

KARAPOTI SCHOOL

Situated Akatarawa Upper Hutt = Opened 1912 – Closed about 1938

Karapoti School situated in Akatarawa Valley Upper Hutt was opened on 16 August 1912. The School log book covers the period from 1912 to 06 May 1938. The log contains valuable information about the day to day happening of the teacher and the school activities but there are no lists of pupils but comments about them. The log is well worth reading and records a valuable history of the school. I was given information that this school closed in 1936 but the log continues up to the 06 May 1938.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ABDM W3569 box 397 Closed School records Karapoti School Log Book 1912-1938)

Evening Post newspaper 27 February 1912

An application for the establishment of a school at Karapoti between Mungaroa and Upper Akatarawa was referred to the inspectors for report.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 27 February 1912 page 8)

Dominion newspaper 28 February 1912

An application from Mr C T Price for the establishment of a school at Karapoti between Mungaroa and Upper Akatarawa was referred to the board's inspectors for report.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Dominion newspaper 28 February 1912 page 9)

Evening Post newspaper 30 April 1912

Arrangements are to be made for opening a school at Karapoti (expenditure about £15).

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 30 April 1912 page 8)

During World War One (1914-1918) the New Zealand school children helped to raise funds for the war movement. Different newspapers recorded their contribution. Karapoti made a contribution of 10s as recorded in the Evening Post newspaper on 11 September 1914.

Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 02 September 1915

Leave of absence has been granted by the Wellington Education Board to the following teachers who are all members of the expeditionary force - Messrs V Higgins assistant Carterton - Dempsey assistant Clyde Quay - Fossette assistant Clyde Quay - Banks sole teacher Karapoti - H W Kerr pupil teacher Mount Cook - S G Thomas pupil teacher Lansdowne.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 02 September 1915 page 5)

Dominion newspaper 28 September 1916

The following appointments were approved at yesterday's meeting of the Education Board:- Miss M Power assistant mistress Pahautanui - Miss O'Donnell solo teacher (during war) Karapoti - Miss N Welby assistant mistress Te Marna - Miss F MacVicar assistant mistress Brooklyn - Miss E Trisschler sole teacher Nydia Bay - Miss N Limbrick sole teacher Titirangi - Miss M Atkinson sole teacher Pukikoikoi.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Dominion newspaper 28 September 1916 page 2)

Dominion Newspaper 03 February 1917 – Awards for essay - Esther POULSON of Karapoti school fourth prize

Dominion newspaper 26 July 1917

The board decided that the hearty thanks of the board be accorded to Mrs Martin and Mr Whiteman for their offer of 1½ and 1 acre respectively for the school at Karapoti.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website New Zealand Dominion newspaper 26 July 1917 page 9)

Evening Post Newspaper 25 March 1919

In some of the small school districts a commendable zeal in the cause of education is exhibited. At Karapoti for instance the subscriptions to the school picnic were so liberal that a surplus remained out of which was met the cost of bringing the scholars last Friday

to Wellington where they paid useful visits to Newtown Park the Museum and the Botanical Gardens. The school party which was conducted by the school mistress (Miss L O'Donnell) and Mr T J Poison included children who had never been in Wellington before though the district is within thirty miles from the city.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website New Zealand Evening Post newspaper 25 March 1919 page 6)

Dominion newspaper 02 April 1919

Wellington Education Board – Vacancy List – Sole Teachers – Karapoti £130 to £160 and £20 h.a.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website New Zealand Dominion newspaper 02 April 1919 page 1)

The special licensing Poll took place and the public school at Karapoti was used for a polling station for the Otaki Electorate. Newspapers reported the results of the voting at Karapoti school which was:

1914 Prohibition 14 & Continuance 17

1919 Prohibition 6 & Continuance 16

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website New Zealand Horowhenua Chronicle newspaper 03 & 12 April 1919 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 07 May 1919

School Teachers – Education Board Appointments – The Wellington Education Board has made the following appointments – (various schools and teachers) - Karapoti sole teacher Miss N B O'Donnell

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 07 May 1919 page 7)

Evening Post newspaper 16 July 1919

Local and General News – During the past year states the Wellington Education Board in its annual report the following members of the Wellington district teaching staff undertook military service. (various names are recorded). The board records that since the issue of last report the following member of its staff have joined the great company of our gallant dead – Lt H Banks sole teacher Karapoti (various other names recorded)

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 16 July 1919 page 4)

Evening Post newspaper 04 November 1919

Wellington Education Board – Vacancy List – Sole Teacherships – Karapoti £130 to £160 and £20 h.a.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 04 November 1919 page 3)

Dominion newspaper 17 & 19 January 1920

Wellington Education Board – Vacancy List – Schools above Grade 3 – Sole Teacherships – Karapoti £130 to £160 and £20 h.a.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Dominion newspaper 17 & 19 January 1920 page 1)

Dominion newspaper 19 January 1920

The following appointments of teachers to junior positions were confirmed – Karapoti sole teacher Mr W A Churchill (other teachers listed)

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Dominion newspaper 19 January 1920 page 8)

