

## MAYMORN SCHOOL

Situated Old School Road Maymorn Whitemans Valley Upper Hutt

Opened around May 1951 - Closed 15 December 1967

Maymorn school was opened 1951 after the May school term. The School consisted of two prefabricated classroom with toilet blocks on Old School Road in Maymorn the same road that lead to where the Whiteman's farm house was situated in the 1950s.

The school was built for the children of those employed by the Ministry of Works and (later) the New Zealand Railways while building the Rimutaka Deviation and Tunnel. Temporary Ministry of Works cottages were built for the families who resided in the settlement of Mangaroa which was later renamed Maymorn.

Before Maymorn School opened the children attended Mangaroa School which was 2½ miles from the Ministry of Works settlement. Additional cottages were being built and the number of school children in the settlement was expected to grow so the Ministry made a request to the Education Board for a temporary school to be established.

The Ministry of Works had been transporting the children to and from Mangaroa School. As this took the men away from their work the Ministry requested alternative transport arrangements for the children.

A School celebration and reunion was held just before the school closed in December 1967. I thought the Maymorn School records may have been transferred to Plateau School which opened early in 1968 and would have been the nearest school for former pupils of Maymorn School. Enquiries were made at the Plateau School but I was told that they did not have any Maymorn School records.

In the Education Board records I located a letter from the Plateau School headmaster requesting permission from the board to destroy a list of equipment that he considered useless. On the list was noted Attendance and Admission registers. I now have to locate the Plateau School Education Board records to see if permission was granted and to see if these records were destroyed.

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### Archives NZ Wellington Office

Department of Education Buildings & Sites Wellington Maymorn opened 06 December 1950 closed 22 December 1967

The file compiles of various correspondence regarding the Maymorn school buildings and site but no details regarding the teachers or pupils

- Letter 06 November 1950 by Education department about providing education facilities for the children living in the Maymorn Railway Camp. At the time 31 children were attending Mangaroa School which was 2 ½ miles from the camp. Te Marua School was 2.4 miles from camp. It was anticipated that the number of children were expected to increase to 80 in the following year. Mangaroa and/or Te Marua School would not be able to cope with the numbers so extra teachers and additions to one of the schools would have to be made plus providing a bus to transport the children to school. The public works had been conveying the children to Mangaroa School free of charge but could not continue to provide this service as the men were required to work on the tunnel.
- There are numerous other notes (no dates) regarding costs of buildings, teachers salary and transport of the children and discussions for and against a new school. Eventually around December 1950 provision for a temporary school was made for the Maymorn children.
- Letter dates 15 February 1951 displays the cost of £2330 0s 0d for a Double prefabricated classroom block, toilets for teacher, girls and boys, and some paving between school and latrines. The request was marked urgent.
- Letter dated 09 March 1951 referenced a school to be established and Works Department to prepare a suitable site.

- Letter dated 17 May 1951 regarding tender and cost increased for drainage etc. by Messrs A R Morgan Ltd
- Expenditure sheet stamped 21 March 1951 reads NECESSITY - The Ministry of Works Camps is 2½ miles from the Mangaroa School. In 1950, 31 Camp children of school age attended the school being conveyed by the Works Department free of charge. Children other than Camp children attending Mangaroa School amount to 26. The estimate number of children at the Camp this year is 80. Although the Camp is unlikely to be a permanent settlement it is expected to continue in existence until the anticipated completion of the tunnel project at the end of 1954. Existing accommodation at Mangaroa School is insufficient for such numbers and the Ministry of Works cannot continue indefinitely to arrange conveyance for these children. In the circumstances the establishment of a temporary school of two rooms is an immediate necessity. Should further increases warrant additional accommodation at the Camp, it is proposed to remove and re-erect the prefabricated classroom recently provided at the
- Application dated 22 May 1951 details final payment of special grant for buildings of Maymorn School. Please note the application form and the file does not record when Maymorn School was completed. I believe the pupils started to attend school after the May holidays in 1951.
- Letter dated 14 December 1951 details information about major drainage problems with the school site. The children have been forced to play on a very small area of paving. The football field is too rough for organised games. The court area is unsealed and holds much surface water after rain. The unpaved ground around the school building is in a very rough state and is entirely unsatisfactory for a school of this grading.
- Letter dated 04 February 1952
- Letter dated 10 August 1953 from Education Board to Mr J Huxton secretary of Maymorn School details that Mr D Hillary who has his own home in Silverstream was appointed to the position as head teacher of Maymorn School in the third term.
- Letter dated 17 January 1955 details that the housing accommodation at the Mangaroa Camp now controlled by the Ministry of Works will be taken over in due course by the Railways Department and will be occupied by married employees of the Way and Works Branch. This intimation is sent you in order that you might be aware of the fact that a number of children will still be residing in the area and that there will be need for a primary school now being operated there
- Application sheet dated 27 November 1959 details that this school was established in a prefabricated building to serve pupils of families living at Maymorn during the construction of the Rimutaka tunnel. These people have left but the houses are still occupied to the extent that the roll had been maintained at two teacher status. It is considered that a permanent school should be built. (please note that the new school built was Plateau not Maymorn)
- Letter dated 22 November 1967 stated that the school would close on 15 December 1967 and pupils would be transferred to the new Plateau School and the prefabricated classroom block to Taita Intermediate.
- Letter dated 22 December 1967 was a reply to the Te Marua – Mangaroa Play Centre explaining that the old Maymorn School could not be used as a play centre as the building was required for another Education Board location. (Please note that the land was owned by the Works Department and only the school buildings were owned by the Education Department)

