

# kidsfirst

kindergartens



# INTRODUCTION

In 2011, Kidsfirst Kindergartens were ready to celebrate 100 years of kindergarten in Canterbury and Westland when the third major event in Canterbury's tragic series of earthquakes put everything on hold, with a 6.2 that effectively destroyed the central city of Christchurch.

The tragic events of Pike River on the West Coast meant that neither region was really in the mood for celebration.

A couple of years later we made the decision to resurrect the centenary.

Activities and work that had been paused were started once again - and the kindergartens and our communities rallied around the concept of Kidsfirst being 100 Years Young.



A special effort was made to integrate all the activities into the normal running of our kindergartens so it was an added overlay.

We were mindful of not being intrusive upon our teaching programmes or of overloading our teachers - yet we wanted to acknowledge what a special time this was.

We refocused the newsletters and leaflets we produced to show our heritage.

Perhaps most significantly, we produced a beautiful commemorative book tracing our history.

From the interviews for this book, we also managed to create a short video of some personal reflections on kindy in the years gone by.

Our schedule of events brought old friends back to our local kindergartens, joined our network together with across-the-board activities like Balloon Day and Vintage Car Day - and of course our own Quiz Night on the Association's history.

While ever mindful of not being extravagant, we wanted to do justice to the legions of teachers, students, volunteers, supporters, parents and children who had made us what we are today.

We tried hard to find things that were fun and inclusive - that brought people together, inspired them to think and reflect, and, in the process, raised our profile within the community.

Driving around the city on Balloon Day, you couldn't help but see our flags and balloons showing their cheerful colours to everyone.

But it was the willingness to be involved, to join together in a very special spirit of celebration, that was the greatest outcome we could have hoped for. To have such a positive response from all involved was truly heartwarming - and a fantastic tribute to the ideals of kindergarten and how relevant they still are today.

We're delighted to share our centenary with you and hope you get some of the same enjoyment from looking back on our journey as we had making it.



# ALL THE PIECES



Part of the challenge of a year of celebration is getting everything to co-ordinate in a cohesive manner that's not too subtle, nor too overt.

Bringing together the kindergartens, encouraging a sense of community, celebrating the past while staying focussed on the present - all while keeping everything in perspective. It's a balancing act of not too little but not too much.

# FOLDOUT/BROCHURE



A mini brochure outlining the history of Kidsfirst Kindergartens was produced as a handy giveaway. It was designed so the kindergartens could pin two up together to form a continuous timeline from 1911 until the present day...



# NEWSLETTERS



At the beginning of the year, a special edition newsletter was produced to be used as a giveaway during 2013, and even beyond.

It chronicled some of the teachers' voices, how things had changed and what was truly important - at the very heart of kindergarten and Kidsfirst.



# OUR BOOK

To mark our centenary, the Kidsfirst Board decided to produce a limited edition book chronicling the history of the Canterbury Westland Kindergarten Association.

It features every one of our kindergartens, the voices of those passionate about our kindy story, collects together photographs and anecdotes in a single source and provides an entertaining coffee table read.

As well as all that, the book provides a wonderful introduction to who we are and where we have come from, for anyone new to our organisation.

It is helpful when talking to new business associates or politicians, influencers or advisors. It simply establishes our size and credibility.

For new staff, it reminds them that we are a professional organisation with a proud history and a sound reputation of which we are extremely protective.

And, very importantly, it curates material now, before it is lost over time, or discarded by accident, or destroyed in a quake.

It is a record of (to paraphrase the words of Dr. C.E. Beeby, Director of Education in the 1940s) **“something we thought worthwhile”**.



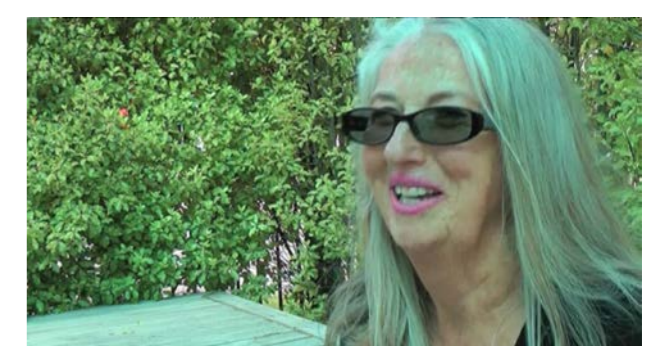
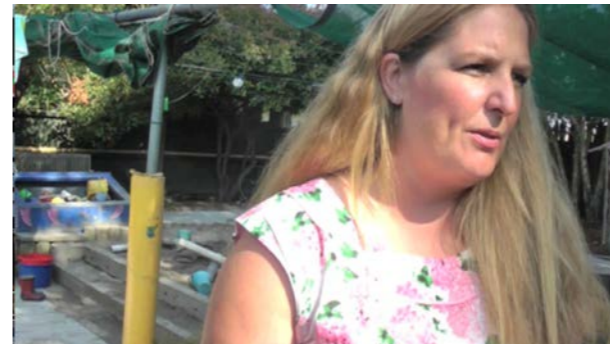
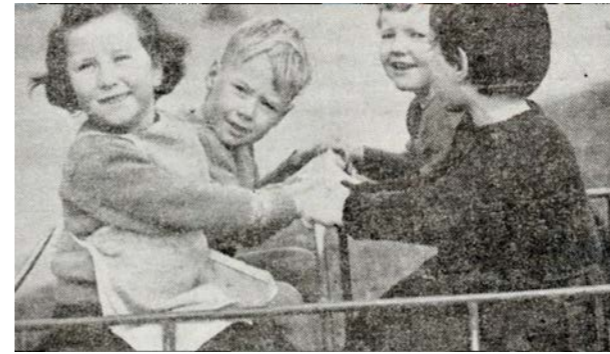






# OUR HISTORY VIDEO

As a side project from our commemorative book, some of the interviews conducted as research were compiled into a short video. These snippets provided an interesting, personal perspective on the last 100 years of the CWFKA. Alongside former teachers, presidents, and life members were the current Kidsfirst board, talking about the future.



# BOOK LAUNCH CHCH

A copy of our book was given to each of our kindergartens during a special series of roadshows conducted by the Chief Executive.

These were personally delivered before it was made public, as an advance copy.

It was officially launched by Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel at a function for invited guests including local politicians, Ministry of Education representatives, former Presidents and friends of the Association, the Kidsfirst Board and many others.

All those attending received their own copy of the book.

The reaction to the publication was uniformly positive, with extremely complimentary comments.



Shown above, the invitation to the event, to the right, Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel with Kidsfirst Board members Fleur Howard (to the left), Susan Sheperd and Louisa Steel (on the right).

Below, Kidsfirst Chief Executive Sherryl Wilson chats to former Patron of the CWFKA Carol Eggleston and longtime teacher (now retired) Diana Weir.



# BOOK LAUNCH WEST COAST



Our successful Christchurch book launch event was followed by a similar event on the West Coast.

The invite list included past and present teachers and those who had been involved in the kindergarten movement in Westland.

Present was Laurie Hall (left in the picture to the right) with his wife, and daughter Tracey - who is a teacher at (and went to) the kindergarten he helped to found. He's shown here with the book and below, planting a tree at the opening of what would become Kidsfirst Karoro.

A copy of our commemorative book was given to the West Coast mayors and others in attendance and was met with delight and many warm reminiscences.



Grey District Mayor Tony Kokshoorn even recalled having to mow the local kindergarten's lawns each weekend.



# CELEBRATIONS!



Throughout the year, we looked for ways to involve everybody who wanted to join us in our celebrations.

Our participation rates were incredibly high.

People loved being part of the fun - especially after the hard times that had hit our regions.

The most exciting aspect was perhaps how creative people were in finding ways to show their pride.

Our programme of events was very carefully designed to let our kindergartens add their own distinct personality to whatever they were doing.

Our most sustainable kindergarten even found a way to turn Balloon Day into a recycling/re-use message!

The idea was to let the kindergartens do as much or as little as they wanted, when and how they wanted - but providing them with ample tools and ideas to stimulate and foster involvement.

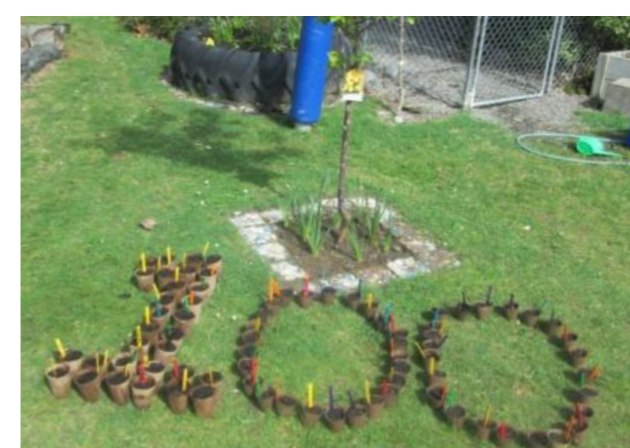
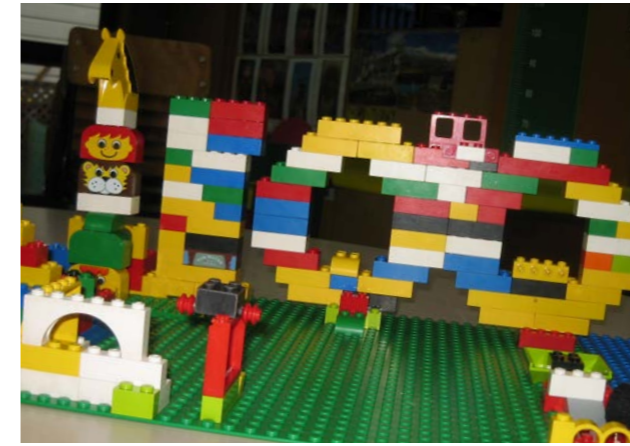
There were floats in the Christmas parade, special community birthdays, seed plantings, lots of signs and wall displays, dress ups and so much more.

