

## **BIRCHVILLE SCHOOL**

16 Gemstone Drive Akatarawa Upper Hutt 5018  
Phone 04 5267128 – website [www.birchville.school.nz](http://www.birchville.school.nz)  
Opened 30 May 1978 – Officially opened 07 April 1979

### *Time Line Birchville School*

1964	Negotiations begin to establish school in Birchville district
1978	School opened 30 May 1978
1978	Junior & senior blocks and library completed July 1978
1979	Official opening ceremony 17 April 1979
1979	School roll 130 foundation pupils
1993	Hall foundation was laid 1993
1993	Education Department 2 <sup>nd</sup> Review for Birchville School
1994	School roll 155 pupils
1997	Education Department 3 <sup>rd</sup> Review for Birchville School
1997	School roll 182 pupils
1998	School 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations
2001	Education Department 4 <sup>th</sup> Review for Birchville School
2001	School roll 245 pupils
2006	School roll 277 pupils

## **BIRCHVILLE SCHOOL STORY**

Birchville School was opened on 30 May 1978 with the official opening ceremony held the following year on 17 April 1979. The school's first principal was Thelma Riley. The foundation roll consisted of 130 pupils.

Birchville School is built on part section 173. Henry Gilbert was the original owner of Section No 173 and received the Crown Grant for the land in the 1856. The land was conveyed to the Benge family in 1872.

Dominion newspaper 07 February 1931

“Fairy Nightlight” writes: “there is a picnic place on the Akatarawa Road not very far from here. If you go there on a Sunday it crowded with cars. It is called the Birchville Estate because the trees that grow upon it are nearly all birches.

*(Reference Papers past website Dominion newspaper 07 February 1931 page 20)*

Upper Hutt Leader 27 August 1964

School for Birchville – The Hutt County Council has been advised by the Ministry of Works that negotiations are being conducted for the purchase of a five acre block at Birchville as a site for a school. It is not expected that construction of the school would begin for approximately two years. The site has a frontage to an unformed road and the County was asked to confirm that it would undertake the construction of the road to provide access to the school. However the County will not be responsible for the formation of the road as the proposal involved a subdivision. In those circumstances the onus would be on the sub-divider to form the road.

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection UH Leader newspaper 27 August 1964 Volume XXI Number 32)*

Although in 1964 negotiations began to establish a school in Birchville it would take another 15 years before a school was built in the Birchville district of Akatarawa.

### **1978-1988 (01 to 10 years)**

Birchville School opened in 30 May 1978. The opening ceremony was held the following year on 07 April 1979. Ron Bailey MP for Heretaunga officially opened Birchville School. Thelma Riley was principal, followed by Brian Sutherland, Andy Lovell and Maureen Scott. D Constable was

acting principal at the start of 1991. The school was in a new subdivision between Te Marua and Akatarawa, but drew on old residential areas as well. The founding roll of 130 peaked at over 200 before coming back to 162.

*(Reference Upper Hut – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237)*

Birchville School entrance is situated at 16 Gemstone Drive in Birchville district Akatarawa Upper Hutt.

### **1988-1998 (10 to 20 years)**

When Birchville School held a party to celebrate its 20th birthday last Thursday what more important person to help cut the cake than a politician with the name of Birch. Bill Birch made a special visit to the school to help the youngest pupil and oldest pupil cut three special cakes. Pictured are Minister of Finance Bill Birch, youngest pupil Sophie Rattray 5, and oldest pupil Willie Mangin 11, cut one of the three birthday cakes celebrating Birchville School turning 20. The school actually opened on May 30 1978 but the official opening by Ron Bailey MP for Heretaunga after the administration junior and senior blocks and library were completed in July 1978 was described as recent in the 17 April 1979

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Birchville School photo taken 27 August 1998 placed in UH Leader 02 September 1998)*



Left to right - Willie Mangin, Sophie Rattray and Minister of Finance Bill Birch

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Birchville School photo taken 27 August 1998 placed in UH Leader 02 September 1998)*

