

WAITOHU SCHOOL

**Celebrating
50 years
1963-2013**





SPANNING THE YEARS: First headmaster Arthur Manz (96) with new entrant Mana Toimata (5). Mana is the son of former pupil and current teacher Nikki McLean, grandson of former teachers Marilyn McLean and Ross McLean, and great-grandson of Ray Ashley, a founding school committee member. Mana is sitting in a tree Arthur and his wife, Betty, planted. It is beside the school hall that their son, Dennis, designed in the early 1990s.

COVER PHOTO:

Anzac Day commemoration (2013).

2013 JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Ian Ballantyne, Alison Moore, Lynne Walker, Max Lutz, Scott Kyle, Leigh Rau, Rodney Moffatt, Simone Brooker and Maine Curtis.

Special thanks to Ian Carson and ID Media Ltd, Otaki, for design of this Golden Jubilee booklet; Barbara Franks for administrative assistance; and Otaki Printers for publication.

My 4-classroom school has blossomed

By ARTHUR MANZ, Headmaster 1963-1970

Written for the 50th Jubilee

When the doors of Waitohu School first opened, the teaching staff's first priority was to establish a sound teaching curriculum, and very soon afterwards this was broadened to include a much wider range of activities such as gymnastics, music, agricultural club and team sports.

There was wonderful support from parents and friends in the local community, everyone being keen to ensure that "their" school should excel in every way.

Once established, the school roll began to increase, and I believe that over subsequent years, with changing staff and a continuing inflow of new families, the school has steadily grown in size and in quality.

Recently I was invited to be present on a special occasion. On an outside wall, hand-painted portraits of famous New Zealanders were hung on display. Pupils in turn spoke of each person they had chosen, giving the reason why that choice had been made. I was very impressed. Then a staff member took me on a tour of all rooms. My small four-classroom school with a tiny staffroom had mushroomed in size and had the most modern facilities. It has entered the technological age, no doubt using teaching methods that could be quite unknown to me.

My congratulations are extended, firstly to the principals and staff members over the years since my time, who have kept the school moving forward, and also to the new enthusiastic parents who choose Waitohu School for their children's education.

I have mentioned no names. You know who they are!

And behind all this there have been the school committee members and the Parent/Teacher Association, all working to help with materials and finance to enhance the facilities already supplied.

My best wishes for the coming years of our school, and sincere congratulations to the Jubilee Committee for organising this 50th anniversary occasion.



THE BEGINNING

1963

By ARTHUR MANZ

Written for the 25th Jubilee

Where to build the new school? That is the question. Beach area or the railway? The railway won. Vic Cottle, ward member for the Wellington Education Board, played a key role in securing four acres of land and a school residence in Te Manuao Road and the calling of tenders to erect four new classrooms.

The commissioners

The first commissioners (nowadays called Board of Trustee members) were Ray Taylor (chairman), W Ross Taylor (secretary), Ray Moffatt, Ray Ashley, Bob Whetren, Harry Lauder and Carl Lutz.

These men, along with the Education Board and the school staff, prepared the way for the opening day on 5 February 1963.

As new headmaster, I met regularly with the Education Board and the commissioners, and matters decided on were such things as sports and medical equipment, school buses, their routes and timing, manual training at Otaki College for Form 1 and 2, books for readers and the library, the appointment of staff and caretakers, free milk for pupils, fire hoses and toilet paper.

February 5 1963 dawned, seeing 88 pupils arriving at the new school to be greeted by the staff of 1963:

Arthur Manz, teaching Form 1 & 2

Graeme Moss, Standards 3 & 4

Shirley Hoskins, Standards 1 & 2

Noeline Reichenbach, Juniors 1 & 2.

By the end of the day temperatures in the classrooms were 88F (31C) and thanks to Mrs D Blake, cooling down commenced at afternoon interval with icecreams for all staff and pupils.

By the end of the year 128 pupils were on the roll and little fluctuation was seen over several years.



The first staff, from left, Graeme Moss, Noeline Reichenbach and Arthur Manz. Also, above left, Shirley Hoskins.

LEFT: The school commissioners raise the flag for the first time in 1963, watched by first headmaster Arthur Manz at far right.

Community spirit and support

The enthusiasm shown by residents in the community for “their” new school was quite remarkable. Gifts ranged from a sewing machine to sets of football jerseys, an electric school bell, tennis nets, climbing bars and goal posts. Transportation of children in cars, helping in classrooms, mothers having senior girls home learning sewing, making Milo in the winter months, working bees etc, assisted to maintain the school atmosphere, and quality of such a high standard.

Parent Teacher Association

The PTA was formed on February 27 1963 following a request from the commissioners. Forty parents attended and over the years the same enthusiasm has been shown with good co-operation from both parents and staff. Many goals have been reached with a lot of hard work and financial aid from all concerned. These included the many successful gala days which raised heaps of money to purchase equipment not covered by the Education Board. Fancy dress evenings, which are enjoyed by both parents and pupils, agricultural days, where the inevitable raffle is on sale, to the construction of the school baths.

With the opening of the new school, new floors were respected with a “NO STILLETTO HEELS” ruling at PTA meetings.

Football jerseys were purchased in green and gold for twenty-one shillings and sixpence.

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An appreciation

Schools have tone and quality, and today (25 years after opening) Waitohu School exemplifies these in a very high degree. They must be worked for – they do not just happen. During our first 25 years so many people worked hard for our school and enjoyed doing so, that they may all look back with satisfaction and pride at a school which maintains the highest educational standards.

Congratulations go to all who have been associated with the school – parents, friends, committee and PTA office-holders, pupils past and present, caretakers, and ancillary staff. They have all made the school what it is today.

