very happy with my school in Christchurch I was not at first quite inclined to go to Dunedin. But when I considered that many opportunities would be opened to me in the homes of the parents of the children I asked the Lord about this step.

Miss Freeman told me that Dr. Waddell would call on me some few months later. Miss Freeman's visit was in the Christmas Holidays. Dr. Waddell called, saw the school work going on a certain morning and asked me if I would begin the Free Kindergarten in Dunedin. I told him I could only take it on the one condition, that I must teach Christ as I was a christian.

He told me I was allowed to teach in that way all what Kindergarten teaching allowed. About ten days after this interview with Dr Waddell I received a telegram from him that I was accepted by the



*Kindergarten Committee to be the teacher of the Free Kindergarten and was asked if I could be in Dunedin on the 1st of June.*

*I think that I remember rightly that it was intended to open the Kindergarten on the 10th of June but it was put off until the 14th of June 1889.*

*Dear Mrs Reynolds, I had to write this too in a hurry, as the place where I am staying is a mile from the post-office. A young man will take it and ask the station master to put it into the mail-van as I find now, that no mail is going from here with the early express.*

*Accept the little paper, kindly meant for your eternal welfare.*

*"Christ is Coming! "Be ye also ready," Jesus said.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*W. W'ienicke.*

Gaps in the memory of these two people who were so closely linked with the first free kindergarten may be filled by reference to a report published on March 5, 1889, in the Otago Daily Times, of a public meeting held "with the object of forming a public kindergarten in this city. The spacious Town Hall was filled, many ladies being in attendance. Among the gentlemen present were the Bishop of Dunedin, Archdeacon Dudley Wilson, Dr. Stuart, Dr. Belcher, Revs. Ronaldson and R. Waddell, Messrs A. Wilson, M.A., G. L. Denniston, M. Cohen, A. Hill Jack, W. Stewart, M.H.R., George Grant and R. Hudson."

The mysterious initials M.H.R. after Mr Stewart's name were puzzling until I read later press reports and realised that, in those far-off times, elected members of Government were known as Members of the House of Representatives.

Bishop Suter's masterly address was printed in full by the Otago Daily Times. It is very clear that he had given deep thought to the purpose of the meeting and that his understanding of what a kindergarten could mean was profound. Space does not permit complete reproduction of his exposition but the following extracts will serve to show how sound was the knowledge of those who established the free kindergarten movement in New Zealand.

"We are occupied this evening not with youth, but with childhood. As education of youth has only comparatively recently received its due attention, so the training and education of childhood has been still later in coming under consideration; and we are indebted to two men for their improved condition of affairs—Pestalozzi, a Swiss, and Froebel, a native of Thuringia, in Prussia, a pupil of Pestalozzi, who died so late as 1852 at an advanced age, sharing the fate of many reformers, the imputation of anarchical tendencies, and being censured by the Prussian Government, charged with socialism and even irreligion, although he was the very man who stipulated that God must be recognised in the very first steps of education and that

all education not founded on religion is unproductive—and although those who have most taken up and extended his system in England and America are to be found amongst the bodies which lay most stress on religious influences . . . .

“The period of life before us—one to five or six years—requires attention: it cannot be without a great influence on the first years (and therefore though in a less degree, and all subsequent years of the school course). It must make a difference whether the child of six years enters on school life a wild ass’s colt, or one broken in without in the least depriving it of spirit. When children are before us, and these critical years of first impressions, subsequent conceptions and habits formed demand the most delicate treatment at our hands, we notice the following facts: the receptivity of the mind of childhood; the sense of pleasure derived from action of any kind, intellectual, religious and physical—this becomes the strongest motive; the marvellously early-developed faculty of imitation; the sense of sympathy as soon as manifested, which shows itself in what we proudly call the lower parts of creation; the sense of sociability—this is the rule—isolation of temperament is probably the result of some constitutional (probably hereditary tendency) influences, and is the exception; the principle of growth . . . .

“Now, how are we to proceed? Here it is not a case of putting before them a manual to be learnt as they will and as best they can. That is easy, our task is a much more difficult one. Children’s natures are all different from each other; no two have exactly the same powers of observation or action; and here comes in one of the fundamental features of kindergarten—the recognition of the individual; here, too, comes in much of the difficulty, therefore much of its honour. It deals with individual natures, it will not regard them as a collection . . . .

“If we have at all realised the position, we cannot help coming to the conclusion that to do such work well must require a most remarkable person for a teacher. Nature seems to indicate the sex of the teacher. It is too motherly a matter to be entrusted to any but females. Kindergarten schools are necessarily expensive if justice is to be done to them. They require more teachers to a given number of children than the first and second standards in primary schools, and suitable teachers are not to be had readily, and must be paid highly for when they are got. But the results are so very important.”

The Times reported that: “The Rev. Belcher named Mrs W. H. Reynolds, Miss Bathgate, Miss Freeman, Mrs John Roberts, Mrs Dymock, Mrs G. P. Farquhar, Mrs Belcher, Mrs A. W. Morris, Mrs Teevan, Mrs Churton, Miss Marsden Smith, Mrs A. S. Paterson, Miss Grant, Miss Kelsey, Sir R. Stout, Dr Fitchett, M.H.R., Mr J. Allen, M.H.R., Rev. Dr. Belcher, Dr. Brown, Dr. Hislop, Messrs A. Wilson, W. H. Ash, G. Bell, G. M. Thomson, G. Joachim, Rev. R. Waddell and Mr M. Cohen, with power to add to this number—for the purpose of giving practical effect to his resolution that a public kindergarten be formed.

“The Reverend R. Waddell seconded the resolution and said there were three points with regard to which the public would require

to be satisfied before going in heartily for this movement. The first was the existence of the subjects for whom it was required; and he presumed there could be no doubt that there were plenty of children to act upon. The second was the advisableness of this particular method of education of the young; and after the address of the Bishop of Nelson and the remarks of Dr. Belcher, he thought there could be no two opinions as to the excellence of the kindergarten system. The third was as to ways and means and that was really the difficult point and the object of the resolution was to meet it. The duty of the committee would be to enquire into the question of ways and means and to discover the best method of establishing in our midst the kindergarten system.

The motion was carried by acclamation and the votes of thanks having been acknowledged by the Bishop of Nelson and the chairman (the Mayor of Dunedin), the proceedings closed."

How well the committee "enquired into the question of ways and means and discovered the best method of establishing in our midst the kindergarten system" may be judged by the stories told in subsequent pages.

All associations join in extending warm congratulations to the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association and in acknowledging the debt they owe to its founders.

---

## MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF THE DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

**Mrs W. H. REYNOLDS, President,  
Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association,  
1889-1900.**

**The Rachel S. Reynolds Kindergarten opened in 1914, honours her  
inspiring leadership.**



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.

1891—Yaralla Kindergarten opened on October 19. Miss Walker, of



**The Rachel S. Reynolds Kindergarten opened 1914.**

- Sydney, donated £100 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—Rachel 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 Queen's 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, Anderson's 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 re-open 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 opened. 500 children attended during the year, 200 of these at the play centres operating for 2 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 National Diploma.
- 1952—Miss Anne Duthie made a life-member of the Association. Twenty senior and seventeen 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 £6,000 had to be contributed jointly by the Plunket Society and our Association, the balance provided as subsidy by the Government. The Sargood Trust donated £2,000 towards the Association's share of this cost. Mosgiel tion. Half-day kindergarten established at Anderson's Bay in

- Kindergarten Association recognised as a separate Association, 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 eleven 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. in 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 beautiful building on March 16, the official opening being performed by Mrs E. E. McMillan, M.P. Twelve of the thirteen kindergartens were conducted in their own permanent buildings with 825 children on the rolls.  
Regional Conference held on November 30, 7 other Associations being present.  
Miss Vera Hayward, an Executive member, received M.B.E.  
Lady Sidey, O.B.E., first President of the N.Z.F.K. Union and a loyal member of the Dunedin Association, died.  
Teachers' Refresher Course held.  
Miss Phyllis Varcoe, a member of the College staff, was made President of the N.Z.F.K. Teachers' Association.  
25th Anniversary of the Combined Mothers' Clubs.  
Anderson's Bay Kindergarten opened their lovely new building at Bayfield Road.
- 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 thirteen 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 N.Z. Kindergarten Teachers' Association for a further term.
- 1961—Otago and Southland Teachers' Association held a residential

week-end 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 Hon. W. B. Tennent, Minister of Education. Mornington Kindergarten opened its beautiful new building in August, making the fourteenth kindergarten in its own premises. Eighteen senior and twenty-eight 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 twenty eight 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 opening ceremony. This kindergarten became the fifteenth to be housed in its own building. More than 1,100 children attend these fifteen kindergartens, twelve 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.

#### FINANCE

- 1889—Kindergarten Association relied on subscriptions, collections, donations and fund-raising efforts by the Committee.
- 1904—Government granted £500 to be divided amongst the four centres, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.
- 1909—Government allowed £1 for £1 on collections.
- 1914—A capitation grant of £2 per head based on average attendance.
- 1917—Capitation increased to £2/10/-.
- 1919—Capitation increased to £3/2/6.
- 1924—Capitation increased to £4.
- 1931—All grants withdrawn.
- 1935—Government renewed capitation on average roll number on basis of 25/- for every £1 raised up to £4 per head per annum.
- 1941—Government allowed all students £50 per annum.
- 1943—Government increased capitation grant to £5 per head to be expended on salaries, with minimum salary of £90 per annum.
- 1948—Government took over payment of all salaries. Capitation subsidy then ceased. Later a subsidy on new buildings and equipment of approved design was granted on a basis of £2 to £1.
- 1949—£2,000 donated from the Saroogd Trust and retained as part of kindergarten share of the cost of the Pre-School Educational Centre. Dunedin Savings Bank yearly grant of £300,



**ATTENDING THE MAYORAL RECEPTION—  
70th ANNIVERSARY DUNEDIN—JUNE 10, 1959.**

**Mrs J. A. Hanan, Hon. Life Member, N.Z.F.K.U.**

**Mrs M. H. James, President, Dunedin F.K.A.**

**Miss Maude Reynolds, niece of Mrs W. H. Reynolds.**

**Mrs H. Downer, President, N.Z. F.K.U.**

the Dunedin City Corporation grant of £100, Cadbury, Fry Hudson and Company's yearly donation of £50 and £200 from the estate of Miss Lavinia Kelsey, the first Association Secretary and later President. Also from the Mrs Halstead's bequest.

- 1950—Mrs A. Cameron estate, £200, from the etate of Mrs A. Morrison £100. Grants from Dunedin Savings Bank, £300, City Corporation, £100, Cadbury, Fry, Hudson Ltd., £50, and various donations and efforts all amounting to over £2,000.
- 1951—Yearly grants from Dunedin Savings Bank, City Corporation, Cadbury, Fry, Hudson Ltd., fund-raising efforts, etc., amounted to £2,000 approximately.
- 1952—Government increased salaries of staff, students and untrained assistants. Superannuation scheme in operation. Yearly grants and efforts brought in £2,000 approximately.
- 1953—Yearly local grants, donations, Street day efforts, etc., brought in £1,750 approximately.
- 1954—Street day donations, Kindergarten Ball, Mannequin Parades, etc., along with yearly grants amounted to around £1,100.
- 1955—Local grants, Sargood Trust £100, Street Day £721, Mr H. Brasch, legacy of £475. Dr. Helen Deem's estate £50 and other





**DUNEDIN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' COLLEGE,  
273 YORK PLACE, DUNEDIN.**

- smaller donations brought in, with the fund-raising efforts, some £2,000. Government granted improved salary scale.
- 1956—Street day effort £771, fashion show £85, doll show, yearly local grants, donations, etc., raised about £1,800. £20,000 paid out by Government for staff salaries, students' allowances. £18,908 was the amount paid on our various building contracts. Total payments made by the Association being £40,000.
- 1957—Local grants, street day, doll show, radio quiz show, donations etc., amounted to over £2,000.
- 1958—Street Day donations, £710, local yearly grants £460, doll show £160, donations, etc., brought in over £1,800. Local Committees of the kindergartens continued to remain financially sound and through their sustained efforts over the years have caused the Association little concern.
- 1959—Street Day result, £539, raffle £560, Arthur Barnett Ltd., (result of Quiz show) £104, Sargood Trust, £100, Richard Hudson Estate £300 (for Hudson Kindergarten), yearly donations from Dunedin Savings Bank, City Corporation, Cadbury, Fry, Hudson Ltd., Mr A. G. Robertson and others brought in £2,500.
- 1960—Street Day result £533, Fair £100, local yearly grants £450, donations from Mesdames Theomin, Macaulay, Ewing, Miss A. Duthie and Mr A. G. Robertson, etc., amounted to £1,800.
- 1961—Street Day result £674, raffle £594, yearly grants from City Corporation, Dunedin Savings Bank, Cadbury, Fry Hudson Ltd., donations etc., amounted to over £2,700.
- 1962—Alteration in date of Street Day meant a loss to the Association on this year's proceeds, which will be offset in 1964 figures. Yearly local grants, donations, etc., brought in nearly £1,400. Teachers' salaries and students bursaries in Dunedin total £40,000 per annum.

# THE HISTORY OF FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

## ALEXANDRA

In May, 1961, Mrs H. Denniston was elected President at a general meeting, to form a local kindergarten. To create interest a Play Centre was managed by mothers for the last term of 1951, and over this period of time, the town was canvassed for donations, a gratifying amount being raised.

With Miss W. McLean as Director and Miss L. McTaggart as trained assistant, permission was granted to commence a kindergarten in February, 1952, in the Presbyterian Sunday School Hall.

The greater proportion of money was raised in the next three years with Mrs D. Blyth as President. Paper and bottle drives, street day stalls, dances, card evenings, concerts, mannequin parades and a Christmas Carnival all helped to swell the funds while catering for the ice skating at the Manorburn Dam brought in the largest amount. A very active Mothers' Club over these early years also helped considerably.

In November, 1957, the Alexandra District Free Kindergarten was officially opened by Mr. George, M.P., Mrs. R. Lopdell being President at this time.

Over the latter years the kindergarten has continued to flourish under the able directorship of Miss W. McLean. With a street day stall each year and regular weekly parents' donations, the financial position is sound.

## ASHBURTON

Over nineteen 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 was held in the Foresters' Hall and was presided over by the then Mayor of Ashburton, the late Mr E. G. Bathurst. Miss Parsons invited several friends, including, notably, Miss Stewart 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: the first 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. McCombs, in March, 1949. In October, 1953, Ashburton East transferred to its new building, officially opened by Mrs A. F. Johnson, then 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 our goal of having kindergartens housed in new buildings was the preparation of plans for a new building at Allenton on the site adjoining the present kindergarten, which is conducted in a hall converted and brought up to Departmental standard. The sale of the present building to the Presbyterian Church having been successfully concluded, it is hoped to transfer to the new building after the first term of this year.

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 we feel we must make mention of public support, and the co-operation of committees and parents. Mrs M. J. Otley, who has presided over our Council for the past four years has given of her untiring best, encouraging committees and showing interest in all their activities.

Our appreciation goes to the Department of Education, Supervisors of Pre-School Services, the Union, and the Christchurch Association and many who have helped us to achieve the progress we have made over the years.

## 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 are 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. Myres was then appointed, and it is indeed fitting that the son of Mrs Leo Myres, 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, who is still in the position of Treasurer. 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 G. Gilbert, was the recipient of the





**ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANY AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF  
MYERS FREE KINDERGARTEN, OCTOBER—1916.**

Mrs Louis Myers (partly obscured), Mr James Gunson, Mayor of  
Auckland, Lady Liverpool, Mrs Gunson, Hon. Arthur Myers, Lord  
Liverpool, Governor-General, Mr Louis Myers, Mrs Arthur Myers.

**FIRST CHILDREN AT MYERS KINDERGARTEN  
OCTOBER—1916.**

(Note backyards of houses in Grey's Avenue).



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-Director, 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 have since been held.

