

MUNGAROA / MAUNGAROA SCHOOL

Situated Main Road North Upper Hutt - Opened 03 June 1879 - Closed 07 April 1913 (1972)

Mungaroa/Maungaroa School later known as Te Marua School then finally known as Brown Owl School which is now closed

Evening Post newspaper 31 October 1878

At the meeting of the Education Board the tender of Mr R McDonald (£265) for the Mungaroa School was accepted. (plus various other reports)

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 31 October 1878 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 07 January 1879

At the Education Board meeting it was resolved to advertise for a teacher for Mungaroa School. The Building Committee of the Board of Education met yesterday when it was resolved to send plans similar to those of the Mungaroa school to the committees of the Pahautanui Small Farms Settlement Ekatahuna and Park Vale districts.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 07 January 1879 page 2)

Mr E Morgan of Upper Hutt undertook the occasional inspection on the progress of the building of the Mungaroa School for the Education Board when requested.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 May 1879 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 03 May 1879

Education Board – Expenditure for year 1879 - Land purchase and building accounts – Mungaroa School £220 – Mungaroa Residence £210

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 30 May 1879 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 31 July 1879

The question of remitting Mr McDonald's fine for non-fulfilment of contract in the building of the Mungaroa was brought up at the Education Board yesterday and was referred to Mr Toxward

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 31 July 1879 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 21 December 1881

Education Board - The building committee recommended that £200 should be voted for additions to the Mungaroa school.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 21 December 1881 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 22 December 1886

Mrs Evans of the Mungaroa School asked the Board to defray the expenses she is put to in attending the art classes. The Board resolved to accede to the request as it was stated that in order to reach the train the applicant was obliged to walk a considerable distance.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 22 December 1886 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 29 September 1888

The examination of the Taita, Upper Hutt and Mungaroa schools has been completed by Mr Lee Inspector of the Board of Education. The results are as follows – Mungaroa School – The total number presented was 43 of which 16 were below standard I. None were presented from Standard I. In standard II = 6 were presented, 1 was absent, 1 failed and 4 passed. In standard III = 11 were presented 1 absent, 5 failed and 5 passed. In standard IV = 5 were presented 2 failed and 3 passed. In standard V = 3 were presented and all passed. In standard VI 2 were presented 1 failed and 1 one was absent.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 29 September 1888 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 05 July 1889

Education Board tenders – repairs and fencing Mungaroa School G & H Findlay £52 17s

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 05 July 1889 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 16 September 1889

The Mungaroa School will be closed the whole of the present week in consequence of the death of Mr Ladbrooke secretary of the committee and brother of the teacher. The deceased gentleman breathed his last in the residence attached to the school

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 16 September 1889 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 17 January 1891

Concert and Dance – A concert and dance will be held in the Oddfellows Hall Upper Hutt on Saturday 17th January - Proceeds in Aid of Mungaroa School Children's Treat – Double tickets 3 s single 2s – E H Evans

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 17 January 1891 page 3)

In 1893 Mr Hinman (DV) preached regularly in the Mungaroa School and in the Oddfellows Hall Upper Hutt at 7 pm

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper January & February & March & April 1893)

Evening Post newspaper 10 December 1894

Subscription from Karapoti school 10s (plus various other schools and amounts)

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 December 1894 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 28 June 1900

Board of Education - The Chief Inspector was directed to report upon the proposal to remove the Mungaroa school to another part of the valley.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 June 1900 page 7)

Evening Post newspaper 15, 17 & 18 January 1910

Tenders are invited to close on 24th inst. For Building House at Mungaroa. Plans and specifications to be seen at Hazelwoods's Store Upper Hutt on Wednesday 19th inst. Afterwards at offices of Evening Post City. All other information may be obtained from Mrs Evans Mungaroa School.