Tying it together in the second half of the year, was the 100 Days of Kidsfirst Kindergartens.

Over the course of the '100 Days' there was a real flurry of activity and a wonderful sense of being part of something big and exciting.







The logo features the number '100' in large, bold, sans-serif font. The '1' is magenta, the first '0' is red, and the second '0' is yellow. Below the numbers, the text 'days of kidsfirst kindergartens' is written in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font. 'days of' is in a grey, italicized font, while 'kidsfirst' is in a bold black font, and 'kindergartens' is in a regular black font below it.

*days of* **kidsfirst**  
kindergartens

Kidsfirst Kindergartens launched a special event for the last two terms of the year, called '100 days of Kidsfirst'.

As a way to commemorate the centenary, there were a raft of activities for the kindergartens tied into the celebrations.

How much or how little the kindergartens participated was up to them - but the overall response was incredibly positive.

Throughout the 100 days, emails were sent out daily with interesting facts, there were 'Starter Packs' for each term with ideas of things to do and resources such as posters and Visitor's Books, and special days for the Kidsfirst Kindergartens network to celebrate together - such as the highly successful (and very visible) Balloon Day and Vintage Car Day.

Staff were invited to a Quiz Night based on the heritage of Kidsfirst, and on Founders' Day, the kindergartens sent thank-you cards for the Head Office team at a surprise afternoon tea, held at the oldest kindergarten in the network.

There were more than 100 ways, many creative and diverse in nature, in which the kindergarten community came together to help us celebrate.

# STARTER PACKS



To kick off the 100 Days of Kidsfirst, 'starter packs' were prepared for each of the sixty two kindergartens. They came in a special, reusable calico bag and contained ideas and suggestions, resources and teaching aids.

Each of the starter packs was hand delivered to the Head Teacher and the team - with the first being presented by Chief Executive Sherryl Wilson at Kidsfirst Sunbeam - the oldest and 'first' kindergarten in the Kidsfirst network.



Some of the photos taken when the packs were delivered, became the subject of the initial facebook posts.





# STARTER PACKS

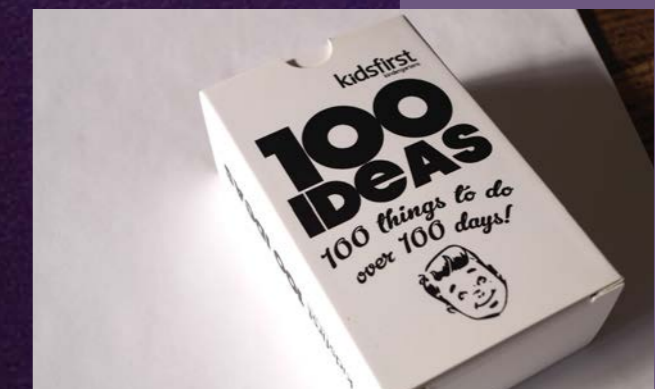
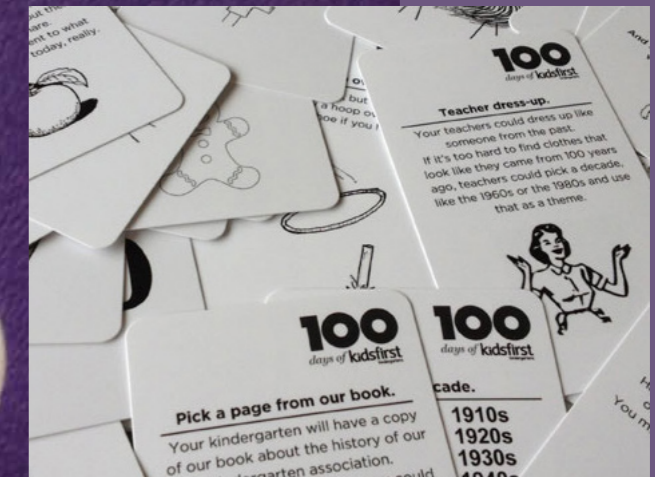


The Starter Packs provided some great tools for our kindergartens. There were ample copies of our special 100 Years Young newsletter, the fold out timeline brochure, a series of 6 posters depicting different eras of our kindergarten story, the set of cards with our 100 ideas and a 'teaser set' of balloons.

# 100 IDEAS CARDS

In the Starter Pack that was distributed on the first of the 100 Days of Kidsfirst, there was a set of 100 idea cards, with suggestions for fun things to do that tied into the concept of being 100 years old.

There were old games and nursery rhymes, ways to make things, wear-a-hat days and other quirky suggestions and thought-starters to get the teachers and the children involved.



The ideas cards sparked a lot of activity around the kindergartens, with many choosing at random from the pack and pinning the card up with photos of what they did.

Teachers reported back that children loved being able to choose a card and direct the activity.

They found the range of ideas (from games to old nursery rhymes, simple tasks to more elaborate creations) easy to incorporate into their teaching.

Many suggested a generic set of cards would be a good idea and even helpful to parents.



around our kindys...  
have fun.



**Be a spaceman.**  
In the 1960s, children were excited by astronauts and rockets and landings on the moon. You could pretend to be a spaceman and maybe even make your own rocket! You could even make some planets and stars to hang from the ceiling.

### PLANT A TREE

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If you have the space, you could plant a tree to celebrate our 100 years. Perhaps it might be a native. You might even like to put a plaque under it to tell people when and why you planted it, and to let them know that it's special.

### Adopt a pet rock.

In 1975, people bought "pet rocks". They were grey rocks that you treated like a pet - except they didn't need to be looked after the same way. The man who came up with this idea made millions of dollars. Some people painted eyes on them to make them look more like real pets. You could take a rock and give it eyes and a name, so it becomes your 'pet'.



a "way we were" day at Kidsfirst, which opened its doors in 1968. The following year saw the first ever landing by Neil Armstrong and the first of looking back to the 1960s, when we constructed a giant papier maché spaceman who 'floats' above the playground.



**100**  
views of our  
Kindergarten

photography  
by  
our  
tamariki



We are celebrating

100 years of Kindergarten

# QUIZ NIGHT



**94.8%**  
of kindergartens  
took part in our  
quiz night

Kidsfirst Kindergartens' Quiz Night was one of the first events of the 100 Days of Kidsfirst.

It was a social event, a learning experience and a great opportunity for kindergarten teachers to mix and mingle.

The tables were decorated with daffodils out of respect to the Daffodil Day kindergarten fundraisers of the past, in milk bottles (next to apples) to symbolise the old milk & apples programme.



We're celebrating a century of kindergartens in our region with pride... fondly looking back on where we've been, where we are and where we're going.

**100**  
days of kidsfirst

we're  
**100%**  
excited

**GET READY, BECAUSE HERE COMES SOMETHING GREAT...**

It was with a sad heart that we pushed back our centenary celebrations because of the September earthquake and the restoration work we needed to prioritise. Then just as we were starting off a new year, and a new plan of celebrations, the February earthquake happened. Things once again got moved. And so it's been for two years.

*But now, we're acknowledging our past and taking time to look back and look forward.*

On the 14th of August we will start our 100 days of Kidsfirst Kindergartens.

You'll receive a special Starter Pack in your kindergarten with some great ideas. Also on that day, you'll start receiving daily emails with some interesting facts and tidbits. Then, a week and a half later, we're hoping to all get together for Kidsfirst's first Quiz Night.

## QUIZ NIGHT

**PENCIL IN THE DATE OF FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH FROM 7PM TIL AROUND 10PM**

We're starting off our celebrations with a fun Quiz Night for teachers, staff, our Board and some of the life members.  
It should be a great deal of fun.  
There will be questions about us, about our past, and about the decades we've seen. You won't need to be an expert, but it might pay to keep an eye on your emails, or glance over the materials that arrive in your Starter Pack.  
We're aiming to have tables of ten, so you might want to get together with a group of your friends from Kidsfirst, or maybe join forces with another kindergarten.  
There will be a few light nibbles, but no meal, as such.  
There will also be some wine and juices on the table, with a cash bar to follow, if you'd like more than an initial glass or two.  
*More details will follow, but save the date for now...*

Sherryll



KIDSFIRST KINDERGARTENS IS A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION OPERATING ACROSS CANTERBURY AND WESTLAND. IT WAS ESTABLISHED AS A KINDERGARTEN AND CRECHE ASSOCIATION IN 1911 AND, ALTHOUGH ITS NAME HAS CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THEN, HAS GIVEN THE CHILDREN OF OUR REGION A GREAT START - AS THE PLACE THEY'VE COME FOR GENERATIONS TO LEARN, PLAY AND HAVE FUN.