### **Kindergarten Teachers' College**

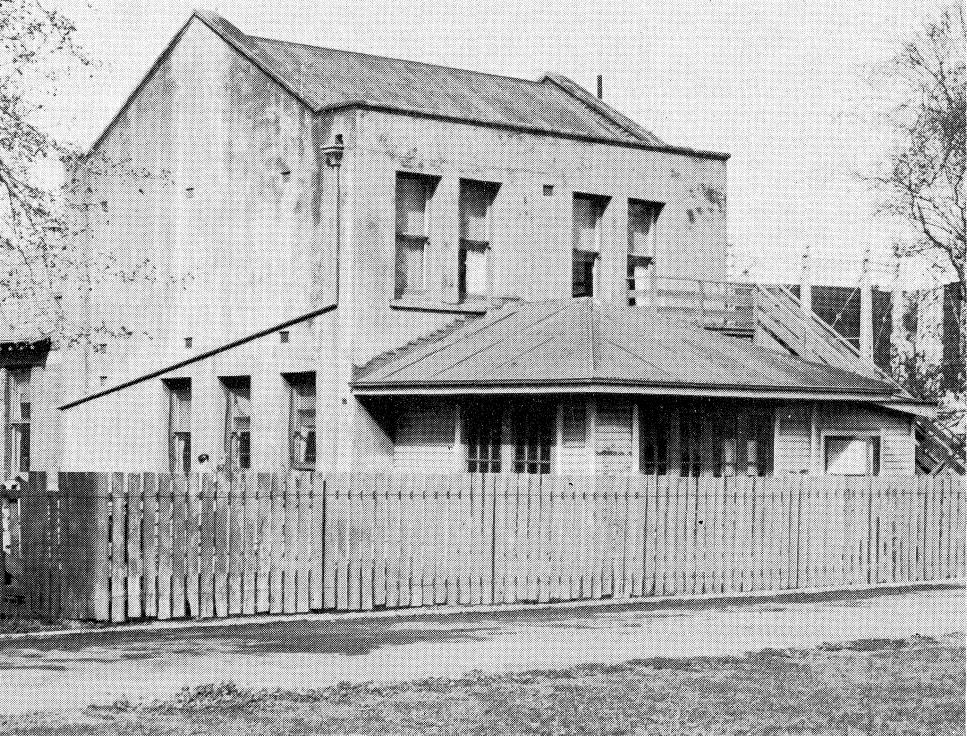
The first Principal (or "Trainer") was Miss M. E. Gibson, who commenced her duties in the first term of 1910. Miss Gibson held the higher certificate of the National Froebel Union of Great Britain. During that year 8 first-year and 7 second-year students were in training. The training in 1909 was carried 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



**The Logan Campbell Kindergarten, Victoria Park, Auckland. Opened 1910.**

**The New Logan Campbell Kindergarten in Tahuna Street. Opened 1960.**

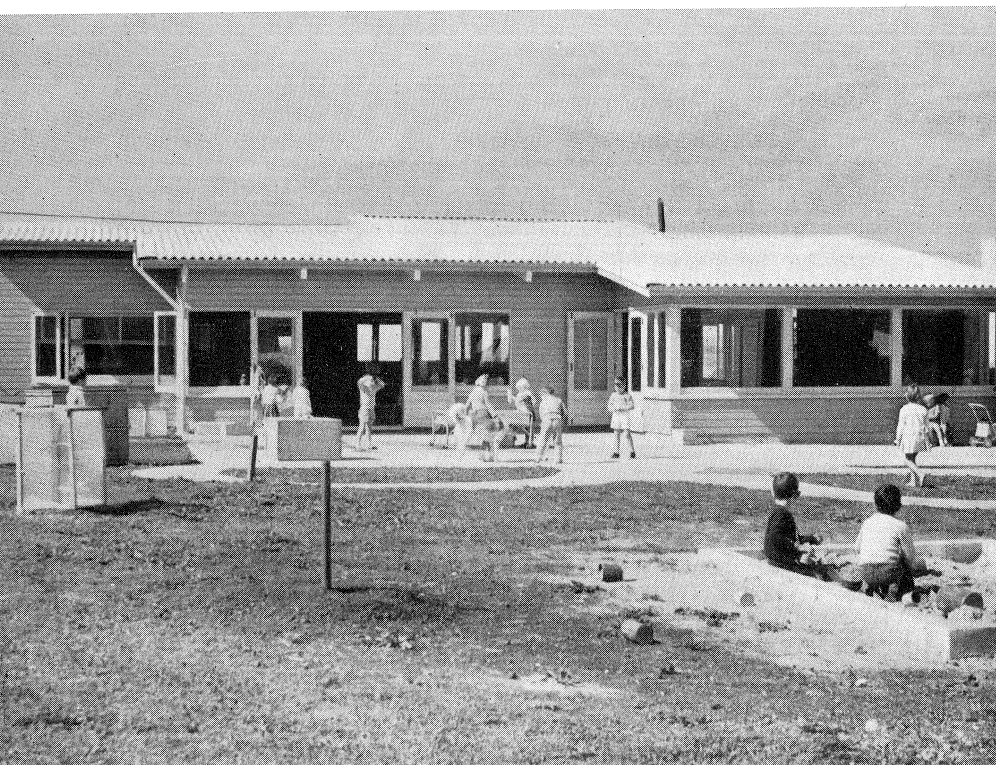






**Official Opening of Old Sunbeams Kindergarten—Eden Terrace, 1938,  
by Sir John Allum, C.B.E.**

**The New Sunbeams Kindergarten in Glen Innes. Opened February, 1963.**





**AUCKLAND KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' COLLEGE,  
43 ARNEY ROAD, REMUERA, AUCKLAND.**

districts—in Palmerston North, Gisborne, Hamilton and Papatoetoe—while several opened private kindergartens.

In 1963, 105 girls were in training at the College. About 70 per cent of students come from provincial areas.

A fee of £2/2/- per term was charged to students until 1919, when training became free. It was not until 1959 that a fee of £5/5/- per annum was reinstated in conformity with the practice in the other kindergarden colleges in New Zealand.

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.

## **BALCLUTHA**

The idea of a free kindergarden for Balclutha (South Otago) was conceived in 1951. With it came the usual problems—money-raising in an already "wrung-out" district, would the value of a

kindergarten be appreciated and, of course, the necessity of finding a building for use until the kindergarten proper could be built.

All difficulties were put aside after a "softening-up" process consisting of talking about the idea whenever possible and with sympathetic support from the local press. A public meeting was held on the 15th December, 1951. It was convened by Mrs G. McLeod (wife of the local High School Rector) who did much of the preparatory work and who was eventually elected the first president. Mrs McLeod was later made an honorary life member.

The meeting was presided over by the Mayor, Mr I. Jenkins. More than 40 parents attended and a provisional committee was elected to proceed with the establishment of a kindergarten. The committee elected was: Mesdames F. Nye, G. T. Guest, W. R. Christie, W. F. Throp, A. F. Shaw, K. Moore, D. Sutherland and M. Bowcott; Messrs K. Moore, A. Mann, D. M. Strang, A. Poultney and L. McEwan.

These people were later made the permanent Kindergarten Association Council and Miss M. Holland was co-opted. During 1952 the constitution was drawn up and adopted.

The kindergarten opened in February 1953 in the Masonic Lodge Hall with a roll of 30 in the morning, 29 in the afternoon and a waiting list of 27.

Money-raising was the biggest concern of the Council and by April 30, 1953, when the first annual meeting was held, the balance sheet showed that £1524/11/8 had been raised. Among the ventures carried out by members were an outstandingly successful gymkhana (£239), bazaar and street day (£217) and a raffle of an Austin car (£321). In 1953 the Mothers' Club was formed and has done much in support of the kindergarten.

As the funds grew the Association looked for a suitable section and was fortunate in finding one conveniently-situated in Lanark Street. Fortunately it was Crown Land and only a nominal sum, £20 had to be paid—and two thirds of that amount was subsidised by the Department of Education.

Fund-raising continued in various ways and three and a half years after the formation of the Association, the new kindergarten was opened on 18th April, 1955, by the then President of N.Z.F.K.U., Mrs A. F. Johnson (Christchurch). After payment for the building, £300 remained.

Since the exciting first years, the Association has continued to consolidate its position, and to raise money by various means. Among these efforts has been a King Carnival held in conjunction with other local organisations. A sum of £2,300 was raised, £600 of which went to the kindergarten. Bottle drives, vanishing tea-parties, catering, scrubbing the grandstand for the annual A. and P. show and a Sandy Triggs show are a few of the finance-raising efforts.

Presidents and Secretaries since the Association's inception have been:

December 1951 - March 1953—Mrs G. McLeod, Mr K. Moore.

1953 - 1954—Mrs J. Nye, Mr G. McLeod.

1954 - 1955—Mrs L. Cochrane, Mr G. McLeod.

1955 - 1956—Mrs C. N. Bissett, Mrs M. E. Ballantyne.

1956 - 1957—Mrs G. T. Guest, Mrs M. E. Ballantyne.

1957 - 1958—Mrs M. Willyams, Mrs M. E. Ballantyne.

1958 - 1959—Mrs L. Cross, Mrs A. S. McTavish.  
 1959 - 1960—Mrs J. Kirwood, Mr A. S. McTavish.  
 1960 - 1961—Mrs W. Ibbotson, Mrs R. Swan.  
 1961 - 1962—Mrs N. Cox, Mr C. Hallett.  
 1962 - 1963—Mrs J. Davis, Mr D. Hollows.  
 1963 - 1964—Mrs J. Kirwood, Mr Crosby.

Directors have been:

Miss J. C. McKinalay.  
 Miss Melton.  
 Miss M. Inglis.  
 Miss B. Marshall.  
 Miss E. Houliston.

## BAY OF PLENTY

This is one of the youngest 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 Edgumbe, 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 Edgumbe 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 under the leadership of a senior director. There are now nine recognised kindergartens and three establishment committees with equal representation on the Council. Each has a record worthy of a place in the Association's history.

**Edgumbe**—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—still held—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



**The Christmas Story enacted by children at the Helen Downer Kindergarten, Rotorua.**



country, because of its notural 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, £409, to the new group, who received further help from the Tasman Pulp and Paper Company with the promise of timber to the value of £300. 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 £1000. The Kawerau Association 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 are 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 points to the need for a second kindergarten and plans are afoot to acquire a site and form another committee. 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 £150 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, which has now reached the point of waiting for permission to proceed with its building on a site in Karaka Road.

**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. £215 was raised in the first six months and in 1959, the magnificent sum of £917 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.

Of the three establishment committees affiliated to the Bay of Plenty Association, Otumoetai and Western Heights (Rotorua) are on the Union's priority list, while the third, Mount Maunganui, formed just six months ago, faces the task of finding its share of the cost of a building. It will be encouraged and supported by the fine co-operative spirit which was revealed when the Association was host for the Conference of the Union in Rotorua in October, 1963.

## **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 Sidney, 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 re-opened but the outbreak of war set aside the furtherance of such a 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 Redwoodtown. 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 the attractive Mayfield Kindergarten in Girling Avenue. Miss G. Moorhouse was appointed Director.

The Blenheim district is well served by pre-school facilities at present, with three kindergartens, play centres at Seddon and Woodbourne, and a private kindergarten at Picton.

## **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 20th April, 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 Director, 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 1962-1963 made an all-out effort to raise the last few hundred pounds. This was achieved in 1963, due to a gift of £500 from the U.P.F. of Burnham Camp. As this goes to print tenders have been called for our new kindergarten, and we hope that 1964 will see the children of Burnham in their own properly-designed and equipped kindergarten.

## **CARTERTON**

On September 29, 1955, a public meeting was held to form the Carterton Free Kindergarten Association. The immediate need was money, which was raised by a garden party, raffles and shop days, in order to provide equipment necessary to open a kindergarten in St. Mark's Anglican Church Hall. This was achieved in February, 1958, after a play area had been fenced and a portion concreted, and a trained teacher, Miss Anne Mackenzie, was appointed. It was realised that temporary premises would not be entirely satisfactory and a building fund was begun at this time.

A section in Victoria Street was purchased in October, 1959, and by September, 1961, just six years after the Association was established, the kindergarten building was completed and occupied. We were greatly honoured by His Excellency, Lord Cobham, who consented to open the building during the course of his visit to the Wairarapa district on October 4, 1961.

Our most trying problem has been to attract trained staff to Carterton and there have been times when only the "period of consolidation" saved us from losing recognition of the kindergarten. Mrs T. Spooner has been our most faithful helper throughout the years and has acted as assistant and director for varying periods from 1958 to the present date.

## **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.

Subsequent history is one of ever-increasing effort to raise money to build kindergartens, to train students and to cater for growing numbers of children. 1961 was a phenomenal year when six new buildings were erected. Early in this year the Council planned functions which would fittingly celebrate the Golden Jubilee. The first was the official opening of the new Sunbeam Kindergarten, which had been erected on the original site of the first free kinder-



**CHRISTCHURCH KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' COLLEGE,  
80 PARK TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH.**

garten in Christchurch. The opening took place on the 50th anniversary of the day, and at the hour, when the first meeting was called to establish the Association. A plaque was unveiled to the memory of the first President, Mrs T. E. Taylor and her Committee, and to Miss Helena Hull, first Principal. The Council arranged for the sum of £20 per annum to be used for the purchase of books for the College Library, to be known now as the "Helena Hull Memorial Library."

An "At Home" was held in the Winter Garden for former Council members. This was a very pleasant function, much appreciated by those older members who bore the heat and burden of the day in former years. Towards the end of the second term, the College was open on two days for inspection for all friends, Committee and Council members. Student activities continued as usual and those who attended were impressed by the work being undertaken. To coincide with a staff re-union a special service in Christchurch Cathedral gave opportunity for past and present staff and committees to meet together in worship and to give thanks for 50 years of valuable community service.

The Conference of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union in October was the climax of the year's celebrations. To mark the occasion each delegate was presented with an ashtray bearing the kindergarten emblem and the dates 1911-1961 in blue and gold. At the Official Opening the President of the Union, Mrs H. Downer, was presented with fifty golden daffodils representing 50 years of service and 50 Daffodil Day Street Appeals, as the Association's tribute to the Union. Conference representatives, members of kindred organisations, members of the Southern Regional Office of the Department of Education, the Inspectorate and city dignitaries were entertained at a function held in the Winter Garden when the Jubilee cake was cut by Miss I. M. Jamieson, a foundation member, and Mrs A. F. Johnson, President of the Association.

Christchurch is now the largest association in New Zealand. It controls 37 recognised kindergartens, 34 of which are in the metropolitan area, one at Rangiora, and two on the West Coast, at Hokitika and Greymouth. There are also two committees working for the establishment of kindergartens. The number of people who serve in a voluntary capacity is legion and they proudly uphold the rich traditions of one of the first cities to provide opportunity for preschool education.

## **CROMWELL**

In July, 1957, a public meeting was held when, after hearing speakers from Alexandra, those present resolved to form a free kindergarten association. The question of finance was discussed and plans were made for a dance, a street stall and a film evening. So keen was the enthusiasm for a kindergarten that, in three months, £2500 was raised by means of a Queen Carnival. A section was to be made available at a nominal rental by the Borough Council and everything seemed ready for action.

Alas, although the Association had the money and the site, it could not find sufficient children to justify the establishment of a kindergarten. By 1960 it was clear that it might be years before

the roll numbers required by the Department of Education could be guaranteed.

After consultation with the Department the Association finally decided to build a modified kindergarten, designed so that it could be enlarged without difficulty if and when sufficient children were available, and to lease the building to the Cromwell District Play Centre in the meantime.

Cromwell has continued its membership of the Union in order to keep in touch with developments in the movement, against the day when it qualifies for consideration as a free kindergarten.

## DANNEVIRKE

Histories of this kind can almost be compiled by a list of many helpers and their names bring to mind work done, money raised and projects completed. Many, many such projects all add up to the accomplishment of a large task. These lists of names are shown elsewhere, so here only a few are mentioned, those giving outstanding service.

On a sunny afternoon with a group of mothers and children chatting in a street in a State Housing area, someone mentioned that Dannevirke was going to have a free kindergarten. For the first stirrings of this momentous thought we have to thank Mrs H. G. Ostler, who had been associated with the movement in Christchurch, and on coming to reside in Dannevirke, thought that the town would benefit from this amenity. So on June 20, 1947, a public meeting was called with Mrs Ostler as convener and attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs E. Gibbard, Mr K. Holyoake, M.P., North and South School Home and School Associations, teaching staffs of both primary schools, Rotary, Labour Party representatives and interested citizens. This meeting elected Mr A. J. Webber as Chairman, Mrs R. B. Mills as Secretary and three sub-committees, the first to ascertain the number of pre-school children likely to attend, the second to find what buildings were available, the third to arrange matters of finance.

The Education Department, before giving permission to run a free kindergarten, required that the Committee have a suitable approved hall, a stated minimum number of names on a waiting list, and a hundred pounds in hand after buying furniture and equipment.

In July, 1947, the Mayor called another public meeting and the reports of the sub-committees were tabled. Numbers of pre-school children were:

1947:	71
1948:	91
1949:	89
1950:	73

Finance was to be arranged by a Women's Committee and various halls were looked at, the Labour Hall and Methodist Hall being thought most suitable. It is interesting to note that the first money raised, £4/6/-, was the proceeds of a card evening.

A Women's Council was elected, with Mrs Ostler as President and Mrs Mills as Secretary, and a Men's Advisory Committee was elected. The first Shop Day was held in November, 1947—a yearly occurrence ever since—and by this time £150 was in hand.

When the project was first started the Education Department

had been paying a subsidy (£5 per capita), but in 1948 it changed its policy, paying the salary of the Director and Assistant Director, a subsidy of £1 for £1 on equipment, and £2 for £1 on buildings. This greatly eased the financial burden of Councils. By the end of 1948 the Women's Council had raised finance, had procured the services of two teachers and had made arrangements, with the approval of the Education Department, for the use of the Coronation Hall.

During the years changes inevitably occurred in the running of the Council. In 1948 Mrs T. C. Smith gave up the position of Treasurer which was taken by Mrs I. D. Hendy, Mrs Smith later becoming Secretary, after the resignation of Mrs Tidswell who followed on from Mrs Mills.

In February, 1949, the first "Kindy" opened for business with Miss Dawn Galloway as Director and Miss Prue Pavitt as Assistant. It is interesting to note here that the first twelve tables were donated by Mr L. Rosse, and that Mr Dick Scott made most of the carts and push-and-pull toys.

The Official Opening was held on March 3, 1949, by Miss D. Coulter, Secretary of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association. Also speaking were Mrs Wilson, President of the Hastings Free Kindergarten Association, Mr T. D. Scott, Principal of the High School and Messrs J. Browning and T. J. Linehan, Meadmasters of the North and South Schools respectively.

Many teething troubles were experienced, and when reading through the past Minutes, one finds many things cropping up again and again for consideration, such things as fire guards, heaters, sand pits, sand pit covers, safety toys and pedestrian crossings, showing that though the "Kindy" was operating on a shoe string, the comfort and care of the children were of prime importance to the Council. Mr Ted Howe was the first caretaker, at the sum of 12/6 weekly. He was a great favourite with the children.