NOTE I do not know if the building is part of the school or if Mrs Evans is having the house built for her family.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 15 January 1910 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 01 April 1911

After school on Wednesday (March 29) the staff of the Mount Cook Girls School assembled in the teachers room to bid farewell to Miss Banks the first assistant who has been promoted to the position of head mistress of the Mungaroa School. When afternoon tea had been dispensed the headmistress Miss Helyer on behalf of the staff presented Miss Banks with two handsomely-bound volumes – one Tennyson and one of Emerson.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 01 April 1911 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 29 January 1913

The Mungaroa School Committee wrote to the board with regard to changing the name of the school. On being questioned as to the reason for the proposed change the secretary stated that the committee wished to change the name of the school to Te Marua owing to the confusion which arose through similarity of the existing name with another place. Mr Stewart stated that he had written asking if the proposed new name was an "official" one in any way and pointing out that it was usual to name a school after the name of the nearest post office. He added that at present he had to address letters from Mungaroa to Upper Hutt. (the matter was held over to a later meeting)

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 29 January 1913 page 4)

Evening Post newspaper 11 November 1915

Fined for Assault – A case arising out of an assault committed by a mill hand named George Fabian upon Arthur James Seed, chairman of the Mungaroa School Committee was heard by Mr D G A Cooper S M, at the Upper Hutt Court yesterday. Mr P H Putman appeared for Mr

Seed and explained that Mrs Fabian had written to the schoolmaster that she intended sending her children to another school, as they were not making good progress. The letter was handed on to the committee, which passed a resolution expressing complete satisfaction with the master and sent a copy to Mrs Fabian with the comment that some other reason underlay her proposal. Some weeks later Mr Seed visited on business the mill at which the defendant was employed and while he was talking to one of the proprietors, Fabian approached and taxed him with being responsible for the letter. Mr Seed admitted having signed it and Fabian forthwith hit him under the ear. Mr J S Barton for the defence, said that the defendant pleaded guilty, but only pushed Seed as the latter made a move towards him. The offence was of a trivial nature. The Magistrate said that while the evidence was conflicting, the preponderance was in favour of the plaintiff. Defendant was convicted and fined 20s with costs 34s; in default, sentenced to seven days imprisonment.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 11 November 1915 page 8)

In 1918 during World War One donations were received by the St John Ambulance and Red Cross from various schools. Donations were received from Mungaroa School per Miss Gunn.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Dominion newspaper 23 February 1918 page 4)

In December 1919 Mr W B Field and Mr Evelyn MacDonald candidates for Otaki Electoral District held meetings at Mungaroa School

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Dominion newspaper December 1919)

NOTE - It is not known when Mungaroa School changed its name to Te Marua School but it would have been after 1913 and before 1920 when a new school was opened in the name of Mungaroa but this time it was situated in Mungaroa Valley not Akatarawa.

Evening Post newspaper 13 September 1920 & Dominion newspaper 14 September 1920

Opening of Mungaroa School – The new Mungaroa School in the Mungaroa Valley was opened with interesting ceremony on Saturday afternoon a party of educationists including the minister of Education (Hon O J Parr) taking part in the proceedings. The new school occupies a prominent position in spacious grounds. The Minister introduced by Mr W H Field, MP, formally declared the school opened and an adjournment followed to the interior, where refreshments were served. The arrangements were in the hands of a most capable committee, the chairman being Mr Edwards. Mr Maher presided over the proceedings and spoke in defence of education for the farmers who he said should be intelligent and resourceful. In a better instructed people he added, would be found a corrective to the work of designing people who could only impose on the credulous. The Minister of Education said the chairman had struck the right note in his reference to education. He had a particular interest in country schools and would be found a champion of school committees. There was a difficulty in Meeting the requirements of the people for schools because of the cost of school buildings but he felt sure the neglect of the national asset of education could not be justified on the score of expense. Mr Parr spoke at length on the aims of education to a highly appreciative audience and before concluding and in deference to the wish of the audience, unveiled a memorial to the young men of the district who took part in the war. It was slated that thirty young men had been its contribution and that a third of the number had made the sacrifice of their lives on the altar of duty. The Minister said it was a great record from so small a community. The chairman of the Education Board (Mr T Forsyth) Messrs London, Rishworth, Field, MP, and Clifford also spoke and the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 13 September 1920 page 3 & Dominion newspaper 14 September 1920 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 31 May 1939

