



**HE WHO HELPS A CHILD  
HELPS HUMANITY**

Wellington Free  
Kindergarten Union  
(Incorporated) -  
1923 - 1978?

1990's



Past Logos -

current





Kindergartens emerged from a belief of the German philosopher and educator Frederick Froebel, that the emotional and intellectual environment of the nursery was too limiting for 4-6 yr olds but that they were not ready for school. The kindergarten (or "child garden") became the new educational institution that developed between infancy and childhood.

' Kindergarten was the first early childhood movement in New Zealand and began in Dunedin in March 5 1889 '



Government funding to kindergartens began in 1904, and was delivered via grants to the local committees.



# Mary Richmond

One of the founders of the Kindergarten movement in Wellington and who was a strong Froebel's educationist. She was explicit in her social, as well as pedagogical motives for establishing free kindergartens.



Petone Kindergarten 1945



Berhampore Kindergarten 1945

Miss Richmond saw little

ones too small to go to school, sitting about in the dirt on pavements, dusty, grubby learning language which was certainly no good for them, and her tender mother-heart ached for these neglected babies. 'We must have kindergartens for these children' she said, and she set to work to get them.

(Minutes, WFKA, 1907)



Group photograph of Mary Richmond and the children in her school,  
[ca 1908]



Photographed by an unknown photographer in about 1908.



# Mary Richmond (MER's) opened -



In a letter dated from MER's mother to her sister 13 April 1906 " Dear MER's three schools are all going well. The free Kindergarten began with 8 infants from 3-5 in age with one at 2 yrs not able to speak. The school opened on 2 April on the 10th 36 pupils attended. (and there is more— I'll bring it down at morning tea: Miss Mary Elizabeth Richmond

- The first Kindergarten in Tory street, in the Wesleyan Hall in Wellington  
2nd April, 1906.



An  
Early Wellington  
Kindergarten



As described by  
Ted Scott

Old Taranaki Street  
Kindergarten on the corner  
of Taranaki and Frederick  
Streets in Wellington, 1918

Becoming a  
Kindergarten Teacher



The interior of the  
old Taranaki Street  
Kindergarten, 1918.  
(From the collection  
of Ted Scott.)





In 1918 the Wellington Free Kindergarten put on an exhibition in the Masonic Hall in Boulcott street.

This photograph shows the children and staff of the Taranaki Street Kindergarten outside the Masonic Hall.

The directors are Miss Morris, Miss Herzog and Miss Scott

(Photograph and programme in Wellington Free Kindergarten archives.)



# The Philosophy of Kindergarten

Play is an essential part of children's development. Children's play is their work. Through their play children learn skills they need for life

**What children learn through play:** Children learn skills to extend their development, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually.

**Some learning outcomes for children are to:** be independent, relate to a variety of different people, make friends, be culturally aware and accepting of others, communicate, develop confidence, feel good about themselves, be responsible, share and co-operate, learn simple rules and routines, become aware of and appreciate individual differences, be creative, solve problems, think for themselves, respect for each other and their environment, begin to learn concepts about maths, science, language, art, music, drama, physical education, health, sand and water, culture.



# The Philosophy of Kindergarten

" Young children learn through play. Kindergarten aims to meet the individual needs of every child. Physical, emotional, social and intellectual development is planned for within the programme. "

Every child is unique. They progress at their own pace. Kindergarten takes each child from the developmental stage they are at and aids them to develop skills to move on from there.

Children's learning is not measured by what they take home. The emphasis is on the process of 'doing' or 'experiencing' rather than the end result.

When children play they are: exploring, experimenting, thinking, discovering, solving problems, making decisions, being creative, acting out situations that have meaning to them, using their imagination, practising and repeating, learning by trial and error and making choices.



# Kindergarten celebrates 50 years

Last Saturday afternoon's 50th birthday celebration for Cambridge Street Kindergarten was "absolutely fabulous", organiser Betty Montford said.

More than 50 people turned up to celebrate, which exceeded the expectations of the kindergarten's life member and patroness.

"It really was beyond what I thought it was going to be," Mrs Montford said.

"I had a target of one person for every year.

"Having a first-day pupil, the first teacher and two who were on the original committee – when you go back 50 years to get those people – it's just great.

"I have had so many people say to me it

was a wonderful afternoon."

Pauline Dobson, an "untrained assistant teacher from the early days" spoke about the staff when she taught at the kindergarten.

Amanda Coulston from the Wellington Regional Free Kindergarten Association and original first-day pupil Stanley Rolston also spoke to the gathering.

A variegated elm tree was planted to mark the occasion followed by a "sumptuous afternoon tea", Mrs Montford said.

Education reporter Yvonne Tahana headed down there to see what the children get up to at the oldest early childhood centre in town.



The girls get gooey. From left are Fineata Moala, Madelyn Corner and Christiana Opertaia.

1524e-04

## PICTURE FROM THE PAST



One of these ladies is Betty Montford

The Levin Free Kindergarten Association was formed at a public meeting in 1952.