In the centre of the State Housing Block was an area of waste land on which the State Advances Corporation proposed building two new houses. A petition of protest, signed by all the residents surrounding the area, and sent to Mr Holyoake, was successful, but at a later date (1956) all residents were pleased with the thought of the building of a "Kindy" and the land was subsequently handed over by the S.A.C.

Throughout this functioning period of kindergarten there has been a Dominion-wide shortage of trained personnel and this Council has always wisely adopted the policy of being interested in prospective trainees. Talks have been given to the High School, young girls have been encouraged to attend as visitors and taken on the staff for their final term for experience. Two such trainees were appointed in 1956, Miss I. O'Connell and Miss J. Devlin, both of whom subsequently trained and came back to serve on our staff.

The year 1951, with Mrs Gibbard as President and Mrs T. C. Smith as Secretary, saw the Council with thoughts turned towards building and with the raising of the requisite sum of £2,000. In appreciation of the services given as President during the teething years, Mrs Ostler was elected as our first life member.

The high lights of 1952 were the opening of the building fund in the Post Office Savings Bank, the joining of Mrs Weston and Mrs



Ruby to the Council, (both later became valuable officers), the procuring of sketch plans as put out by the Education Department, the resignation of Mrs T. C. Smith and the taking over of the secretarial post by Mrs Ruby.

Many and various methods were used by the Committee for fund raising. The selling of building blocks, (1/- donations), a mock "Mayoral" contest, and in 1953, the marathon task of collecting, editing, printing and selling 750 cookery books, and finally a ten-day shop was held, which brought the building fund to the required £2000. In 1955, a building committee was formed with Mr Gibbard, Mrs Ostler, Mr Leatham, then Borough Engineer, and the Executive. When the building fund was standing at £1600, this committee was given permission by the Council to proceed as it thought fit. An architect, Mr West, of Palmerston North, was engaged, and tenders were called, the successful tenderer being Bodell Construction Co., at a price of £5979.

A piano was purchased, the building completed and the new "Kindy" opened for business in February, 1955, with Miss I. O'Connell as director.

Our period of homelessness was ended, but the Council remembered with gratitude the debt it owed Mr and Mrs Fletcher who had acted as liaison between the Coronation Hall Committee and the Council, and to Mr Stokes who had allowed the use of his land as a playing area for six years. Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Gibbard were made life members, as both retired from active participation.

Mr K. J. Holyoake, M.P., officially opened the new building on March 21, 1956. He was very interested to do this, as it was through his intervention years previously that the land had not been used for housing development.

Although this ended the struggles of the Council for its objectives, for the first time in its history, the finances were so badly strained that we had a period "in the red."

Following an alteration in the constitution, men were now invited to join the Council. Mr Leatham and Mr J. Dobson being the first two, later came Mr D. Selby and Mr E. Craig, who became the first male president, holding office for two years, followed by Mr S. Jane in 1959, who still presides at the present date.

Children travelling to and from "Kindy" by bus, crossing the main street even on a pedestrian crossing, has proved a worry to all concerned over the years, and it is with gratitude that we think of the staff of the White Bus Co., whose drivers now personally escort the youngsters over the road.

Many amenities have been added to the building—a concrete apron in front of the building 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, our most recent addition.

A regrettable event has been the resignation of Mrs L. C. Weston, who has left the district after serving our cause faithfully for the last nine years.

So, with much accomplished, we kindergarteners feel proud of the efforts of our forbears in office; in the establishment of such a happy place a useful part has been played in giving service to our community's youth.

## **DARGAVILLE**

This 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 £235 had been raised and a fortnight later £296 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 £1700 had been raised by October, 1954, and £2026 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.

The Association has been fortunate to have at least one trained teacher for most of its history, and sometimes, even during periods of general shortage of staff, it has had two qualified members. The Council, with help from the Mothers' Club, is continuously engaged in money-raising efforts necessary for the maintenance of the kindergarten. In this it has always received most generous support from the town and district.

## **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, who 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.

On 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 the newly-formed Manurewa Establishment Committee were welcomed on the Council of the Association. This committee raised over the necessary £2,000 in less than five months and now awaits permission to build on a section donated by the Manurewa Borough Council.

Sections for second kindergartens in Pukekohe and Papakura have been purchased and donated by the Borough Council respectively. Committees to work for these kindergartens will soon be formed.

As the first group of associations to amalgamate, each separate association felt it was taking a big step but from the benefits gained it has been well worth while.

## 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).

Since then the growth of the kindergarten has progressed slowly. Many improvements have taken place—laying out of grounds, new fences and new equipment. Numbers have increased and the rolls are full with a waiting list. The next project is the building of an outdoor equipment shed, with flat roof, ladder and slide.

## 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 which 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 director, 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 is still the president and the secretary is 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 has ever since been most willing to give advice. The council is also indebted to Miss L. Shaw, who has made regular visits. The Dominion President, Mrs H. Downer, of Rotorua, has 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.

## **GORE**

For some years prior to the opening of our present 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 our own kindergarten. After four years of various fund-raising activities we had obtained the necessary amount required to commence our project.

On the September 3, 1955, our goal had been achieved, and in the presence of past Executive, foundation members and friends, our kindergarten became a reality and was declared opened by Mr T. L. McDonald, Member of Parliament for the District. Among the foundation members present at the opening was Mrs Abby Brown, who is our only Life Member. It was mainly through her untiring efforts that we became an affiliated body with the Free Kindergarten Union. Our progress has been steady over the intervening years and we now look forward to the time when we will devote our endeavours towards the opening of another kindergarten in another part of the town.

## **GREYTOWN CENTENNIAL**

The Greytown Centennial Free Kindergarten was built seven years ago at a cost of £6,000 and officially opened by Mr B. V. Cooksley, M.P. for Wairarapa, on October 1, 1955. The eighteen months between the inaugural meeting and the opening of the building, was highlighted by the raising of £2,500 in six weeks by the community. The first year went ahead successfully, with roll numbers gradually increasing. Since its inception the kindergarten has progressed rapidly, and today is one of the best-equipped in the country, due to the public spiritedness and initiative of the residents of Greytown and surrounding districts. The building, which was designed

to cater for a roll of eighty children was opened with an attendance of fifty. The roll has now reached eighty and there is a waiting list.

Each year a bottle drive and shop day are held to assist with funds for maintenance and equipment. The Mothers' Club controls the shop day, which includes a baby show, and usually results in a turnover of between £80 - £100. The committee is always grateful to the mothers for they put in hours of hard work to make the day a success. The children's Christmas party, mothers' day and fathers' day have proved great attractions and popular events. At the Mothers' Club Christmas party, one can be sure of a good night's entertainment. Last year, thirty of the children and many mothers, were taken by bus on a trip to Wellington, to visit the Seatoun Kindergarten and the Zoo. The children are also taken to visit neighbouring kindergartens, visits which are reciprocated.

Directors and Assistant Directors both trained and untrained, who have served the Greytown Kindergarten since its inception are: Mrs I. Harland, Mrs F. Hickson, Miss I. Marshall, Miss J. Siemonek, Mrs M. Wright, Miss C. Castle, Mrs L. Archer, Mrs E. Pickering, Mrs A. Batty and Miss M. Pukepuke.

## 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 there was a large number of people transferred to the Research Stations, where they were living in flats which had been built for munition 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

**Miss I. M. Jamieson, M.B.E.,  
President of Hamilton Free  
Kindergarten Association  
from 1945 to 1962.**

**Foundation member of  
Christchurch F.K.A.**

**Member of Executive of  
N.Z.F.K.U. 1945 to 1954.**

**Union representative on Ad-  
visory Committee of "Kin-  
dergarten of the Air" 1951  
to 1961.**

**Recognition of Miss Jamie-  
son's outstanding contribu-  
tion to the kindergarten  
movement was made by  
giving her name to the  
Union's overseas scholarship  
and by conferring on her  
Honorary Life Membership  
of the Union.**



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 Miropiko Pa. When the new building opened in 1952, the name was changed to "Miropiko" 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 old 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 February, 1963, both kindergartens celebrated their official openings on the same day. Other committees in Hamilton are working and with the rapid expansion of the city there seems to be no end to the need for pre-school services.

Mention must be made of two 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 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 propose to establish 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, Assistant Pre-School Advisor, were both members of our staff. The greatest honour that we have received was the award of the M.B.E. to Miss I. M. Jamieson, President until 1962, for her services to education.

## 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 a 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 with the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and delegates attended the Conference. The first shop day was held in September and realised £65/16/-.

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 in 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 director's salary was raised to £124 and the assistants to £20. The advisability of engaging a second assistant at £10 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 £400 was quickly collected. A permit to build was sought on 16 April, 1948, but it was not until 25 March, 1949, that final agreement was reached and building commenced. In July, 1950, a local committee was formed to administer the functions of this kindergarten. The first local committee to be formed was at Mahora in August, 1949. The third local committee, Parkvale, was formed in November, 1950, and by early 1951, new kindergartens were functioning in these areas. On 10 November, 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 a local committee formed for Mayfair in a short space of time. Parkvale's building proceeded apace and was opened in 1959. Raureka soon followed in 1961 and Mayfair in 1962. Our sixth kindergarten building is now being worked for and very shortly we hope to be able to commence building Frimley, a local committee having been formed in that area in 1962.

Presidents of the Association have been: Mrs T. H. Lowry, Mrs B. Crompton-Smith, Mrs F. L. Baumgart, Mrs M. J. Bauchop, Mrs Joseph Wilson, Mrs C. P. Hopkins, Mrs L. R. Winter, Mrs R. Stevenson, Mrs E. J. Duff, Mrs G. B. Bonisch, Mr N. Helleur and Mr C. R. Davis.

From that early donation of £3 for chairs the finances of the Association have risen in leaps and bounds until today when assets totalling more than £30,000 are administered and a yearly income in excess of £3500 is earned by Council and local committees.

## **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. Mrs Nimon, the Mayoress, presided. Forty interested people were present and there were speakers from outside associations who outlined the merits of a free kindergarten in the community and the history of the movement in New Zealand. On the motion of Mrs Curley, seconded Mrs Bourgeois, a Free Kindergarten Association was formed in Havelock North.

The first committee included President, Mrs Nimon; Secretary, Mrs Curley; Committee, Mesdames Bourgeois, Mead, Padfield, Person, Brown, Cook, Cotterill, Horton, Farquharson, Milner, Davis, Leicester, Webster, Miller, Atchley, Padman and Cato. These people could be known as the foundation members of the Havelock North Free Kindergarten Association. In October 1952 Mrs Nimon found her duties as Mayoress made it impossible for her to continue as President, and she was elected Patroness, a position she still holds today.

The first Kindergarten Council was as follows: President, Mrs L. G. Bradley, Vice Presidents; Mesdames C. A. Padfield and A. Bour-



geois; Secretary, Mrs M. J. Webster; Treasurer, Mrs N. B. Padman; Committee; Mesdames D. Atchley, D. Brown, M. Cato, R. Horton, A. Farquharson, J. Meade, N. Davis, J. Cok, A. Cotterill and F. Martin, and Dr Margaret Wray.

The first annual report was presented by Mrs Bradley in February, 1953. At this meeting the Association became an Incorporated Society and a constitution was adopted. The late Mr D. A. Rawlinson was elected hon. auditor, and Mr A. M. McNeill, hon. solicitor.

The idea of renting premises was abandoned when it was realised that there was nothing available that would meet the requirements of the Education Department, and, undaunted, the Council set out to raise the necessary capital to acquire a section and erect their own building. For a long period it was an uphill climb—one small triumph would be offset by bigger disappointments. Membership had to be firmly established, money had to be raised—a great deal of money. During the prolonged negotiations for the purchase of a section, capital was slowly and surely being built up. The means of raising it were many and varied. The public of Havelock North became very familiar with these efforts and their support and co-operation helped in no uncertain manner. Regular shop days were held and the group became well-known for the quality of the goods and the moderate prices charged. The goods to stock these stalls were produced at weekly working bees through the long winter evenings, and earlier members look back on those get-togethers with a great deal of pleasure. Friendships were cemented then which exist to this day. Those women had the true community spirit—many of them did not benefit by the opening of the kindergarten but they appreciated its role in a growing borough and were prepared to work hard to achieve it.

One of the most successful money-raising ideas was the organising of annual wastepaper drives. The first one was phenomenal, netting over seven tons of waste paper (some of the periodicals collected dated back to 1912!). On two occasions the drive was combined with a rag collection. The most ambitious effort was a Doll Show which was held for four days and an evening in the Assembly Hall in Hastings. This proved to be an unqualified success and netted over £300. Another effort, successful in every way, was a unique flower show on a major scale, the first to be held in Havelock North. Another "famous first" was a visit from Selwyn Toogood with his "It's in the Bag" show, when the local hall was packed to capacity. A float (again the first from Havelock North) was entered in the Hastings Blossom Festival, a Ball was held, a specially-written Recipe Book was published and sold in large numbers, and concerts and drama performances held in the village all helped to swell the fund. £2000 was needed, this to be subsidised by the Education Department on a £2 for £1 basis.

While this tremendous hurdle was being faced, protracted negotiations were going on for the purchase of a suitable section and erection of the building. Time slipped by, and many children on the waiting list reached the ripe old age of five and went off to primary school, but many other names took their place.

By mid-1956 sufficient progress had been made to enable the kindergarten to function temporarily in the Domain Pavilion, which

## AN APPEAL.

### DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTENS.

(See Picture elsewhere in this Issue.)

As the funds of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association will be exhausted by the end of the current year, the committee feel constrained to make another effort on behalf of the association.

It is now five years since the Record Reign Bazaar was held, when, owing to the generous support of the public, £800 was raised, which has enabled the committee to carry on the two schools ever since without any further assistance.

After 13 years of practical work in connection with the schools, it is the opinion of the committee, as well as of all public men, citizens, and State school teachers who have examined into the merits of the system, that it would be a grievous pity to do away with the schools until such time as the Education Board sees its way to attach a kindergarten room to each State school, as it is such a boon to children, making learning a pleasure, and the children thoroughly practical. The committee therefore make an earnest appeal to the public to once again come to their assistance.

The minimum sum required is £200 per annum, and the committee think this sum could easily be raised if their many friends could see their way to send annual subscriptions. Any amount from 5s upwards will be most gratefully acknowledged by any of the undermentioned members of committee:—

Mrs J. H. Hosking, Maori road, Dunedin.

Mrs G. L. Denniston, Lees street, Dunedin.

Miss Hutchison (treasurer), Queen street, Dunedin.

Mrs W. H. Reynolds (president), Lees street, Dunedin.

The following gentlemen have also kindly promised to wait on business men in the city and friends of the kindergarten, and obtain their co-operation and assistance:—

Mr Jas. A. Park, Mayor of the city.

Mr Jas. Allen, M.H.R.

Mr Mark Cohen, editor Evening Star.

Mr George Joachim, Westport Coal Company.

Mr Wm. Burnett, Royal Terrace.

Mr G. L. Denniston, Bond street.

They worked hard in 1902. £800 from the Record Reign Bazaar! What thoughts are conjured up of mammoth sewing bees, marathon efforts of baking and preserving in that staggering result of ONE bazaar!

And what modest demands they made on the community — five years since a call went out for assistance—and what slender sums (by our standards) were needed to meet the expenses of the "schools." Teachers certainly performed a labour of love, for their salaries were included in the £200 annually required.

When we, heirs to the movement these sturdy pioneers established, feel we are shouldering a heavy burden, let us remember our good fortune to be serving kindergartens in times when all capital expenditure qualifies for a £2 for £1 subsidy, when all salaries, on an approved scale, are met from Government funds, and count our blessings.

"Picture elsewhere" in this issue  
appears on page 70.

the Borough Council rented to the Kindergarten Council for the purpose. Meanwhile further support was given by the Borough Council in assisting the Association to purchase a section on which to build. Plans were drawn up, and after many delays, Government approval was given for payment of a £2 for £1 subsidy towards the cost of a kindergarten to cater for 80 children.

Early in 1957 the building was commenced. Much of the work in preparing the ground for pathways, erection of outdoor equipment and fences, the sowing of grass and planting of shrubs was done voluntarily by energetic members of the Association. After five years of unremitting endeavour by a hardworking and able Kindergarten Council and members of the Association, the beautiful modern building was officially opened on July 27 by Miss Gallagher, Supervisor of Pre-School Services for New Zealand. Other official guests included the Mayor, Mr W. J. Parks and Mrs Parks, the M.P. for Hastings, Mr E. J. Keating and Mrs Keating, and Mrs J. J. Nimon, Patroness of the Association. Yet another milestone had been reached in the life of a growing borough.

There was still work to be done, paths and concreting, but many working bees succeeded in tackling these tasks. The kindergarten continues to cater for 80 children on the active roll; however the borough of Havelock North is growing rapidly, and with it, the waiting list of pre-school children wanting to attend.

In April 1962, at a Special Meeting, the Association split up the duties of the Council, which had operated as Council and local committee together. Men on the Advisory Board, with others, formed a Council, parents of children at the kindergarten formed a local committee, and with the increase in interest, an establishment committee was formed to raise funds for a future building on a new section acquired in the McDuff Block.

This Association, though small, looks forward to expansion of the wonderful work and example set by the founders of this movement in our district.

## 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 Director, with an untrained assistant, received further enrolments over the next few weeks until a full roll of 40 children was obtained for the morning sessions. As we become more-established, the afternoon roll was built up and 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 £600, subsequent improvements in the form of drainage and filling finally increased the cost to nearly £1200. 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 and the protected.

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 Directors 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 and after fourteen years, the Huntly Free Kindergarten 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.