The Wellington Education Board and its officers – staffing, building maintenance and school inspectors – must also be included, for they also enabled high standards to be attained.



The school gymnastics team of 1966. Sandra Dorne (front row, far right) went on to win national junior championships.

School baths

Such support was shown in the construction of the school baths [swimming pool], financing and building these with several working bees. Many man hours had the learners pool complete with filtration plant and dressing sheds ready for use in 1964.

Swimming in the summer of 1963 was done in the Waitohu River adjacent to Dave Blake's farm. Children cooled off, learned water skills, and then got hot again walking back to school!

Schools in the area were inspected, plans and subsidies were received. Colin Wilson, a builder of Te Horo, was engaged as builder of the pool, and on November 30 1963, Eric Johns drove in the first pegs marking the profiles. Everyone was busy in the next three months (between silage and hay-making) and on February 11 1964 swimming commenced. The pleasure could be seen on the faces of the children and the hardworking parents whose efforts have been so amply rewarded in the subsequent years.

Cost of the pool:	£1050
Subsidy:	£450
Sheds:	£250
Fence:	£150
Filtration:	£400
TOTAL RAISED:	£1,200



Eric Johns, watched by builder Colin Wilson, drives in the first pegs marking the site of the school's new pool.

Agricultural days

Many a champion calf, lamb or farmer has emerged from Waitohu School over the years. Being part of the curriculum, many hours have been spent rearing animals, tending to shiny hides and soft woolly coats. Wet or fine, stock trailers would roll into school and lovingly prepared animals would do their thing in the show-ring.

Home gardens are also a popular pastime for many budding young horticulturalists, with many successes in the Horowhenua region.

The first champion calf award was won by Erwin Lutz and the first champion lamb won by Warren Lauder.

The following cups have been donated over the years: **Lambs:** Chairman's Cup, Pettifer Cup, Waitohu Cup, Leonie Hillas Cup, Watson Cup, Lynn Carroll Cup. **Calves:** Geange Cup, Cook Cup, Higgott Cup, Pukenauai Cup. **Children:** Home & School Cup, Phillips Incentive Award. **Home garden:** Morgan Cup, Webb Cup.



Max Lutz with a show calf in 1964.



Arthur Manz's Form 1 and 2 class of 1964.



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Staff and dates to remember

1963-1988

HEADMASTERS

Arthur Manz 1963 – 1970

Pat McGrath 1971 – 1981

Ian Ballantyne 1982 –

STAFF 1963-1988

G. Moss, S. Hoskins, N. Reichenbach, M. Doyle, D. Lawrens, A. Southgate, M. Clapinson, P. Gordon, J. Jones, M. Atkins, J. Seta, A. Henry, B. Baker, E. Newport, D. Fletcher, A. Barret, A. Goodwin, D. Whitelaw, D. Sinkinson, R. Hazelwood, M. Whittall, J. Webby, L. McKeon, C. McLennan, G. Phillips, A. McNeil, B. Raureti, I. Franklin, A. Moore, W. Harding, K. Marks, M. Bailey, J. Ballantyne, B. Stanley, M. Jamison, P. Franklin, R. McLean.

CARETAKERS

Mr & Mrs Scatchard

Mr Churchill

Mr Thompson

Mr B. Woodward

Mr B. Sharp

Mrs T. Pike

OFFICE LADIES

Mrs Betty Manz

Mrs L. Rollston

Mrs C. Whittall

Mrs M Jensen

Mrs S. Carroll

PAST COMMITTEES

Chairmen: Messrs R.G. Taylor, W. Ross Taylor, A. Morgan, D. Walker, T. Wylie, R. Rollander, R. Carroll, M. Phillips.

Committee members:

C. Lutz, R. Moffatt, H. Lauder, R. Ashley, R. Whetren, D. Smith, R. Moffatt, C. McGregor, I. Mudge, D. Sargison, J. Carroll, W. Dittmer, J. McDonald, B. Green, Mrs. A. Southgate, C. Blake, E. Simpson, T. Wylie, B. Whitehead, Mrs S. Watson, Mrs. C. Cole, J. Doyle, L. Denton, T. Green, R. Dew, D. Strawbridge, G. Carthew, R. Heath, R. McLean, D. McCormack.

12 February 1963

Four staff and 36 pupils travelled to Porirua to join thousands of children from Tawa to Levin to see Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

April 1963

First school gala – raised £201 8s. 3d.

August 1963

Two teams entered in gymnastic competition in Levin.

25 September 1963

Horowhenua Music Festival in Levin. First public appearance for Waitohu School.

2 November 1963

School fancy dress party in Memorial Hall.

November 1963

First sod of earth turned for school swimming pool.

10 December 1963

Mr Moss' class visited Mr Hillas' farm then climbed Ringawhata Hill.

4 February 1964

10 new admissions bring roll to 128.

21 March 1964

Annual gala and official opening of the pool by Deputy Mayor Vic Bertelesen, who commended those who contributed in both cash and kind in order to make use of the Government pound as often as possible.

1 May 1964

Waitohu A netball team successful in finals at Levin having not lost a game on either days; eight games in all.

5 May 1964

Robbie Webster slipped on grating, cutting his leg badly. Dr Budge inserted nine stitches.

30 July 1964

Roses planted in garden outside dental clinic.

5 August 1964

Thirty-four Form 1 and 2 pupils visited the South Island, crossing to Lyttelton overnight on the new *Wahine* ferry. Val Taylor and Arthur Manz accompanied the children.



The netball team of 1964.

11 August 1964

At 9.15am an extremely heavy hailstorm struck the district with most stones $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. About eight holes up to two inches were made in the plastic corrugations along the roof. The noise was deafening. All the children were allowed out for 15 minutes in the following sunshine.

September 1964

Sewing classes started in homes of senior girls.

