

NEWTOWN KINDERGARTEN

1944 - 1994



1940's

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

Although in looking back over 1941-42 we feel well satisfied that Kindergarten work has been maintained as well as it has, we still find many of our ambitions unrealised.

It is a matter for regret that, owing to staffing difficulties and the temporary closing of Newtown Kindergarten in June, fewer children were able to enjoy the benefits of Kindergarten life.

Approximately 400 children were admitted.

It is difficult to sum up in a few words the value of a work such as this. To say it increases a child's joy in living infers quite a lot. To be wholly alive one requires physical buoyancy, mental vigour and a spiritual conception of life. How can we give children the joy of being wholly alive?

The inheritance we give our child is vitally important—but the seed has not only to be prepared for, it has to be nourished. There cannot be successful development without conditions conducive to growth.

The Kindergarten offers children good development conditions. By 3 years of age, however, the young plant has already developed strong roots, but it's trunk may have received the twist that will mar its beauty all through life. Every impression for good or evil the child receives leaves its mark. Although even by 3 years of age the scar may be deep, subsequent experiences may heal, even though they cannot eradicate.

Thus the Kindergarten has an important function in the community and the Nursery School, which admits children at an earlier age and for longer hours, has a still more important function.

New Zealand has been slow in making provision for the education of the pre-school child. Now, in the present crisis, young life takes on a very much greater value.

As individuals and as a community we have two sacred duties:

- (1) To do all in our power to bring the present conflict to a successful conclusion.
- (2) To act as guardians of the children.

Not only must we strive to preserve the life and health and well-being of every child, but we must encourage young life.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

In reviewing the past twelve months, I have been very conscious of the selfless service that has characterised our activities. Most of our Kindergarten workers and friends have suffered sorrow and loss since our last Annual Meeting, and there are few, indeed, who are not anxious in these days of war. We would share in some measure with all who suffer, and express our deep sympathy.

The significant thing is that no one has allowed personal problems to be reflected in our Kindergartens, and the work has, in no way, been robbed of its joy and efficiency. This is no small thing to have achieved, and to many, besides myself, has, I know, proved an inspiration and spur to greater service.

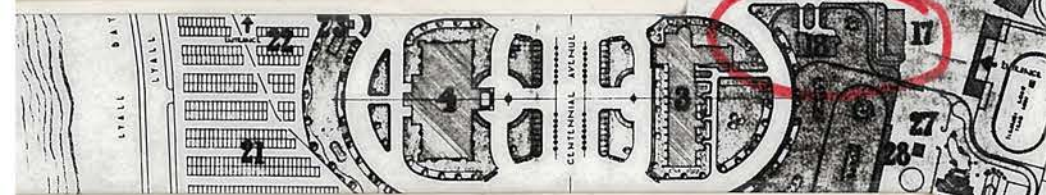
Madam Montessori, referring to one of her schools, says:—"It seems to exert a spiritual influence upon everyone. I have seen here, men of affairs, great politicians, pre-occupied with problems of trade and of state, cast off like an uncomfortable garment the burden of the world, and fall into a simple forgetfulness of self." This happens wherever one's interest is centered in meeting the needs of little children. It carries one beyond the present into the eternal future.

Model Kindergarten.

Although the Model Kindergarten, at Newtown, is not yet completed, it has, at least, reached the stage where it has the appearance of a Kindergarten. From time to time labour has been called away, and all building operations suspended, owing to the urgent claims of war work. Still, it is not anticipated that the job will be held up indefinitely. We were glad to accept the tender of £3,376 from the Fletcher Construction Co. for the erection of this building, and are grateful to the Education Department for their promise of a further subsidy of £750 towards this cost. In the meantime, Miss M. E. Gibbons has returned to us from Melbourne to undertake the work of organising the Newtown Kindergarten when it is opened. We warmly welcome her back to this Association.

NEW ZEALAND CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION
WELLINGTON 1939-1940 NEW ZEALAND

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING	INDUSTRIAL COURTS	STREET PARK
PAVILION	AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS	PUBLIC CAR PARK
CUSTOMS HOUSE	RESTAURANT	AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS
AMBULANCE	GENERAL EXHIBITS	ROSE OF LONDON MONUMENT
AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION	GENERAL EXHIBITS	PUBLIC CAR PARK
UNITED KINGDOM EXHIBITION	GENERAL EXHIBITS	STATION
NEW ZEALAND EXHIBITION	GENERAL EXHIBITS	STATION
REFLECTING POOLS	FOUNTAIN	BAND SHELLS



Centennial Exhibition 1939-1940. Lyall



Model kindergarten opened at Newtown on Saturday afternoon. In the lower picture, from the left, are Mrs. D. C. Peacock, the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, declaring the building open for use, Miss E. T. Wilson, the principal, Mr. and Mrs. R. McKeen, M.P., and Mrs. J. A. Doctor, president of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association.