It is a never-ending source of surprise when reading through past minute books to note the procession of names of those who have given so freely of their services and time to make our kindergarten what it is today, a lovely building with sheltered sunny surroundings, well-equipped to provide pleasure for children of the district for the greater part of the year and surely, in this day of crowded living and inadequate playing areas, this need is a real one.

## KAIKOHE

The inaugural meeting to establish the Kaikohe Free Kindergarten Association was held in July 30, 1951, when a committee of eighteen was elected. A canvass of the town for membership yielded 140 members and the sum of £45/1/-.

In spite of a local appeal for £30,000 for a district War Memorial, a fund-raising campaign was vigorously pursued by the Association during 1952. Money was accumulated by running Square Dances, Carol Singing, Street Stalls and by the erection of a large grandstand for the Queen's visit to Kaikohe in January, 1954. This last was the largest and most lucrative undertaking.

An attempt was made to open a kindergarten in the Oddfellows' Hall in 1953, and although this proved unsuccessful, it was to our benefit in the long run. In July, 1953, with a bank balance of £800, a building sub-committee was appointed. In March of the following year, when our funds stood at £1500, an architect was appointed, and when plans were approved, tenders were called in July.

The building was commenced in October, 1954, and the first children attended on February 16, 1955. The Official Opening by Mrs A. F. Johnson, then Dominion President, took place on March 26, 1955. A Parents' Club was established during the opening term.

The Association has been represented at Dominion Conferences each year since its formation. Regional meetings have been attended

in Auckland and local meetings have been held in Kaikohe over the last five years, but amalgamation in this area has been found to be impracticable.

## 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 £1440 in hand, and Mr Weber agreed to stand guarantor at the bank for an overdraft of £850 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. Since then a store shed has been erected, and the area behind the kindergarten sealed and a road formed to allow vehicular access. The road and sealing cost £320.

## LEVIN

On the 30 April, 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 £3000 had been raised. This was an average of £100 per week. The population of Levin at the time was 4,727. The main money-raiser was a Baby Photographic Contest, which produced nearly £1700. The campaign was started with a Nigger Minstrel Show which raised £50 on a Friday night. Other large amounts 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 Centre and the Architect. The land, a section close to the main shopping area, was a gift from the Borough Council to the Kindergarten and Plunket Society jointly.

On the 17 December, 1953, the tender of Messrs Speak and

White for £5512 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 in 1961. The kindergarten was opened to the first ten children in the 20 September, 1954, by Mr Marshall. The rolls were soon built up to 80 in the morning and afternoon classes. There are now 165 children on the waiting list. The first Director was a local girl, Miss B. McMinn, and her assistant was Miss B. Jones. The Chairman of the first committee, Mr D. Tomlinson, is now the Patron of the Association. Mr K. Beyer and Mrs J. Turley have been made life members in recognition of their services to the Association. In the last ten years, despite ups and downs, the hard work of Directors, Association members, Mothers' Clubs and parents has kept the kindergarten open for service to little children.

### LOWER HUTT

The first free kindergarten in Lower Hutt was opened on 27 October, 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.

The Association now has a very energetic committee at Wainuiomata, where there are 2000 children under the age of five years. This committee's name is on the Union's priority list and it is hoped that it will soon be given the "green light."

Credit for the steady growth of Lower Hutt free kindergartens

must go to Miss Hazel Gorrie, Director at Riley Kindergarten for many years and Senior Director 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 and from time to time there have been excellent office-bearers. 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 1000 people. Proceeds have been used for equipment and donations to building funds. In 1963 the total of £85 was handed over to Wainui-o-mata. A further sum is held in trust for a free kindergarten at Avalon, a rapidly-growing area.

In the thirty-six years since the first steps were taken in the Hutt Valley to establish free kindergartens we have received help and advice from members of Parliament and local Municipal Authorities. Mr Walter Nash, our Patron, has been a very good friend, while Mr M. Moohan, M.P. for Petone, has shown great interest in Riley, and Mr P. Dowse, Mayor of Lower Hutt, who had a child attending Woburn, has always been most helpful.

We look forward to continuing our efforts for our Association and for the free kindergarten movement as a whole.

### 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 Director (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 £200 had been raised and the kindergarten opened on March 3, 1950, with Miss Audrey Cooper as Director 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 in 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 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 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.

The Takaro Kindergarten started functioning early in 1959 in a hall. A building site is ready and sufficient finance is to hand. It is hoped that permission to build will be granted in 1964.

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

As with all other associations development and building have been achieved by the work of the parents—the hundreds of cakes, the thousands of raffle tickets, the jumble sales, white elephant stalls, shop days, gala days, films, social and housie evenings, dances, Queen carnivals, etc., represent patient steady effort on the part of the local committees and Mothers' Clubs and parents.

The Association policy in regard to the financing of new buildings is as follows:

The initial sum for City and Milverton Park Kindergartens was mainly raised by the Council and was supplemented by funds raised by the two committees. Once in their buildings the committees were expected to repay to the Association the difference between the sum each had contributed originally and that supplied by the Association. This repayment was to be made as quickly as was possible without prejudicing the maintenance and functioning of the kindergarten. When later committees had raised sufficient to show "sincerity" of effort the Association finances (including the money in all local committees accounts) were reviewed, and when suitable, permission to build or to be put on the waiting list for approval was given.

In the 14 years since the first kindergarten started in a hall this Association has built 6 kindergartens, and has a seventh in a hall as a private kindergarten waiting for permission to proceed with a building programme.

## MARTON

In April, 1949, the Junior Chamber of Commerce formed a sub-committee to investigate the possibility of promoting the formation of a Free Kindergarten Association in Marton. Dr M. Benson was appointed chairman.

On August 4 of that year a public meeting was called in order to elect a Council. The following officers were elected. President: Mrs M. H. Bagot; Vice-Presidents: Mrs Christenson and Dr Benson; Secretary-Treasurer: Mr V. Frost; Patron: Mr I. Barton.



By December, with the help of an energetic committee, and as the result of garden parties, and fire-works display, card evenings, voluntary donations, etc., the Association had well over £200 in hand.

During that time they had also arranged to rent a suitable, but rather old hall in a central position in the main street. A Marton resident Mrs D. Collier, who had trained for kindergarten teaching, in the early 1900's, agreed to act as Director until such time as a permanent one was appointed. With an untrained assistant and a well-equipped kindergarten Mrs Collier enrolled the first 24 children on March 28, 1950, and the roll was gradually brought up to capacity.

The Council still had the task of purchasing a suitable section and raising enough funds to build.

A permanent director, Miss M. Doyle, was appointed in February, 1951, but the kindergarten still had untrained assistants until 1962, when Miss M. Brundell was appointed.

Towards the end of 1951, the local drama group purchased the building and the need was seen to raise funds in a hurry to build. In 1952, a monster Queen Carnival was held and was successful in raising the necessary amount. Several Council meetings followed with the Wanganui Education Board's architect present, and plans were soon finalised.

In July, 1953, the newly-built kindergarten was officially opened. From then on Marton pre-school children have been able to reap the benefit of a well-equipped model kindergarten, equal to any in the country.

From 1956-57 Miss V. Tarrent was director. 1958 Miss J. Stewart. 1959-61 Miss M. Murphy.

Owing to ill health Mrs Bagot resigned from the position as Council President in 1956. Mrs B. Benson took over from her until 1960. The present President is Mr J. Williams.

To date over 1100 children have had their names on the register.

A second committee, set up in 1959, has now reached the stage of preparing plans for a kindergarten to serve the south-east area of the town.

## **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 funds in hand totalled about £2000. This was sufficient to finance the building of West in 1956, after which efforts were concentrated on the accumulation of funds necessary for Lansdowne. With the assistance of a grant from the Masterton Trust Lands Trust and a

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 continue. While the local committee makes progress towards its own target, the Association itself had accumulated funds, totalling £3500 at the end of 1961 and, had it not been for the intervention of the period of consolidation in that year, would have been able to proceed with the submission of a project to the Department of Education.

The Association has used the situation thus created to set about a consolidation of its financial position and to set aside reserves which will meet the cost of future major maintenance. The intention is that, with the earning of interest and fixed annual contributions from local committees, the maintenance fund will be largely self-supporting, and the capital fund for future expansion will be preserved intact.

### MATAMATA

Calling all Association—calling all Associations—this is the voice of Matamata calling—a small Association, but part of the Union, situated on the Matamata plains in the heart of the Waikato, to give a brief history of our “doings” since our birth just ten years ago. We started with hopes high but struck the usual teething troubles which are a part of babyhood. Six months after our inaugural meeting, which was chaired by Miss Jamieson of Hamilton, we 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 £2,000 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 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 £2,000 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 increases daily, with the result, our thoughts have turned to the necessity of a second kindergarten in the not-too-distant future.

Except for one short period we have been fortunate in always having trained staff. Although we set out with the additional attractions of a Matrimonial Bureau Cupid has struck and struck again at members of our staff with the result that Matamata has gained five married ex-kindergarten teachers.

We are proud of our achievements and our kindergarten and an open invitation is given to all to come and see us in our beautiful town.

In conclusion, may we offer Dunedin our heartiest congratulations on this their 75th anniversary and wish them every success in the future.

P.S.—Matamata still has a number of very eligible bachelors.

### MORRINSVILLE

During the period, prior to 1949, a private kindergarten, conducted by Miss M. Williams, who was a trained kindergarten teacher, provided a much-felt want in this town, so much so, that a group of interested parents decided to enquire further regarding the free kindergarten movement.

On May 26, 1949, a meeting of all interested persons was called, and Miss I. M. Jamieson, President of the Hamilton Free Kindergarten Association, very kindly came to Morrinsville and advised those present on the organisation and administration of a free kindergarten. As a result of this meeting, an Association was formed, 31 members enrolled and a Council elected, with Mr J. L. Rodgers as first President. At the first meeting of the Council the constitution was drawn up, and it was decided to canvass the borough for members. This brought the free kindergarten movement to the notice of the public, and although some criticism was met, the effort was well worth-while. Owing to ill health Mr J. L. Rodgers had to resign from the position as President and Mrs E. J. Grose, was elected.

At this stage, the Parish Hall, where the private kindergarten was being conducted was found to be unsatisfactory. Owing to the shortage of trained staff we were unable to progress, as despite repeated advertisements and contacting various local girls in training, we could not secure the services of a trained director. Things were thus at a standstill until 1953.

We set about looking for another building at this time, but with little success, and it was decided that if we were to progress we must get our own site and build. The Borough Council was approached and agreed to the building being erected on portion of Thomas Park where there was playing equipment for children. So we went ahead with raising funds, but when this site was inspected in February, 1955, it was found that it would not meet the Department's requirements. We therefore had to look for a suitable section

and were fortunate in securing land adjacent to the Primary School, which the Department approved. This was purchased in April, for £650, which the Department subsidised £2 for £1.

Then commenced a period of concentrated money-raising, and with the support of the public and a lot of hard work by various committees, we were in the financial position to go ahead with our building programme.

In June, 1955, Mrs H. Downer, of Rotorua, visited Morrinsville and gave the Council much help and advice regarding building procedure. Messrs Pipe, Sargent and Smith and Associates, of Rotorua, were engaged as architects and tenders were called in October, 1955.

Messrs G. & S. Bradley's tender of £4587 was duly accepted and the building was commenced in November and completed the following May.

Miss N. Grace was appointed our first Director and the kindergarten opened for the children on July 9, 1956. Prior to the opening day Miss Christison, Assistant Supervisor of Pre-school services, was in attendance to assist and advise Miss Grace.

The Official Opening by the late Dame Hilda Ross took place on December 8, 1956, and the kindergarten now holds an established place in the hearts of many Morrinsville parents and children.

### **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 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.

Today with the same roll and a waiting list of 190, a second committee is working hard to raise funds for a second kindergarten in the Reid Park Area. They have qualified for a position on the Union's priority list and it is hoped that before long, approval for building will be given by the Minister of Education.

### **MOTUEKA**

Although our Association has only been functioning for nine years and is in its infancy, compared with Dunedin which is about to celebrate its seventy-five birthday, in common with many other we feel our own problems have been many, varied, and at times almost insurmountable, but always a challenge.

Early in 1954, Mrs S. Bassett convened a meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a kindergarten in Motueka as facilities for conducting this 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 director, Miss B. Ayres, and an untrained assistant, Mrs J. Martin, who, but for a short period in 1958, has been with us right through.

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 £2000 above what is 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 and our present Secretary, Mrs J. Reid, who has held the position for four 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, under the capable leadership of Mrs Keith Baker, 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.

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.

## NAPIER - TARADALE

The Napier Free Kindergarten Association was formed on July 12, 1951, at a meeting held in the Napier City Council Chambers. The Association, since July, 1963, called the Napier-Taradale Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated, administers four free kindergartens: Marewa, Carlyle, Mary Richmond (Maraenui), and Taradale. It controls assets in buildings and equipment worth £27,421 and has a site in the suburb of Onekawa where it hopes to build a kindergarten in the near future. It employs a qualified accountant as Secretary, who is also a member of the Executive.

The Association's first minutes read:

"His Worship the Mayor (Mr E. R. Spriggs) presided over an attendance of forty-eight. He stated he had been asked to call a public meeting by a group of enthusiasts with the object of forming a Free Kindergarten Association in Napier. He then introduced Mrs Hopkins (President, Hastings Free Kindergarten Association), and Miss Person (Director of Hastings Kindergartens).

On the motion of Mrs A. P. Spackman jnr., it was resolved that this public meeting of citizens of Napier approves of the formation of a Free Kindergarten Association and agrees to appoint an Interim Committee which shall consider the question of the preparation of a constitution and any other matters considered necessary pending the appointment of a permanent Council."

An Interim Committee was then elected with Miss I. W. Bain, former infant mistress of Nelson Park School, as Chairman. Mr H. Johnson, or simply "Tom" Johnson, was elected Secretary. Mr Johnson is a qualified accountant and is Secretary to the Napier High School Board. In his following 12 years of office, he played a very vital roll in the growth of the Association.

Mr J. R. Price succeeded him in March, 1962.

Mrs F. Kingwell Malcolm, the present President, is the only member of the Interim Committee still serving the Association.

The "group of enthusiasts" were members of the Plunket Mothers' Club, led by their President, Mrs H. Johnson, and their Secretary, Mrs A. P. Spackman, jnr. The Association owes much to the early work of these two women. Both resigned from the Council in 1954, but Mrs Johnson, who had moved to Taradale, returned in 1957 when, with Mrs P. Symons, she organised a local committee to work for the establishment of a free kindergarten in Taradale, again resigning in 1962.

Napier's twin city, Hastings, had just housed its Central Kindergarten in its own building, and this was the incentive which inspired the Napier Plunket Mothers' Club.

The then Mayor, Mr E. R. Spriggs, rightly claims to be the

"Father" of the free kindergarten movement in Napier. His own enthusiasm carried the inaugural meeting, and throughout his years as Mayor, and later as a private citizen, he has helped by his influence and advice, and by many hours of hard work, serving as chairman on fund-raising sub-committees, notably "Boys and Girls Week," and taking actual part in its activities of community service. He has also directed substantial donations to the Association from the Hawkes Bay United Friendly Society Dispensary, amounting to £450.

The Association became an Incorporated Society on December 10, 1951, and at a public meeting called on January 29, elected its first Council. Mrs N. E. McKeever, who joined the Interim Committee in September 1951, was elected the first President in February 1952. She brought 25 years' experience with the Invercargill Free Kindergarten Association, where she had relinquished the Presidency on her husband's transfer to Napier, and many of the early difficulties which beset a new association were thus avoided. Mrs McKeever resigned in June, 1955, and was made a Life Member and later an Honorary Vice President, in recognition of her services.

Mrs E. M. Gabites, from the Ashburton Free Kindergarten Association, also joined the Council in February, 1952, and served as Senior Vice President from 1954, resigning in June, 1963. She also was made a Life Member and Honorary Vice President. Her contribution to the kindergarten movement has been very great.

Within eighteen months of the Association's formation two kindergartens had been established in temporary premises, in the suburbs of Marewa and Port Ahuriri, but sites for permanent buildings were quickly found. At the suggestion of the Mayor, the Marewa Kindergarten was built on the Bedford Road reserve, sharing the site with the Plunket Society. It was decided to move the location of the Ahuriri Kindergarten to the other side of Napier's Hill where it would serve a greater area more conveniently, and a site was procured from the City Council on the Carlyle and Thackeray Streets reserve. In 1954 steps were taken to find sites at Maraenui and Onekawa where no halls were available as temporary premises. Of the four sites obtained, three were granted by the City Council, two on a 99 year lease at a pepper-corn rental. (Terms have not yet been settled for the Onekawa site.) The fourth, at Maraenui, was vested in the Association by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The first donation of £250 from the Hawkes Bay U.F.S. Dispensary formed the nucleus of a building fund, and by 1954 sufficient funds were in hand to build the Marewa Kindergarten.

Mrs F. K. Malcolm, the present President, was elected President in June 1955, having served one year as Vice President; a vigorous programme of fund-raising then began.

With the opening of the Marewa Kindergarten in 1956, greater public recognition and support were given to the movement. Establishment committees were formed successively in Maraenui (Chairman Mrs P. West), Taradale (Chairman Mrs E. Raisey), Onekawa (Chairman Mr C. Anderson), in 1956, 1957 and 1958.

By September, 1957, there was enough money in hand to re-house the Ahuriri Kindergarten which took the name of "Carlyle" and this opened in February, 1959, with Miss Hilary Couchman as director.