31 October 1964

Fancy dress party. An additional item was a mannequin parade by S3 and F2 girls of garments made in the previous weeks; volunteers instructed the girls.

13 November 1964

Noeline Reichenbach and Sandy Saunders married.

16 December 1964

Anne Southgate who retired was presented with flowers by Sarah Galloway.

July 1965

The start of a school Milo service.

1965

Pedestrian crossing still not approved. Being sought since the school opened.

12 November 1965

Calf and lamb judging – Champion calf, Leonie Hillas; champion lamb, Fiona Ross-Taylor.

11 December 1965

Pupils of F1 and F2 won 3rd prize in an anti-smoking campaign poster contest organised by the Wellington Division of the Cancer Society. Prizes were awarded in Wellington by the Minister of Health, Sir Donald McKay.

22 April 1966

Anzac Day service at the school. The speaker, George Parkin, accompanied by Harry Edhouse.

15-18 August 1966

South Island tour by S3, F1 and F2 pupils. Cost per pupil £8 10s included bus and ferry fares as well as accommodation.



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18 November 1966

District final judging of calves and lambs in Levin. Results: Max Lutz, 1st in Senior Ringcraft; Tony Mudge, 3rd in Junior Ringcraft; Warren Lauder, 3rd in Senior Best Lamb; Leigh Moffatt, 4th in Junior Best Pet Lamb.

15 December 1966

Noeline Saunders retires, having been on the staff since the school opened in 1963. Alex Morgan presented her with a chiming clock.

18 April 1967

First damaged bone in four years. Brenda Hughes was bumped over on the grass, cracking her elbow.

5 May 1967

Mrs M Doyle retires from teaching; Bill Scratchard from caretaking.

1 July 1967

Margaret Atkins joins the staff.

4 August 1967

Gym Festival in Levin. Six teams entered in novice grade. Girls A Team came 1st (Elaine Cudby, Heather Cudby, Margaret Laughten, Sandra Dorne); B Team was third. Boys A Team came 1st (Frank Cast, John Skinner, Max Lutz, John Whetren).

15 December 1967

Staff of four, roll 139.

7 February 1968

Combined meeting of Otaki and Waitohu School committees, teachers and Education Board re overcrowding at Otaki School. Proposed the Addington Road bus pupils transfer to Waitohu.

22 July 1968

Roll 151. Now entitled to another classroom.

27 August 1968

Working bee erected fixed play equipment donated by Otaki College Board of Governors. Horizontal ladder bars and climbing rope frames.

14 December 1968

Home gardens judged by Ted Bartosh.

Junior – 1st Dianne Street, 2nd Jennifer Knox, 3rd Richard Knox and Timothy Moffatt.
Senior – 1st Linda Fairley, 2nd Mark Taylor, 3rd Max Sturt and Janette Webb.

4 February 1969

Roll 166, Staff 5.

24 April 1969

Anzac Day commemoration. Speaker Lt. Col. Moore.

26 May 1969

Roll 174

25 September 1969

Sandra Dorne and Colin Cudby at National Gym Champs in Auckland.

23-26 September 1969

35 senior pupils toured by bus to Bay of Plenty. Cost overall \$16 per pupil.

22 October 1969

Home and School meeting addressed by Education Board ward member Norm Dalmer and the head teacher on the proposed translation of Otaki College to a F1 – F7 school and its effect on children and schools in the area.

12 November 1969

Mrs Atkins' and Mr Baker's classes visited Wellington on trips to the zoo.

24 November 1969

Meeting of primary schools between Te Horo and Manakau held at Otaki College voted in favour of the proposed change to a F1 – F7 College starting in 1971.

9 December 1969

Former pupil Donald Carson dux of Otaki College.

10 December 1969

Pauline Mudge won the John Moffatt Literary Award – her subject, “The Last Journey”.

3 February 1970

Ted Newport joined the staff. Roll 167.

25 February 1970

Eric Johns elected president of the Home and School.

13 March 1970

School closed to enable parents to take children to see Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

11 April 1970

Electric hand drier installed on trial – supplied by Dr Durand.



School dental nurse Kate Carroll with some of the children whose teeth she treated.

25 May 1970

Betty Manz commenced as teacher aide – 10hrs work a week.

21 July 1970

Eric Taylor addressed senior classes giving a demonstration on fire extinguishing equipment and oral resuscitation. He was assisted by four other volunteer firemen.

3 August 1970

Otaki Borough Council donated Paulownia specimen tree. Planted by Terry Ahern, borough gardener.

4 August 1970

Arbor Day. Children from Waitohu, Otaki Convent and Otaki School planted 68 trees at the new Haruatai Park.

18 August 1970

Mrs Atkins' class climbed to the top of Pukehou Hill.

13 November 1970

Agricultural Day – Champion Lamb, Nigel Pettifer; Champion Calf, Grant Higgot; Senior Care & Rearing, Nigel Pettifer.

14 December 1970

Arthur Manz, headmaster for eight years, was farewelled by parents and pupils past and present. He left to take up appointment at Otaki School.



Uncovering a hangi (1977).

16 December 1970

School closed for summer holidays. Roll 182. This marks the end of eight years and the end of full primary status. 61 Pupils from S4, F1 and F2 leaving for Otaki College which becomes F1 – F7 in 1971.

2 February 1971

Pat McGrath commenced as headmaster with a roll of 134.

17 February 1971

Mrs Atkins' class visited her farm to watch the harvesting of barley.

11 February 1971

The school's first swimming sports with 93 events and 129 of the pupils in the school competing.

19 April 1971

School committee elections.

July 1971

Rotary Essay competition on "What are your Eyes Worth" won by Rochelle Bertelsen with Denise Duncan and Fiona Galloway second equal.

