

Matawai School  
Golden Jubilee

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1908-1958

— SOUVENIR —

## TEACHERS WHO TAUGHT AT MATAWAI SCHOOL.

Miss Redpath  
Miss Brooking  
Mr. E. Roochel  
Mr. J. Murdock  
Mr. E. McLean  
Miss Green  
Miss D. Lange  
Mr. Cockrill  
Miss M. Mortleman  
Mr. J. McRae  
Miss McLay  
Miss Golding  
Miss Walters  
Miss Greenslade  
Miss Guscott  
Miss J. McKenzie  
Mr. E. Webster  
Mr. Ridgeway  
Miss Hansen  
Mrs. Snadden  
Miss McRae  
Miss K. Grey  
Miss L. Ward  
Mrs. A. Gibson  
Miss E. Herbert  
Miss N. Trafford  
Miss Faubert.  
Miss McBratney  
Mr. S. Bell  
Miss Aston  
Mr. Kennedy  
Mr. F. M. Peake  
Mr. W. Horton  
Mr. Haggitt  
Miss Ganbrill  
Miss Fisher  
Miss Thompson  
Miss Egluton  
Miss Munro  
Mr. K. Ellicott  
Miss A. Gibson  
Miss Hopkinson  
Miss N. Steele  
Miss L. C. Fleming  
Miss Innes

Mr. H. Gordon  
Miss A. Wauchop  
Mr. Duff  
Miss I. Dare  
Mr. E. Ewen  
Miss Rathie  
Miss R. Cameron  
Miss G. Smith  
Miss C. Ritchie  
Mr. L. Absolum  
Mr. McIntosh  
Mr. H. Lund  
Miss J. Trafford  
Miss Seaborne  
Miss I. Gordon  
Miss Shaw  
Miss N. Gibson  
Miss Monteith  
Miss E. Tucker  
Mr. A. Thompson  
Mrs. H. Twisleton  
Miss D. Houston  
Mr. D. Gordon  
Miss D. Rushbrook  
Mr. J. B. Cochrane  
Miss M. Korte  
Mr. B. C. Oliver  
Miss B. Hogland  
Mr. N. Cole  
Mr. R. Watson  
Miss Grayson  
Miss M. Ruka  
Mr. R. Rutherford  
Mr. Devery  
Miss A. Copsey  
Mr. D. Charteris  
Mr. Bricknell  
Miss Kay Campbell  
Miss Anderson  
Miss J. Roach  
Miss C. Hillman  
Miss Cameron  
Mr. Harries  
Mr. Jones  
Miss Jobson

## DUX BOARD HONOURS.

1913—Frank Thomas.  
1914—Ronald Tunnecliff.  
1915—Stanley Briant.  
1916—Hilda Armstrong.  
1917—Keith Tunnecliff,  
1918—James Robb.  
1919—Connie Tunnecliff.  
1920—Rita Fleming.  
1921—John Clark.  
1922—George Curtis.  
1923—Albert Gibson.  
1924—Maida Fielder  
1925—Agnes Gibson.

1926—Joan Salt.  
1927—Frank Clark.  
1928—Rhoda Smith.  
1929—Joseph Thompson.  
1930—Isobel Emmerson.  
1931—Harry Korte.  
1932—Marion. Calcott.  
1933—  
1934—Eric Pederson.  
1935—Eileen Pert.  
1936—James Pederson.  
1937—John Pederson.  
1938—Judy Trafford.

## Editorial

*This our first Jubilee is a milestone not only in the lives of those of us who are privileged to take part in these celebrations, but in the history of the school, which started us on the path to manhood and womanhood. Therefore it is fitting that we should attempt to put on record as near as we can the history of our School.*

*The magazine committee regrets any omissions or errors in this booklet, but when compiling a magazine of this type the main sources of information are photographs and people's memories.*

*People's memories tend to find it hard to recall facts after the passage of many years. Photographs are an excellent record, but even they will fade with time. However, we hope the photos in this book will bring back many happy memories. If only we could print here the many "Do you remember?" reminiscences we will hear at the Jubilee. What happy reading it would be.*

*We have enjoyed printing this magazine, and we hope our efforts meet with your approval and serve as a reminder of many happy days spent at your old school. To those who supplied photographs and information we tend our thanks.*

*We extend a hearty welcome to all our visiting ex-pupils, teachers, committee members and friends, and those who are absent will be remembered by us all.*

R. TUCKER.

## Matawai School Golden Jubilee

1908. ----- 1958.