The Ahuriri Committee and the three establishment committees

worked with the Council and the Marewa Committee, as well as individually, to raise funds for their buildings. With the larger manpower thus available it was possible to fund raise on a grander scale. In 1957, the President introduced "Boys and Girls Week," a community project to entertain children and young people of all age groups, morning, afternoon and evening during the August school holidays. The Association was quickly asked to join the Napier 30,000 Club and the Retailers' Association, and run the week concurrently with Shopping Week. The honour of winning the title "Girl of the Week" for their candidate was zestfully contested by many organisations. The week grossed £1,272, but expenses were heavy, and a profit of £574 was made. The first terrors of spending hundreds to make hundreds having been overcome, the Association unanimously decided to make "Boys and Girls Week" and Girl of the Week" a yearly event. For the next six years this activity played a great part in its history, yielding altogether a profit of £4,517, and the Association made many friends in other organisations who contributed to kindergarten through entering candidates in "Girl of the Week." These organisations are all proud to feel part of the free kindergarten effort. Those who contributed principally were the H.B. Revue Skating Club, The Napier Wrestling Association, the Napier Skating Club, Napier Deerstalkers Club, the T/Q Midget Car Club, the Napier Youth Club, the Maraenui Maori Women's Welfare League, with many others.

By March, 1961, working drawing and specifications for Maraenui and Taradale had been prepared for the Department's approval and these buildings were completed and opened in the second and third terms of 1962. On each occasion, when the season permitted, there have been tree-planting ceremonies combined with the official openings of the kindergartens.

Maraenui was called "Mary Richmond" through an association of names. Miss Mary Richmond of Wellington is well known in early kindergarten history. The old name for Maraenui was Richmond Block. Mr Bob Kenworthy, chairman of the committee, thought it would be fitting to combine and retain the names.

Throughout its history the Association has been fortunate in receiving substantial donations. Since 1958 it has benefited annually from the Thomas Richard Moore Trust, administered by the McKenzie Trust, by £800. Messrs Malcolm and Sweet, appointed Architects in 1957, have donated £380 by way of rebate on fees, accepting only the Government subsidy. The H.B.U.F.S. Dispensary and other donations have also been of great assistance.

The history of the Association would not be complete without reference to the very helpful visits of Miss Moira Gallagher, Supervisor of Pre-School Services, and the message of encouragement she gives at annual conferences. Nor would it be complete without reference to the work of the Union office and the Executive, wherein lies the future of the movement. It performs an increasingly excellent service.

The thirteenth Annual Report of the Napier Association and the first for the Napier-Taradale Free Kindergarten Association states: As Taradale is a separate borough, and would seem still to remain so, for purposes of unity the change of name was held desirable. Our policy of five kindergartens for Napier and district is now



within sight of accomplishment. A small but active committee was formed at Onekawa last August and we look forward to the opening of a kindergarten in this area in the not-too-distant future.

## 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 in Nelson. 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. Sites for further kindergartens in two rapidly-developing areas have been secured from the Education Board in Richmond and Nayland Road, Stoke.

Kindergarten is a vital and growing movement in Nelson, money-raising still being an incessant necessity, and while proud of the achievement of five kindergartens which are training approximately 400 children, the Council is aware of a continuing challenge to establish further kindergartens until this form of pre-school education is available to every Nelson child whose parents seek it.

## NEW PLYMOUTH

The New Plymouth Free 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. There is every indication that 1964 should see the erection of a new building to serve this district.

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 now controls nine operating kindergartens.

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

Two other Committees, Bell Block and Marfell are affiliated to

the Association and both are actively engaged in raising funds for their buildings. The Association is proud of what has been achieved and of those who have done so much to make these achievements possible. The Association has been fortunate through the years to have had many able and willing people working for it. There are many who have given much to assist the kindergarten movement in New Plymouth and district, but there are three whose record of service is worthy of special note. Firstly, Mr E. J. Stone who is at present serving his eighth term as the Association's President, secondly, Mr J. Renwick who was on the Council eleven years, ten of these as Secretary-Treasurer to the Association and thirdly Mr J. Stewart, now of Auckland, whose energy and inspiration were responsible for the actual formation of the Association in New Plymouth.

No city and district could have had more loyal and enthusiastic supporters, nor have put more time and foresight in interesting and securing girls for kindergarten training, which effort has been well repaid in the large percentage 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 kind advice and help over the whole period of the Association's 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 £1765, 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.

So far, we have always had the services of a trained director, but only for short periods, until this year, have we been able to attract two trained teachers.

### **OAMARU**

In the year 1950, Oamaru, North Otago's charming country town pursued its more or less pacific life. At a quick glance it seemed that provision for a full life was made for everybody. Yes, that is how things seemed, but some very important people had been forgotten and neglected. I mean the 3 to 5 years group. Many of them had no place to play, no chance for companionship and in some instances roadways had playing therein as many as 54 pre-school children. Still the public conscience lay unperturbed—kindergartens in every town but the pulse rate ran very low for kindergartens in Oamaru. "Not wanted here" was the general attitude until a small

group of very determined women decided to breach the stone wall of indifference and antagonism.

No easy task, but once a start was made, things began to hum. Mrs Hilda Gardiner, sympathetic to every worthwhile cause, became interested in the project and before long was indeed a forceful champion of the Association. Members have come and gone, but Mrs Gardiner, truly our "Rock of Gibraltar" through the years, is still thinking, planning and working, visualising when the time is ripe, two more kindergartens to keep pace with our growing town.

Sights were set high at an enthusiastic meeting when it was decided to place a kindergarten at each end of the town. Hands were really set to the plough. Space does not permit and indeed detail becomes boring so we touch only some of our stepping stones. Mrs Laney was the first secretary, which position she held until the finance and growing stature demanded proper office facilities handling masses of correspondence and accounted balance sheets. As Mr and Mrs C. F. Jones had come from the kindergarten stronghold of Christchurch, they were strongly aware of Oamaru's need.

Mr Jones remained the secretary through all those difficult years of negotiations, and though we were an obstinate team, and must often have been anathema to the Education Department in Wellington, one feels sure that his meticulous secretaryship was instrumental in giving a reputation at Headquarters for clarity, energy and steadfastness of purpose.

Our first move, when we became financial, was to buy sections, but strangely these were never used, owing to the fact that two or three people outside our orbit became interested and made approaches which quite altered our plans. The present McCulloch kindergarten was a sound old-type spacious home, recently vacated by Dr. Aitken and owned by a Mr Harris, in his early days a student in Dunedin and a contemporary of the president of that time. Knowing her aspirations and being to some extent "sympatico" he offered this property for a South Hill Kindergarten at what he considered a sympathetic value.

Now this was exciting, though not really what the Association visualised but having been on the "begging and making" market for some considerable time, the feeling was strong, that it was time we gave service somewhere. This decision touched off a battle with the Department and our much-appreciated, and helpful Miss Moira Gallagher, who really did not want to recommend the subsidy on Mr Harris' house as she, rightly, visualised a new modern building.

Named "McCulloch" this old house is quite different in personality from the new "Casa Nova" but has through the years kept many children safe, happy and healthily occupied and has been a boon to hundreds of mothers, who find their children needing company of their own age group. The next phase—a new and modern kindergarten for the "North End."

We now flash-back to the other section in the north end, bought after much deliberation—a portion of what perhaps is still known as the Cherry Orchard, and very desirable it appeared.

Here again, from outside our circle, steps in some one who has been quietly watching from the side lines and thinking of kindergarten welfare—the Rev. Taylor of the North End Methodist Church, who generously offered the practically new little Sunday School, on

the corner of Thames Highway and Arundel Street for use as a kindergarten. After due deliberation we declined, as at that time it seemed too far out of town, and quite a distance from Cherry Orchard, which we chose for its central position.

Quote from Oamaru Mail:

"Once again Rev. Taylor offered the Council the use of their new Oamaru stone Hall, rent free for five years to be used as a kindergarten. This thoughtful and extremely generous offer was unsolicited and demonstrates a keen awareness of the needs of young families and a determination to render a community service where possible. The kindergarten will, of necessity, be a small one restricted probably to 30 children, but it will be good to make an early start. The Kindergarten Council has been steadily gathering equipment and furnishings and it has been decided to have a garden and produce stall on the annual street day, the proceeds of which will be used to purchase a reasonably efficient piano."

In our History Book is the "Obituary" per local paper of the Cherry Orchard as far as kindergarten was concerned. "This section is not now to be used as a kindergarten site but is to be subdivided for sale as a grant of land from the Education Department on Casa Nova has been accepted by the Kindergarten Council."

From our scrap book:

"North End volunteers, February, 1952. The Arundel Street Kindergarten presented an industrious appearance from about 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. on Saturday. A concreting plant under the capable supervision of Mr C. E. Crisp, who was assisted by a band of volunteer workers, made great progress with the paved playing area, while kindergarten council members and fathers and mothers of prospective pupils raked and sieved that bugbear of all cultivators, couch."

Thus in February, 1952, under the name of Arundel Kindergarten the opening took place.

Here mention was made of this fact—over £3,000 made and collected in 2 years where average rate throughout New Zealand was £150 per annum at that time. National conference recognised top collections of £7,500 in 5 years though that could now, possibly, be challenged. Thus through the generosity of the Methodist Church kindergarten work actually started first at the north end with a full roll and a waiting list, which position has remained static.

At Arundel Kindergarten many good people helped with making necessary furniture, etc., and Mr Crisp headed a team of men in making a large playing concrete area, whilst others did gates and fences and good neighbours helped with the grounds, etc. A store-room built by Mr Samuelson and Mr White was very necessary as all equipment had to be cleared to leave the Sunday School ready for week-end service. With this kindergarten functioning smoothly, the Association was able to concentrate on the work at McCulloch, which was really a task of great magnitude.

The greater part of this house had to be converted to open plan and Mr Grenfell our architect, supervised and blue printed everything which had to go to Wellington for approval. Hitches and hold-ups were the order of the day and correspondence voluminous. A major task indeed was the concrete terrace at the east side, with steps down to the grass terrace, but we were heavenly blessed by

the Gillies family making an offer to bring their heavy duty machinery, and once the filling was done they undertook to flow cement mix and do the whole area in one Saturday.

To trim the story down two kindergartens, first Arundel, then McCulloch were functioning within two years. The latter was opened to children on May 20, 1952, and the official opening was planned for three weeks later, but pressure of business carried the Association on to the next stage of their plan and the kindergarten was never officially opened.

The next stage was to fulfil the pledge to build a kindergarten at Casa Nova.

Here one must step back to explain the switch over from "Cherry Orchard" to "Casa Nova". Once again a watching from the side lines, a thoughtful person, Mr James Gerrie who conceived the idea of applying to the Education Department for a part of the Casa Nova School area, which would cost nothing and permit us to sell Cherry Orchard which monies, subsidised 2 to 1, would be a great lift towards the £2,000 necessary for the new kindergarten building. After miles of correspondence this came to pass and though we were a trifle reluctant to go out so far, time has proved Mr Gerrie to be a man of vision. Plans, drawn up by Mr E. W. Grenfell, architect, of Oamaru, were approved, the necessary money was in the kitty and the Hon. R. M. Algie approved the grant of the subsidy. Tenders were received, contract let and the building started immediately.

Estimated to have cost £5,000 the new kindergarten on the Casa Nova school site was opened by Mrs Johnson, President of N.Z.F.K.U. on December 1, 1954, replacing the Methodist Church Hall in Arundel Street. So after four years of high endeavour the Oamaru Kindergarten Association owned two kindergartens, a feat recognised in the kindergarten world, as a remarkable achievement.

It would be good if one could here render thanks to the many Oamaru organisations and individuals who so surely helped this organisation on its busy and determined way. That is impossible but the public can be assured that it is not a case of "eaten bread, soon forgotten." Outside of Oamaru we had much advisory help from the Dunedin Kindergarten Association, in matters of policy and procedure, and our young Association could well be regarded as a "little sister" so much did we look to Dunedin whose personnel never failed us.

Up-to-date, here are the Association Presidents: Mesdames Edna C. McCulloch, Hilda B. Gardiner, Janet McCallum, Joan Gillies, Vera McCallum and Jean Spear.

## OPOTIKI

The Opotiki Free Kindergarten Association was formed at a meeting held in July, 1954. Interest was keen, and a Council of eighteen women was appointed, with an Advisory Committee of five men. It was hoped at first to hire a hall as temporary premises, as it was felt that there would be greater financial support if a kindergarten was operating. However, it was soon found that no local organisation wanted its hall to be booked for five days every week, and the difficulties proved insurmountable. The Council, therefore, resolved to make every effort to raise the necessary money as soon as possible, and provide a permanent building.

Mrs H. Downer, who at that time was a member of the Kindergarten Union Executive, came to a Council meeting in Opotiki and gave an overall picture of the kindergarten movement in New Zealand, besides giving much encouragement and the answer to many problems. It is perhaps understandable that the Committee were so absorbed in money-raising at first they rather tended to lose sight of the aims and ideals of the kindergarten movement, and it was not until a delegate went to the Kindergarten Conference in 1958 that a wider view of the ultimate aim was gained.

Successful application was made to the Housing Department for a section which was of great assistance and ideally situated, being near both the primary school and Opotiki College. Capital built up slowly, but when within sight of the target there came into effect the consolidation scheme which shortage of staff had forced on the Education Department. Although soon on the priority list, we found that costs had risen considerably and by the time permission to build was received it became necessary to raise more money. However, this was finally accomplished and after many frustrating delays tenders were called.

While it was a great thrill to see the building going up, it was soon found that there were many difficulties to be overcome, and it was only with the full co-operation of the whole Council, the Education Department, the architect and builder, that the building was finally completed and equipped, and the first children admitted in March 1961. It was officially opened by Mrs H. Downer, President of the Kindergarten Union, in April, 1961, being the second kindergarten to open in the Rotorua-Bay of Plenty area, the first first being the Helen Downer Kindergarten at Rotorua, established some years earlier.

Over the years a great deal of help has been received from Regional Conferences held chiefly in Rotorua. Nevertheless, it was decided not to amalgamate with other Associations in the district to form the Bay of Plenty Kindergarten Association. Meetings with them were held during a trial period of six months, but it was felt that distance precluded the possibility of frequent meetings, and rather regretfully it was decided to remain a separate Association.

Fortunately there have been no staff troubles during the time the kindergarten has been in operation, and as the value of pre-school education has been realised its popularity has grown immensely.

## PAHIATUA

Just after the war, in 1946, a young local Mangamutu girl, Miss Margaret Eising, (now Mrs T. T. Dunleavy), a trained kindergarten director, approached the Young Mothers' Club of Pahiatua at a meeting held at the residence of Mrs Touhy, Huia Street, requesting the possibility of starting a private kindergarten in town.

With the guarantee of 20 pupils in February, 1947, Miss Eising opened up her kindergarten at the Oddfellows hall in Tui Street. She proved a most successful director, the children loved her and the town watched with joy the youngsters out for a walk—each one holding tight to the piece of rope and, oh, what tragedy when the pet lamb in the grounds died of hemlock poisoning!

However, there were great difficulties in running a kindergarten in a hall which is always being used by others and in April, 1949,

some very far-seeing people called a public meeting, which was chaired by Mrs S. K. Siddells and the Pahiatua Free Kindergarten Association Inc. was formed and affiliated with the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union.

His Worship the Mayor (the late Mr S. J. Judd) was the first patron and Mrs E. H. Cluer the first President. Mrs Dunuleavy's kindergarten was taken over by the association and Miss A. Hansen (now Mrs Fogden) was appointed as her assistant.

The Kindergarten Mothers' Club was also formed. It is an essential organisation and is very active socially and in money-raising activities.

Now the money raising began with the view of building a bright new kindergarten. The citizens of Pahiatua at that time were running a Queen carnival for the Community Centre and the Association benefited a great deal from this.

A building committee was formed and this is where our builder, Mr J. S. Sandman, came to the fore and after much conferring with the Education Department, elaborate plans were modified and with the two to one subsidy there was now £500 to raise.

Stock drives, paddy's markets and shop days were in full swing. The Association was very grateful for donations from McCarthy and Hopwood trusts, the local Jaycees and the Rotary Club.

By October, 1950, a section had been purchased and put in order and plans were well ahead for the new building. The first council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27, 1951. There were still lots of teething pains but the building was officially opened by Mr K. J. Holyoake, M.P., in October, 1951. The other room was added at a later date when finance permitted.

Of course, Miss Eising was married by then and staff have since come and gone but Pahiatua has been most fortunate in her directors and assistants and has also played a big part in recruiting girls to go and train for this most interesting vocation.

There have been many willing people serve on the kindergarten council and Mothers' Club, too numerous to mention each one personally, but they have done so much for the benefit of their children and the advancement of pre-school education.

One I must quote is Mr J. Sandman who served locally for many years, was elected to the executive of the Union, and served two very full years advancing the kindergarten movement.

Mrs E. H. Cluer, now residing in Wellington, played a very prominent part and is still a very keen worker in the city. Someone else, too, who is most worthy of praise is our present patron, Mr Kirkby Taylor, who, in his quiet and efficient manner was a tower of strength and a most valued worker right from the beginning to the present day. Past presidents have been Mesdames Cluer and Riddell, Messrs K. Taylor, J. Sandman and Macmillan.

Today Pahiatua can boast one of the most up-to-date kindergartens in the Dominion—everything possible is there to attract every child in his or her type of play. There is certain discipline of course, and plenty of supervision.

It is good to see country mothers bringing their children in and making the most of the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon sessions.



## PAREMATA

The inaugural meeting of the Paremata Free Kindergarten Association was held on November 29, 1949. Mrs Chown was responsible for arousing the interest of the public, and 26 enthusiastic people attended that first meeting. Mrs Barnard, secretary of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union at that time, addressed the meeting and gave the newly-formed committee the necessary information on the steps to take to establish a kindergarten. She suggested a preliminary target of £300 to be raised, after having obtained the Department of Education's sanction, to open the kindergarten in the Paremata Hall.