1 February 1972

Roll 134.

August 1972

Mr Newport's and Mrs Atkins' classes visited Mangahou Dam and Waitarere Forest.
'Flu has been prevalent with S4 class being reduced on occasion to nine.

September 1972

Entries in this year's Home Garden and Agricultural Club – 24 home gardens, 20 calves and 13 lambs.

20 October 1972

School closed for special holiday to mark Governor-General Sir Denis Blundell's visit to Otaki.

November 1972

S4 children had a school camp at Nikau Lodge.

April 1973

Doug Walker elected as chairman of the School Committee.

August 1973

Ted Newport transferred to Hutt Intermediate School on promotion.

February 1974

Roll 145.

May 1974

Volunteers helping construct adventure playground.

July 1974

Tenders called for construction of new buildings.

October 1974

Mr Nicoll commenced work.

February 1975

Roll 139

March 1975

Room 1 visited Kapiti Island.

November 1975

Opening of new classrooms and administration block.



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1975

Mr and Mrs Whitehead responsible for setting up and planting native tree corner.

Outdoor education was an aspect of the school curriculum that has proved popular over the years. These began during Pat McGrath's era and camps for the senior classes have continued to be a great success. Parents accompanying the children come home from camp quite exhausted.

Joining with Manakau and Te Horo schools has introduced the children to others who they will go on to college with. Friendships have been formed and learning to live with others has been taught.

Remember:

- Bivvies in the bush
- Wet nights? **Weta** nights!
- Kid power to get the truck out of the bog?
- Burnt damper – Camp stew
- Goat's milk!
- Ghost stories in the haunted house?
- Polar bear swims and 7am jogs!

1977

The beginnings of bilingual education in the school. Maori week was a popular event with children participating in flax weaving, carving, poi dancing, tuku tuku panels, stick games and hakas – culminating in a scrumptious hangi put down in the sandpit.

1982

Roll 151, staff 6.

April 1982

Athletic sports held at Otaki Domain.

May 1982

Tragedy struck the school when Richard and Samuel Carthew and Erena and Taina Barrett were drowned at Kapiti Island during the holidays.

1987

Pedestrian crossing at long last outside school.

February 1988

Roll 173

MEMORIES OF WAITOHU SCHOOL

Waitohu small and personal

By DAVID LUMLEY – Former student

I started at Waitohu School as a foundation pupil after having spent my first two primary years at Otaki School, and the thing that immediately impressed me about Waitohu was the



small personal nature of the school. A marked difference to the huge impersonal place I had come from.

A somewhat shy pupil, I hadn't enjoyed my two years at Otaki Primary at all, but looking back now, I have many fond memories of Waitohu.

I have some difficulty remembering all the teachers but remember being taught by Miss Reichenbach, Mr Manz and Miss Clappinson.

I was, for some reason unbeknown to me, a favourite of Miss Clappinson, but even favourites fall out of favour it seems, and I remember being sent from her class one day for not having sharpened my red pencil. I was lingering in the corridor, trying to appear as inconspicuous as possible when Mr Manz, the headmaster, happened along! Having ascertained from me the reason for my not being in the class he told me to "Wait there", and shortly returned with his enormous leather strap. I'll never know to this day how he actually managed to hit my shaking hand but I seem to remember that he didn't miss.

I have always kept my pencils sharpened to this day!

All were pleased and proud of new school

By NOELINE SAUNDERS – Former teacher

We had all taught in older schools, so staff as well as pupils were very pleased and proud of our brand new school. The fact that much of the school seems to be in a similar condition



today speaks well of caretakers, staff and children over the 25 years.

We are delighted with the plentiful cupboards. Today in schools, gear is overflowing everywhere as we seem to need vastly more books, gadgets, machines, materials and keep more records than we ever did. Our small school seemed so close-knit as the majority of the children had come from larger Otaki schools.

Families like the Taylors (and the many cousins), Moffatts, Johnses,

D'Aths, Broads etc enjoyed being closer in classroom and playground.

We took our classes swimming in the Waitohu River, just below the bridge, for the first season only as the pool was built so quickly. Local pride in our school was tremendous, so working bees achieved so much, like the pool and surroundings.

We were planning on growing tomatoes, such was the hothouse effect in the new classrooms before the holey panels were fitted beneath the plastic sheeting.

Houses sprang up in the school vicinity and I recall our class sitting on the footpath in Dittmer Street watching the Curtis family home being moved in on a transporter – a novelty then!

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PAT McGRATH

Principal 1971-1981

On taking up the appointment as principal of Waitohu School in 1971, I found that my predecessor, Arthur Manz, and his committees had left me an excellent legacy.

I found a beautifully maintained school in park-like grounds, completely surrounded by hedges, staffed by a group of caring, sharing teachers and filled with children who had excellent work habits and courteous attitudes.

Included in this legacy were two things Arthur could do little about. Firstly, the school had lost the Form 1 and 2 children to Otaki College, and secondly, a ten by nine room was used as the staff room, the medical room, the clerical assistant's office and the principal's office! As I said, the staff were a caring, sharing lot!

During my time at Waitohu there were many changes in education.

Outdoor education became a part of the curriculum and I began taking the senior children on annual camp, and set up the beginnings of the adventure playground.

The roll increased at the same time as pupil ratios reduced and an extra teacher was appointed. This necessitated a new building, which resulted in the facilities we have today in the library, room six and administrative areas. A tremendous improvement.



A staff dinner during the 1970s. Pat McGrath is at far right.



The annual camp was a highlight of the year.

Conservation also became a part of the curriculum and school environment became even more important. To this end, with tremendous help from parents, I planted the native bush area, and extra trees and shrubs around the grounds, and initiated the building of the volley wall which was completed during my relieving appointment at Foxton School.