HELD JANUARY 16th & 17th, 1959.

### OFFICERS :

**President:** Mr. J. LOCKHEAD.

**Secretary:** Mrs. G. TUCKER.

**Treasurer:** Mr. J. D. CLARK.

**Assistant Secretary:** Mr. F. SMITH.

### Committee:

Mrs. J. LOCKHEAD, Mr. W. SUTHERLAND, Mr. H. J. COSTELLO,  
Mr. B. CLARK.

**Billeting Committee:** Mr. R. CLARK, Mrs. ELLMERS Mrs. G. GORDON,  
Mrs. H. BULST, Mrs. W. MORTLEMAN.

**Refreshment Committee:** Mrs. R. MORTLEMAN and Mrs. G. KORTE.

**Decorating Committee:** Mrs. C. CALCOTT, Mrs. DAVIDSON, Mrs. N. GIBSON,  
Mr. D. MORTLEMAN, Mr. R. GRACE.

## **Letter From Mr. F. Faram, H.B. Education Board Member.**

*As the local representative of the H.B. Education Board, I have been asked to write a short introduction to this magazine.*

*The preparation of a booklet of this nature demands a considerable amount of research by those responsible for its production. I would like to congratulate these enthusiasts on their efforts and assure them that these pages will conjure up many pleasant memories to the visiting ex-pupils of Matawai School.*

*The present-day pupils will find much of interest in the local history of their district. Indeed, if it were not for publications such as this much of the local history of New Zealand would be lost for ever.*

*On behalf of the H.B. Education Board I extend to the Matawai Jubilee Committee my very best wishes for a successful reunion.*

FRANK I. FARAM,  
No. 3 Ward Member,  
H.B. Education Board.

## **Letter from Miss Brooking, (now Mrs. Liddle).**

*When I was asked in January, 1911, to go to Matawai as sole teacher at the school I was very hesitant. For one thing, it then seemed a long way from home, and, having just finished my necessary number of years as pupil teacher, I felt somewhat raw and not ready to take on a sole charge.*

*However, I decided - or was persuaded - to take the position temporarily. I arrived there on a Saturday morning, in the guard's van of the public works train, and was deposited at the gate of the home where I was to stay.*

*Next day I was taken to view the school. We were to work in the supper room of the hall. I gasped when I saw the size of the fireplace, and hoped I would not be expected to chop the wood. As the winter months came on, we were very grateful for its size and warmth; and, as for wood chopping, there was none to be done - in the yard of the school was a heap of huge posts - these I learned were our wood, and they were put on full length and made a most cheerful blaze.*

*When I think of the present day pupils sitting at their little dual desks or single desks, I wonder what they would think could they have seen ours. I had always been used to the long type of desk, but these were exceptionally long. What their weight must have been I shouldn't like to guess, but if one got out of place, for any reason, it took all my strength, and that of a pupil or two to get it back.*

*They were rough, hewn from trees grown in the Motu bush, and I think had done pioneer service in the first Motu School. We had a table and chair for the teacher and a blackboard, and I suppose we must have had a cupboard of some sort, but in my memory not much else to help us along. In summer we rode to school, but as the roads took on their winter condition we had to*

walk. (I suppose it was a distance of about two miles). Sometimes we would walk on the railway track, but more often we kept to the main road, walking inside the fence to keep out of the mud.

I can recall only one clash of a pupil's will against the young teacher. It was not a very serious clash, but at the time I did wonder how I would deal with it. However, it ended very happily for both sides and gave us all more confidence in each other. I was very fortunate in having a group of such happy, willing pupils (and parents, too). They did everything they could to help me, and I enjoyed my work with them very much. Whether they learnt very much with me as their teacher I do not know, but it was a very worthwhile experience for a young teacher and one on which I can look back and feel that I had a part - however small that part - in school pioneering in Matawai.

— L.L.

## **Letter From An Old Student.**

*Dear Friends,*

As the years gather speed it seems our common experience to find the events and milestones of our school days standing out more clearly in the mind's eye. So it is with me, and impressions of the Matawai School of 20 years ago hold yet a pristine quality. They were progressive years, those just before World War II, and if there was tension in the adult world because of the approaching shadow, in school life we were happily unaware of it.