18. 11. 44

The Kindergarten opened in Nov. 1944 on land given by the Governor General. The land was originally a paddock, then a vege garden. The kindergarten at the exhibition was brought by the RNZAF and the original design modified to suit the Newtown site.

OPENED BY PRIME MINISTER Model Kindergarten At Newtown

After a series of vicissitudes, the model kindergarten of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, which was one of the educational features at the Centennial Exhibition in 1940, was at last officially opened in Newtown on Saturday afternoon by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser. With the ceremony, Mr. Fraser said the "tapu" of witches and delays was lifted, and the building was ready to begin its real purpose.

The first delay was the result of a war necessity when the building was taken over by the military authorities. When the contract was eventually let for the erection of the kindergarten in Newtown in May, 1941, it was expected that within a few months the building would be in use. Unfortunately another emergency measure prevented this, and for more than a year, it served for messing facilities for the men who were restoring buildings in Wellington damaged by earthquake. On November 19, 1943, the building was returned to the association and the official opening, therefore, was exactly one year later. The land on which the kindergarten was erected had formerly been part of the grounds of Government House.

Once the building was allocated to Newtown, considered by the association the most necessitous area, the problem was where were the grounds for it, said the Prime Minister. "We never thought we could raise our eyes to Government House grounds, but nobody could have met the startling proposition to purloin part of the grounds more helpfully than did the late Lord Galway, then Governor-General," he said.

The kindergarten building had already played a part in civic affairs, being for the use of W.A.A.F.'s and then as a workmen's canteen, and now within its walls children would learn not only educational things but of life itself. The training there would give them the chance to lay the proper foundation for future manhood and womanhood. Mr. Fraser said he felt all the delays had been worth while, because the building was so delightful and satisfying to all. As far back as 1865 Charles Dickens realized the importance of kindergarten training and wrote an article extolling its merits.

While congratulating the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association on its achievements, he added a note of praise for the way it had come forward so willingly and accepted the wartime burden of adding day nurseries to its responsibilities, and for this it deserved the sincere thanks of all.

Great Combined Effort.

The erection of the model kindergarten at the Centennial Exhibition was the result of the personal energy of Mr. James Fletcher, said Mrs. J. A. Doctor, president of the association. Mr. Fletcher was responsible for the procurement of the Government subsidy and for the supply of materials and labour which resulted in the model kindergarten being opened at the exhibition without charge to the association. The merchant houses of Wellington, in conjunction with the contractors for the exhibition, Messrs. Fletcher and Love, provided a building which was the admiration of hundreds of thousands of visitors. In addition to the actual buildings, all furnishings were included in the generous gift from the Government and from the various friends of the association.

"From an architectural standpoint we consider that it is one of the outstanding kindergarten schools in New Zealand," said Mrs. Doctor. "There is no question that the standard of equipment and the facilities which have been provided reflect the greatest credit on all responsible when it is considered that this school is a wartime building. When the city council has completed the lay-

out, Mr. Gordon Luckie, deputizing for the mayor, expressed appreciation on behalf of the citizens of Wellington to the association for its great work. It had earned for itself the gratitude of the large number of working mothers who could not give time during the day to look after their young children.

Mr. McKeen, M.P. for the district, said Newtown had been at great inconvenience, due to the lack of a kindergarten, for some time. Mrs. Doctor, her workers, and the mothers' club, deserved thanks for their combined efforts on behalf of the kindergarten.

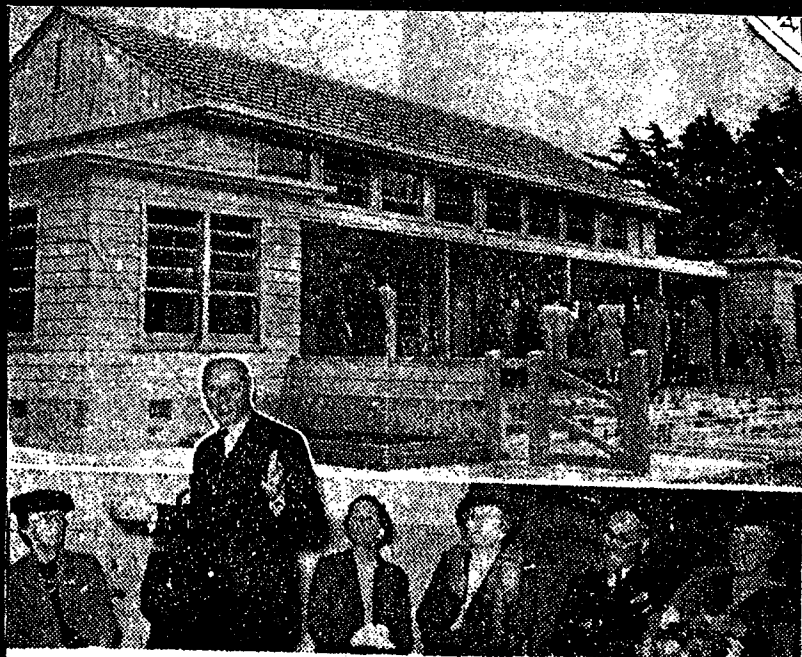
Other speakers were the Director of Education, Dr. Beeby, and the chairman of the education board, Mr. W. V. Dyer.