# THE QUIZ

The quiz cards include the following content:

- Card 1:** WELCOME KIA ORA. PICK A ROUND TO double your points. PLEASE MARK YOUR CHOICE AND HAND IT IN NOW, WRITING YOUR TEAM NAME AT THE TOP OF THE SHEET.
- Card 2:** WELCOME KIA ORA. YOUR ANSWER SHEETS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE END OF EACH ROUND OR AFTER BONUS QUESTIONS. WHO AM I? QUESTIONS WILL START WITH FIVE POINTS AND DECREASE WITH EACH CLUE UNTIL A CORRECT ANSWER IS GIVEN. THE FIRST TEAM TO STAND WITH THE RIGHT ANSWER ON THEIR SHEET WILL WIN. THE ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION IS FINAL. THERE IS TO BE NO USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING CELL PHONES OR COMPUTERS.
- Card 3:** THROUGH THE DECADES. 4 This woman had a kindergarten named after her. Who is she? (Image of a woman). A Ngaire Larcombe, B Beryl McCombs, C Lady May, D Mrs McKenzie.
- Card 4:** THROUGH THE DECADES. (Image of a man). Timothy Taylor, MP, Municipal Socialist, Mayor of Christchurch. Husband of Elizabeth Best Taylor (nee Ellson). Mrs Taylor was the founding President of our Association and a strong advocate for kindergarten.
- Card 5:** THROUGH THE DECADES. (Image of children with a sheep). LAMBS AT LINCOLN 1986.
- Card 6:** ASSOCIATED NEWS. 4 Complete the quote... "the grounds are now in order, border ----- with flowers, lawn neat and trim" ... from the 1920 Annual Report, on Philipstown. A painted, B repleat, C gay, D abundant.
- Card 7:** BONUS. Mairzy ---- and dozy ----. What's the missing word(s) from this 1941 Number One hit song by the Merry Maes.
- Card 8:** ASSOCIATED NEWS. (Image of a church interior).
- Card 9:** SILHOUETTES. (Image of a blue silhouette of a child).
- Card 10:** WHO'S THAT HULA-HOOPING? (Image of children hula-hooping).
- Card 11:** 100 YEARS YOUNG. (Image of a man kneeling with children).
- Card 12:** 100 YEARS YOUNG. "Riccarton Kindergarten has provided swings made from cut tyres which are the first of this kind to be used in Christchurch and these have proved both safe and comfortable for the children to sit on and to grasp." (Image of a child on a tyre swing). Eric Wilson, Supervising Director of State, Annual Report note.
- Card 13:** WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY. 3 In which year did television transmission begin in Christchurch... A 1961, B 1962, C 1963, D 1964. (Image of a television set).
- Card 14:** NOW AND THEN. (Image of a colorful graphic design).

The Kidsfirst Quiz featured questions about the history of the kindergartens, the heritage of the CWFKA, the decades from the past 100 years, how life has changed and some child-related fun.

There was a huge turnout of teachers with overwhelmingly positive response (and requests to repeat the night).

Not only did everyone seem to enjoy themselves, many teachers commented on how proud it made them to be part of such a strong association and how they'd learnt so much!

# QUIZ NIGHT





# 100 DAYS OF EMAILS

We're celebrating a century of kindergarten in our region with pride ... fondly looking back on where we've been, where we are and where we're going.



## JUST LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME...

It was with a great deal of foresight that our Association came into being, back in 1911. Yet, how surprised and delighted those early pioneers of early childhood education would be if they could only see KIDSFIRST today.

Along the way there have been many stories to tell. There have been challenges and dramas. There have been times of celebration, the funny little things that occur and the quirky aspects of working with young children that never fail to delight and astound us.

So it is with great pride, and a real sense of accomplishment that we begin celebrating our 100 days of Kidsfirst. The earthquakes may have disrupted our plans - but it just postponed the celebration.

We're 100 years young (and then a couple!)

During those hundred years, we've learnt a lot and changed our ways of thinking and working to accommodate substantial changes in society. Looking back we can see just how far we've come.

We're also celebrating the individuality of all our kindergartens. Every kindergarten has a story - and if you go to the new HISTORY pages on our website, you'll see something about yours.

Over the next 100 days we'll be sending out emails with snippets of our past. We urge you to share your memories back with us. If you have anything to share, please contact [douglas@glasstower.co.nz](mailto:douglas@glasstower.co.nz)

We've got an exciting 100 days ahead!

In the meantime, please take part in and enjoy the activities that commemorate our centenary and the rich heritage of kindergarten in our region.

Look in your inbox each day for something new...

Sherryl



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"No greater gift"...



George V was crowned King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, Emperor of India and Defender of the Faith in 1911 and remained monarch until his death in 1936. George was a grandson of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and the first cousin of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany.

The coronation is pictured above in the artwork by John Henry Frederick Bacon. It was a grand event in Westminster Abbey, held June 1911, and celebrated by a 'Festival of London'.

This was a major event in the British Empire's centenary in New Zealand.

At the time our Association was said there could be no greater gift to the children."



... from the egg-shells were typical of the colourful posters seen at the kindergarten College recently.

Jigsaw puzzles in enamel colour cones graded in size and interlocking boats, and smothered on papered pegboards showed the educational toys made by the woodwork classes. There were these everywhere—we noticed a Black Mammy in a bright circular skirt,—a dark Spaniard with comb and mantilla—several and Norwegian blondes—in all nations! The judges made a difficult time to mark the thing a Hawaiian belle in her dress with a dance Scottish lassie tartan!

Clay modelling formed an exhibit and staff and students congratulated on an excellent educational craft work and delight the hearts of young Christchurch Kindergartens

For each of the 100 Days of Kidsfirst we prepared an email to greet teachers as they arrived at their kindergarten each morning.

They varied greatly from historical information to fun facts, anecdotes to children's jokes from the past - there was something for everyone, every day.

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## A woman of vision and determination...

Mrs T.E. Taylor, the Mayoress of Christchurch, called a meeting early in 1911 to propose a kindergarten association. Along with a group of around eighty other dedicated women, they formed the Christchurch Creche and Kindergarten Association which we know today as KIDSFIRST.

This dedicated band of women would go on to fundraise with stalls, concerts and otherwise canvas for support in aid of local kindergarten.

Mrs Taylor (nee Elizabeth Best Ellison) would go on to become our first President and an influential voice for early childhood education over many, many years.

Her husband, local politician and Member of Parliament died of a perforated ulcer in July of 1911, only a few months after becoming Mayor, but his influence and reputation was so great that his funeral was the largest that Christchurch had ever seen, with an estimated 50,000 people lining the streets for his funeral procession.

The Taylors believed in 'municipal socialism' along with temperance and a better deal for the poor, young and elderly. They were steadfast in their principles and widely respected.

The Taylors had several children, their son E.B.E. Taylor becoming NZ Ambassador to Japan in 1961.

Mrs Taylor was a true inspiration and set the tone for generations of people who gave their time and efforts, often for no greater reward than the satisfaction of having done something worthwhile.