In 1922 the public school Katapoti in Akatarawa was used as a polling station for the Otaki Electorate.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 06 December 1922 page 7)

Again in 1925 Karapoti was used as a polling station and the votes cast and results was - Field 24 votes - Harkness 0 votes - Semple 16 votes - results Mr Fields elected as representative for the Otaki Electoral District

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 05 November 1925 page 13)

Evening Post newspaper 17 December 1927

Following are the results of proficiency examinations in various schools – Karapoti – Proficiency – Raymond BEAVIS - Ethel May BRADDOCK - Elizabeth JOHNSON. These were the only candidates presented.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 17 December 1927 page 28)

In 1928 the Public School Karapoti in Akatarawa was used as a polling booth for the Otaki Electoral District

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 13 November 1928 page 13)

Evening Post newspaper 24 July 1930

Teachers Appointments – Mr A J Lambert sole teacher Karapoti (plus various other teachers and school listed)

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 24 July 1930 page 15)

In December 1931 the Karapoti Public school in Akatarawa was used as a polling booth for the Otaki Electoral District. The results from the voting at Karapoti School was – Field 9 votes and Thorn 16 votes. It is interesting to note that overall Mr Field increased his vote that year but for the voters who used the polling station at Karapoti School his popularity was minimal.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1931, 01 December 1931 & 03 December 1931)

In March 1933 a newspaper article records details about the Health Camp in the Wellington region and the number of children who attended some of the camps. It recorded where some of the children came from which included - 1 child from Karapoti School.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 23 March 1933 page 13)

Evening Post newspaper 13 April 1935

70th Anniversary Upper Hutt School Jubilee Celebrations Some- Early History
Jubilee celebrations in connection with the Upper Hutt School (1864--1934) are at present in progress. A special souvenir issued in connection with the jubilee contains much interesting information. In an introduction written by the Mayor of Upper Hutt (Mr A J McCurdy) it is stated that in the fifties and early sixties people were too busy establishing themselves on their holdings to do much of a community character area beyond spasmodic attempts by way of home study and night classes and a "Dame school" established by Mrs Hannah Barton at Trentham with Miss Hannah Hedge as teacher 'nothing was done locally for the education of the rising generation. Those who could be spared and whose people could arrange their boarding out were sent to school in one or other of the older settlements on the shores of Port Nicholson. It was not until 1864 that a successful attempt was made to establish a public school in the new settlement. The Catholics of the district having erected a church (the original building is the nave of St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt) on ground donated by Lord Petre the settlers of all denominations met and decided to open a day school in this church building in preference to an offer of accommodation at St. John's Church Trentham. There was an attendance of thirty children at the opening and the sole teacher was Mr T. Sullivan a single man not associated with the Catholic community. In 1866 Mr Sullivan was succeeded by Mr Daniel Carrick and his wife Mrs Mary Ann Carrick. At a later date in that year a new school building was erected upon land at Trentham donated by Mrs Hannah Barton and Mr John Wilkins and the teachers and the pupils transferred to the public school under the control of the Education Department of the Wellington Provincial Government. Mr Carrick taught the boys and Mrs Carrick the girls. The inspector's report for the year 1866-67 recorded that there were 85 houses in the district and 99 children. Fees of 6d per child per week were payable to the teacher at the Upper Hutt and at the Trentham schools. In 1868 Mr Carrick when crossing the school ground fell down in an apoplectic fit and was removed to the schoolroom where he died in a short time. Mrs Carrick continued to teach the girls until shortly before she left to take charge of a school in Blenheim in 1874. From the time of Mr Carrick's death the Rev. Daniel Des Bois (Anglican vicar 1868-71) took charge of the boys and on his transfer to another parish Mr Cameron a single man succeeded him. The teachers were as follows: 1864-66 Mr T Sullivan, 1866-68 Mr Daniel Carrick, 1866-74 Mrs Mary A Carrick (assistant), 1868-71 Rev. Daniel Des Bois, 1871-72

Mr Cameron, 1872-74 Mr McDonald, 1874-77 Mr W Thompson, 1877 Mr Huntley, 1877-90 Mr JJ Hurley, 1890-1922 Mr F W Connell, 1922-29 Mr E Marryatt, 1929-30 Mr Hiddleston, 1930-32 Mr J J Rodgers, 1933 onwards Mr A J Woods. The schools were as follows: - First school 1864-66 held in church building at Upper Hutt - Second school built on Trentham site next Oddfellows Hall - 1866 used as school until August 1879 then used as classroom and/or shelter shed until pulled down in 1903 - Third school opened on Trentham site August 13 1879 closed July 24 1908 - Fourth school erected on present site and opened on March 26 1909. A number of additions since opening. In 1864 there was one school with 30 pupils. In 1934 there were 11 schools with 1331 pupils made up as follows:- Upper Hutt State schools (Upper Hutt, Trentham, and Silverstream), total 695; Catholic schools, St Joseph's Parish and St. Patrick's College, total 480 private kindergarten class, 15 total for Upper Hutt, 1190. Outlying valleys, States Schools, Wallaceville, Whiteman's valley, Te Marua, Kaitoke, Mangaroa, Karapoti, total 141 - grand, total 1331. The schools at Wallace Settlement and Whiteman's Valley were side schools to Upper Hutt in the early days and had direct representation on the Upper Hutt school committees. Akatarawa had a school beyond Baigent's sawmill It was discontinued some years ago when the upper Akatarawa mills closed down. The building was removed to a site near Campbell Bros. sawmill on the Little Akatarawa River and **opened as Karapoti School in 1918** in lieu of the cottage classroom used in connection with Campbell's sawmill.