The project was sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and by April 1953 nearly 3000 pounds had been raised, an average of 100 pounds a week. At the time the population of Levin was 4727.

The biggest fundraising effort was a baby photo contest which produced nearly 1700 pounds.

The land in Cambridge Street where the kindergarten was built was a joint gift from the Levin Borough council to the kindergarten and the Plunket Society.

In July 1953 an architect was employed to submit plans and specifications for a modern open plan kindergarten.

The kindergarten was opened to the first 10 children on September 20th 1954.

Talent shows were held from 1958 through to 1970 as a way of raising money. These shows were held around most of the country and Levin was in the Manawatu area, which entailed travel to the Regent in Palmerston North for three night performances and a matinee. The proceeds of the shows were shared equally between the kindergartens taking part.

"Wonderful fun, and if you were not in a show it meant you had either just had a baby or were going to have one," said life member and reunion organiser Betty Montford.

Pictured is a group in 1962 staging The Gay Twenties. Those that have been identified are Rae O'Connor, Ann Halliday, Betty Montford, Marion Low, Maureen Carter, Joan Barton, Pam Smith, Marguerite Lidstone, June Nelson, Norma Wildbore, Ethel Wall, Pauline Dobson, Edwina Dixon

The Levin Free Kindergarten was formed at a public meeting  
in 1952 and opened on September 20th 1954.



# COOK STRAIT

d LTD

Phone 587 1660 Tuesday, August 2, 2005

## 100 YEARS YOUNG

**M**ackenzie Davis (3) tucks into some birthday treats at a lunch at Berhampore Kindergarten. Wednesday's celebrations marked the Wellington Kindergarten Association's 100th birthday. Berhampore Kindergarten, established in the mid 1920s, is one of Wellington's oldest, and was the first in purpose-built premises. Margaret Charles attended the kindergarten in her childhood and returned for Wednesday's lunch with her granddaughter Samantha Graham, a current pupil. Head teacher Urmila Parbhu says the kindergarten is the melting pot of Berhampore's multicultural community. Indian, Somali, Assyrian, Chinese and Russian mix with pakeha, Maori and Pacific Island children. "People comment on how nice it is to see so many different children just getting along," she says. One change Ms Parbhu has noticed over the years is that parents are now busier, often with both working, and have less time to help out at the kindergarten.

PHOTO: SIMON HAXTON

Rāatu, August 2, 2005:  
Kotahi rau tau

Berhampore Kindergarten  
est 1917



Loma Hills, Ngaire Hastings, June Acbride  
(director) Betty Weens, Prue Pavitt.

Berhampore Kindy staff 1946



Morag Maloney, Helen Tuapola, Zenaïda Savill,  
Karen Dalley, Margaret Jamieson 2012



# Wellington Region free Kindergarten Assoc



Lynette, Rob, Christine, Gill, Mandy, Paula, Margaret, Olga  
Absent: Lindy, Kirsty, Susan.

Staff—2004





' Working together '





Different era, Different tools - 'same imaginings'









Ka tipu (Grow)

Ka tohu/ka whakaarahi (Lead)

Ka whai hua/ka Rangatira (Succeed)









# 'Tricks and Treat' Halloween Northland Kindergarten.

Mrs Rose  
— 4th

To Mrs Rose

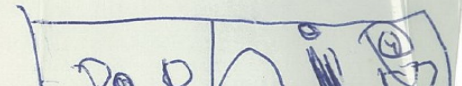
A little something  
And best wishes, too!

Sorry you are leaving  
Love from Matthew  
x x x x



Dear Mrs Rose

I know that you  
have been a very  
nice teacher for a  
long time.  
I wish that I  
were not going  
to school yet.  
kisses from





# Passionate teachers empower ako



*Ka Whangaia ka  
tupu, ka puawai*

*That which is  
nurtured,  
blossoms and  
grows*





Different era, Different tools - 'same imaginings'













# WELLINGTON FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION



Misses Myers. 2 Wood - Preshaw

"Hand Training is Brain Training" — Students at work.



Some Students past and present.



Back Row Misses Scott Seafie - Lake  
Middle " " Ramsay Wilson (Principal) Grey

Back Row Misses Scott Seafre Lake  
Middle " " Ramsay Wilson (Principal) Grey  
Principal and Staff of the Free Kindergartens.  
Front " " Seed, Gilbert, Bradley, Logan





Back row Misses Scott Searle - Lake  
 Middle " " Ramsay Wilson (Principal) Grey  
 Front " " Seed, Gilberd, Bradley, Logan  
 Principal and Staff of the Free Kindergartens.



# Wellington Region free Kindergarten Assoc



Staff—

Hannah, Alysha, Sandra, Brendon, Lou, Lynette, Ellen, Andrea,  
Anne, Helen, Jenny, Andy, Claire, Karen, Toko, Roseanne, Jeremiah, Caroline,  
Rob, Kim, Lorraine, Danny, Christine, Gill, Mandy, Paula, Lindy, ?