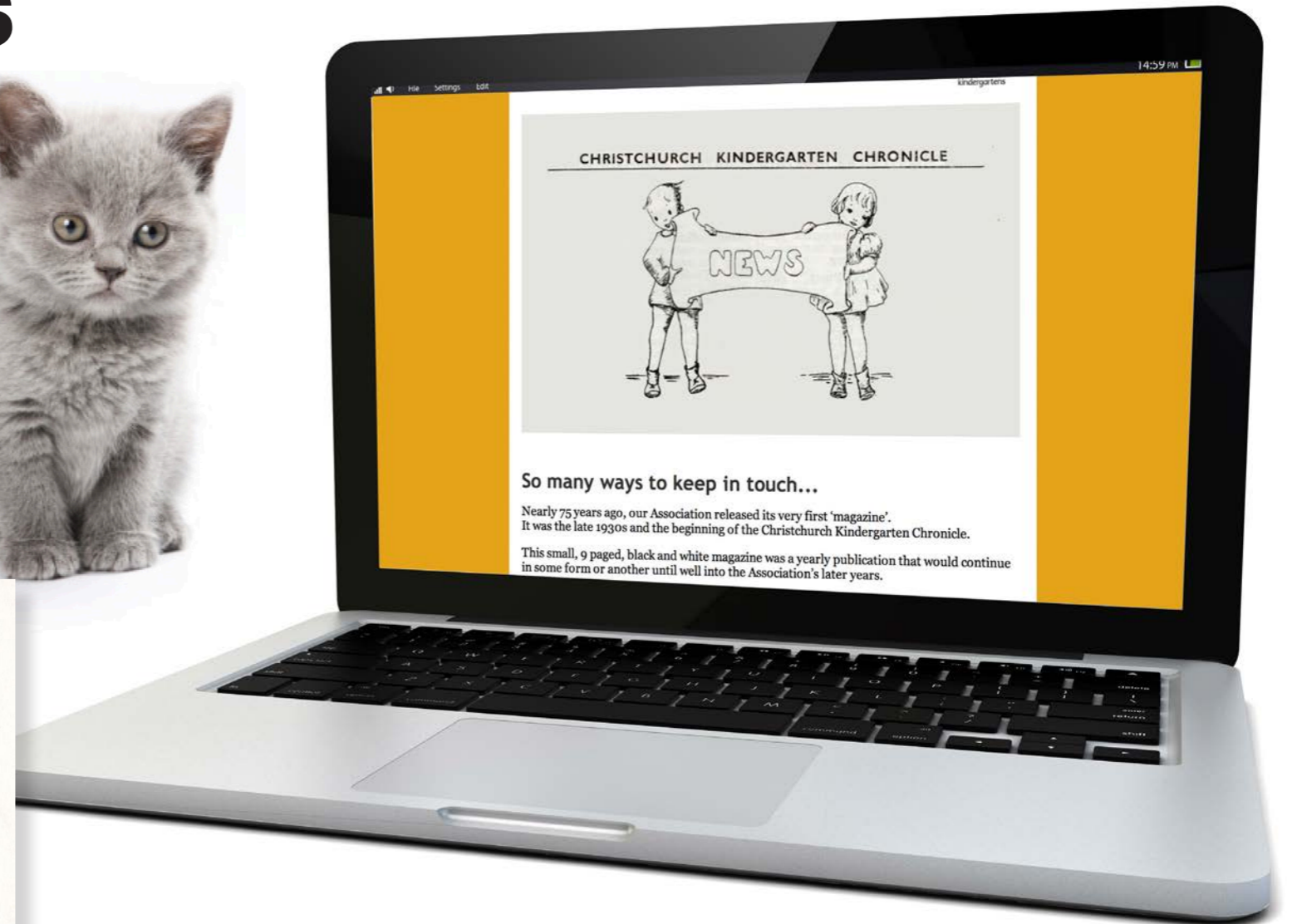
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# 100 DAYS OF eMAILS

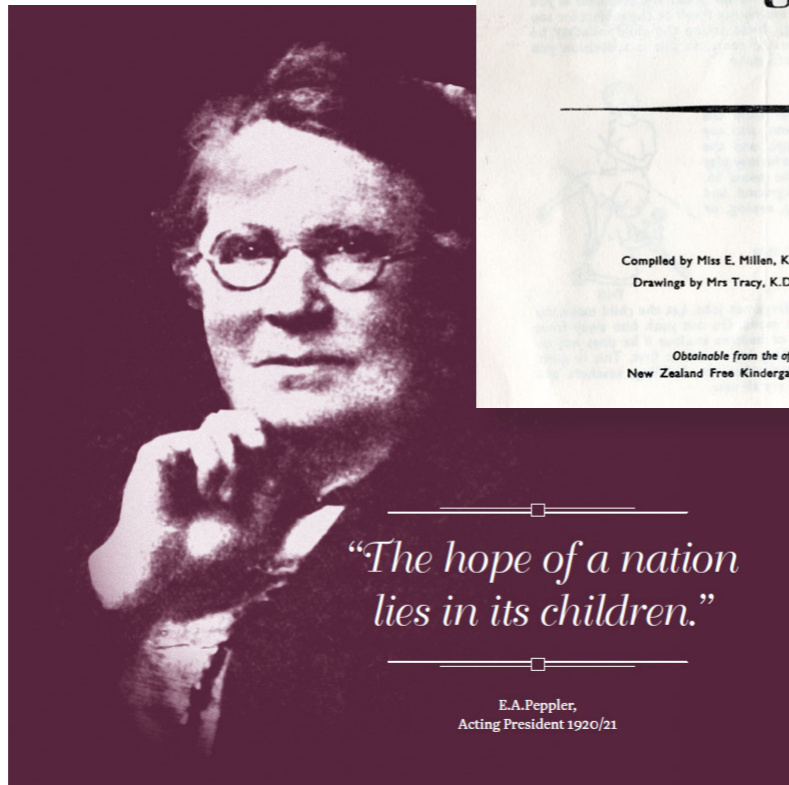
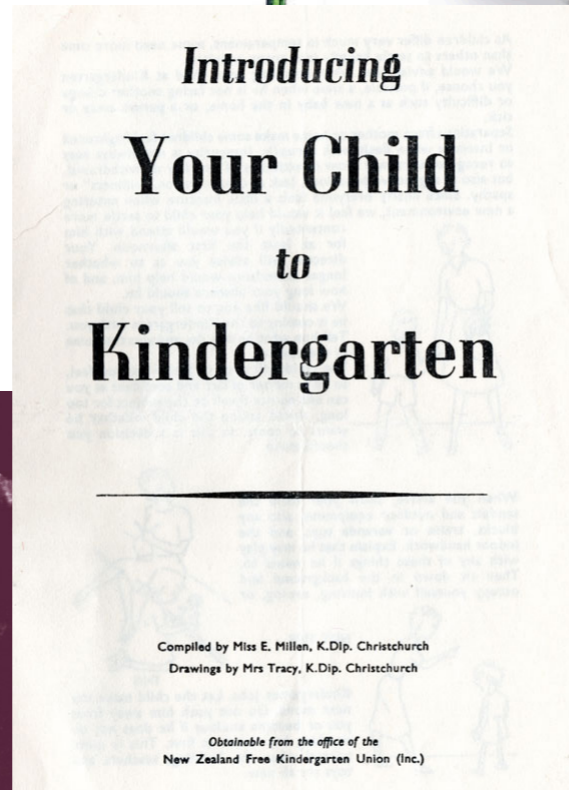


To-day is Daffodil Day in Christchurch, and from an early hour in the morning sellers of daffodils will offer their fragrant ware in the Square, and its immediate environs. All day yesterday the flower pickers were at work among the daffodils, and at the Art Gallery relays of workers were kept busy bunching and arranging the golden blooms.

THE PRESS 1918



For the emailers, some interesting facts were collected, and every morning the teaching teams turned up to a new email featuring a story or piece of information we hoped they'd enjoy.



Interesting snippets of information, fun facts, anecdotes, some historical background, photographs and memorable stories were collected into a series of easy to read emails that went out to our teachers for each of the 100 days.



LORD NUFFIELD



**Media and the Kindergarten**

In the 1996 Annual Report, General Manger Sherryl Wilson wrote of a media issue that had gotten out of hand. The publicity had been caused by an Easter treat gone awry when it was seized upon by the news media.

One single event during 1996 characterised the difficulties faced by community service organisations such as ours in relationships with the media. Hot cross buns, fuelled by media comment, the public were left with the impression and belief that it was kindergarten policy to ban crosses and other religious symbols.



Mother (arriving just in time to see three-year-old Peter bandaging his finger): "Whatever happened, darling?"  
 Peter: "I banged it with my hammer and it bled!"  
 Mother: "But I didn't hear you crying!"  
 Peter: "No, I thought you were out!"

Rex: "Please can I have a pencil?"  
 Mother: "What for?"  
 Rex: "Because I want to draw my wages!"

THE KINDERGARTEN CHRONICLE

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18

Read the Reporter's Diary accounts from The Press in June 1995.

Sites, Buildings and Equipment for Free Kindergartens

**Smelling a rat**  
 A BELFAST kindergarten uses a call-out security firm, at \$60 a call, to protect their premises at night and at weekends. Last weekend the alarm sounded and security staff investigated. They found that Belle, the kindergarten's pet rat, had escaped from her cage and was busy using her freedom to investigate parts of the room she could usually only gaze at longingly.

**Belle's new home**  
 BELLE, the rat that cost the Belfast kindergarten \$60 last weekend when her escape set off a burglar alarm, will be given a new home. Ken, a retired joiner with connections at the kindergarten, has made Belle a cage with a lock and key. Belle's bid for freedom has at least been rewarded with a change in environment.



- Dressing-up material**
- Hats, bags, lengths of material, old lace curtains, etc. are all invaluable for dressing up. Items should be chosen with discrimination. Too much spoils the play.
  - It is advisable to shorten skirts so that they do not trail on the floor.
  - A long mirror adds immeasurably to the child's satisfaction in dressing up.
  - Arrangements should be made for the dressing-up clothes in use to be hung up. If they are stored in drawers they become crumpled and unattractive.



