

## **TOTARA PARK SCHOOL**

16 California Drive Totara Park Upper Hutt  
Phone 04 5266286 - website [www.totrapark.school.nz](http://www.totrapark.school.nz)  
Opened 1977

### *Time Line Totara Park School*

1977	School opened
1977	First principal perhaps John Vernon Spencer Curtis
1977	Kay Liversage teacher 1977-1992
1985	Arbour Day planting at school
1986	School Hall opened
1987	School 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
1997	School library extension opened
2000	New school playground

### **TOTARA PARK SCHOOL STORY**

Totara Park School was opened in 1977 and is situated at 16 California Drive in the Totara Park district. The school was built on part section No 177.

#### **1977 – 1987 (01 to 10 years)**

Totara Park School was opened in 1977 but the day and month are unknown. It is not known who the foundation principal was perhaps it was John Vernon Spencer Curtis.

Records held at Archives New Zealand Wellington Office for the Education Department state that Kauri Park (north of Upper Hutt) is now called Totara Park.

In 1977 Kathleen (Kay) Liversage began teaching at Totara Park School. Kay taught for the next 15 years retiring in 1992.

Totara Park School Hall was opened in April 1986.

Totara Park School held its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1987.

Pamela (Pam) Thomas was assistant principal of Totara Park School in 1987.

#### **1987 – 1997 (10 to 20 years)**

John Vernon Spencer Curtis principal of Totara Park School retired in 1993

Grieg Mercer became Totara Park's principal in 1993.

#### **1997 – 2007 (20 to 30 years)**

A new Totara Park School ground was established in 2000.

The principal Grieg Mercer retired in 2004.

#### **2007-2017 (30 to 40 years)**

The name of the principal during 2007 and 2017 is unknown.

#### **2017-2024 (40 to 47 years)**

In 2023 Joel Webby was the principal of Totara Park School.

<b>TOTARA PARK SCHOOL STAFF</b> Principals – Teachers – Dental Nurses – Caretakers – Support Staff
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<i>Time line</i>	<i>Details</i>
1977	Foundation principal perhaps John Vernon Spencer Curtis
1977	Kay Liversage Teacher 1977-1992
1987	Pamela (Pam) Thomas assistant principal
1987	Eileen Spence teacher aide
1993	John Vernon Spencer Curtis principal retired
1993	Grieg Mercer principal 1993-2004
2023	Joel Webby principal

### A to Z STAFF

#### **John Vernon Spencer CURTIS Principal retired 1993**

0- John Vernon Spencer CURTIS born 11 May 1924 died 29 June 2011 New Zealand married Mary Martha (Mrs Marion CURTIS) maiden surname unknown born 23 October 1930 died 2008 New Zealand

#John V S Curtis 12 Stokes Valley Road Teacher & Mary Martha Curtis 12 Stokes Valley Road housewife 1981 Eastern Hutt Electoral Roll

#Mary Martha Curtis died 2008 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2008 folio website 2008/4477 born 23 October 1930

#John Vernon Spencer Curtis died 2011 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2011 folio website 2011/15726 born 11 May 1924

#### **Kathleen Lenorah (Kay) LIVERSAGE Senior Teacher 1977-1992**

0- Kathleen Leonorah (Mrs LIVERSAGE) born 29 April 1927 died 1996 New Zealand married Jack Anthony LIVERSAGE born 03 February 1926 died 2009 New Zealand

#Kathleen Leonorah Liversage 23 Dowling Grove Teacher & Jack Anthony Liversage 23 Dowling Grove director 1972 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Kathleen Lenorah Liversage died 1996 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1996 folio website 1996/57543 born 29 April 1927

#Jack Anthony Liversage died 2009 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2009 folio website 2009/15442 born 03 February 1926

#### **Grieg MERCER Principal 1993-2004**

#### **Eileen Mary SPENCE Teacher Aide 1987**

#Eileen Mary Spence 65 Bridge Road Housewife & Kenneth James Spence 65 Bridge Road Prdctn Pinnr 1981 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#### **Pamela (Pam) THOMAS Assistant Principal 1987**

#Pamela Thomas 21 Clyma Street Teacher & Malcolm John Thomas 21 Clyma Street Draughtsman 1981 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#### **Joel WEBBY Principal 2023**

<b>TOTARA PARK SCHOOL PUPILS</b>
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<i>Time Line</i>	<i>Totara Park School Pupils</i>
1977	Roll pupils
1995	Roll 234 pupil
1996	Roll 275 pupil
1999	Roll 300 pupil
2004	Roll 291 pupil
2007	Roll 248 pupil
2013	Roll 264 pupils
2019	Roll 246 pupils or 307

## A TO Z PUPILS

The Totara Park School foundation pupils are not known.

### TOTARA PARK SCHOOL Places of Interest

**Awakairangi Park** is situated in Totara Park along the bank of the Awa Kairangi / Hutt River

**Pedestrian Bridge** between Totara Park and Norbert Avenue Brown Owl

**California Park** is situated on California Drive

**Cannon Point Trig** is on hill above Totara Park

**Cannon Point Walk** is accessible from Totara Park

**Earthquake Fault** runs along California Drive

**Native Reserve Section No 175** in Totara Park below Maoribank.

**Ngati Tama Park** is situated in Totara Park along the bank of the Awa Kairangi / Hutt River

**Streets - Totara Park Road** was named after the Totara trees. The early settlers found Totara growing in abundance in the Upper Hutt forests. Totara Park Road was established when Totara Park subdivision was developed and the bridge was completed over the Hutt river. Totara Park Road runs from Ferguson Drive through the Clouston Park area over the bridge into the Totara Park district. The first section of Totara Park Road was originally part of Clouston Park Road.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints** is situated on the bend of California Drive.