I well remember the songs we sang as we traveled in our little canvas-topped school bus over the hill on frosty, sometimes snowy days, rolled up in rugs, fingers gloved, hot water bottles to stockinged feet, cheerful withal. Our bus driver, Mr. C. Hustler, for more than 20 years now has made his twice daily pilgrimage over the hill roads, safely transporting school children; indeed a wonderful achievement, and I now gratefully entrust my daughter to his care as a present day pupil.

Vivid still are the happy gatherings of Hill Country Schools sports days, all competing in friendly rivalry to a din of barracking raised to the very skies. At first the inhabitants of a nearby school would seem to our immature eyes like denizens of a foreign country, to be gazed at and gazed at again, their every difference in dress or mannerism noted with severe disapproval, but afterwards in the mutual consuming of a tremendous afternoon tea ornate with cream horns and jam sponges such as are produced only in the mountains, strangeness was forgotten somewhat.

Sometimes the bliss of a train trip was added, with more singing to the "clackety-clack" of wheels on rails, now rapid, now slowing completely on steep grades, while hardy souls, if not hustled inside, "stood on the platform going through a tunnel," a feat for which they were long remembered with respect. There were, too, those long spells of rainy cold weather when, in lunch hours, confined to shelter sheds, we played "puss in the corner," or busied ourselves QUIETLY inside the school walls, and the temptation to such indulgences as the spattering of one's own or another's face with chalk or ink, or a desperate fight with water pistols were summarily dealt with . . . till by the week's ending we, and doubtless our teachers, were glad of release; mornings of a clear frosty blueness when our high spirits were absorbed in a vigorous "all-in" game of "footy"; girls also (the school roll being but 50 odd), in which, I am now sure, great private enjoyment was had by our teachers regarding our enthusiastic but unorthodox tactics, resulting occasionally in bleeding noses and brief tears.

*Fancy dress balls in the rickety old village hall, its floor thumping thrillingly to the strains of "The Sultan's Grand March," emphasised by a hundred sturdy legs. And a "cow" with fiercely real Hereford horns and rolling eyes, together with a slightly bashful milkmaid following uncertainly in the procession, bringing the onlookers almost to their knees in hysterical appreciation of its grotesque but quite unplanned lurching movements, and of the plaintive, sometimes argumentative, sounds issuing from the region of its middle! Yes, the best of childhood enjoyment was ours in those years. And much of it I feel was due to our teachers, among whom our headmaster, Mr. F. A. Ewen, stands out. I will only say, for I know he would disapprove mention, that he asked for and received from us our very best in work and play. It has been said recently by a New Zealand educationist, Mr Manning, in his study of youth, that in the moulding of an individual's life and character, his early teachers are probably the greatest single influence. This seems a challenging statement, but if so, we were indeed fortunate. As a parent in turn, I feel, too, that the tradition of fine teacherhood in the school is being most worthily continued today. Over the last decade the school has grown rapidly in many directions. In 1919 the neighbouring Koranga Valley School was destroyed by fire and the local committee faced with the issue of consolidation. The district together with Homebrook, decided affirmatively, and later Rakauoa followed suit, so that now a large proportion of children travel by bus. Classrooms have grown from two to five. Modern equipment, such as a film projector and radio, are used, active clubs are part of school life, and inter-sports and drama functions on a large scale are held. A learners' swimming pool will, it is hoped, be in construction this summer. Contact with town schools and visits to local centres of industry are arranged so that altogether a full and varied programme is provided. Community interest in the school is good, and a series of active committees have made many improvements. We can be very proud of our school. But let us, as parents, teachers, old students, strive for still better things. For, who knows a District High School? For further amenities around the school, such as shelter plantations and lovely gardens; for help with school clubs, so that adults in the community may pass on special skills: above all, for the friendly co-operation of all, each singing personal prestige in the common good, for only thus can we experience that wonderful and very real glow of good fellowship which comes from working together to a worthwhile end: and namely that our children and pupils, the future old students, may enjoy a rich and happy school environment. At this glad and proud time we welcome all teachers and former playmates, and hope they will enjoy the occasion to the full: to those who must be absent, may the reading of this magazine renew for them happy and serene memories in which they share.*

*-- Greetings to all -- Judy Ellmers (nee Trafford)*



MATAWAI, 1958.

PHOTO -- WADE STUDIOS.



MISS REDPATH (Mrs. F. Korte), FIRST TEACHER.





PRESENT PUPILS



STAFF

# TOAST LIST

(Patrons are asked not to smoke until after the Loyal Toast)

*Grace:* Mr. A. Surrey.