### **1998-2008 (20 to 30 years)**

**2008-2018 (30 to 40 years)**

**2018-2024 (40 to 46 years)**

**Birchville School 2023**



*(Reference Google maps website and Birchville School website 2023)*

**BIRCHVILLE SCHOOL STAFF**

Principals – Teachers – Dental Nurses – Caretakers – Support Staff

*Time Line Birchville School staff*

1979 Thelma Riley foundation principal  
0000 Brian Sutherland principal  
0000 Andy Lovell principal  
1988 Andrew Stewart principal  
0000 Maureen Veda Scott principal  
1991 David Joseph Constable acting principal  
1991 Lynley Anne Marwick principal  
2005 Christopher (Bill) James principal  
2023 Robyn Brown Principal - Jarod Summers Deputy Principal - Teachers Teresa Salter & Rachel McLeary & Erin Healey & Isabelle Ayo & Lauren Humphreys & Michelle Rowe & Lisa Webster – Relief Teachers Alan White & Marie Kirkup - Teacher Aides Amiria Harawira & Missy Edwards & Dani Matangi-Wilds & Sarah Lewer & Theresa Stevens & Kelly Lyons & Kelly Ratcliffe - Support Staff Kelly Salter Office Manager & Mandy Abels Accounts and Library & Viv Lyons Learning Support Coordinator & Amy Nepia Caretaker

**A to Z - STAFF**

**Mandy ABELS** Accounts and Library 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Isabelle AYO** Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Robyn BROWN** Principal 2023 reference Birchville School website

**David Joseph CONSTABLE Acting Principal 1991**

0- David Joseph CONSTABLE born date and place unknown died 17 December 1991 Upper Hutt New Zealand

#David Joseph Constable Flat 5 33 Queen Street Purser 1975 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#David Joseph Constable 5/33 Queen Street Purser 1978 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#David Joseph Constable 5/33 Queen Street teacher 1981 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#David Joseph Constable was acting principal at the beginning of 1991 reference Upper Hut – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237

#David Joseph Constable died 17 December 1991 buried Taita cemetery Lower Hutt New Zealand

**Christopher (Bill) JAMES Principal 2005-0000**

0- Christopher William (Bill) JAMES born details unknown

#Christopher William James 14 Gadsby Street Student 1978 Eastern Hutt Electoral Roll

#Christopher William James 25A Cedar Street Maungaraki Teacher & Sherryn Lynne James 25A Cedar Street Maungaraki Teacher 1978 Western Hutt Electoral Roll

#Christopher William James 25A Cedar Street Teacher & Sherryn Lynne James 25A Cedar Street Teacher 1981 Western Hutt Electoral Roll

#Christopher (Bill) James principal reference Upper Hutt - The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237

**Amiria HARAWIRA** Teacher Aides 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Erin HEALEY** Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Lauren HUMPHREYS** Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Marie KIRKUP** Relief Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Sarah LEWER** Teacher Aides 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Andrew Stewart LOVELL Principal 1988-0000)**

0- Andrew Stewart LOVELL married Margaret Anne LOVELL

#Andrew Stewart Lovell Maitland teacher 1966 Clutha Electoral Roll

#Andrew Stewart Lovell Waikaka Valley teacher & Margaret Anne Lovell Waikaka Valley married 1969 Clutha Electoral Roll

#Andrew Stewart Lovell 7 Stanly Street Eketahuna teacher & Margaret Anne Lovell 7 Stanly Street Eketahuna married 1972 Pahiatua Electoral Roll

#Andrew Stewart Lovell Western Lake Road Featherston Teacher & Margaret Anne Lovell Western Lake Road Featherston married 1975 Wairarapa Electoral Roll

#Andrew Stewart Lovell Oroua Valley Road Apiti Teacher & Margaret Anne Lovell Oroua Valley Road Apiti housewife 1981 Rangitikei Electoral Roll

#Andrew Stewart Lovell principal reference Upper Hut – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237

**Kelly LYONS** Teacher Aides 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Viv LYONS** Learning Support Coordinator 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Rachel MCLEARY** Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Dani MATANGI-WILDS** Teacher Aides 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Amy NEPIA** Caretaker 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Kelly RATCLIFFE** Teacher Aides 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Thelma RILEY Principal 1979-0000**

0- Thelma RILEY born unknown

#Thelma Riley was the first principal of Birchville School reference Upper Hut – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237

**Michelle ROWE** Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Maureen Veda SCOTT Principal 0000-0000**

0- Maureen Veda SCOTT married Bruce Alexander Nye SCOTT

#Maureen Veda Scott 154 Harland Street Ashburton & Bruce Alexander Nye Scott 154 Harland Street Ashton mechanic 1963 Ashburton Electoral Roll

#Maureen Veda Scott 488 Worcester Street married 1966 Christchurch Central Electoral Roll