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Primary Schools Wellington Maymorn Department of Education Central Regional Office Residual Management Unit 1950-1967 agency ABFI accession W3540 box 130 record 7/6 part 1)*

#### Maymorn School Mangaroa Camp - Ministry of Works file

- Letter dated 20 December 1948 from Education Department to Commissioner of Works regarding a school at Mangaroa Railway settlement
- Letter dated 01 February 1949 from Education Department to Ministry of Works report on progress of married personnel arriving about 1950
- Letter dated 07 September 1950 from Ministry Works to District Engineer regarding the Education Department opening school in 1951

- Letter dated 28 September 1950 from Ministry of Works state 'At present there are sixty children, thirty four being of school age living at Mangaroa being children of the Department employees. Recommend temporary school
- The Ministry provided a site for the Education Department to place a school consisting of a double unit prefabricated building correspondence covers March and April 1951
- Letter 04 February 1952 from Education Department to Ministry Work regarding site for playing field for children at Maymorn School
- Letter dated 04 August 1953 from Mr J Haxton Secretary Mangaroa (Maymorn) School regarding accommodation for new head teacher
- Letter dated 22 November 1967 from Department of Education to Commissioner of Works regarding the closing of Maymorn School  
"As the site of this school is controlled by your Department the Wellington Education Board has asked me to advise that this school will be closed at the end of the present school year i.e. 15 December 1967.  
The pupils will transfer to the New Plateau School and the prefabricated classroom block at Maymorn will be moved to Taita Intermediate soon after the closing of the school. The toilet block will also be removed as soon as possible.  
The Board has asked me to pass on this information and at the same time thank you for the use of the site."

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency AAQB accession W4073 box 325 record 31/1429 Maymorn School Mangaroa Camp Railway Corporation Ltd Head Office 1948-1967)*

School Buildings and Sites Maymorn (Mangaroa Camp) Temporary School Wellington district card

Front of Card One

Wood building material – 1951 Year of Erection – 2/1034 Original – E/D Prefab Additions  
– 2/1034 Total available

Back of Card One

Purpose of Grant / Application grant – Amount granted 30 May 1951 / Amount £265.10s.0p. - Cost date 23 January 1953 / Amount £947 – General remarks Grant £2330 cancelled except latrines £682.10.0.

Purpose of Grant / Temp School – Amount granted date 18 March 1951 Amount 2330.0.0.  
– Cost (same as above) date 23 January 1953 / Amount £947– General remarks Grant £2330 cancelled except latrines £682.10.0.

Purpose of Grant Prefab Furniture – Amount Granted date 31 May 1951 / Amount £432.0.0.

Purpose of Grant Ground works – Amount Granted date 13 June 1952 / Amount £175.0.0.

Purpose of Grant A/G to £2595.10.0. Prefabs date 05 March 1954 / Amount £198.0.11. –  
Cost date 2081 09 March 1954 / Amount £198.0.11.