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**100**  
days of kidsfirst  
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**MORNING**

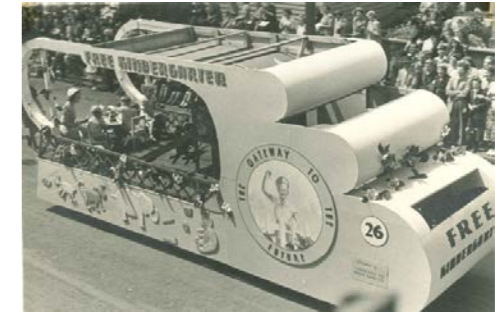


**A Kindergarten Morning in 1943...**

Adapted from a paper given by Miss Betty Barrett (Director, Sunbeam 1924-1943)

This morning, your kindergarten may be filled with the sound of children laughing and talking as they do things like dress up, sing songs, eat kai together, read or listen to a story, dance, play games, and so much more. Back in the 1940s, things were not so different!

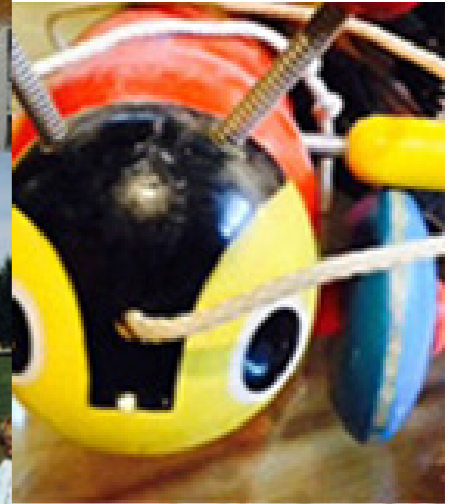
For many decades, teachers have encouraged these sorts of activities, not just for their social or cognitive benefits, but also because the children love it! Happy, engaged children who are developing a love of learning.



*"Like a pair of silk stockings,  
our Association is only as strong  
as its weakest link!"*

**97.2%**

**opened our most  
read of the 100  
emails**



# BALLOON DAY

How do you create awareness in the community, give everyone something easy to do and foster a few thousand smiling faces?

Our answer was Balloon Day.

Based on an idea that came from our Kidsfirst Hokitika kindergarten who tied 100 balloons to their boundary fence back in 2011.

It's inexpensive, colourful and so easy to do.

Of course, our kindergartens came up with some great ideas.

There were photoshopped pictures of children floating away with the balloons, the number 100 made out of balloons, archways and long lines of multi-coloured visual excitement.

Added in, to make it even more involving, was a Balloon Day facebook competition, with the number of likes for the kindergarten determining the winner.



**68.8%**  
of kindergartens  
took Balloon Day  
photos



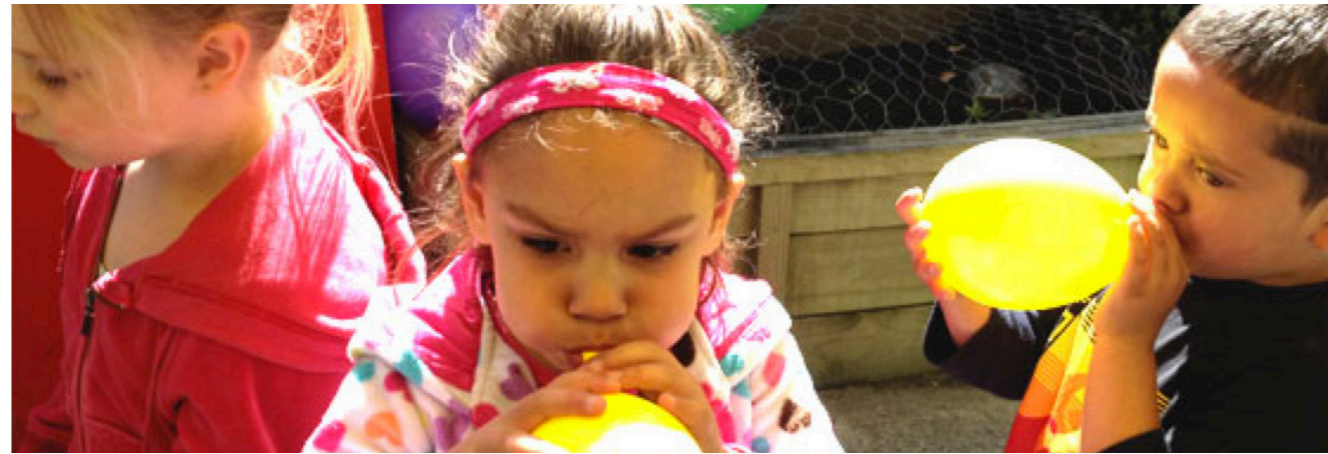
Balloon Day was held across Kidsfirst, with every kindergarten or early learning centre receiving a pack of a hundred especially branded balloons.

Fences and rooflines were adorned, there was a riot of colour across the whole city. People stopped and looked as our kindergartens showed everybody that we were proud to be celebrating 100 years of kindergarten.

Some kindergartens made the number 100 out of the balloons. Others tied a line of 100 balloons to the fence on the street. Some took to their local parks with the balloons, while others put them up indoors.

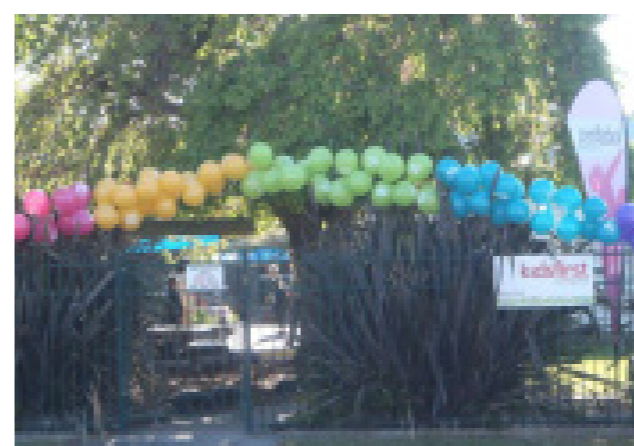
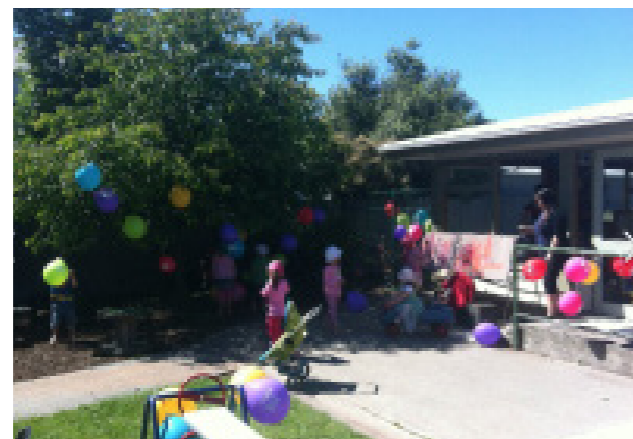
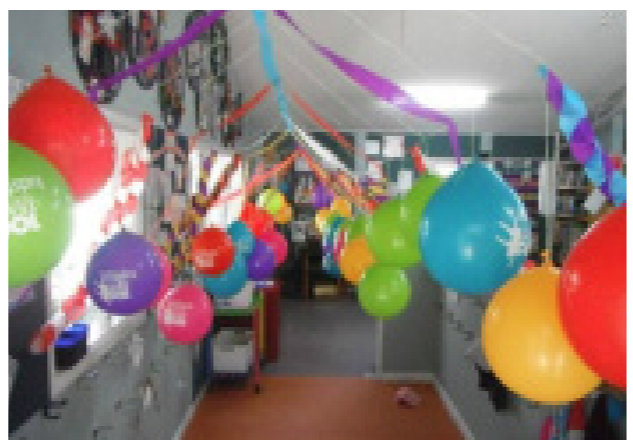
Wherever you went, there were balloons galore!















What do you do with 100 used balloons?

Kidsfirst Lincoln came up with some novel ideas.

The kindy is proud of its efforts to stay “green” and its focus on sustainability.

They filled their balloons with playdough and created some great squishy stress balls.

You can always count on kindys to turn absolutely anything into a great creative opportunity!