Te Marua School – Diamond Jubilee – One Saturday the Te Marua School near Upper Hutt will celebrate its diamond jubilee the original school having been opened on 03 June 1879. At that time it was known as the Maungaroa School, the name being changed to Te Marua on 07 April 1913 on account of confusion with Mangaroa Valley. The first school was held in what is now the head teacher's residence. On 19 July 1882 a one roomed school was opened and

on 27 August 1912 a second room was added. The first teacher was Mrs E H Evans who remained in charge until 31 March 1911 a period of almost 32 years probably a record for New Zealand. Since then the following have been in charge - Miss A L Banks (now Mrs Brown), Miss E A Wallace (February to August 1920), Mr A E Barrowclough (1920-21), Miss M E Oswin (1921-25), Mrs L E Smeaton (1926-27), Mrs A Wheatley (1927-37), and Mr W A Macnab (1937-39). In 1912 the first assistant teacher was appointed. Of the above Mrs Evans and Mr Barrowclough are now deceased. The following have notified their intention of being present next Saturday, Mrs Brown, Mrs Wheatley and Mr Macnab, together with Miss Pilling (now Mrs Bengé) and Miss Kershaw (assistant teachers). An apology has also been received from Miss Oswin. On the opening day 19 pupils were enrolled the first to be entered being Mr J T Bengé of Upper Hutt. The following Monday 10 more pupils were enrolled while at the end of the year the roll number was 49. Of the 19 foundation pupils, 12 are still alive. The following six will be present - Messrs J T Bengé, James Johnson, and Arthur Evans, and Mesdames Mabey (nee Elizabeth Bengé), C C Jackson (nee Mabel Evans), and S Poulsen (nee Sarah Johnson). Of the second day pupils Messrs John Lawry, John McDonald and Ernest Pink will also be there. Of the 886 pupils enrolled in the school over half were traced and on Saturday next over 200 past and present pupils will assemble at the school, many coming from as far north as Auckland. A notable feature on the compiling of the rolls was that only three ex-pupils were located in the South Island.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 31 May 1939 page 51)

Evening Post newspaper 31 May 1939

Te Marua's Scholastic Jubilee - The inter relationship of Wellington City and the Hutt Valley is an interesting theme of which there has been too little literary recognition. When the founders came in 1839-40 they regarded the valley as the centre of white settlement and the ephemeral Britannia on the Hutt littoral was the result. After the white settlers under stress of weather and other influences, crossed the harbour from Petone beach to Port Nicholson it became clear that the development of the Hutt Valley would be slow and slow it certainly was, nevertheless it has passed through some very interesting phases. If there is in print any satisfactory chronological record of progress and change in the valley from 1840 to date, we do not know of it. We know that four years after the founding the first sheep to enter the Wairarapa were driven round the coast (via Wainui-o-mata, the Orongorongo shore and Mukamuka) because there was no road then (and not for many years thereafter) along the inland route over the Rimutaka Saddle. One of the founders of Greytown in 1853 has left on record the story of the crossing of the Rimutaka in that year by the pioneer families with the aid of pack bullocks, by a bush track which starting from the then road terminus at the Golden Fleece Hotel (vanished!) near the Pakuratahi Stream led over the divide to what is now Featherston. This pioneer makes some amusing comments in jingle on the "toon" built by Jimmy Broun (Brown) which "the earthquake" shook "doon," meaning apparently the first big earthquake (1848), since the second did not occur till 1855. That "toon" was evidently Upper Hutt and the Greytown pioneers if they went that way, must have passed near what is now the little township of Te Marua about a couple of miles north of Upper Hutt. And Te Marua really provides the occasion for these remarks because on Saturday the Te Marua School will celebrate its diamond jubilee. It may be a surprise to many people that the Te Marua hamlet had a school as long ago as 1879. In the Upper Hutt region there are three families whose names constantly recur - Brown (James Brown is regarded as Upper Hutt's pioneer), Bengé, and Whiteman - and it is noteworthy that the first pupil enrolled on the opening day of the Te "Mania School was Mr J T Bengé of Upper Hutt. If the diamond jubilee of Te Marua with its gathering of first pupils and old identities will inspire some capable person to put even the upper valley chronicles in better order, a work valuable to posterity and in key with the Centennial spirit will have been begun. It should be added that if Wellington City is deemed to be too congested for industries and if industrial development is concentrated entirely in the Hutt region the day when the Hutt Valley will house more people than the city itself may come rather sooner than is expected.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 31 May 1939 page 8)

Upper Hutt City Community Archives Collection

- Portrait of Eliza Rebecca Evans formerly Ladbrooke (1852-1920) school teacher Mungaroa School (later Te Marua School) 1879-1911 photograph reference P2-763-1888 accession 392 series 93/1 decade 1870
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