My time at Waitohu is one of the most cherished periods of my teaching career, and I would like to personally record my thanks to all the parents who worked with such enthusiasm, both as members of the school committees and PTAs and as parent helpers; to all the dedicated staff, including the caretakers, who worked with me; and to all the children who even today approach me with a wave and a smile.

May I congratulate Waitohu School and wish it continued success throughout the future.



Pat McGrath on camp.

IAN BALLANTYNE

Principal 1982-1994

Just before Christmas 1981, I received word I had been appointed principal of Waitohu School in Otaki. In mid January, 1982, my family and I left Waikaka on the border of West Otago and Southland. We arrived in Otaki to find the schoolhouse in Te Manuao Rd, in which we had hoped to live temporarily, was still occupied by a family who were renting it.

After a hurried phone call to the Wellington Education Board, my family and I were booked into the Otaki Motel for two weeks.

STAFFING

There were a number of staff changes during my 12 years as principal. In 1982 there was a 50% changeover in staff. Myself as principal, Betty Raureti as deputy principal and Ian Franklin all started in February. At the end of 1982 the school farewelled Connie McLennan who retired after five years at Waitohu School. Billie Gordon (now Tennant) retired in 1985



Fancy dress.



Teachers showed they could dress up as much as the pupils.

after nearly 19 years at Waitohu School. Both these teachers, particularly Mrs Tennant, guided many young pupils through the early years of primary education. Gary Phillips resigned in 1986 to go to Kapiti School, Paraparaumu. Mr Phillips made a great contribution to school camps and the library. Kate Carroll was our dental nurse for many years at Waitohu School.

A big blow to the school was Maureen Jensen's resignation in 1986 after eight years as clerical assistant to Waitohu School. Her job was ably filled by Sue Carroll. Wendy Harding, another teacher who made a great contribution to the school, resigned in 1986 to shift to Tauranga. Beverley Stanley was appointed to her position in 1986.

During the years of 1986-87, Betty Raureti was seconded to the Education Department, firstly as an itinerant teacher of Maori, then latterly as an adviser in Maori. Mr Franklin was seconded to the Psychological Service for part of 1986. Marie Doyle was appointed in 1987. Alison Moore joined the staff in 1979 and became well known for her excellent organisation of the lamb and calf days as well as the flower show. In 1991 Jan Ballantyne was employed part time as a special needs teacher. Teacher aides were also employed and supervised by Jan to help with special needs.

Teaching space was a problem so every available space in the school was used – many undesirable for teaching. Other staff members who spent long periods on the staff were Beverley Stanley, Paul Kingston, Ken Powell, Marie Doyle, Doreen Elvy, Robyn Dean and Sue Carroll.

Thelma Pike was our caretaker/cleaner. Thelma did a wonderful job every day cleaning the school and during school holidays spring-cleaned the whole school. The school was spotless. Thelma looked after the school roses. She entered roses each year at the Otaki Rose

Show and always obtained prizes. In 1987 the school won the Lillian Taylor Memorial Cup for amateur rose growers.

In May 1982 the school and community were stunned by the boating accident off Kapiti Island where Richard and Sam Carthew, Erena and Taina Barrett, pupils of the school, lost their lives. Afterwards a memorial fund was established and four pohutukawa trees were planted at a special ceremony. A large rock which came from the Carthew farm at South Manakau was placed between the trees. The children's names were inscribed on a plaque attached to the rock. Later flax taken from the Barrett's property at Kapiti Island was planted between the trees. As pupils and parents had given so generously to the fund, the money left over was put towards a memorial garden of floribunda roses on the northern side of the dental clinic.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

In 1984 the school's first photocopier was purchased for the school. This was followed by an Apple computer and printer. In 1987, an area at the end of the tennis courts was fenced and filled with gravel to accommodate all the static climbing frames and other playground equipment. This area allowed the children to use the equipment all the year round. It became one of the most popular playing areas around the school. Paul Kingston arranged for the New Zealand Army to build a large wooden fort during the weekend.

Due to the growth in housing in the Waitohu area, the school roll has increased each year. In the Jubilee Year of 1988 indications were that we may be eligible for a seventh teacher.



Tree planting beside Memorial Stone.

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The school flower show.

As the school roll grew, the old 1939 prefabricated building situated where the present school hall is, was becoming too small for school assemblies. At this time we received an application form for funding from the Education Board enabling us to apply for a grant towards a school hall. I applied and to my astonishment we received a grant of \$100,000. We had to raise the corresponding \$100,000.

To do this the Home and School Committee decided to have a fireworks display at Haruatai Park. Allan Knox offered to get a “licence” to detonate the fireworks with Malcolm Phillips as his assistant. Stalls were set up by the committee. A huge bonfire was set up for the children to throw their Guy Fawkes on after they had been judged.

Otaki Fire Brigade put me in a damaged car which they set alight and used the new jaws of life to get me out of the “wreckage” and my “injuries” were bandaged by Georgie Naef, the St Johns Ambulance officer on duty. Some children thought I had really been burnt in the fire.

Shortly afterward I received a phone call telling me the school had won a new car in a raffle. I told the caller they must have the wrong school as we hadn’t entered any raffle. I was reminded that we had organised a coin trail some months previously for a paraplegic who was visiting the schools raising money for a good cause. I was unaware the school was entered in a raffle. In due course a new Diahatsu car was driven on to the netball courts at a school assembly. The school committee decided to sell the car and the proceeds were put into the hall funds.

The hall was designed by Dennis Manz, son of the first headmaster. Teachers and committee members gave input into the planning. During the planning years, the new Board of Trustees treasurer, Kevin Crombie, was investing monies where he could get the highest interest. This helped, together with the galas and fireworks displays, to raise the next \$100,000. The hall was finally opened in 1992. The old prefabricated building was sold for \$1 and shifted to Te Horo.