# FACEBOOK

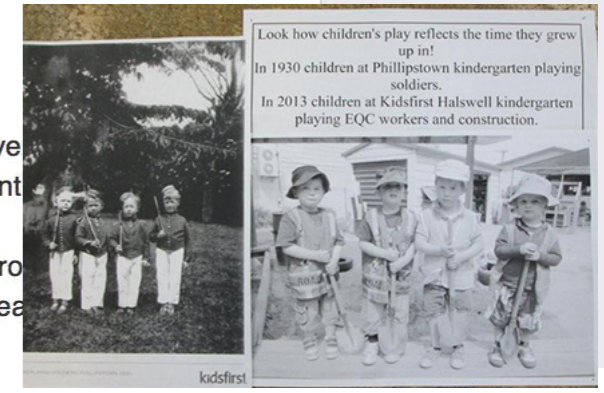
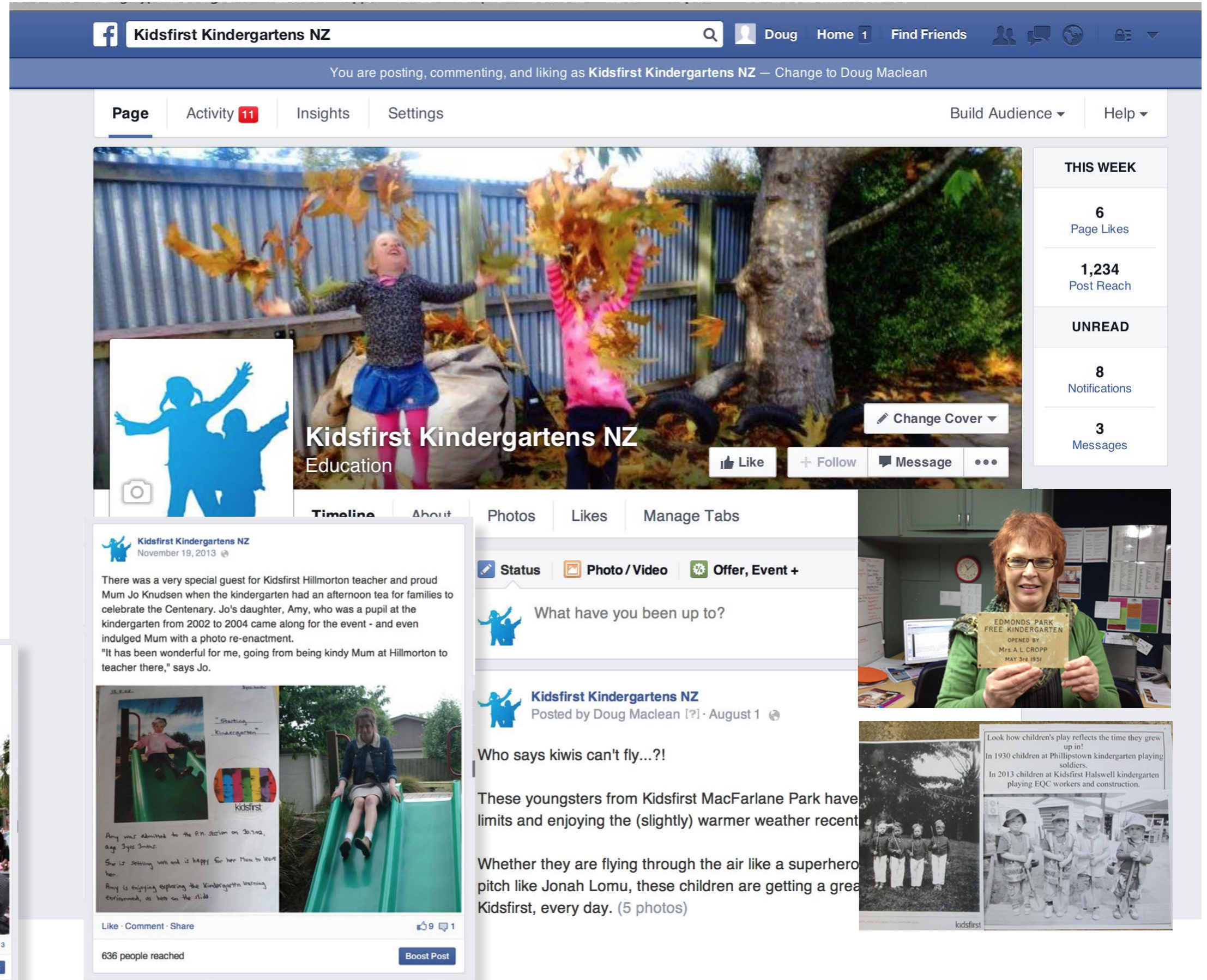
As a trial, Kidsfirst Kindergartens started its facebook page during the 100 Days of Kidsfirst - in a slow and cautious manner, letting the number of likes and comments grow gradually as parents and friends discovered the page.

Stories and news was regularly posted as part of a Kidsfirst Connected programme - which also involved a short term hosting on the curatorial Shuttlerock service - for those who couldn't access facebook on their computers.

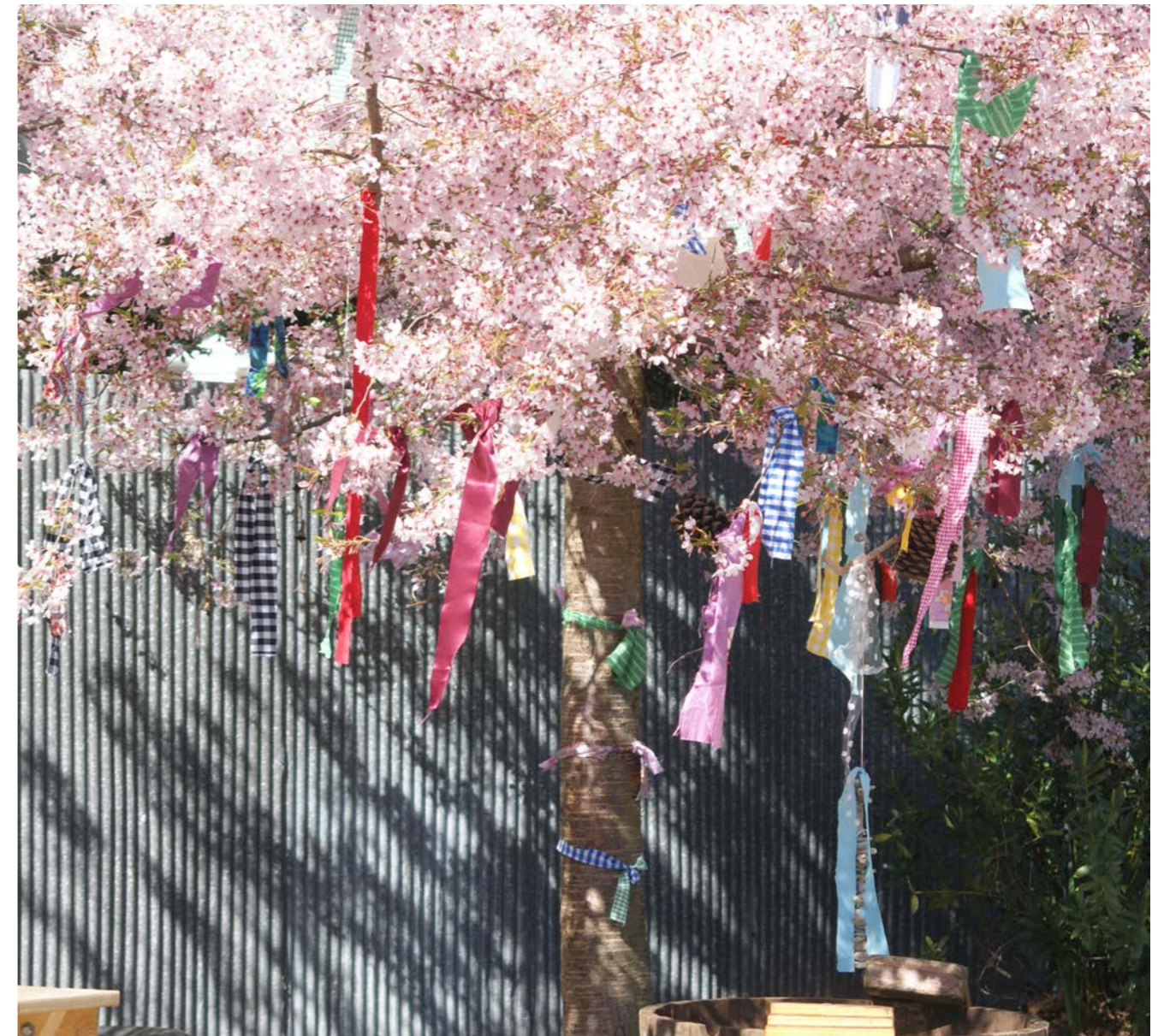
It also hosted competitions and interactive content - **what are the things you like most about kindergarten?**

For Balloon Day, the kindergartens were asked to send us photos we could put up, for parents to judge who was best.

**Virtually every one of our kindergartens participated in the Balloon Day competition -with Kidsfirst King Street being named the ultimate champions.**



# RIBBONS TO REMEMBER



One of our suggestions from the 100 ideas card pack was that of tying ribbons to remember onto a tree.

Over the course of the 100 days many kindergartens did this, often with spectacular results. The trees in their gardens, or hedges along the fence line weren't just adorned with new growth or beautiful blossoms, but spectacular ribbons too.



# LET THERE BE CAKE!



It wouldn't be a true kindergarten celebration without cake!

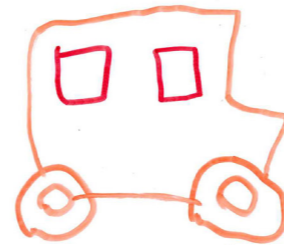
The children baked, the parents baked, the special guests baked, Head Office staff baked - and other people bought theirs!

But the results were delicious. Whether it was a hundred cookies at Kidsfirst Wigram or three cakes to make 100 at Kidsfirst Hornby, a special treat or old fashioned high tea at Birmingham Drive.

What a tasty way to make such an achievement.



# VINTAGE CAR DAY



In November, we organised Vintage Car Day as a celebration that would unite the kindergartens and early childhood centres.