**Tulsa Park** is situated on California Drive in Totara Park

**Turon Park** is situated on Turon Crescent

### TOTARA PARK SCHOOL Record collections and miscellaneous information

#### Totara Park 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

#### Upper Hutt City Library Heritage Collection

- Archives 7 items
- Ephemera 3 items
- Manuscript 16 items
- Person 1 item
- Photos 51 items
- Place 1 item
- Publication 121 items

#### Other items

- Various newspaper articles and photographs by Upper Hutt Leader and Wilfred Jackson

#### Archives NZ Wellington Office (31 items)

- R687643 date 1981-1987 School Committee Projects Totara Park box 37 part number 1 record number 5/698 = **access open**
- R20132635 date 1964-1986 Primary Schools Wellington Totara Park A box 165 part number 1 record number 7/6 = **access open**
- R20132636 date 1964-1965 Primary Schools Wellington Totara Park B box 165 part number 1 record number 7/6 = **access open**
- R20132637 date 1975-1983 Primary Schools Wellington Totara Park No 2 box 165 record number 7/6 = **access open**
- R12554620 date 1975-1975 Primary Schools Wellington Buildings Totara Park Number 2 box 41 part number 2 record number 7/6 = **access open**
- R10371361 date 1964-1971 Education Proposed School Sites (2) Kauri Park (north of Upper Hutt) now called Totara Park A and B box 274 record number 31/2752 = **access open**
- R10372041 date 1978-1983 Education Upper Hutt Primary California Drive Totara Park box 313 record number 31/3471 = **access open**
- R26081460 date 1984-1984 Totara Park School Totara park Upper Hutt Photographer W Cleal May 1984 box 3 position reference 201 record number MD6317 = **access open**
- R26081461 date 1984-1984 Totara Park School Totara park Upper Hutt Photographer W Cleal May 1984 box 3 position reference 201 record number MD6318 = **access open**
- R21561204 date 1972-1972 Contract Totara Park School Site development box 243 = access may be restricted
- R21561248 date 1976-1977 Contract Totara Park School Additions box 244 record number 77/53 = access may be restricted
- R21557072 date 1976-1982 School Sites (1) Totara Park box 86 record number 1/698 = access may be restricted
- R21558447 date 1974-1982 Architectural Contract Files Totara Park New School box 180 part number 1 = access may be restricted
- R21561249 date 1974-1975 Contract Totara Park New School box 244 record number 75/83 = access may be restricted
- R21567232 date 1964-1964 Totara Park new school heating box 891 record number 75/90 = access may be restricted
- R21561378 date 1974-1974 Contract Schedules of Quantities Totara Park New School box 251 = access may be restricted
- R21558446 date 1977-1978 Architectural Contract Files Totara Park School Multiple Contract No 7 for CED[?] Type Unit Classroom box 180 = access may be restricted

- R21562799 date 1977-1989 Staffing Individual School Files Totara Park Contributing School box 357 = access restricted 2064
- R25637635 date 1995-1995 ET65338 19 07 1994 Totara Park images scanned – IE35618548 Audit report on website roll 234 pupil
- R25637643 date 1996-1996 ET65346 24 07 1996 Totara Park images scanned – IE36021871 Effectiveness review report on website roll 275 pupil
- R25637651 date 2000-2000 ET65354 23 12 1999 Totara Park Images scanned – IE36021892 Accountability Review Report on website roll 300 pupil
- R25637655 date 2004-2004 ET65362 04 03 2004 Totara Park images scanned – IE36021904 education review report on website roll 291 pupil
- R25637664 date 2007-2007 ET65371 15 10 2007 Totara Park images scanned – IE36021929 education review report on website roll 248 pupil

#### Archives New Zealand wellington

- R25635960 date 1997-1997 ET63378 13 10 1997 Totara Park Play centre images scanned – IE35903438 assurance audit report on website roll 40 pupil
- R25637531 date 1997-1997 ET65218 05 08 1997 Totara Park Kindergarten images scanned – IE36021549 Assurance Audit report on website roll 85 pupil
- R25635962 date 2003-2003 ET63382 13 10 2003 Totara Park Play centre images scanned – IE35903444 Education Review Report on website roll 81 pupil
- R25637538 date 2003-2003 ET65225 29 04 2003 Totara Park Kindergarten images scanned – IE36021570 Education review report on website roll 86 pupil
- R25635968 date 2006-2006 ET63388 26 06 2006 Totara Park play centre images scanned – IE35903459 Education review report on website roll 71 pupil
- R25637545 date 2007-2007 ET65233 23 01 2007 Totara Park kindergarten images scanned – IE36021589 Education review report on website roll 86 pupil
- R17922478 date 1979-1980 Education Pre-school Services Dearly Childhood Education Play Centre Buildings Totara Park box 1494 part number 1 record number 25/12 = access restricted 2055
- R17921631 date 1974-1975 Education Pre-school services Kindergartens General Buildings and Sites Equipment and Recognitions Totara Park box 1428 part number 1 record number 25/3 = access restricted 2050

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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
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