*Toastmaster:* Mr. W. SUTHERLAND.

1—Loyal Toast: THE QUEEN—  
The Chairman, Mr. LOCKHEAD  
National Anthem.

Silent tribute to the memory of  
deceased ex-pupils, ex-teachers and ex-committeemen.

APOLOGIES.

2—Toast: THE SCHOOL—  
Proposed by Mr. HILL.

Chorus:

"On the ball, on the ball, on the ball,  
Through scrummage, three-quarters and all,  
Sticking together we'll keep on the leather,  
And shout as we go on the ball."

Repeat.

Reply by Mr. JONES

3—Item: SONG - - - - - Mr. HOOPER

4—Toast: PAST & PRESENT TEACHING STAFF—  
Proposed by Mr. N. GIBSON

Chorus:

"Why were they born so beautiful,  
Why were they born at all,  
Why were they born so beautiful,  
Why were they born at all."

Reply by Mr. A. THOMPSON

5—Toast: EX-PUPILS—  
Proposed by Mr. S. BEAUFOY

"Here we are again, happy as can be,  
All good friends and jolly good company,  
Never mind the weather, never mind the rain,  
Now we're all together, whoops—she goes again,  
Tra-la-la-la-lee, tra-la-la-la-lee,  
All good friends and jolly good company."

Reply by Mr. R. HUSTLER

6—Item: CUTTING THE JUBILEE CAKE—

7—Toast: PRESENT AND EX-COMMITTEEMEN AND  
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION—

Proposed by Mr. CHARTERIS

"Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag,  
And smile, smile, smile.  
While you've a Lucifer to light your fag,  
Smile, boys, that's the style.

What's the use of worrying,  
It never was worth while,  
So, pack up your troubles in your old kit bag,  
And smile, smile, smile."

Reply by Mr. W. TUCKER

8—Toast: HAWKE'S BAY EDUCATION BOARD—  
Proposed by Mr. ALLEN, M.P.

"There's a long, long trail awinding,  
To all the schools round this way,  
Who want additions and new buildings,  
Each and every day.  
There's a long, long night of waiting,  
Until these dreams all come true,  
And you will see the architect,  
Inspecting sites for you."

Reply by Mr. F. FARAM

9—Toast: ABSENT OLD PUPILS—  
Proposed by Mr. H. COSTELLO

10—Item: SONG - - - - - Mrs. G. KORTE

11—Toast: THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE—  
Proposed by Mr. N. RICHARDSON

"Bless 'em all, bless 'em all,  
The long and the short and the tall,  
Bless all the ladies and their families, too,  
Bless all the men tho' their numbers are few,  
'Cos we're saying goodbye to them all,  
As back to their billets they crawl,  
You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean,  
So cheer up, my friends, bless 'em all."

Reply by Mr. LOCKHEAD

FAREWELL CHORUSES:

"Show me the way to go home,  
I'm tired and I want to go to bed,  
I had a little drink about an hour ago  
And it's gone right to my head,  
Wherever I may roam, o'er land or sea or foam,  
I can always hear them singing this song,  
Show me the way to go home,  
"Goodbye-e-e. Don't sigh-e-e-e,  
Wipe the tear, baby dear, from your eye-e-e-e,  
Tho' it's hard to part I know  
I'll be tickled to death to go,  
Don't sigh-e-e, Don't cry-e-e,  
There's a silver lining in the sky-e-e-e,  
Son soir old thing, cheerio, chin chin,  
Napoo, toodle-oo, goodbye-e-e."

AULD LANG SYNE

Music by MISS L RURU.



FIRST SCHOOL PHOTO — MISS BROOKING AND PUPILS IN FRONT OF OLD HALL.



CROWNING OF QUEEN—JEAN TUCKER.



EARLY SPORTS MEETING.



PEACE CELEBRATIONS AT TE KARAKA, JULY, 1919.



MATAWAI TOWNSHIP, 1915.



THE GIRLS GET AWAY TO A GOOD START.



THREE GENERATIONS—Mr. REG. ROBB, Mrs. J. THOMPSON  
AND SUE THOMPSON.



MATAWAI, 1913.

## **FIRST DAYS.**

When the Matawai School was first opened in 1908, five pupils attended school the first day. These pupils were Elsie and Maud Neale, Eva, Stella and Reggie Fleming. Miss E. Redpath, of Rakauoa, was the first teacher, and she taught alternately at Matawai and Rakauoa. Among the children who rode to Matawai from Rakauoa were Archie and Jessie Smith and the McPhee children. Both children and teacher covered the distance between townships on horseback. The road then was merely a mud track. Miss Redpath taught both schools in this manner for 2½ years, no easy- task for a young girl of 17 years.