A fleet of dozens of vintage cars took to the streets of Christchurch to visit all the different kindys in spectacular style... often with special guests on board.









# VINTAGE CAR DAY



# VINTAGE CAR DAY



# OUR SPECIAL PEOPLE



As our vintage car fleet took to the streets of the city (and out into the country areas), special guests climbed aboard.

These were people who had been chosen by each of the kindergartens as meaning something to them. Some were ex-teachers, one was the kindy cleaner, there were local business owners - but all claimed a special connection to the kindergarten or early learning centre.

There was a little girl who had been sick with cancer who came back to the kindy, community workers, three generations of one family - all kinds of people. They weren't celebrities, they were the local heroes.







# VINTAGE CAR DAY

Chief Executive Sherryl Wilson enjoys the fun at Kidsfirst Wales St, on Vintage Car Day 2013.





# ARCHIVE BOXES



Our second Starter Pack, delivered after the term break, came with an Archive Box for the kindergartens to fill up. This was then collected by the special guests on Vintage Car Day.

Some kindergartens put in photos, others wrote about life today and their teaching practices, drawings were a favourite, even seeds, favourite toys - and so much more.

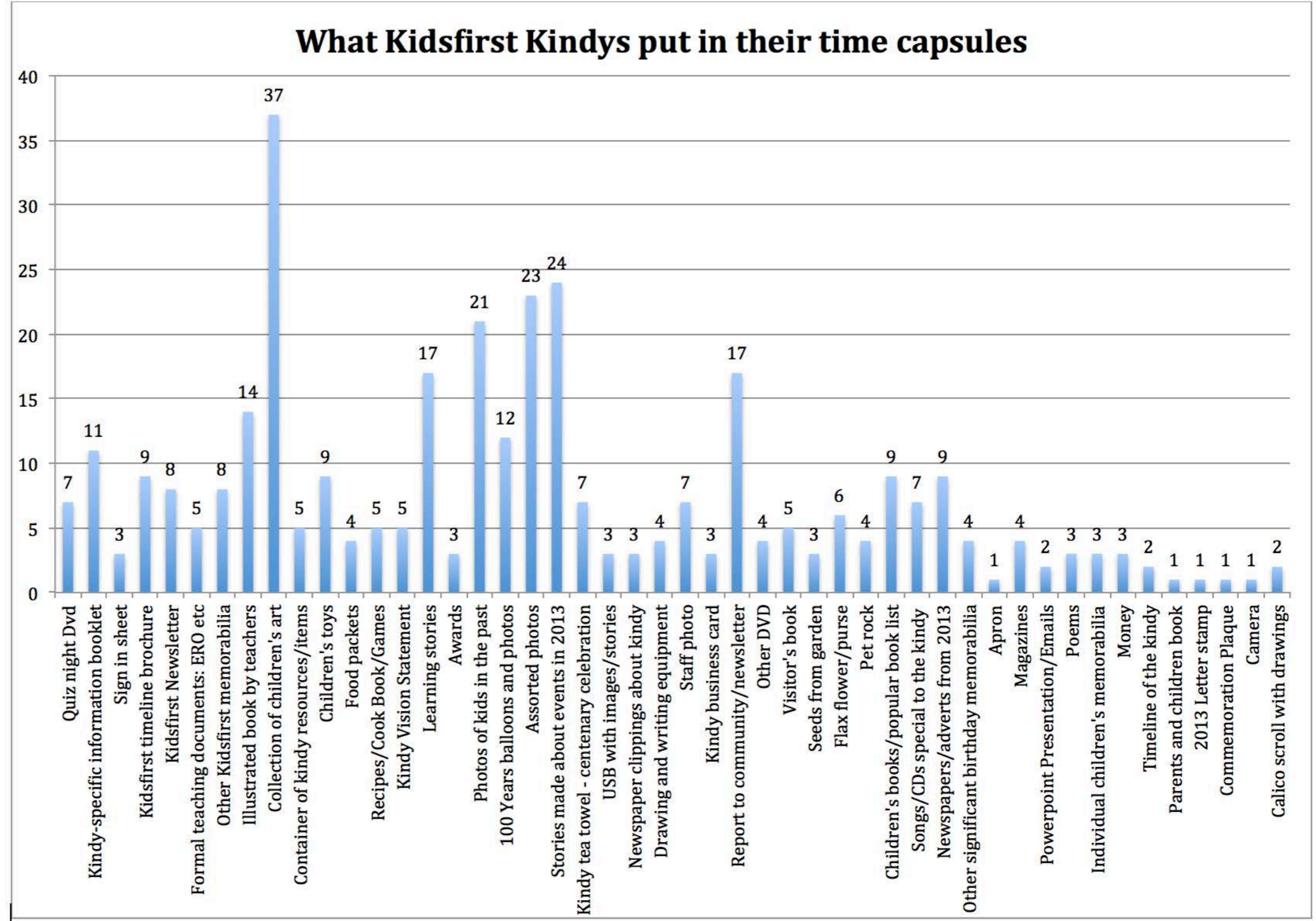
These archive boxes are now safely stored at Head Office to be opened sometime in the future.

# 65%

of time capsules included children's artworks



# TIME CAPSULES



# SHANTYTOWN VISIT

Instead of a Vintage Car Day, our kindergartens on the West Coast got together for a trip to ShantyTown to relive the past - with each kindergarten sporting a different colour for ease of identification.



Above and right, the three West Coast kindergartens visit ShantyTown for a trip back in time.

# PR

Throughout the year, there were traditional public relations and media releasing - especially focussed around local community papers and establishing links between these newspapers and their neighbourhood kindergartens.

The stories were as diverse as the kindergartens themselves, with good coverage spread across the regions and during many months.

## Kindy turns 100

Kidsfirst Kindergarten pupils Hayley Reading (Greymouth), left, with Harry Swinburn (Karoro) and Max Johansson (Hokitika) helped celebrate the organisation's centenary, at Shantytown on Friday. It was the first time all three kindergartens had visited the park together. The Canterbury Westland Kindergarten Association became an incorporated society in 1911 and centenary plans were made for 2011 to celebrate the milestone, but were postponed due to the Canterbury earthquakes and Pike River Disaster.



## Teddy time at kindy

Kidsfirst Belfast Kindergarten celebrated its 20th birthday last Friday in style with a teddy bears' picnic in Sheldon Park.

Students and staff all took along a favourite teddy bear to the event and the "teddy

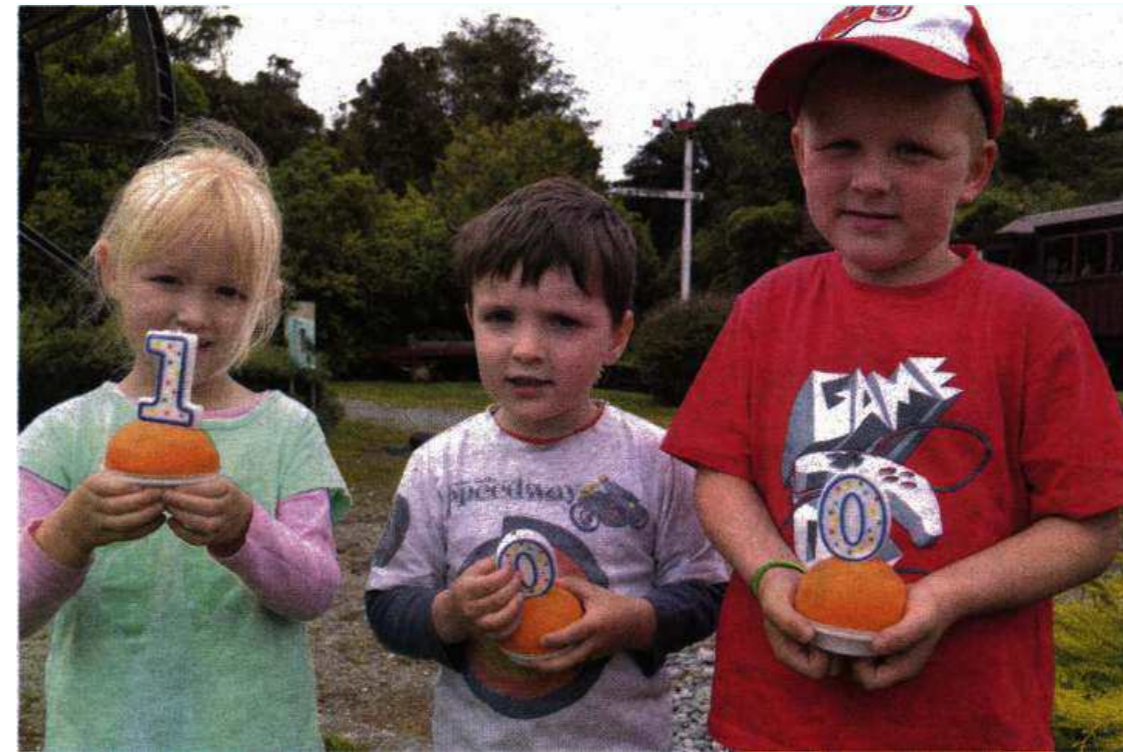
dance" was a highlight of the day.