Activities enjoyed by all were interschool sports. Top school was held at the Te Horo airfield organised by Hugh and Alison Moore. Athletic sports were at Otaki Domain and the fancy dress and folk dancing evening held in the Memorial Hall at the end of term two. Gymnastic festivals were held in the rotunda at the Health Camp by Ian Franklin.

Club afternoons were organised in the winter term, one afternoon a week, where parents came and helped teachers to provide a range of activities such as cooking, knitting and various crafts. In the late 1980s the school roll had got to a stage where each classroom was overcrowded. The Ministry wouldn't listen to our problems so we employed part-time teacher aides to help with the large classroom numbers. Eventually we were given another classroom and teacher, and I was released from classroom teaching.



A new car won in a raffle – it was sold and the proceeds went into the hall fund.

During my time as principal I appreciated the wonderful support of the staff, School Committee, Board of Trustees, Home and School committees and parents. It has been a great pleasure to see the continual wonderful development of the school by the principals, Bruce Pilkington and Maine Curtis.



Former headmaster Arthur Manz opens the new hall.



Waitohu School staff (1987).

BRUCE PILKINGTON

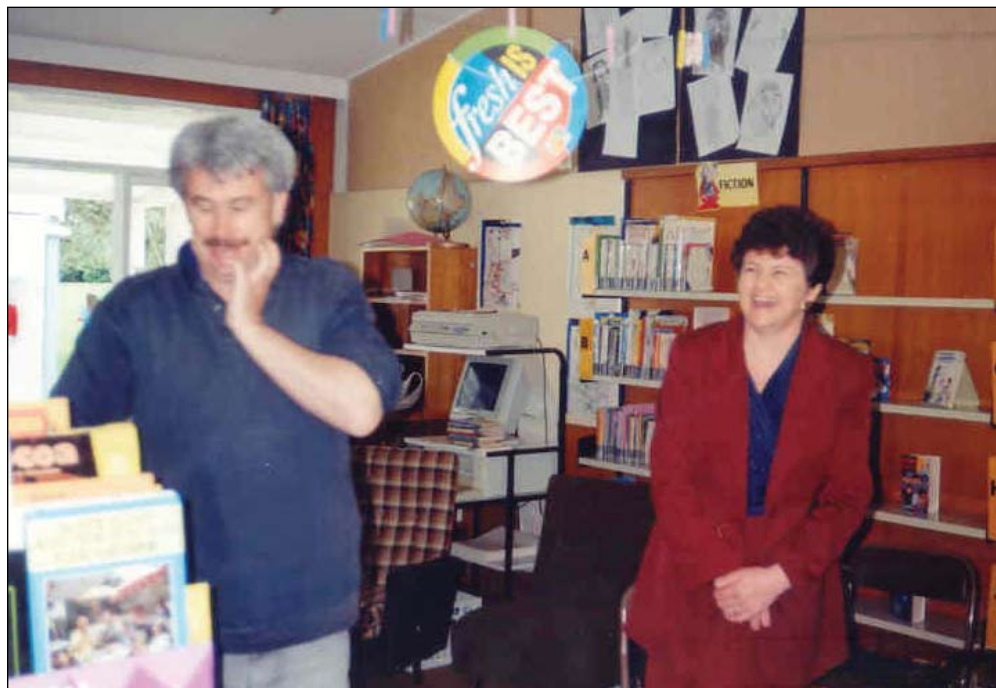
Principal 1995-2003

My predecessor, Ian Ballantyne, left Waitohu School in great heart; the children loving learning, parents supportive of the children and staff enthusiastic and committed. The challenge I had was to build on this.

I was privileged to be able to be part of this continued development of the school, as a learning community, within the wider community of Otaki.

The following are the highlights of my time of Waitohu:

- Loving getting up and going to work nearly every single morning.
- Children who cared about each other and loved learning.
- The wonderful parents who supported all children, not just their own, and also made up the school committee and the PTA.
- Bullrush on the field with 100 or more children of all ages.
- Seeing the kapa haka group established and perform.



Bruce and Sue Carroll (1995).



In the garden with some of the younger children are Bruce Pilkington and Robyn Dean, deputy principal.



ABOVE: The fort on the move (1996).



LEFT: Bruce and a parent on a working bee to move the fort.

- Seeing the vast majority of the children successfully move into secondary school and beyond.
- Fireworks Evenings, including 'Big Al' and the incredible work of the parents in making these successful.
- Watching the weather all day and wondering whether to postpone the fireworks.
- Fancy dress discos.
- Many, many strong and talented teachers like Robyn Dean and Shelly Matheson, my management team for most of my time at Waitohu.
- Debates with staff about whether to allow Coca Cola at school (I still drink a lot of coke)!
- The way staff supported each other through personal triumphs and tragedies.
- The office staff, like Heather Cramp and Maxine Gunderson, "who kept me right".
- Barry and Marlene who, in addition to caretaking and cleaning, were always happy to help in any way they could.
- Being told to leave school at 2.45pm ("We can survive without you!") to get to Palmerston North Hospital to see Taylor in the neo-natal unit.
- New builds, including the staffroom block.



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Standard 4 camp at Paraparaumu (1998).



Visiting Parliament (1995).

- Creating a new adventure playground and moving the climbing tower by crane, all in one weekend.
- The incredibly emotional farewell that Lorraine, Taylor, Kristi and I experienced when Taylor (P1&2) and I left Waitohu.
- The underpinning culture of “aroaha” and respect which I know continues to strengthen to this day.

Taylor, Kristi, Lorraine and I wish you all the very best for the 50th and beyond.

