

# ‘Talents’

## Kindergarten Mothers Clubs Annual Talents Shows

Unless otherwise  
stated all images  
property Ruahine  
Kindergarten  
Association Archives

- From 1957 to the mid 1970s the annual Talents Show was a much anticipated and popular event on the Manawatu social calendar.
- Mothers Clubs from Kindergarten Associations in Palmerston North, and Pahiatua, Levin and Marton united to present a joint production of items that ran for two, sometimes, three nights and a matinee at the Opera House, Palmerston North.
- The women wrote the items, made the wardrobes, and assisted kindergarten fathers roped in to build the scenery and backdrops. Whilst an important social get-together for many kindergarten mothers, the show also made a profit that was shared across the kindergartens involved.
- Kindergartens took turns to be the host committee.



Westend Kindergarten 'American Theme' n.d.







## 1965 'Afterhours'



# 'Talents' Rules - who may participate?

Talents Committee Rules stated any married women with children at a kindergarten may take part in the production.

Clarification was sought at a Meeting of Talents Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1968. The committee was asked to rule on whether an unmarried mother with a child at kindergarten may participate. The committee asked the Associate Secretary to check on this ruling and advise the committee.

Subsequent minutes are scarce. However an early 1970 memo sent to mothers clubs and social committees continued to assert the original rule.

Change was clarified in the Minutes of Manawatu Kindergarten Talents Committee for May, 1970, Mrs Stevenson reminded delegates that unmarried mothers may participate in 'Talents'. It was suggested that delegates should read the rules to all participants.



## 'Talents' Show – Follett Kindergarten Mothers Club c.1968



“What memories. Our skit was about 10 min long and I remember we sung ‘Surrey with a fringe on top’ and ‘I’m just a girl who can’t say no’. A lot of work but so much fun.”

Photo and text: Marion Cairncross (Soutar)





# Information for 'mothers'

*This notice sent home  
with all kindergarten  
children, & kept for  
reference.*

## MILVERTON FREE KINDERGARTEN

### 1971 TALENTS 1971

TALENTS is a show produced each year by the combined efforts of the Kindergartens in the city and outlying districts. The mothers for each Kindergarten organise and rehearse an item to be presented in the show, always a very successful and popular venture. As in the past, Milverton Kindergarten would like to put forward an item this year, and we would ask all mothers to think about participating.

A meeting has been arranged to be held at the Kindergarten on Thursday 11th March at 8pm, where the producer, Mrs. Joy Bradley, would be pleased to meet all mothers and friends interested in taking part.

Do not be put off if you feel you have no acting experience to offer, you will be surprised to find what hidden abilities you have! We hope you will come along, you will find it a lot of fun and have the opportunity to make new friends

REMEMBER - This Thursday, 11th March, 8pm at the Kindergarten.



# Milverton Kindergarten



# 1972 “TALENTS” GO INTO RECESS

---

The Manawatu Association decided the Talents should go into recess

One of the points raised was that Local Committees gave much time to Talents and therefore had less time for other fundraising activities

The Talents Committee was disappointed with the decision but agreed the matter was fully considered and that it was not a rash decision.