The event also celebrated the Kindergarten's head teacher Rosemary Booth being at Kidsfirst Belfast for 20 years.

"It's a really great kindergarten to be a part of and a won-

derful community," she said.

"It seemed fitting to have a teddy bears' picnic for our birthday, it's sort of an old fashioned thing in a way, something that one of our kindys might have done 50 years ago."



PICTURE: Nicholas McBride

# LIFE MEMBERS HIGH TEA

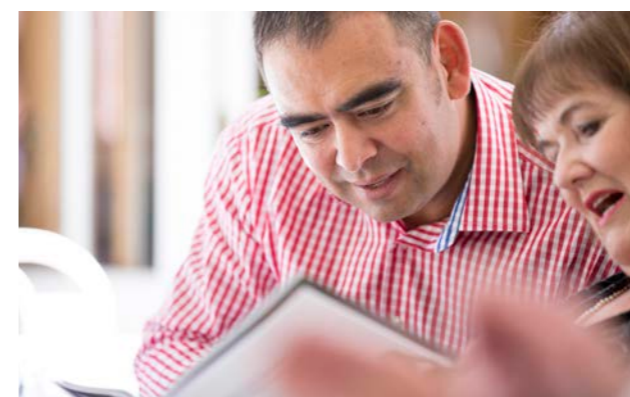


To celebrate with the Life Members, a special high tea was held.

Chair of the Kidsfirst Board, Jan Forsyth, presented all those present with special hard-cover copies of the Kidsfirst book, which was poured over in great detail.

The high tea was such a success that the Life Members of the Association requested that it be considered an annual event where they could catch up with what the kindergartens had been doing and stay firmly connected to Kidsfirst.

It was an opportunity for some of those who had played an important role in the story of Kidsfirst Kindergartens to be recognised for their contribution.



To commemorate the day on which the Association was officially founded, we organised a treat for the Head Office team who keep the wheels turning behind the scenes.

In secret, we sent out an email to all our kindergartens asking them to do a card of thanks for all the hard work and support from Birmingham Drive and the Education Service Managers.

The team themselves had no idea, until mini buses turned up to take them to our oldest kindergarten for a welcome by the children, cupcakes and coffee, and a sea of thank you cards.

We're celebrating a century of kindergarten in our region with pride ... fondly looking back on where we've been, where we are and where we're going.



### CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FANTASTIC WORK THAT THE BIRMINGHAM DRIVE TEAM DOES, IN SUPPORTING ALL OUR KINDERGARTENS TO DELIVER THE MOST FANTASTIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXPERIENCE AROUND.

WE'D LIKE TO SURPRISE THEM ON 'FOUNDERS DAY', WHICH WE'LL BE MARKING ON WEDNESDAY THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER, WITH A VISIT TO KIDSFIRST SUNBEAM, OUR VERY FIRST KINDERGARTEN. THERE'LL BE A SPECIAL AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE CHILDREN. BUT IT'S A SECRET! PLEASE DON'T LET ON TO ANYONE. NOT EVEN YOUR ESM.

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE WERE ABLE TO PRESENT THEM WITH SPECIAL CARDS FROM AS MANY KINDERGARTENS AS POSSIBLE - LOVELY BIG, COLOURFUL, GIANT CARDS, SO THEY CAN REALLY FEEL LIKE PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS, AND SHARE IN THE EXCITEMENT AND JOY THAT THE CHILDREN ADD.



# HISTORY ON THE WEBSITE



**YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW**  
 OUR KINDERGARTENS HAVE BEEN HERE THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND CHALLENGING TIMES, THROUGH WARS AND TURMOIL, EARTHQUAKES & THE REPERCUSSIONS (BOTH GOOD AND BAD) OF POLITICAL AGENDAS. WE'VE CELEBRATED HAPPY OCCASIONS AND LAUGHED AND DANCED ALONG THE WAY... AND WE'VE TAUGHT SO MANY GENERATIONS OF KIWI KIDS TO LEARN, PLAY AND HAVE FUN.

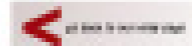
West Coast pride.



Hokitika Kindergarten was Canterbury and Westland of the Association's kind...

Carol Eggleston, former...

"The advantage of the early days was t...



**YESTERDAY TODAY TOMORROW**

OUR KINDERGARTENS HAVE BEEN HERE THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND CHALLENGING TIMES, THROUGH WARS AND TURMOIL, EARTHQUAKES & THE REPERCUSSIONS (BOTH GOOD AND BAD) OF POLITICAL AGENDAS. WE'VE CELEBRATED HAPPY OCCASIONS AND LAUGHED AND DANCED ALONG THE WAY... AND WE'VE TAUGHT SO MANY GENERATIONS OF KIWI KIDS TO LEARN, PLAY AND HAVE FUN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCITING FUTURE AND SEEING ALL THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL COME TO US FOR A GREAT START IN THEIR LEARNING.

**READ**  
 ALL ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN AND AROUND OUR KINDERGARTENS

Reborn and constantly reinventing itself.



MacFarlane Park Kindergarten opened on the 1st of August 1907.

However, the most significant moment in its history occurred almost forty years later when the kindergarten buildings were destroyed by a fire.

"MacFarlane Park Kindergarten, which was destroyed by fire on 29 December 1949, was replaced on the original site in Ackerson Avenue and officially opened on 22 November 1950. We are very grateful to the benefactor, Mr Fawcett, Queen's Road, Seabed, and their committee for the instant return to the teachers and children of the kindergarten for allowing them the use of an empty classroom." Annual Report 1950.



Edmonds Smith St Kindergarten first opened on the 3rd of May 1951 but it wasn't until nearly 20 years later that it was operating on the site it has today.

- Our History
- The Timeline
- Every kindergarten has a story
- How times have changed
- The gardens of kindergarten
- Our photo album



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KIDSFIRST HOME

ABOUT KIDSFIRST

NEWSLETTER

WHY KINDY?

FIND A KINDY

HOW TO ENROL

PAY NO FEES

WHĀNAU, FAMILY & FRIENDS

FAQ

CAREERS

OUR HISTORY

Our Timeline

Every Kindergarten has a story

How times have changed

The gardens of kindergarten

Our photo album

CONTACT US

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Head Office, 43 Birmingham Drive, Middleton, Christchurch 8024 +64 3 338 1303



Every kindergarten has a story... sometimes a whole lot of stories!

There's so much to tell about the last hundred years that we couldn't start to do it justice. What we can do, though, is tell a few of the little stories that help to make up the big picture.

Take a look at some of the interesting things that have happened in our kindergartens since 1911, right through to 2011. There's always a lot happening at kindy.

(There's more happening everyday, as you can see in our kindergarten stories, reflecting life in our various kindergartens today.)

You can read about the 'tip of the iceberg' here. Some of the remarkable and seemingly inconsequential events of the day that all add up to create the rich tapestry that has been kindergarten in our area over the past century.

Click on the kindergarten for a link to a piece of their own history...



In recent years Kidsfirst Kindergartens has come a long way - it has been bold - it has successfully faced and overcome many challenges - it has sought opportunities and taken them. Indeed it has shaped itself as an organisation for the future.

To continue with our success, we must continue to be bold, while being prudent; we must always focus on our vision and our goals; and we must always value our most important resource - our people in all the various roles that they perform.

Above all we must demonstrate a PASSION in all that we do.

Sherrill Wilson, Chief Executive, Kidsfirst Kindergartens, 2002 Annual Report.

- |                     |                         |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Kidsfirst Avonhead  | Kidsfirst Ilam          | Kidsfirst Papanui      |
| Kidsfirst Beckenham | Kidsfirst Isleworth     | Kidsfirst Parklands    |
| Kidsfirst Belfast   | Kidsfirst Kaiapoi North | Kidsfirst Phillipstown |

TERM DATES 2014

Term 1

History pages were added to the website, with a series of general pages outlining the Association's history (and timeline) as well as an individual page for every kindergarten. These pages told that kindergarten's story and put it in context of the era in which it was opened or described some of the interesting things that had occurred in its past.

# NEWSLETTERS



To wrap up the year of celebration, another newsletter was produced, looking back on all the achievements, the fun and colour and excitement of the 100 Days of Kidsfirst Kindergartens.

It is envisioned that this will be a publication that can be used to show the rich heritage, depth and creativity that kindergarten has to offer - showing our teachers and children embracing everything that is so good about professional early childhood education.



# THE 100 YEAR LUNCH

A couple of years ago, to kick off the centenary celebrations that would be halted by the earthquakes, Kidsfirst Kindergartens held a special long service lunch to recognise staff and the time they had spent at our kindergartens. Some had claim to more than 35 years as a teacher with us. Each staff member was given a special perspex trophy in the shape of one of our brand silhouettes, a certificate of service and a poster with everyone's name on it.

None of them had any idea the lunch was happening, as they were led to believe it was going to be a professional development day - a nice surprise!

After a great start it was a shame that everything was put on hold...