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency AAQD series 23834 accession W3368 box 1 School Building and Sites Education District Wellington and Marlborough Maymorn School [see Mangaroa Camp School] – Department of Education Central Regional Office 1951-1954)*

Mangaroa Camp Wellington now Maymorn – There are no other details written on this card

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency AAQD series 23834 accession W3368 box 1 School Building and Sites Education District Wellington and Marlborough Mangaroa Camp School [now Maymorn School])*

The Wellington Education Board wanted to purchase land owned by the Wellington Sun and Health Society for the proposed building of the new Plateau School. It was proposed that Maymorn School would be closed and the children transferred to the new Plateau School.

The 12 March 1964 legal description of the land was Pt. Lot 4 D.P. 18609 being part of sections 111 & 181 Hutt district, measurements 7.5 chains x 1.4 chains approx. 1 acre. A plan showing the proposed site for Plateau School was situated at the end of Malloy's road off Plateau at Te Marua and marked 18609, D.P. 13776 T.P. 13476. The acquisition of this land was required for the proposed school as the additional area was steep hillside and unsuitable for playing fields or a building site. The Wellington Sun & Health Society turned down the offer for their land resulting in a Ministerial requirement been placed on the land.

A letter dated 22 November 1967 from the Department of Education to the Ministry of Works stated that Maymorn School would be closing on 15 December 1967 and the children transferred

to the new Plateau School. The prefabricated classroom block at Maymorn would be moved to Taita Intermediate soon after the closing of the school. The toilet block would also be moved as soon as possible. The Department of Education thanked the Ministry of Works department for the use of the Maymorn school site.

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington School Wellington Proposed Occupation Centre Maymorn School site Upper Hutt Claim (Wellington Sun Club) Ministry of Works and Developments Residual Management Unit Head Office 1963-1967 agency AATE accession W3399 box 35 record 13/1/158/0/2)*

### **COPY THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO THE PLATEAU SCHOOL DOCUMENT**

Correspondence covering the proposal of the Maymorn School for the children of men working on the Rimutaka Deviation / Tunnel.

- 06 November 1950 – Education facilities for children at Ministry of Works Camp at Maymorn / Mangaroa. At time 31 Camp children attended Mangaroa School which was situated 2½ miles from camp. The number of children was expected to increase to 80 the following year so a proposal was made to open a temporary school for the children of the Maymorn camp
- 26 February 1951 A Railway bus started to carry the children to Mangaroa School. Before this the Works Department shouldered the responsibility of transporting the children which took men away from their work. They stated the number of children attending the school would be 42 within three months. They were continuing to build housing in the camp and when they became available for families the school roll would increase. The proposed Maymorn School would be erected before the beginning of the next term.
- 30 March 1951 Grant of £2,330 for two prefabricated classrooms and lavatory accommodation at the Ministry of Works Camp at Mangaroa. Request to obtain permit from the district building controller before allowing work to commence.
- 30 August 1966 Asking if the site of Maymorn School was still in the Ministry of Works control or was it transferred to the Railways Department when the housing accommodation was taken over by that department after the completion of the Tunnel.
- 08 September 1966 Site still in the ownership of Ministry of Works
- 15 August 1967 Board meeting memo regarding closure of Maymorn School. The railways had by now removed all but 12 of the cottages in the Camp and the school roll had fallen from 64 in 1964 to 31 today.
- 19 September 1967 Report that Maymorn School be closed as from the end of the present school year
- 13 November 1967 Report on the School being closed and buildings transferred to Taita Intermediate etc. and children to be attend the new Plateau School
- 12 March 1968 Plateau School Head Teacher Leo Stafford Bush to Education Board requesting disposal of Maymorn School equipment that had been transfer to Plateau School and was now useless. A typed list of 53 items were attached to the letter

NOTE Item 28 listed **Attendance Register - Admission Register** - Records of Surveys

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Closed School files – Maymorn Accommodation Wellington Education Board Residual Management Unit 1950-1968 agency ABDM accession W3569 box 432 record 2/415 part 1)*

### Upper Hutt City Community Archives Collection

- Rimutaka District Ratepayers Association 1953-1977 reference 16 various records
  - Various articles and photographs by Upper Hutt Leader newspaper, Yvonne Airey and Wilfred Revelle Jackson
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