"Mrs. Korte," as we know her today, can look back with pride on her early teaching days. The school room at Matawai was a small room attached to the washhouse of Mr. R. J. Fleming. It was known as the "Paper Room," so called because the walls were covered with Auckland Weeklies. One pupil told me there are several historical events he will never forget, as he was able to gaze at pictures of these any day on the wall above his desk.

One episode Mrs. Korte well remembers happened on her last day as teacher there When leaving for school from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Burgess, her horse took fright and threw her. She was carrying among other things a precious parcel containing a gift of china presented to her by the pupils, but she was pleased to relate the gift came off better than she did, for it was unbroken. The teacher told me she was very pleased when school ended that day and she still had to make the journey to her home at Rakauoa.

The chairman of the school committee at that time was Mr. J. B. Clark. Mr. Clark was ably assisted in school affairs by his brother, Mr. W. R. Clark, Mr. R. J. Fleming and Mr. A. J. Hustler. These men served the school well for many years.

The teacher to follow Miss Redpath was Miss L. Brooking, who also deserves praise for her work as first full-time teacher.

## **THE FIRST INSPECTOR.**

**MR. H. HILL**

The first Inspector to visit the hill school was Mr. Hill, who did much to help back country schools. Some of his earliest reports read thus:

The Matawai School is held in a very old and unsuitable place, the room containing only two desks and a table.

**Oct. 20th, 1911:**

There is no school building and school is now conducted in it lean-to at the back of the public hall. Three new desks and three old ones were bought from Motu. There are no maps or pictures, and teaching is carried out under primitive conditions, thus making teaching a very arduous job.

**July 13th, 1913:**

Memorandum: Building on the new school is now in progress. A portion of the school site is very wet and could not be used by the children, so I recommend that application be made to the Waikohu County Council to drain the public road in front of the school and so drain the school grounds.

**June 2nd, 1914:**

I recommend that the area around the school be tarred, as it is wet and muddy. The school is now in a healthy working condition.

**July 31st, 1915:**

The lady teachers are now fostering the cup of cocoa at lunch time for those carrying lunches to school. Everything is being done to make school life homely, attractive and happy.

(Signed) H. HILL.

Mr. Hill was Inspector of Schools for the H.B. Education Board from June, 1878, and retired in December, 1914, after giving many years of valuable assistance to outlying schools.

### **"DO YOU REMEMBER?"**

Over the years some incidents stand out in our memories. It was at the Peace Celebrations in July, 1919, after the First World War that we travelled to Te Karaka. to compete in the Hill Country Schools Celebrations. We were very proud when we won the prize for the best fancy dressed school. We travelled by train and were a tired but happy group when we finally arrived home.

One hears of various ways of leaving school, but one pupil chose the unorthodox way of rushing headlong from the classroom with the schoolmaster in full pursuit. The remaining pupils who watched from school windows said the pupil cleared the school fence with what must have then been a record in high jumping.

About this time the Motu Valley pupils were conveyed to school in a horse-drawn coach (canary cart), and sad were we the day the horses took fright at a seldom seen lorry, bolted and overturned the coach. We were bruised and badly shaken, but thanks to the able way the driver, Mr, Bert Neal, handled the horses there were no serious injuries.

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July, 21st, 1919.

Children's Day celebrations held at Te Karaka yesterday passed off most successfully. Mr. C. A. Foote had kindly lent a large paddock opposite the school for holding the sports, and an energetic committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. H. Bridge, had made every preparation for a large gathering.

The proceedings commenced with a monster procession headed by the City and Te Karaka Bands, under the baton of Bandmaster Lawrence. Captain J. B. Poynter and Mr. R. D. Dymock acted as marshals, and the procession moved off in the following order: Re-turned soldiers on horseback, school children (to the number of about 400), decorated lorries containing Maoris in native costume; then a decorated cart containing the "Dark Town" jazz band.

These were followed by about 40 motor cars, nearly all profusely decorated, and headed by District Nurse Taylor (who has just returned after four years active service) in Mr. E. Hingston's car, the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald, and the chairman of the Waikohu County Council and Te Karaka Town Board.