#Maureen Veda Scott 241 Hills Road married & Bruce Alexander Nye Scott 241 Hills Road constable / detective 1966 & 1969 St Albans Electoral Roll Canterbury

#Maureen Veda Scott 316 Highcliff Road teacher & Bruce Alexander Nye Scott 316 Highcliff Road police officer 1972 St Kilda Electoral Roll Otago

#Maureen Veda Scott 1 Ecclesfield Grove Teacher & Bruce Alexander Nye Scott 1 Ecclesfield Grove Police Officer 1978 & 1981 Eastern Hutt Electoral Roll

#Maureen Veda Scott principal reference Upper Hutt – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237

**Kelly SALTER** Office Manager 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Teresa SALTER** Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Theresa STEVENS** Teacher Aides 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Jarod SUMMERS** Deputy Principal 2023 reference Birchville School website

**Brian James SUTHERLAND principal (0000-0000)**

0- Brian James SUTHERLAND born 02 April 1936 Christchurch New Zealand died 07 December 2002 Masterton New Zealand married Beatrix Lorraine Margaret BECKETT born 02 June 1936 Edinburgh Scotland died 13 September 2017 Christchurch New Zealand

#Brian James Sutherland 385 Marshall Road Christchurch teacher 1957 Hurunui Elect Roll

#Brian James Sutherland Mangapakeha teacher 1960 Pahiatua Electoral Roll

#Brian James Sutherland 385 Marshland Road Christchurch teacher 1963 Rangiora Elec Roll

#Brian James Sutherland 59 Howick Road Bm Teacher & Beatrix Lorraine M Sutherland 59 Howick Road Bm married 1966 & 1969 Marlborough Electoral Roll

#Brian James Sutherland Menzies Ferry Teacher & Beatrix Lorraine M Sutherland Menzies Ferry married 1972 & 1978 Awarua Electoral Roll Southland

#Brian James Sutherland 25 Tararua Street Teacher & Beatrix Lorraine M Sutherland 25 Tararua Street mother 1978 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Brian James Sutherland 25 Tararua Street Teacher & Beatrix Lorraine M Sutherland 25 Tararua Street Teacher 1981 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Brian Sutherland principal reference Upper Hutt – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 pg 237

#Brian James Sutherland died 07 December 2002 Masterton New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2002 folio website 2002/28324 born 02 April 1936

**Lynley Anne MARWICK Principal 1991**

0- Lynley Anne MARWICK (maiden name unknown) married William Hassell MARWICK

#Lynley Anne Marwick 173 Glenmore Street Teacher 1978 Wellington Central Electoral Roll

#Lynley Anne Marwick 9b Birdwood Road Lower Hutt Teacher & William Hassall Marwick 9b Birdwood Road Lower Hutt Electrician & Peggy Lorna Marwick 9b Birdwood Road Lower Hutt housewife & Thomas William Marwick 9b Birdwood Road Lower Hutt Secretary 1978 Pencarrow Electoral Roll

#Lynley Anne Marwick 84 Randwick Road Teacher & William Hassall Marwick 84 Randwick Road Electrician & Peggy Lorna Marwick 84 Randwick Road married & Thomas William Marwick 84 Randwick Road Secretary 1978 Western Hutt Electoral Roll  
#Lynley Anne Marwick 98 Birdwood Road Lower Hutt Teacher & William Hassell Marwick 98 Birdwood Road Lower Hutt Housewife & Peggy Lorne Marwick 98 Birdwood Road Lower Hutt housewife 1981 Pencarrow Electoral Roll

**Alan WHITE** Relief Teacher 2023 reference Birchville School website

## BIRCHVILLE SCHOOL PUPILS

<i>Time line</i>	<i>Birchville School pupils</i>
1979	Roll 130 pupils
1994	Roll 155 pupils
1997	Roll 182 pupils
1998	Pupils Willie Mangin & Sophie Rattray cut school's 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday cake
2001	Roll 245 pupils
2006	Roll 277 pupils

The founding roll of 130 peaked at over 200 before coming back to 162.  
(Reference Upper Hut – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 237)

### A to Z PUPILS

#### **William MANGIN pupil 1998**

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#### **Sophie RATTRAY pupil 1998**

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## BIRCHVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Places of Interest

**Akatarawa cemetery** is situated on Akatarawa Road. In 1896 Samuel William Bengé donated the land for the cemetery. The first burial was for Jacob C Cruywagen in December 1896. A later burial was Oscar Poulson who was buried in 1903. The 1905 cemetery Trustees were J Whiteman, J W Cudby, J A Hazelwood and J B Dalton.