Mr. Muston, the architect, presented gold commemorative keys to Mr. Fraser and Mrs. Doctor, to mark the occasion. Lady Sidey, Dunedin, whose interest in kindergarten work extends over many years, was present. The director of the Newtown Free Kindergarten is Miss M. Bauckie, and her assistant is Miss J. Morris. Afternoon tea was served, and the large crowd which attended the opening were able to inspect the building.



Typical of the happy children at Newtown Kindergarten





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Typical of the happy children at Newtown Kindergarten

A simple line drawing of a person with a large head, smiling face, and a single arm raised. The drawing is done in a thick, dark line on a white background. The person has a round head with a few dots for eyes and a curved line for a smile. A single arm is raised, and the body is represented by a few simple lines.



1955 an outing to Petone. One small boy got lost on the way home, thankfully found at Petone station! (alive & well on the platform!)



1950's



EARNEST IS AS ERNEST DOES.—Not for one instant belying his name, little Ernest Divall applies all his concentration to the serious business of carpentry. Getting a fine clean cut is part of the daily routine for this little fellow and 51 other youngsters at Newtown Kindergarten.



Kindergarten 'At Home'

On a recent afternoon, the council of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Council held an "at home" in the Newtown Kindergarten for the mothers of the students who are at present in training. The kindergarten was attractively decorated with bowls of wattle, Iceland poppies and jonquils, which had been arranged by Miss Audrey Cooper, supervisor of students' practical work. One corner of the room had been set aside for a display of students' handwork, art, and nature study.

After being welcomed by the president of the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association (Mrs. J. A. Doctor) and by the principal (Miss F. M. Baucke), the students entertained those present with a programme of singing, drama, and physical culture display, for which they had been trained by Miss Joyce Morgan, Mrs. B. Ashton, and Mme. G. Taglicht respectively.

Mothers of the students, who had come from outlying districts as well as from Wellington, had spent the morning visiting the kindergartens where their daughters were receiving practical experience. Both the morning visits and the afternoon function enabled the visitors to see something of the work that is undertaken both by students in training and by staff members.

As the directors of the association's 16 kindergartens, members of the education committee, lecturers, and wardens of hostels had been invited to the "at home" it was an opportunity for all interested to discuss informally a common interest.



NURSERY SCHOOL COMBINE

Busy Children In Novel Kindergarten

THE only centre in Wellington which offers a kindergarten with nursery school facilities is the Newtown kindergarten.

Open from 8am to 5pm, the staff work in shifts to cope with the 52 children who come there each weekday.

The establishment is the special responsibility of Mrs. B. McEwen, and was originally located in Taranaki Street. Now bordered by Government House gardens and a grass reserve with playground facilities, the airy, many-windowed centre is a real sun trap. Enclosed on one side by a sheltering hillside, the area has the appearance of being well off the beaten track, though it is in one of the busiest areas of the city.

Some leave

All the children are present at mid-morning for milk and apples, but at the middle of the day before the two-course meal, 22 of the children go back to their homes, and only 30 are present for afternoon tea.

The daily programme includes playing, learning, and resting.

There are 15 other kindergartens under the jurisdiction of the Kindergarten Association in the Wellington district but, as is the custom, these are open for half days only.

The boys and girls were busy at a multitude of occupations, either singly or in groups, and two or three little girls were putting a sick doll to bed under the lockers of the midget proportioned, fully equipped cloakroom, when "The Post" called. The gaily painted jungle gym was swarming with boys and a savoury smell was coming from the modern kitchen.

A director, a housekeeper, a helper and three trained kindergarten trainees are assisted by two kindergarten trainees. Every six weeks these trainees will be replaced by two others in training under the Taranaki Street scheme under the principalship of Miss J. Barns, catering for 43 on a two-year course.

Associated with the scheme is the work of the association in organising the building and equipment of kindergartens in areas where they are needed, with the help of an Education Department subsidy.

Many skills

Many skills from carpentry to the care of the centre's budget, are learned by the children in their hours of interested and free activity. Guidance and attention are in evidence on all sides as is the unobtrusive help that is the essential ingredient of childhood happiness.

These are the children of mothers who, for one reason or another, are unable to give their offspring the all-day attention they

might like to. All applications for entry to the kindergarten are screened and the most necessary cases have preference. The happy constructive atmosphere of the school is an indication that the confidence these mothers place in it is not misplaced.

1955 The Taranaki St Nursery School was demolished and Newtown Kindergarten became a nursery school as well.



1957 or 1958 ALL ABOARD AND SHIP AHOY



THIS RIGGING IS AS GOOD AS ANY. It's flooded with sun, it's got the sky above, and the wide open spaces all around. Come up and see how it feels to have the world at your feet, say the bright faces of the boys and girls at their Hospital Road centre.