During the next year, much was achieved. Although permission was granted to use the hall, provided certain amenities were added, the committee began straight away to look for a permanent site. By Christmas 1950, the target of £300, had been well exceeded. A two-day bazaar provided £250 towards the funds, and that was the culmination of a strenuous money-raising programme, including a jumble-sale, a Punch-and-Judy Show, a Garden Party, and numerous raffles. The fathers had given up much of their time to make the hall suitable for use as a kindergarten. There were now 40 financial members of the Association. Most important of all, a director had been appointed to start in the New Year.

The kindergarten was opened in February, 1951, with an average attendance of 25 children. In June of that year, the Mothers' Club was formed, and they agreed to be responsible for all the money-raising.

Early in 1952, after all available sites had been studied, the Marine Department was approached regarding lease of land on the fore-shore next to the Plunket Rooms. This seemed the most suitable site, provided the Highways Board were not planning alterations to the existing road. The Ministry of Works was consulted and was agreeable to allow use of the site, provided buildings were kept half a chain from the edge of the existing road. About this time, a lot of work was being done around Paremata, widening and improving the highway, so it was possible to get all the filling for the site at very low cost.

1953 was the beginning of a difficult period. The director had resigned, and as repeated advertising brought no results, the local untrained assistant took over, with the assistance of several mothers, and from the beginning of the second term, the local association was obliged to put aside all thought of swelling the building fund, and concentrate on endless money-raising functions to keep the kindergarten going by paying our temporary director's salary, paying hall rent, and preparing the site for building. Also it was necessary to build up the roll before the Department would grant permission to establish a permanent kindergarten building.

Fortunately, the services of a trained director were obtained at the beginning of 1954, and gradually the roll was increased. The time was now ripe to plan a permanent building, and in November, tentative arrangements were made to hold a "Queen Mother" contest. So in 1955, in May and June, a successful carnival produced the sum of £1500. Also in that year we had a fully-trained staff and the Department of Education granted permission to proceed with plans for the building. A special concession was made for a 25 child kinder-

garten on the understanding that we add another room at a not-too-distant date. As this was a growing area, we were confident that it would not be many years before we had 40 children at each session.

The Paremata Free Kindergarten was ready for occupation at the beginning of 1957, but was not officially opened until the following year. The new room was added in 1961, bringing the building up to the standard of a Grade 1 Kindergarten.

## **PUTARURU**

On April 22, 1954, a public meeting was held in Putaruru to consider forming a Kindergarten Association and later, the building of a kindergarten. This move met with enthusiasm and 21 people were nominated to the first Committee and the funds by the end of the evening were £14/5/-.

Many and varied money-raising schemes were discussed during the next year and in September, 1955, the building was commenced.

An Art Union, with the first prize a pedal car, was very successful, as were fancy dress parties, fashion parades, stalls and film evenings.

The climax was a Queen Carnival. This was well supported and all were delighted with the precision, colour and pageantry attendant on the coronation of the Princess.

The second Annual General Meeting of the Association was a triumph for the hard-working committee as it was held in their own kindergarten, somewhat austere but very real, in May, 1956.

As trained staff were not available, the prospect of opening a private kindergarten was discussed. However, the appointment, in August, 1956, of Miss Diana Newton as director solved that problem. With an untrained assistant the first session was held on Tuesday, September 11, 1956.

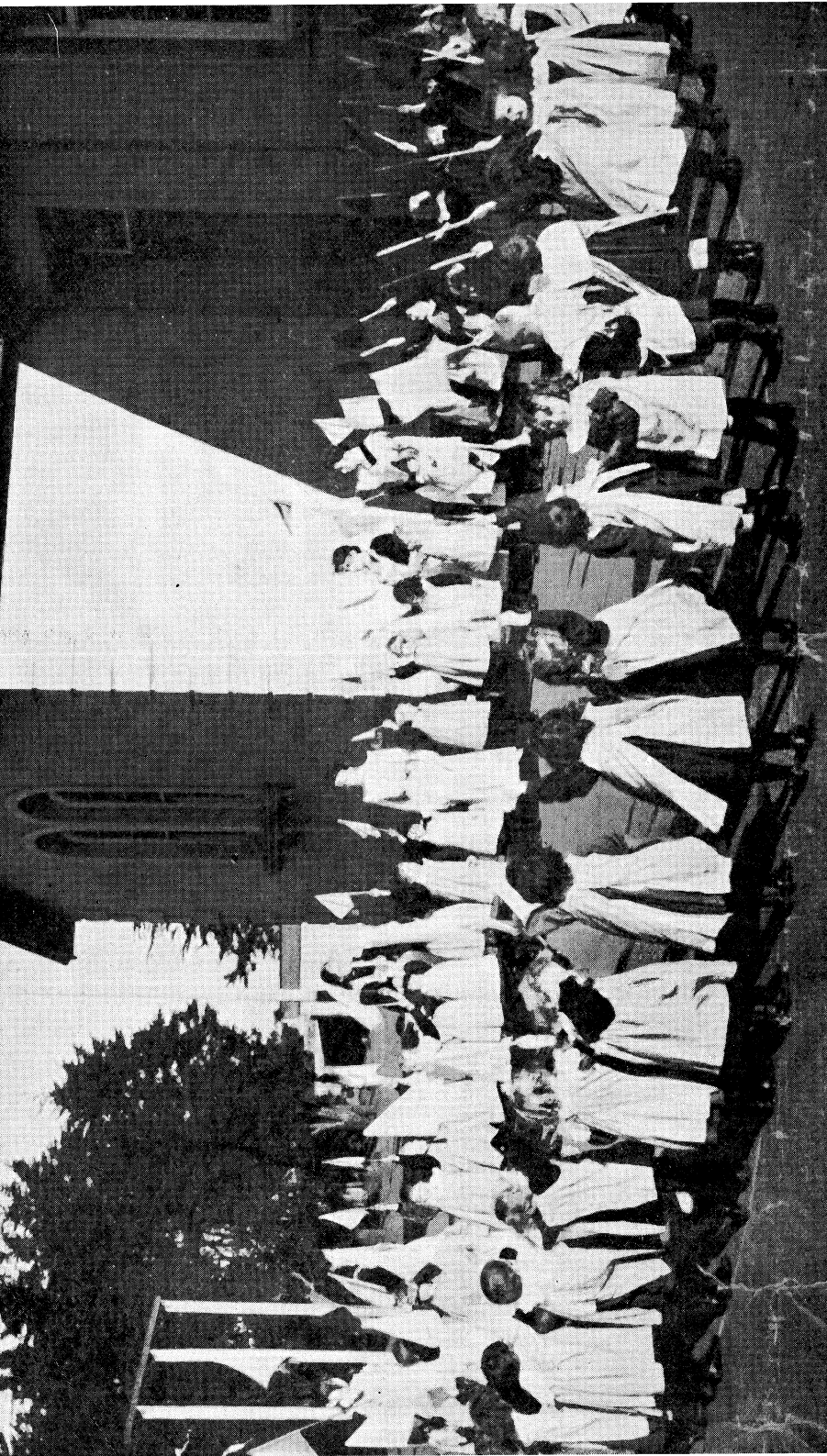
The following year, on April 13, the kindergarten was officially opened by Dame Hilda Ross, M.P.

On this occasion the Mothers' Club provided afternoon tea and through the year worked tirelessly for the kindergarten, to such an extent that, in December, they were able to purchase a piano for the children's enjoyment.

The coffers of the Association have waxed and waned considerably over the ten years of its existence but today we have a delightful building, well equipped, staffed by devoted young women and the centre of many young lives in this prosperous town. We have a waiting list of 125 children and already dream of the day when we can open another kindergarten.

## **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. Cruickshanks, later Mrs A. Walker (both deceased), 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 were enthusiastic about these ideas, the Government was not



Children at Kindergarten in Dunedin in 1902.  
"Flag Drill to Music."



Children at Kindergarten—1964.  
Anywhere in New Zealand.



Children at Kindergarten—1964.  
Building a Station.

so sure and was little inclined to give the people of Invercargill a grant to start a kindergarten.

The women however, were not daunted, but 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 (deceased) of the Dunedin Association, presided, and a Council and a Men's Advisory Board was 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. (To the best of my knowledge, Mrs McKeever is the only living member).

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 they procured their first property. Sir Robert brought 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 1933 the parents of South Invercargill, with £30 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 director 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 director for Liddell Street, and Miss Burton of Dunedin was chosen.

The land around Liddell Street was becoming more and more industrialised and the roll number was beginning to fall away, and as the Liddell Street building was a public hall, it was both unsanitary and costly to maintain, so the Council and the committee decided to remove to a more central position. The committee purchased a section in Bowmount Street south, for about £50.

In 1931 the Bowmount 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 Bowmount

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 director'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 reflected 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 the 26 May, 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 Mother's 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 itself 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 director.

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 £165.

1939—The new Mitchell Street Kindergarten was opened with £900 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 from 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 the 10 March, 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 substitute 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, 2 May, 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 £250, 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 £375, and a committee appointed to carry out the arrangements.

1952—On 11 March, the Invercargill Free Kindergarten Association (Inc.), 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 Aldrige 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 the Invercargill Association resulting in the change of name to the Southland Free Kindergarten Association.

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

Life Members: Council—Miss B. Selby, Ritchie Street, Invercargill. Miss E. Hanan, Tay Street, Invercargill.



Mesdames: L. W. Foster, 11 Conon Street, Invercargill, H. P. Semmons, Dalrymple Street, Invercargill. E. Shepherd, Nith Street, Invercargill. E. V. McKeever, 45 Cameron Road, Napier. B. F. Eastlake, Elles Road North, Invercargill. B. B. Jones, Dee Street, Invercargill. H. M. Rout, 289 Chelmsford Street, Invercargill. E. Campbell, Collingwood Street, Invercargill. N. L. Robertson, Arthur Street, Invercargill. J. R. Sutton, Crinan Street, Invercargill. C. Walker, 126 Pomona Street, Invercargill. (Miss Isacss). J. Gilbertson, Mitchell Street, Invercargill. A. H. Aldridge, M.B.E., 59 Bowmont Street, Invercargill.

## SOUTH TARANAKI

The opening of Pata Street branch kindergarten (then known as Hawera Free Kindergarten) five and a half years ago, was the culmination of several years' hard work by a vigorous committee.

From the opening date the kindergarten was directed by Miss B. Sanford with Mrs Cave as the assistant, and this combination maintained a very high standard with a full roll and a very formidable waiting list.

At the end of four years Miss Sandford left to take up training of deaf children, and Mrs Cave assumed temporary control for a period until eventually, Miss G. Nicholas was appointed and once again Mrs Cave became assistant.

During the latter part of 1961 a South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association was formed and the area embraced the southern portion of the province from and including Stratford, Opunake, south to include Patea.

In Stratford there are two established kindergartens—Avon, a new building, and Cloton Road, which is operating in an old building adapted for kindergarten purposes. Both these committees have worked hard over the years to establish and maintain these kindergartens, and their efforts reflect great credit on the committees themselves.

An establishment committee in Eltham realised their dreams in 1961 when their building programme was approved at the Annual Conference in Christchurch. The new kindergarten was ready to open in the first term of 1963.

An active committee is working strenuously in Tawhiti, Hawera, where second kindergarten is proposed.

At Patea a committee is about to form to raise money for a kindergarten, as all the necessary surveys have been carried out by the local Jaycees, to satisfy the Department that a kindergarten is warranted.

Much of the early work of kindergarten establishment must be credited to Mrs Margaret Smith, a one-time school teacher, who, while first resident in Hawera, established a private kindergarten at her own home. When Hawera began its own free kindergarten in the Methodist Hall, Mrs Smith's knowledge of procedure contributed largely to the success of the venture.

When amalgamation of associations was recommended by the Union, Hawera formed the South Taranki Free Kindergarten Association, and, in the first instance, incorporated Hawera (changed name to Pata Street), and the committees of Eltham and Tawhiti, the Association Committee being: Councillors: M. Lester, C. Burnette,



M. Smith. Committee: R. H. Perkins, I. J. Doyle, W. Herman, A. J. Thomas, L. J. Busch, A. I. McGrath.

At the annual meeting in 1962 Stratford amalgamated with South Taranaki, with Avon and Cloton Road committees becoming members. Patea establishment committee has since joined the South Taranaki Association also.

The kindergarten movement in Stratford was first sponsored by the Stratford Junior Chamber of Commerce in the late 1940's. The Association was incorporated on August 1, 1950, following its formation and the adoption of Constitution and Rules. Recognition of the Cloton Road Kindergarten was received on February 9, 1951.

Over the first few years funds increased steadily, and by 1955 consideration was being given to the establishment of a second kindergarten in the southern area. In August, 1956, the Assistant Director of Education approved a site on Avon Street, and a building fund account was started. However, it was not until August, 1959, that the Association instructed an architect to draw plans for the new kindergarten on this site. In October, 1959, Education Department approval was given to erect a new building.

Following the calling of tenders in September, 1960, and after a number of delays, the contract was signed in May, 1961, the building being completed in November, 1961, and opened on March 13, 1962. Recognition was obtained from March 6, 1962.

Future plans provide for a new building in the northern area to replace Cloton Road Kindergarten which operates from part of the old Stratford Primary School.

At the present date there are four operating kindergartens in South Taranaki Free Kindergarten Association: Pata Street, Hawera; Avon, Stratford; Cloton Road, Stratford; Eltham. Two Establishment Committees: Tawhiti-Hawera; Patea.

## **TAIHAPE**

The Taihape Free Kindergarten Association was born of the wishes of a few parents of pre-school children in the town. A nursery play centre, in operation two mornings a week, was grossly overcrowded, and it was felt that a child centre, in its own building, with properly trained staff, catering for 80 children, was what was needed.

1957, June 20—A public meeting called by Jaycee to investigate the possibilities of having a kindergarten in Taihape. The meeting was addressed by Mrs Keys and Mrs Haylock who spoke most enthusiastically and helpfully, with the result that a motion was passed to form a Kindergarten Association and a Council of 20 was elected. Of that first committee the Secretary has served continuously since. This committee set as its goal, the raising of £1000 and the opening of a morning kindergarten by February, 1958. Both these goals were achieved. The Railway Hall was obtained, the Council painted its interior, prepared a lawn, concrete paths, fences and gates, bought £400 worth of equipment and engaged a trained director.

1958, February—Kindergarten opened by Mr N. Shelton in Railway Hall. May—First site for building chosen by Council. June—Mothers' Club formed. August—Association was incorporated. September—Jumble Sale raised £150. President and Secretary attended Conference, and the Association has been represented at

Conference ever since. November—Decorated Tables raised £260. December—Town Hall Fair raised £220.

1959, March—A mongol child was admitted to kindergarten and experienced much benefit. October—Raffle made £50 and a weekly raffle approximately £10 per week. December—Mrs H. Downer visited the Taihape Association, spoke on kindergarten affairs, and answered questions. Her visit gave valuable stimulus to the Association.

1960, February—First site having been not approved by Education Department President with members of Borough Council viewed a site in the Mt. Stewart Reserve in Mataroa Road. March—Mothers' Club Shop Day raised £80. April—Miss Gallagher visited the Mataroa site and gave her approval. May-June—A Queen Carnival, inaugurated by Kindergarten Association, sponsored by Jaycee, raised £10,000 of which Kindergarten was allocated £2,300 and was able to be put on the waiting list. October—Approval for the kindergarten site was received from the Minister of Lands. November—A second house-to-house survey was done at the request of the Education Department to ensure sufficient children available.

1961, February—Play centre supervisor was in charge of the kindergarten from Term 1. February—Sargent and Smith and Partners engaged as architects and met with Council to discuss plans. May—Preliminary plans received from Architect. A further period of "Consolidation," situation to be reviewed again in September. September—Bottle Drive raised £65. Taihape Association, along with 14 others, given permission to proceed with building plans. November—Shop Day, £24, Jumble Sale £40, Raffle, £20.

1962, February—Final plans received from Architects and forwarded to Education Department. May—Refreshment stall at Picnic Race Meeting raised £35. Education Department authorised Association to call tenders. Carnival Trust monies of £2,300 placed in Building Fund Account. July—Bottle Drive £40. Contract signed with builder for erection of kindergarten. November—First of three public meetings necessary for recognition held. Addressed by Mrs Keys. Jumble Sale £50. Kindergarten was represented with valour, at a swimming carnival to raise money for a filtration plant, the relay team of four having between them a total of 17 children. December—Miss Margaret Bennett visited Taihape and spoke with the Council, giving much welcome advice and instruction. Second public meeting was held, addressed by President, Manawatu Association and Adult Education Ttuor.

1963, February—Miss Gillian Urwin of Raetihi was engaged as director. March 18—First children were admitted. Miss Bennett addressed third meeting. March 31—Kindergarten was officially opened, by the Minister of Customs, the Hon. N. L. Shelton, in the presence of Mrs H. Downer, Miss Bennett, the Mayor and guests.

Since this date, jumble sales, bottle drives, shop days are still being held as before. Kindergarten equipment is steadily being built up, Mothers' Club functions well, and the Director and her assistant give wonderful service. The morning roll is full, the afternoon fluctuates a little, and there is a large proportion of Maori children attending. Three Maori members serve on the Council of the Association. The present Council is largely composed of parents of children attending kindergarten, whilst several older members continue to give stalwart service to the movement.