There were also a large number of decorated gigs and buggies. The route of procession was from Peacocke's corner past the hotel, down Barry Road, Balfour Road and back by the Waihora Road to the sports ground, where a platform had been erected for the speakers. The school children formed up with the general public behind them, and an emblematic display was given by the children of the Matawai School, under Mr. Webster, the headmaster ("John Bull ") and Mr. Schollum, chairman of the school committee ("Uncle Sam"),

The display was headed by the "Angel of Peace" guarded by a British soldier, and followed by other children dressed to represent Great Britain and the Dominions, the Allies and various units of the services. The display and marching of the children reflects great credit on Matawai; the costumes were all most complete and effective, and were a long way ahead of anything attempted by the other schools.

—Cutting from Gisborne Herald, following the Peace Celebrations in 1919.

## **QUEEN CARNIVAL.**

In 1922 the Matawai School Committee decided to hold a Queen Carnival to raise funds to improve the school grounds. Many and varied were the methods used to raise the required amount of money.

Four Queens were chosen to stand, these being Ena Prentice (Mill), Thelma Costello (Township), Kathleen Thompson (Rakauroa Road), and Jean Tucker (Valley Road), the last-named being crowned Queen.

The results were most gratifying, and work was quickly commenced on the school grounds.

Matawai has always been a keen sporting centre, and the sports meeting was held for many years on the property of Messrs. Hansen & Green. The 17th March was the day set aside for the annual sports meeting. Horse events, athletics and chopping were always keenly contested.

It is interesting to note that Norma Wilson did some of her earliest competing at this meeting, and we remember with pride that she represented New Zealand at the Olympic Games as a runner.

In the field of chopping, always a popular event with the public, we remember such names as the O'Rourke Bros., Albert Bulst, Chris Korte, the Costello boys, and Sam Johnstone.

## **THE OLD BOARDING HOUSE.**

This shop and boarding house was situated where the present hotel stands, and it is a great pity that it cannot speak for itself. If it could some great tales could be told. It was the meeting place of many who worked in the bush and on the public works.

It is said that many an argument was settled at the back of the boarding house in true boxing style. The nearest policeman at that time was stationed at Motu, so matters were usually "thrashed" out before the arrival of the law.



## **THE MATAWAI SAW MILL.**

This mill was situated just a short distance from the railway station and played an active part in the early history of the district. Many of the children attended the school for the best part of their school years. Their parents, too, were valuable workers for the school and the district. One parent who served for a very long period as a school committeeman was Mr. Owen Tunnecliff. It is with pleasure we look forward to meeting again many of these pupils at the reunion. The Mill was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1922.

## **MATAWAI SCHOOL.**

October, 1958.

At the time of writing there are 203 children on the roll, 110 boys and 93 girls. The classes are as follows :-- Primer 1 and 2, teacher Miss Hillman, 47 pupils; Primer 2 and 3, teacher Miss Jobson, 35 pupils; Primer 4, Standards 1 and 2, teacher Miss Roach, 38 pupils ; Standards 2 and 3, teacher Mr. Brickell, 41 pupils; Standard 4, Forms 1 and 2, teacher Mr. Jones, 42 pupils.

There will be several staff changes next year. Miss Hillman is leaving the teaching service, Miss Roach has obtained an appointment at Suva Girls Grammar School, and Miss Jobson will have completed her appointment at Matawai.

The majority of the children are conveyed to school by bus—93 by Mr. Hustler in two trips, one from Opotiki Road (Chinatown) and the other from Te Wera. The Education Department bus, driven by Mr. Brickell, serves the Rakauora and Tahora children, 33 being carried.

There are now five classrooms at the school, two in the old school, which all ex-pupils and staff will remember, one pre-fabricated classroom and two classrooms and a staff room in the new building opened on 14th November, 1955. There is also a dental clinic with a permanent Dental Nurse, Miss P. M. Reid, in charge. Sufficient money has now been collected to construct a learners' swimming pool and the Education Board has called for tenders. Twenty-eight tubular steel desks and chairs have been received from the Education Board and these have been placed in the senior classroom.

The School Committee is as follows:—Mr. S. R. Beufof (Chairman), Mr. N. Gibson (Secretary), Messrs. Davidson, Brown, McMillan, Seymour, and Thompson.

(Message from Mr. Jones, present Headmaster)

*This pdf file was generated from a copy of the 1958 Souvenir booklet by Chris Korte in March 2006. The text layout was slightly modified from the original.*