*(Reference document on website www.lynly.gen.nz)*

**Akatarawa Scout Hall** is situated in Black Beech Street Birchville. The hall occupies park of Hoggard Park.

**Birchville Dam** is believed to be the second unreinforced concrete arch dam built for water supply in New Zealand. It was built in 1930 for the Upper Hutt Borough Council to provide increased water capacity for the borough and replaced a water supply weir built in 1913-1914 at the same location on Clarke's Creek near Birchville. Decommissioned in 1958 when Upper Hutt joined the Wellington regional water scheme this dam is now an historic attraction on the Cannon Point Walkway.

*(Reference Wikipedia website Birchville Dam)*

### **Birchville Substation** – Hutt Valley Power Board

**Benge Memorial Hall** was formerly the Mungaroa School later renamed Te Marua School. Mungaroa School sometimes spelt Mangaroa and Maungaroa was built on part section 171 and opened on 03 April 1879. The first teacher was Mrs Eliza Rebecca Evans who retired on 31 March 1911 after 32 years at the same school. The first pupil to enrol at Mungaroa School was John Thomas BENGÉ (1870-1947). In 1913 Mungaroa school was renamed Te Marua School. In 1973 Te Marua School formerly Mungaroa School closed. The building was renamed the Benge Memorial Hall after the first school's pupil.

*(Reference document on website www.lynly.gen.nz)*

**Harcourt Park** is situated in Birchville. The site was used for the movie "Lord of the Rings". The park caters for all ages with a playground, stage, sports fields, kids cycle track, disc golf, paddling pool and splash pad, botanical and native bush areas, community sport clubrooms, space to picnic and room to play. Close to Te Awa Kairang / Hutt River, Harcourt Holiday Park, the Hutt River Trail and Remutaka Cycle Trail.

*(Reference Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta / Upper Hutt City Council website)*

**Hoggard Park** is situated off Akatarawa Road in the Birchville district. The park runs alongside of the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River with access at the end of Norbert Street on Black Beech Street. Hoggard was named after Noel Farr Hoggard (1913-1975) who was the editor of the Advocate weekly district newspaper.

*(Reference Upper Hutt Streets – the story behind their names by Lynly Lessels Yates 2023 page 196)*

**Streets - Gemstone Drive** in the Birchville district was named after the Gemstone. A gemstone is a piece of mineral crystal which in cut and polished form is used to make jewellery or other adornments. Gemstones and Crystals were the theme for streets in the Birchville subdivision which was based on the geological feature of Emerald Hill.

*(Reference publication Upper Hutt Streets - the stories behind their names by Lynly Lessels Yates page 55)*

**The Akatarawa Dairy** and Convenience Store at 115 Akatarawa Road in Birchville has had many owners over the years. Robert John & Zillah Christina Dalton established the store date unknown but where serving customers in 1954. Brian Frederick Charles & Vera Hazel Rabbitt took over the store in 1957 and worked there for 26 years. The store is still operating today.

*(Reference Upper Hutt – The History by J A Kelleher 1991 page 184-187)*

**The Private hospital** owned and operated circa 1892 by Ruby and William Clark was once situated at 12 Bridge Road now numbered 55 Bridge Road in Birchville. Folk lore records that the house was used for unmarried mothers and also a children's foster home referred to by early Government records as a receiving home. Ten children are known to have been fostered by the Clark family. Part of Bridge road was previously known as Reid Road after the saw-miller Donald Reid.

(Reference [www.lynly.gen.nz](http://www.lynly.gen.nz) website document UH HLT Hospital Bridge Road Birchville & Akatarawa – A History of the Sawyers, Settlers and Schools 1870s-1980s by Peter O’Flaherty 2022 page 58)

**The Tea Shelter** (kiosk / rotunda) is situated in Akatarawa Road Birchville. The shelter was erected by the Tea Bureau (NZ) Company and donated to the Ministry of Works. The official handing over ceremony was held on Saturday 10 December 1949. In 2023 the building was still standing on the same site as it had done for the last 74 years.

(Reference document on website [www.lynly.gen.nz](http://www.lynly.gen.nz))

**Two black bridges** were built over the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River from Akatarawa Road to Bridge Road then back to the Akatarawa Road. The history of these early bridges and others are recorded in the document reference below.