Cheers,

Bruce Pilkington



Lamb and calf day (1995).

Early school years have served me well

Otaki

STREET SCENE

It doesn't seem so long ago that I ambled less than 100 metres from home in Te Manuao Road to go through the gates at Waitohu School for the first time. It was, however, 1963 and as a 6-year-old, I had no idea how the new school might shape my life.

Now I count myself as fortunate to have had such a great start to school. Arthur Manz, a scholarly educator and compassionate headmaster, was an inspiration to a generation of Waitohu children. His calm and measured manner made us all believe that anything was possible, that learning was fun and that life was an adventure.

I'm sure now that the benefit of a Waitohu School education – especially a good grounding in English and love of sports – has served me well.

Arthur's tolerance with the school's fledgling gymnastics team helped motivate me (and others) to stay in the sport for several years at Otaki College and represent the local team at national championships. I played junior representative rugby and many years later, I now see the sport from a different perspective as a senior rugby referee.

As a young journalist, I took on editorship of *NZ News UK* in London, and later worked as a news editor at *The Evening Post* in Wellington. Nineteen years ago, with my wife, Debbi, I established the writing, editing and design business ID Media Ltd, in Wellington. Then five years ago, we published our first Street Scene "bragazine" in Petone, and a year later, *Otaki Street Scene*, which has become a major promotional tool for Otaki.

Many things motivate people, but I'm convinced that my primary school days had a big influence on how my life has progressed.

And now the draw of Otaki has lured us both back home – quite literally as we're back at the same house in Te Manuao Road where I grew up. With a 2-year-old grandson next door, we're looking forward to seeing him amble along to the school gates to enjoy the benefits of a Waitohu education.

The memories of Waitohu School are still fond, and the opportunity to help Maine and his team to produce this booklet was one I couldn't resist. The school is different from my day, as it should be, but I sense that it's still a big family, as it should be.

So congratulations on reaching 50 – and many thanks for what the school has given me.

Ian Carson, founding pupil

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MAINE CURTIS

Principal 2004–

When driving up to be interviewed for the position of principal at Waitohu School, the large billboards advertising the school's 40th Jubilee were on SH1. I remember thinking that were I fortunate enough to get the job, I surely wouldn't be there for the 50th Jubilee. Well, here I am!

I have enjoyed the most fabulous 10 years. On the front of our website page Robyn Dean (deputy principal), Shelly Matheson (assistant principal) and I have written:

'This is our tenth year working together as a leadership team at Waitohu School. We love coming to school and alongside our colleagues, students and parent community, we strive to make our school a place where everyone loves to be. It is a privilege serving this school community.'

The words in our mission statement: 'To Be Our Best' captures each day, what we are all trying to live.'



Unveiling of the flag wall mural (2013).



Ele Warwick and her lamb at lamb and calf day (2009).

These words have been, and are, at the heart of what Waitohu School is all about. Making the meaning of these words explicit, visible and consciously living them, is the on-going challenge and joy I receive from working within this wonderful community.



Otaki Surf Life Saving Club attended Rōpū Day (2012).



Rotary dictionaries were distributed to pupils (2011).

Our updated school logo (back of this magazine) comprises the Tararua Ranges which we see to the east, and the Waitohu River, which flows past our school to the sea, flanking the northern side of Ōtaki township.

Within the Tararuas are the surnames of all the current students and staff who make up our Waitohu School community. These names are updated yearly.

Originating within our community (the Tararuas), each of our koru, encompassed within the Waitohu River, provide our kaupapa. From our Leadership Koru comes our Strategic Plan Koru. Our Reflection and Inquiry Koru support our Strategic Plan Koru. All of the tamariki within our care, are individually represented within our Mauri Koru. The overarching spirit with which we endeavour to live our kaupapa, is captured in the words “*To Be Our Best*”. The meanings of these words have been clearly expressed by students, as recorded below.

TO BE – *valuing and nurturing individuals to be themselves.*

Be yourself, you don’t have to do what other people say. You need to be strong and individual and you need to stand up for yourself. Sometimes you can stand up for your friends. You’re really just being yourself. ***Sophrose***

It means to look after people and to let them be themselves, without taking control. ***Remana***

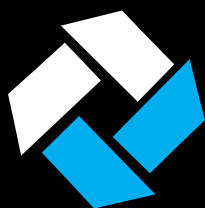
Accepting people for who they are and not judging them. Always encouraging other people to be their best and do their best. ***Teinn***

You have to take care of them and if they are different, you treat them the same way you’d treat your family. ***Stephanie***



The school choir performs at the Horowhenua Music Festival (2012).

New Zealand's No. 1 Rock Group



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Proud to support Waitohu School for its 50th Jubilee

OUR BEST – *in all things there are many forms of best, as individuals and as a community of learners we always strive to be our best.*

To try as hard as you can on something that you're not really used to and to improve your skills with something you're not really good at. **Tehya**

In whatever you do have commitment and try. **Kaya**

To do your best at everything. **Justise**

It means giving your best in everything and trying your hardest, even if you don't finish or win it. **Jarrod**

To do your best in school... in writing, spelling, reading and drawing... so you learn all the stuff you need to, so when you want to do something, you can do what you want. **Telesia**



The school's soccer A team. Winners, coached by long serving and ever generous Oz Pidduck (2012).