## TAUMARUNUI

In May, 1959, 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 to 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 Wack-row Streets. Miss Marion Burmeister was the first Director to enjoy its use. It was officially opened by the Hon. Hilda Ross, 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."

## TAWA

Tawa is a district some 15 miles north of Wellington, and until 1945 consisted mainly of farm lands with a few houses. With the post-war development, along with many other smaller places, Tawa expanded until the 1951 census showed a population of 2429. It was at this time that a group of residents decided there was need for some form of pre-school service in the district, and they called a public meeting at which a committee was set up to raise the necessary money. It was an uphill battle for the committee to raise £2000. However, by holding cake stalls, raffles, catering for local functions and many other ways, by December, 1954, their object was achieved, and the first kindergarten was officially opened in November, 1955.

In May, 1959, a group of residents in the northern area of Tawa met and formed the Linden Committee which duly affiliated with Tawa Association. In April, 1962, their name was added to the Union's priority list. They are in the process of sending working drawings to the Department and we hope to see their building erected in 1964.

In April, 1961, a group of residents of the rapidly-expanding

Borough of Porirua formed a committee and affiliated with the Tawa Association. This is one of the largest State Housing areas in New Zealand with a population of approximately 17,000, and growing continuously. Their name was put on the priority list early in 1964.

In October, 1963, a group of residents in the north of Tawa called a meeting and formed a committee for a second kindergarten in Tawa. As the 1963 census showed a population of 7950 there is a need for yet more kindergartens, so the Tawa Association have quite a job ahead of them to cater for the needs of the community.

## 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-necessary 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 when our delegate was so fired with enthusiasm that an all-out effort was made to raise £2,500. 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. £2,500 has since been placed on fixed deposit in the bank and is earning valuable interest whilst we eagerly await 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 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 have it so placed that sessions will be able to be maintained during 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 are borne solely by the committee's money-raising activities.

"D" day came for us in May, 1963, when we received an in-

vation to submit our sketch plans for Minister's approval. At the moment we are still awaiting completion of these plans and subsequent permission to carry them out.

### **TE AWAMUTU**

This Association was formed at a public meeting on 30 June, 1954. The convenors of the meeting, Mrs R. Illingworth and Mrs J. R. Cuthbert were elected President and Secretary of the first committee which raised over £500 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 the town was approved by the Department for a second kindergarten. Since then a committee has been working to raise funds for the future Te Awamutu East Kindergarten, and has reached its target.

Only once, in 1956, has the Association been without trained staff, and relations with the staff have always been most harmonious.

A third Committee, at Kihikihi, a few miles south of Te Awamutu, has steadily raised funds for a permanent building and at the same time has operated a private kindergarten. Kihikihi, like Te Awamutu East, now holds a position on the Union's priority list and looks forward to the day when permission to build will be granted.

### **TE KUITI**

At a public meeting held on 19 April, 1961, it was resolved to form a steering committee to commence activities to raise funds for the establishment of a Free Kindergarten in Te Kuiti. Mrs H. Downer was guest speaker at this inaugural meeting where Mr Don McLennan was elected as convener of the steering committee.

The Education Department was duly informed that the Te Kuiti Free Kindergarten Association had been formed, and on 10 May, 1961, the Association held its first meeting. One year later we were able to apply for a place on the priority list for building grants.

Permission to begin sketch plans was given in 1963. These have been prepared and completed for us by Sargent and Smith and Partners. It is to be hoped our Association will be asked to call for tenders in March of this year, 1964.

## 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 £55 in January, 1955, to £616. In those 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 1953.

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.

We are very happy that cordial relations are still maintained with our former staff members, several of whom have married and live in other districts.

Considerable labour and expense were incurred at the three halls to make them acceptable for kindergarten work, but this, coupled with our efforts in times of staffing difficulties and that we managed to erect our kindergarten, impressed on our community the fact that we were working for something we felt very worthwhile, so gaining respect and support for kindergarten. We have always been alert to the need for good and plentiful equipment and are very proud of our supply. There have been difficulties at times in maintaining roll numbers but recently this has not been a worry. We are deeply grateful for help and encouragement received from the Department of Education and the Kindergarten Union.

Our Men's Advisory Committee, the majority original members, and our Mothers' Club have been ever willing and behind the Council. Long and very valuable service has been given by many Council members, some previously through Mothers' Club, and this year saw the resignation of the last serving member of the original committee

set up in 1948. Our first President, gifted with vision, served in this capacity for seven years—our second is in her ninth year of office and fourteenth year of service to kindergarten. Our Honorary Secretary is in her eighth year of office.

Many and varied have been the means of raising funds over the years. Much time and work have been expended but it really has been great fun and the friendly fellowship that has obtained, together with the knowledge that the little ones of our district have benefited, leaves a lasting glow. Public support and appreciation of our work has been generous and we feel that we are a respected organisation in our community.

## THAMES

Interest in opening a kindergarten at Thames was first aroused in 1955 when an association was formed and the raising of funds began. A play centre had been operating in the Masonic Lodge Hall and this became a private kindergarten until, when sufficient funds had been secured to purchase equipment and a trained teacher had been found, it was recognised by the Department of Education in February, 1956. The teacher was Miss Betty Mitchell, who still holds the position of Director of the Thames Free Kindergarten.

The long narrow nature of the town made for difficulties in transport of children to a central point and for some time the Association organised a bus service to overcome this problem.

By 1959 the building fund had reached £1250 but a search for a suitable site revealed that only by purchase could one be secured. The section finally chosen is ideal, as it joins the playing area of the Thames South Primary School. Plans for the building were begun in 1960 and, after intensive money-raising schemes, there came the happy day on August 4, 1962, when Mr R. L. Bradly, Regional Superintendent of Education at Auckland, officially opened a handsome new kindergarten, which contrasted sharply with the hall where children had attended for seven years.

## TIMARU

The establishment of a Free Kindergarten Association in Timaru was unanimously decided at a well attended public meeting held at 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.

The meeting was addressed by the Editor of the Timaru Herald, Mr Ian Donnelly, and the Tutor-organiser of Adult Education, Mr B. M. Pickering, both of whom spoke convincingly of the value of kindergarten experience for pre-school children. The librarian, Miss A. K. Elliott presided. Messages were received from the Minister of Education (the Hon. H. G. R. Mason) and the Rev. Clyde Carr, M.P.

for Timaru, who joined in expressing pleasure at the civic move to form a Free Kindergarten Association.

The election of Officers was as follows:

President: Mrs A. E. S. Hanan

Vice-President: Mrs W. Burrell

Secretary: Miss F. Clissold

Committee: Mesdames C. E. Thomson, J. G. Duncan, J. S. Satterthwaite, L. K. Murray, L. Neville, E. R. Guinness and M. E. Campbell, Misses M. L. Lindsay and A. K. Elliott.

Advisory Committee: Messrs A. E. S. Hanan, Ian Donnelly, B. M. Pickering, W. Burrell and A. N. Hancock.

Hon. Solicitor: Mr M. A. Raymond.

Hon. Architect: Mr P. W. Rule.

Hon. Auditor: Mr W. Allport.

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.

After the preliminary meeting the Association was active in raising funds, and was gratified by the whole-hearted support given by the public to shop days, garden parties, street days and other organised efforts.

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, and presented valuable information regarding the importance of early training by specialised teachers. The Association was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Patricia Burrell, Director, 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 Director, and Miss E. Foote, Assistant.

The Waimataitai Free Kindergarten 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, Director, 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 was 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 Beavan, 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 of 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 Christison, Assistant Pre-School Supervisor, addressed the large gathering of parents and friends in the lovely play ground.

The Waimataitai Kindergarten in Ashbury Park was officially opened on the 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 acknowledgement 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 and has a magnificent view. This makes 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.

Plans are now being 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 Bolck, to be named the Kowhai Kindergarten.

The Mackenzie Committee was elected in 1959 and has been placed on the priority list. The required finance was raised within one year and the chosen site has been approved. Unfortunately it has been unable to meet the requirements in roll numbers and is, at present, operating a private kindergarten.

It is hoped that permission to build the Kowhai Kindergarten will be received in 1964. The Timaru Association is in a sound financial position due to the generous subsidies of the Government, the support of the public, the devoted, enthusiastic work of the Council, local committees and parents.

## **TOKOROA**

On November 22, 1951, a general meeting was called to discuss the formation of a play centre or kindergarten in the district of Tokoroa. The majority present at this meeting favoured the formation of a kindergarten, but because of lack of knowledge it was

requested that a letter be written to the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union for further information.

The organising of a play centre was then discussed at length and, as it would meet the needs of the community in the meantime, it was decided to open one as early as possible in the new year. The play centre opened on February 6, 1952, in the Community Centre, with a roll number of 50, two supervisors and adequate equipment. This functioned smoothly and the waiting list steadily increased.

Further details regarding the formation of a kindergarten were accumulated and in August a public meeting was called at which Miss Pettit, director of a kindergarten, spoke, giving those present a detailed account of the functions of a kindergarten. A resolution was then passed to become affiliated with the N.Z. Free Kindergarten Union.

By the end of the year all necessary steps had been taken for the commencement of a kindergarten in 1953. As the Community Centre was approved for use as a kindergarten, Miss B. Guthrie was appointed as the first Director.

Suitable Crown Land was procured for a permanent building and fund-raising continued in earnest, a difficult task in a young town of this nature. With an enthusiastic Council and much hard work and humour, it was not many years before we were submitting building plans for approval. During these years, the kindergarten became well-established and the waiting list continued to increase.

On April 4, 1959, Mrs Helen Downer officially opened our new building of which we are justly proud. It was built by Mr Voigt whose wife had then been our President for three years and the main instigator of all our fund-raising schemes.

Today our Director is Mrs J. Paton and her assistant is Miss L. Jolley. We have a full roll and a waiting list of 210, which points to the urgent need to establish a second kindergarten.

### **TORBAY**

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 Kindergarten Association, which might mean 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.

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 have been many disappointments and delays in achieving this goal. The kindergarten is still being conducted in temporary premises, a situation which contributes to the problem of staffing.

The Association is giving serious thought to the wisdom of joining the Auckland Kindergarten Association in order to receive the benefits of a larger and more experienced group.

### UPPER HUTT

In August, 1946, a public meeting was held, and the Association formed in September, with Mr E. A. Cuttriss, President, Mrs B. O'Reilly, Secretary/Treasurer, and interested people representing Trentham, Upper Hutt and Silverstream. The Silverstream Kindergarten Committee, the only committee in existence at that time, was operating a kindergarten in a hall, supervised by a trained director, Mrs Ellis. By the end of 1946 committees had been formed in Trentham and Upper Hutt.

1948—The Association affiliated to the Union, and was granted recognition by the Department of Education.

Silverstream Kindergarten; Miss N. Bynam, Director, and Mrs O. Natusch, Assistant Director.

April, Upper Hutt Kindergarten opened in Red Cross Rooms, with untrained staff.

October, Trentham Kindergarten opened in Salvation Army Hall. (Untrained staff).

President, Mr E. A. Cuttriss, Secretary, Mrs J. Butcher, Treasurer, Mr L. J. Stevenson.

1950—Silverstream Kindergarten site purchased.

Miss N. Bynam appointed Senior Director.

Directors appointed to Upper Hutt and Trentham Kindergartens, so both qualified for Government subsidy.

Mrs E. Andrew elected Secretary.

1951—Mr E. A. Cuttriss, having completed 4½ years' service as President, did not seek re-election.

Mr R. Beddow, President, Mr J. Fisher, Treasurer.

1952—Government subsidy withdrawn from Trentham Kindergarten through resignation of Director.

Mrs D. Nicholson, Secretary.

1953—Mrs I. Ritchie, Director, Trentham Kindergarten, Government subsidy renewed.

Silverstream Kindergarten building completed and opened by Lady Norrie, November 6, 1953.

1954—Trentham Kindergarten site (Crown Land) vested in the Association.

1954—Upper Hutt Kindergarten site, leased from the Borough Council for a tenure of 21 years, with the right of renewal, rent 1/- per annum.

Mrs N. Marvelly (nee Bynam), Senior Director, resigned after 6 years' service.

Government subsidy withdrawn from Silverstream Kindergarten.

Mr J. Fisher, Treasurer, resigned after 4 years' service.

Mr R. Trappit elected.

1955—Directors in all kindergartens.

Mrs I. Ritchie appointed Senior Director.

Cottle committee inaugurated.

1956—Trentham Kindergarten building completed and opened by the Minister of Social Welfare, Dame Hilda Ross, March 24.

Upper Hutt Kindergarten building completed and opened by

- the Minister of Education, the Hon. R. M. Algie, April 28.  
 Constitution and By-Laws amended and printed.  
 Cottle Kindergarten site purchased.  
 Mrs O. Hay, Director Upper Hutt, resigned after 2½ years' service.
- 1957—Cottle Private Kindergarten opened in Rose of Sharon Hall, supervised by Director, Mrs M. Freeme.  
 Mrs I. Ritchie transferred to Upper Hutt.  
 Miss J. Smith, Director, Trentham Kindergarten.
- 1958—Mrs J. Koning (nee Little), Director, Silverstream, resigned after 3 years' service.  
 Miss A. Tearoatua, Director, Silverstream.  
 Mr R. Trappit, Treasurer, resigned after 4 years' service.  
 Mr R. Hardie elected.
- 1959—March, McLeod Committee and Mothers' Club inaugurated.  
 September, McLeod Private Kindergarten opened in Salvation Army Hall, supervised by Director, Mrs B. Mason.  
 Mrs I. Ritchie, resigned after 6 years' service.  
 Mrs M. Moerhuis, Director, Upper Hutt.
- 1960—Permission granted to erect Cottle Kindergarten.
- 1960—First year in history of the Association, all kindergartens staffed by trained teachers.
- 1961—Mr R. Ritchie, Treasurer, resigned after 3 years' service, Mr D. Clark elected.  
 Cottle Kindergarten completed. Mrs H. McLeod, Director.  
 Mrs M. Freeme, Assistant.  
 Mrs A. Johnson (nee Tearoatua) appointed Senior Director. (First Maori Senior Director in N.Z.).  
 McLeod Kindergarten changed name to Irmgard Ritchie Kindergarten in memory of Mrs I. Ritchie. Site leased from Borough Council for a tenure of 21 years, with right of renewal. Rent £1 per annum.
- 1962—Cottle Kindergarten opened by Mr G. Cottle, February 17.  
 Irmgard Ritchie Kindergarten accepted on to the Priority List by the Union, awaiting permission to build.  
 Mrs J. Morris (nee Smith) resigned after 5 years' service.  
 Miss D. Taylor, Director, Trentham.  
 Two untrained assistants.  
 Negotiations have commenced with the County Council to obtain two sites for future kindergartens.  
 Mr R. Beddow, having completed 11 years' service as President, did not seek re-election, and as Immediate Past President is still a member of the Council.  
 Mrs D. Nicholson, President, after having completed 9 years' service as Secretary.  
 Mrs M. Hofsteede, Secretary. Mr D. Clark, Treasurer.
- 1963—Irmgard Ritchie Committee given permission to prepare plans for building.  
 Mrs D. Nicholson, President, elected to Executive of N.Z. Kindergarten Union.

## WAIMATE

The Waimate Free Kindergarten Association was formed and the first Council elected at a meeting held in February, 1948. The members were: President, Mrs R. G. Shackleton, Hon. Secretary,

Mrs E. J. Morrison. Mesdames L. E. Ball, L. E. Cartridge, W. F. Boland, G. S. Collett, F. S. White, N. C. Manchester, E. Raltigan, S. White, T. Carlson and Miss C. Moore.

The first Advisory Committee was Dr. A. L. M. Perry, Messrs L. J. Collins, J. M. Wilson, F. F. Algie, W. F. Boland and L. J. Condor.

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 director. 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, has continued to function every Saturday during the football season and apart from parents' donations it is 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 director and Miss A. Melton as trained assistant. The property has continued to be improved and furnished and now presents a very attractive appearance.

## WAIOURU

When the Waiouru Free Kindergarten was officially opened on May 30, 1955, one of the former pioneers wrote from Wellington: "... in 1951 I began to canvass the homes at Waiouru and I was given the names of 72 children eligible for kindergarten, from the first 51 homes I called on. This was phenomenal and it was obvious even then that there was a very good opening in the area for the kindergarten."

Indeed the number of children at Waiouru has never lessened and therefore the need for the kindergarten became more and more evident. But, when finally, in 1953, the pioneers got together and approached the Education Department asking permission to use the M.O.W. Social Hall to house the kindergarten, the Department reported that it was unsuitable and hence permission was refused. In 1954, however, the Camp Commandant of Waiouru Military Camp made the Old Guard House available. One of the Department's architects found the building suitable, subject to alterations.

The first General Meeting, under the presidency of the Camp Commandant, was called in October 1954, and the First Annual General Meeting of the Waiouru Free Kindergarten Association was on Thursday, November 25, 1954. The Constitution, previously drawn up, was adopted, a Council elected, and the motions necessary for incorporation passed.

Due to the then desperate housing condition the alterations to the Old Guard House could not be finished until May the following

year (1955), and the official opening was finally held on August 7, 1955. At the same time a Mothers' Club was founded and has been operating since. Although one of the main difficulties of the Waiouru Free Kindergarten has always been the finding of a trained Director, we were fortunate enough to have had one residing at Waiouru in 1955. (Miss Kelly).