(Reference document on website [www.lynly.gen.nz](http://www.lynly.gen.nz))

## BIRCHVILLE SCHOOL

Record collections & miscellaneous information

### Birchville School collection

- Records (to be transcribed)
- Photos (to be transcribed)

### Publications

- Genealogy Resources in the Hutt Valley edited by Peggy Crawford for the Hutt Valley Group NZSG 1992
- Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher 1991 pages 236-237
- List of Names and Places from the book Upper Hutt – the history compiled by Janet Doyle June 2005
- Bon Bons from Birchville by Laurie Meachen published 1996
- Birchville School Caring Preparing Learning [Publication 66] 2003 Pamphlet
- Akatarawa A History of the Sawyers, Settlers and Schools 170s-1980s by Peter O’Flaherty published 2022
- Upper Hutt Streets – the stories behind their names by Lynly Lessels Yates published 2023

### Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Recollect website

- Archives` 4 items
- Manuscript 2 items
- Photos 24 items
- Publications 29 items
- Birchville School - Caring Preparing Learning 2003 reference Publication 66 location 12c accession 572

### Archives NZ Wellington Office

- R20132043 date 1963-1963 Primary Schools Wellington Birchville box 100 record number 7/6 = **access open**
- R8827289 date 1986-1989 Primary Schools Wellington Birchville box 77 par 2 record number 7/6 = **access open**
- R687457 date 1980-1988 School Committee Projects Birchville box 30 record number 5/630 = **access open**
- R25629510 date 2001-2001 ET55824 29 03 2001 Birchville School Confirmed Accountability Review Report Birchville School March 2001 Roll 245 pupils = **access open view online IE35885233**
- R25629502 date 1997-1997 ET55816 01 07 1997 Birchville School Confirmed Assurance Audit Report Birchville School Roll 182 pupils = **access open view online IE35885205**



- R25629496 years 1995-1995 ET55810 12 10 1994 Birchville School Confirmed Effectiveness Review Report Birchville School Roll 155 pupils = **access open view online** IE35625043
- R25629516 years 2006-2006 ET55831 07 03 2006 Birchville School Education Review Report Birchville School March 2006 Roll 277 pupils = **access open view online** IE35885253
- R21558605 date 1976-1977 Contract Birchville School New School box 185 = May be restricted
- R21562268 date 1981-1989 Staffing Individual School Files Birchville Contributing School box 317 part 2 = access restricted
- R21562267 date 1977-1986 Staffing Individual School Files Birchville Contributing School box 317 part 1 = access restricted
- R21558604 date 1975-1976 Contract Birchville school New site Development box 185 = access maybe restricted
- R21557848 date 1976-1981 Architectural Contract files Birchville New School box 155 = access may be restricted
- R21561320 date 1976-1976 Contract Schedules of Quantities Birchville New School box 247 = access may be restricted

#### Archives New Zealand Birchville Kindergarten

- R25637402 date 2007-2007 ET65072 18 12 2003 Birchville Kindergarten Education Review Report Birchville Kindergarten March 2006 Roll 68 children = **access open view online** IE36021145
- R25637389 date 1997-1997 ET65056 14 07 1997 Birchville Kindergarten Assurance Audit Report Birchville Kindergarten July 1997 Roll 60 children over two = **access open view online** IE36021114
- R25637396 date 2003-2003 ET65064 05 05 2003 Birchville Kindergarten Education Review Report Birchville Kindergarten May 2003 Roll 67 children = **access open view online** IE36021130
- R17921113 date 1977-1979 Education Preschool Services Kindergartens General Buildings and Sites Equipment and Recognitions Birchville box 1408 part 1 record number 25/3 = access restricted

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### **Suggested Additional Research**

- Land = Section No - Street Origin - Maps – Plans – Land development
  - Buildings = School – Hall – Sheds – Baths – Dental rooms - Recreation – play grounds – sports grounds – reserves - Classrooms named after Early Settlers or other connections to Upper Hutt's heritage
  - Events and Activities = Fires – earthquakes – floods - Sports – Clubs – Camps – Outings – School banking – Red Cross Club - Reunions – Before and Afterschool care
  - Parents & Education Board - Parents teachers Association – Board of Trustees – Home & School Association – Home & School Committee – Parents helpers – Education Board Policies and Acts
-