Waitohu School has always been served by professional and loving staff. The high quality of teaching and learning has been very strongly affirmed in consecutive ERO reports. Over the last decade it is the staff that I've lived and worked alongside whom have brought this kaupapa above, so visibly to life:

Robyn Dean, Shelly Matheson, Robyn Browne, Andrea Hedley, Annie Spratt, Andrea Sturmey, Sandy Saunders, Angela Graham, Nikki McLean, Denise Creasy, Karen Hansen, Marie Jamison, Ali Moore, Tanja Gerritsen, Lesley Wicks, Chrissy Adams, Adrian Leason, Heather Cramp, Simone Brooker, Sara Reeve, Caren Dalglish, Glenys McCartney, Barry Kessell, Aisea Nelson-Latu, Alyssa and Tevita Kata, Phoebe McInerney-Heather, Linda van der Water, Janine Moody, Sanja Mandinic, Lisa Inglis, Jenny King, Bernadette Wilson, Debbie Chaney, Jan Eaton, Tosca Parata, Janelle Perreau, Kylie Plunkett, Charlotte Udy, Willie and Bonnie Manuel, Raewyn Holden, Ria Jane, Marlene Bryant, Chris Smith, Judy Hooper, Joanna Down and Toni Nikolaison.

As has been the tradition at Waitohu School, we have been tremendously supported by fantastic parents. I have been grateful to have had stable and talented boards of trustees. The above changes to the Mission Statement, the many improvements to the school buildings and environment outlined below, alongside regular governance matters have all been



At the top of Kāpiti Island (2010).



Snow on our playing fields (15 August 2011).



Staff at Fancy Dress Dance Evening (2012).

sensitively and effectively led by prior long-serving board chair Mel Warwick, and current chair Lis Watson. With their leadership and the support of their board members, our school has gone from strength to strength. I also want to acknowledge the contribution Shelly Matheson has made to our board as staff trustee for well over a decade.



The school kapa haka group (2012).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN 2004-2013

- exterior doors out of Room 1
- converting the old boiler room to storage areas
- large opening doors between Rooms 3 and 4
- exterior doors from Rooms 1, 7 and 8 to a new enlarged fully fenced sandpit and play area beside the pool, including gardens for our gardening club
- complete landscaping and beautifying of both our Te Manuao Rd and Waitohu Rd entrance ways, that include stone walls, paths, gardens, fencing and decking areas
- modernising and creating of a library and computer room with large bi-fold doors to outside deck area
- design and painting of exterior hall murals
- installation of data projectors in all classrooms, hall and staffroom
- large recycling and compost area beside the hall

- new classroom – Room 12
- redevelopment and upgrade of all storage areas within the hall
- new decks and large PE shed beside the adventure playground areas
- additional office space within our administration building
- modernising and enlarging of Rooms 5 and 6 with interior doors between classes
- design and painting of ‘Flag Wall’ mural
- increased play and path areas outside of staffroom and between barked play areas

Our spectacular Home and School Association has continued the very strong tradition of significantly assisting the board and staff to provide the very best for our students. The leadership of Glenys Rumsey (20+ years contribution) and currently Shelly Warwick, has been instrumental in enabling this on-going magnificent support. They epitomise the very best of what “generous parent support” means.



Murals on the hall columns.

The traditions I inherited, of a school gala, Fireworks Extravaganza, fancy dress dance evening and school discos have been maintained and strengthened. Added to these have been Ballentynes fashion evenings, a motorbike ride, swap-a-frock evening and mid-winter raffles. Alongside financially assisting with many of the above named building and environment improvements, the Home and School Association has purchased our new sports uniforms, many of the school's computers, given generously to the purchasing of classroom resources, and pay for all of our Year 5 students to visit Kāpiti Island each year. What a magnificent legacy they are leaving our community.

Alongside the “traditions” outlined above, we continue to have an Agricultural Club with a lamb and calf day as well as home garden competitions. My special thanks to Alison Moore for her generous stewardship of the Agricultural Club. It is also great that at a time when many schools have closed their swimming pools, we are still using ours. We have added the “traditions” of Year 5 students visiting Kāpiti Island as well as the whole school, each year visiting a significant toanga within Ōtaki. The places we visit are Raukawa Marae, Pukekaraka, Rangiaatea Church, Tainui Marae, Katihiku Marae and Te Wānanga o Raukawa.

My thanks to board member and kapa haka tutor Willie Manuel for his leadership in these visits, and his guidance and support in all aspects of tikanga Māori. My thanks also to



LEFT: Tending the school garden.

Kirsten London for her work, enthusiasm and commitment to our Garden Club, and Fran Tull for her skill and expertise in all things musical. Aroha Connor (our social worker in school) has made a significant contribution supporting students, staff and whānau. Her coaching prowess has also been much appreciated.

I am extremely grateful to have discovered, within the awesome township of Ōtaki, Waitohu School. I am so proud to be the current principal of Waitohu School. I recognise that over 50 years, many hands and hearts have contributed to this special school, and that many more will in the years ahead. To have had for a time, alongside fabulous colleagues and parents, the opportunity to serve our treasured tamariki, as tumuaki of Waitohu School, has been and is a privilege.



Staff at the annual Fancy Dress Dance Evening this year (2013). The 1960s theme was to celebrate the decade in which Waitohu School began.

[illegible]

Waitohu School

TO BE
OUR BEST

Valuing and nurturing individuals to be themselves

In all things there are many forms of best - as individuals and as a community of learners we always strive to be our best

Our school logo comprises the Tatarua Ranges which we see to the east, and the Waitohu River, which flows past our school to the sea, flanking the northern side of Ōtaki township. Within the Tataruas are the surnames of all the current students and staff who make up our Waitohu School community. These names are updated yearly. Originating from our community (the Tataruas), each of our koru, encompassed within the Waitohu River, provide our kaupapa. From our Leadership Koru comes our Strategic Plan Koru. Our Reflection and Inquiry Koru support our Strategic Plan Koru. All of the tamariki within our care, are individually represented within our Mauri Koru – mihi, passions and dreams. The overarching spirit with which we endeavour to live our kaupapa, is captured in the words *“To Be Our Best”*.