Some Human Touches - Some human touches are contained in a historical record compiled by the present headmaster (Mr A J Woods). An interesting entry by Mr Thompson on November 9 1874 was children asked for a holiday as it was .the Prince of Wales's birthday, and as very few came to school I granted it. A sinister item of December 1876 records that William a scholar has played truant for the last three days. e played truant on the day of the examination by Mr Lee on October 12 and on several occasions before and since the examination day. He is an incorrigibly bad boy. On February 6 1877 Mr Thompson received a communication from Mr Morgan authorising the giving of a holiday or holidays during this week during which the All-England eleven cricket match and the Wellington races will be held. fixed February 9 as a holiday for the children to enable them to attend the second day's races. March 26 was evidently a day of considerable activity when Mr Thompson went after William who absented himself again this morning taking three boys to assist. They succeeded in finding him and I punished him for having played truant continuously for a week. From May 12 1877 until August 31 the school was under the charge of a relieving teacher Mr. Huntley with Mrs Huntley as assistant. A philosophical entry - Patrick very troublesome. Threatened to tell his father to set him to work. The boy threw a slate at the teacher. He is a good boy generally but very passionate and although not bright has a great .desire to learn. Mildness will conquer him. A pathetic entry - Received assistant teacher's cheque. Where is mine? A jovial entry - School closed today June 23 for the midwinter Vacation with a bun-feast. A tragic entry - Wrote to chairman of committee requesting him to put in two broken windows one of them is paid for the other was broken by one of the neighbour's fowls. Old days seem to have been cold days. In July 1877 there is recorded the fact that on fine days the elder boys are often kept home to work on bad days parents are glad to get rid of them particularly as they know that there is always a roaring fire in the schoolroom.

School's Central Figure - The souvenir gives in a most complete fashion details of the various headmasters and the progress of the school under their control. Commenting on the headmastership of Mr F W Connell (1890-1922) it states - A new era and the biggest one in the history of the Upper Hutt School commenced with the arrival of Mr Connell on March 3 1890. For upwards of thirty-two years he was to maintain control and to minister to the needs of more than a generation of pupils. The historical record of his service is written indelibly in the district itself while from north to south from east to west are hundreds who recall his work and personality with the utmost respect and affection. In jubilee retrospect he is the grand old man of the school. The jubilee celebrations commenced yesterday afternoon when the school, which was specially decorated and hung with old photographs, was opened for the inspection of old pupils. The work of the

present pupils was the subject of much interest. In the evening a most successful concert was given by the ex-pupils and ex-teachers. This afternoon there was a general assembly of past and present pupils. A dance will be held this evening and other functions will follow until Monday evening.

The jubilee officers are as follows - President Mr A E Robinson, secretary Mr J Morley, treasurer Mr A J Woods, central executive Messrs Robinson, Morley, and Woods, and the Mayor (Mr A J McCurdy), sub-committees rolls Mesdames Dick and Simpson, Messrs A R Jones, J Morley, A E Robinson, V Williams, programme and entertainments Misses Phair and Scarrow, Messrs J Blewman, W Greig, C Harris, W H P Howe, A R Jones, G Wale, V Williams, publications Messrs A J McCurdy, A J Woods, J Blewman and J McHattie, accommodation Mr G H Guthrie.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 13 April 1935 page 14)

In October 1938 and September 1943 Elections the Karapoti School was not used as a polling station but instead the residence of Mr A G Whiteman of Karapoti Akatarawa was used for the Wairarapa Electoral district which rezoned from the previous Otaki Electoral district.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 October 1938 page 4 & 10 September 1943 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 30 September 1944

Warrant Officer R. J. Braddock - Braddock and Mr A Braddock of Akatarawa. He was educated at Karapoti School and Petone Memorial Technical College, where he was a prefect and captain of the college Soccer team. Before going overseas to join the Air Force where he was engaged in air operations with the Heavy Bomber Squadron he was employed on the New Zealand Railways being a fireman in the loco branch.

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 30 September 1944 page 6)

Upper Hutt City Community Archives Collection

- Karapoti School building in Akatarawa Valley reference Photograph P2 – 414 – 817 size 150 x 100 J W Kelleher

Archives NZ Wellington Office

- School Buildings and Sites Wellington and Marlborough Districts Akatarawa School [See Karapoti School Card] Department of Education Central Regional Office 1915 - 1936 agency AAQD series 23834 accession W3368 box 1
 - School Buildings and Sites Education district Wellington and Marlborough Karapoti School Department of Education Central Regional Office 1905-1936 agency AAQD series 23834 accession W3368 box 1
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