From then on the rolls, afternoon as well as morning, have always been 40 children and the waiting lists have grown in number. A permanent, more suitable building had to be erected as soon as possible, as well as more equipment obtained. Contests, raffles, cake stalls and competitions were held, not only to raise funds for the eventual new building, but also to maintain the present one. The heating problem in the latter became one of greater and greater urgency. The plumbing became defective, and on top of that the trained teachers, one by one, through various circumstances, had to resign—and no new teachers seemed to be willing to live in the remote and isolated area of Waiouru. From time to time the Education Department threatened to cease payment of staff salaries if no trained director could be found. Finally it even seemed as if this very fact of shortage of trained staff was to jeopardise the erection of a new building, because there would be no Government subsidies for it. At the same time, however, the need for a permanent building became more evident—and if it was only for a flood they had in the Old Guard House. More than 450 children passed through the Waiouru Free Kindergarten in 1958 alone, with a waiting list of 109.

However, at last, in 1959, plans for the new building (drawn by Mr Barsanti, architect) were submitted and the "go ahead" signal was given by the Education Department in December of the same year. The tenders closed soon after—but the set-backs were more than numerous. Not only did the distant location of Waiouru increase building costs to almost phenomenal heights, but also, the staffing condition never ceased to be a problem. But thanks to Mr Barsanti, the voluntary workers, the Council, the Mothers' Club, the acting and trained staff—a Gala Day, Mr Waiouru Contest, fashion show, raffles and cake stalls—the necessary funds were raised, the Government subsidy obtained, and the new building was officially opened on May 20, 1961, by Mr Roy Jack, M.P.

The rejoicing was great, but some of the difficulties seem to have stayed. In spite of a permanent building of pleasing and practical design, there have been the problems of finding trained staff, satisfactory heating, upkeep (with signs of deterioration even after such a short time)—and the waiting list which never seems to fall below 110.

In 1964 the first term began with two trained teachers, a fitting reward after so many trials and tribulations.

## WAIPUKURAU

The origin of the Waipukurau Free Kindergarten Association, in August, 1952, came as a suggestion from the Plunket Mothers' Club. The Jaycees were approached to sponsor the scheme, which they did most willingly and enthusiastically.

When St. John Ambulance Association made their hall available for hire it was possible to establish a kindergarten under the direc-

tion of Miss B. Ward, a local girl who had completed the kindergarten training course. With a roll of 47 children the service began on September 29, 1952.

These early days were not easy for the staff or members of the Council, who had to undertake many months of hard work to raise funds by various means to provide equipment. Public response was most encouraging and generous, both with cash donations and items of equipment. It was soon realised that, with increased roll numbers, lack of facilities and rental charges, which were a continual drain on the Association's funds, it would be wise to try to acquire permanent premises. A well-planned kindergarten building would be an acquisition to the town and would render a great service to the pre-school children in the district.

The Waipukurau Borough Council donated a site in Hunter Park, a public appeal for £2,000 was launched and architects were engaged to design the building. The town soon became very familiar with dances, shop days and garden parties organised by the Kindergarten Association. With continued support from the Borough Council, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Kindergarten Mothers' Club and the general public more than £2,000 was raised.

Representing much voluntary effort, both before and after its construction, the building is most attractive in its layout and appointments and has proved a decided acquisition to the town and district. It was officially opened on April 14, 1956, by Mrs H. McCreanor, then President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

## 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 director) 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.

Since September 12, 1962, the Committee has been 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 £2,000 is in hand.

Negotiations for a suitable site have been undertaken and after much deliberation, conferring with officials of the Education Department and Borough Council co-operation a site has been found and approved by the Department of Education.

Hopes are high that it will not be long before the first free kindergarten in Wairoa is an established fact.



## WANGANUI

Perhaps it is not surprising that the people of Wanganui have adopted, welcomed and encouraged 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 and 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, our President since 1953. No movement could owe more to any one person than does the kindergarten movement in Wanganui owe 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 £1250, sufficient to meet the cost of a building when added to the funds already raised. But on that 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.

This was a proud record for the Wanganui Association, in the

space of 12 years, six kindergartens had been built and were serving the youngest citizens of our city.

Wanganui Association has been singularly fortunate in that throughout this building programme it has had as its Hon. Architect and Adviser, Mr L. S. Barsanti of the Wanganui Education Board. Mr Barsanti has probably been our greatest friend, and our kindergartens are a monument to his wonderful generosity for he has given his professional services unstintingly.

It was clear that other rapidly-growing suburbs could not be neglected. This applied particularly to Castlecliff, operating a private kindergarten in the suburb's town hall, and affiliated to the Wanganui Association. They have now reached their target. In two new developments, Pepper Block and Puriri Street, sections are held for the time when funds enable building to proceed.

A history of Wanganui Association would not be complete without mention of our youngest affiliated committee. In the Maori suburb of Putiki, steeped in Wanganui's history, parents are operating a private kindergarten, attended almost exclusively by Maori children, but of course "Free" in the truest sense of the word in that all children are welcomed at this happy place. We are indeed proud of our Maori Council members, who bring to us the finest and best in their traditions.

## 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 to over thirty afternoon teas, and twenty centres were formed in the city, the head of each centre promising £15 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 locality." 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 their 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 £400.

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 elected President and remained in office till 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.

Total number of kindergartens in Wellington Association 17.



**WELLINGTON KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' COLLEGE,  
112 TINAKORI ROAD, WELLINGTON**

## 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 £2000 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 director 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.

Two Life Members have been elected for outstanding service to the Association: Mrs W. Champion and Mrs L. Neill.

## WHANGAREI

In October, 1946, a public meeting chaired by the then Mayor of Whangarei, Mr W. Jones, was called and as a result an interim committee was set up 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 £2 per term per child and the teaching was done by a non-qualified teacher. At the same time the Whangarei Kindergarten Association was formed. At the beginning of 1953 the kindergarten became free and the time had come for planning a permanent building.

Towards the end of this year a section in Princess Street was placed at the disposal of the Whangarei Free 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.

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 commenced, catering for up to 20 children in September 1954. Several church halls were occupied by this kindergarten, money raising efforts were held and this kindergarten known as Hora Hora, became free in May, 1957.

During 1959 this kindergarten affiliated with the Whangarei Free Kindergarten Association and through the splendid effort of successive committees, another building was opened in November, 1960. The most successful effort of Hora Hora Kindergarten in

money-raising was the compiling, printing and selling of recipe books, plus Christmas stocking raffles.

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 has been procured and the committee is working very hard indeed to get the necessary funds for building a kindergarten building, and has qualified for a position on the Union's priority list.

The Whangarei Free Kindergarten Association at present operates two kindergartens in their own buildings and one private kindergarten. The movement is strong and there is no lack of support for fund-raising objects.

## WIGRAM

The need for a pre-school service was first recognised by a group of Air Force people in August, 1949. At this time, the civilian population in the area was very scant and that which was envisaged was a small centre run by the wives of the Air Force personnel. However, a suitable building was not available and they soon found that it was no simple matter to set up a play centre.

After several different rooms on Wigram Station had been used, negotiations were made, in 1951, with the Army to supply some huts for the housing of the play centre. These duly arrived per favour of the Army but, on closer inspection, it was found that they were quite unsuitable and uneconomical. They were despatched back to the Army per favour of the Air Force.

In 1953, it became apparent that some form of permanent building would be needed and with the help of the Christchurch Kindergarten Association the idea of establishing a free kindergarten came into being.

In 1956, the Wigram Free Kindergarten Association became a member of the Union and was recognised by the Government.

They began operating in temporary premises in the foyer and meeting room of Wigram Institute. An all-out effort was now being made for funds for a kindergarten building. Also at this time the civilian population of the area was rapidly increasing. The Air Force made a building site available to the council off station, plans, quotes and ideas were collected. Finance, of course, was a stumbling block.

In 1958, Wing-Commander Smith made a recommendation to the Service Institute Committee for a building loan of £2,000. This was duly granted and the building of the kindergarten commenced. It was ready for occupation in February, 1959.

The building is most attractive and well-equipped. Finance is still a problem and we would not recommend any committee to open a kindergarten in debt.

In terms of service to pre-school children the kindergarten has been worthwhile. A lot of personal sacrifice and time has been contributed by a great many people and a great deal more will be needed in the future to uphold the high standard of our free kindergarten movement. We feel sure that as long as the kindergarten continues to give good and reliable service to the community then the finance and support will freely be given.

We look forward to the future with confidence.



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.





New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union Conference, Wanganui 1962.



# 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	Christchurch
1955-1957—Mrs H. McCreanor, M.B.E.	Christchurch
1957- —Mrs H. Downer, M.B.E.	Rotorua

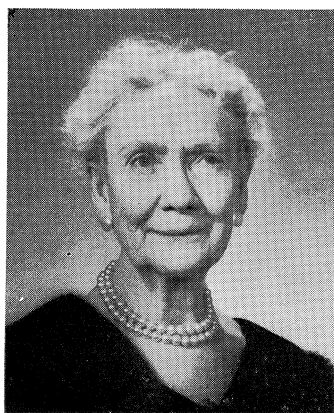
## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs A. K. Hadfield, M.B.E.  
Mrs J. A. Hanan  
Miss I. M. Jamieson, M.B.E.  
Mrs A. F. Johnson  
Mrs H. McCreanor, M.B.E.  
Mrs E. H. B. Milsom

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 it, 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



**Mrs E. H. B. MILSOM**

**Hon. Life Member and former  
Secretary of N.Z.F.K.U.**

**Foundation member of Logan  
Campbell Free Kindergarten  
Committee, Auckland.**

**Hon. Life Member  
Auckland Kindergarten Association**

**Mrs J. A. DOCTOR, M.B.E.**

**President of N.Z.F.K.U. 1941-1949.**

**President of Wellington F.K.A.  
1934-1954.**

Mrs Doctor, whose death occurred in 1962, gave many years of devoted service. She will always be remembered for her cheerful personality, her ready wit and her delightful Scottish voice.



**Mrs A. K. HADFIELD, M.B.E.**

**President of N.Z.F.K.U. 1949-1951.**

**Hon. Life Member of Union.**

**Former President Christchurch  
F.K.A.**

Mrs Hadfield was actively connected with the kindergarten movement for over thirty-five years, many with little or no Government assistance. She was a member of the Union's deputation to the Minister of Education which led to Government decision to accept responsibility for kindergarten teachers' salaries.



**Mrs A. F. JOHNSON**

President of N.Z.F.K.U. 1951-1955.

Hon. Life Member of Union.

President of Christchurch F.K.A.  
1956-1962.

Mrs Johnson has made an outstanding contribution to the movement. She was elected to the office of President of the Union at a time which called for leadership of high quality. Through her efforts the Union's position as the co-ordinating body was firmly established and its status fully recognised.



**Mrs H. McCREANOR, M.B.E., M.A.**  
President of N.Z.F.K.U. 1955-1957.

Hon. Life Member of Union.

Mrs McCreanor acted as secretary of a sub-committee, elected at the 1951 Conference, to redraft the Union Constitution.

Her long and devoted service to education and welfare were fittingly recognised by the award of M.B.E. in 1962.

Since her retirement from the kindergarten movement she has been actively engaged in the affairs of the Pan Pacific and S.E. Asia Women's Association.

**Miss MOIRA F. GALLAGHER**

Supervisor of Pre-School Services,  
Department of Education.

Miss Gallagher represented the New Zealand Educational Institute on the Consultative Committee, set up in 1945 by the Minister of Education, the Hon. H. G. R. Mason, to enquire into pre-school services. She acted as secretary to the committee, whose findings have been a guide to the free kindergarten movement and have set the pattern for its development.

Miss Gallagher's contribution to the progress of the movement, since her appointment in 1946, goes far beyond the realm of duty. Her personal interest in the work of every association and her generous and helpful advice to the Union Executive will hold a lasting place in our history.



outstanding 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 matters of kindergarten policy. This policy is formulated by the 65 member associations, who meet annually, and in consultation with the Department of Education.

There are now 235 kindergartens functioning in districts as widely separated as Kaitaia and Invercargill. Growth and enthusiasm continue and in very many associations there are committees awaiting permission to proceed with building programmes and others showing the same earnest spirit to qualify for this privilege.

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. To every association she has been philosopher and friend, advocate and adviser. No record of the progress and development of free kindergartens in New Zealand would be complete without reference to her untiring devotion, which the Union is proud to acknowledge with very sincere appreciation.

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 has been nominated to make a second visit in 1964, when a conference is to be held in Brisbane.

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 Director in the Auckland Kindergarten Association. The tenth assembly, to be held in Stockholm in August, 1964, will be 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.

---

## **N.Z.F.K.U. EXECUTIVE**

**1963 - 64.**

**President:** Mrs H. Downer, M.B.E. (Rotorua).

**Vice-President:** Mrs F. A. Smith (Auckland).

**Executive Members:** Miss L. M. C. Ingram (Motueka), Mesdames F. B. Keys (Manawatu), D. M. Nicholson (Upper Hutt), B. E. Orchiston (Wellington), W. Patrick (Dunedin), A. Steven (Christchurch), R. Stevenson (Napier).

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Mrs R. A. Elliott (Rotorua).

## 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 £2 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 standards of work and each awarded its own certificate. There was a period in the late 1920's and early 30's 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 ten to twenty.

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, subsidised on a £2 for £1 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 amounts to approximately nine-tenths of the total cost of training and is supplied in the following ways: Salaries of full-time staff members, a grant of 12/6 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 are 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 lecturers' fees, the selection of students. Each centre appoints a Selection Committee, approved by the Department of Education, and an Education Committee which advises on student training, examinations, examiners etc., interviews applicants for professional positions in the College, gives advice on the suitability of part-time lecturers and recommends their appointment. Government regulations recognise this pattern and no change may be made without Government approval.

Until 1961, the cost of administration of training was borne by the training associations, while all associations benefited from their service. Since that time, however, as a result of a decision taken at the Union Conference, the financial burden is shared equally by all recognised kindergartens. At the same time an approach was made to the Department of Education for a reconsideration of the system of administering kindergarten teacher training. The question is still under review but there has been agreement between the Department of Education and the 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 will require amendments to the Kindergarten Regulations, 1959, and none will be made without the approval of the Union.

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 is the minimum academic qualification and the applicant must enter into a bond of £200 to serve for two years after the completion of her course.

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 has two main aims. They are:—

1. To advance the cause of education amongst pre-school children.
2. To uphold and maintain the just claims of members of the Association individually and collectively.

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. Bauke 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.

In 1954 Miss Burt and Miss E. Hopkins of Auckland were elected first President and Secretary. When Miss Hopkins resigned in order to be married, Miss E. Tunks was elected Secretary.

Miss P. Varcoe and Miss G. Partington of Dunedin took office in 1957 and in that year the constitution was accepted, the Association was incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 and the first newsletter was published.

Recognition as a Service organisation came in 1958 and as this gave direct approach to the Minister, the first salary case was submitted.

Miss Partington resigned to be married and Miss J. McKinlay became Secretary, followed by Miss M. Just. Miss Varcoe resigned in 1962 to study overseas under an I. M. Jamieson Scholarship and Miss E. Tunks and Miss B. Unwin of Auckland became President and Secretary.

The first summer school was held at Lincoln College in 1959, and since then they have been held every two years, alternating between the North and South Islands. Early in 1964 the N.Z.F.K.T.A. called a meeting of all those interested in forming an organisation to be concerned with the welfare and education of young children. This inaugural meeting set up an interim committee to formulate a constitution and do the work necessary to bring such an organisation into being.

The Association is controlled by the N.Z.F.K.T.A. Council, which is made up of delegates elected by the branches.

There are fourteen branches, and membership now stands at 350.

## BROADCASTS TO SCHOOLS—THE PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMME 1950 - 1964

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 New Zealand Broadcasting Service, the Department of Education, the Headmaster of the Correspondence School, the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and a liason 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, handwork 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 director 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 sessionist 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 NZBC 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 9.4 a.m.

In twelve years there have been only three changes among those conducting this session—Loma Jones, 1952-1959; Mary Brooker, 1960-1963; Kate Harcourt, 1964—. All are trained kindergarten teachers who, with the able assistance of their accompanists, have established a programme dear to the hearts of all their listeners. Special mention must be made of Ailsa Martin, also a trained kindergarten teacher, for the pleasure she gave with her singing as well as her piano accompaniments.

The Union pays its tribute, too, to the officers of the NZBC and the Department of Education for their cooperation and interest and to Miss I. M. Jamieson, who so faithfully represented the Union on the Advisory Committee from 1951 until her retirement in 1961.

## POSTSCRIPT

Since this booklet went to print there has been further progress in the kindergarten movement. The "period of consolidaton," introduced in October, 1961, when there was an unexpected deterioration in the staffing position, has ended. The Minister of Education has approved a building programme for fifteen new kindergartens, to be ready for opening at the beginning of the 1965 school year. They are: Te Aroha, Takaro (Manawatu), Manurewa (Franklin), Irmgard Ritchie (Upper Hutt), Linden (Tawa), Te Kuiti, Kowhai (Timaru), Castlecliff (Wanganui), Solway (Masterton), Otumoetai (Bay of Plenty), Frimley (Hastings), Wainui-o-mata (Lower Hutt), Wainoni-Aranui (Christchurch), Kotiri (Auckland) and Kamo (Whangarei).



And now that we have sung our praises, what lies ahead? In the eyes of overseas educationalists like Miss Christine Heinig, Associate in Early Childhood and Secondary Education, Washington, D.C., who visited New Zealand in 1955, our pre-school scene is like "a dream come true," while Dr Katharine Whiteside Taylor, Fulbright Scholar attached to the Victoria University of Wellington, in 1964, considers that "the kindergartens are second to none anywhere in the world."

There is a challenge in these opinions—to uphold, maintain and improve the high standards that have been so dearly won; to encourage our teachers to strive for higher qualifications; to grow in knowledge and understanding of all that pre-school education offers to children and their parents and to share with others the benefits of our experience.