

# A SCHOOL

*... and its story*

FITZROY SCHOOL

1882 — 1982

# A SCHOOL AND ITS STORY

Celebrating the centenary of the Fitzroy School, New Plymouth

1882-1982



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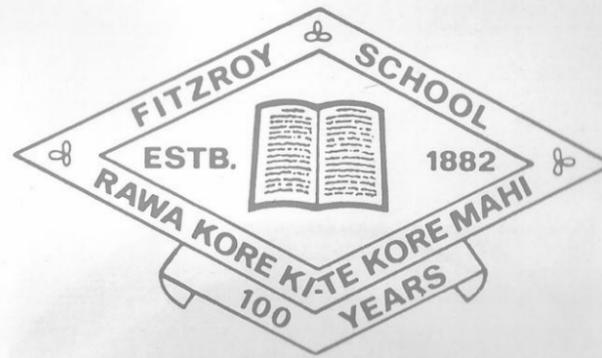
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Centennial Committee

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**RAWA KORE KI TE KORE MAHI**  
(Nothing gained without labour)

*Unfortunately records do not note the introduction of the school motto, but there are those who remember it from their day back in the 30s.*

*Whatever the fine details, the sentiment expressed would be readily acknowledged as a worthy one in any day or age. The approach today at Fitzroy reflects an expectation upon children to always "do their best", as can be seen in their work and from the proud record noted elsewhere in this booklet*

*Today's pupil is indeed holding Fitzroy's head high and it is especially appropriate at this time that the nature of the wording of the motto highlights the composition of the New Zealand community itself.*

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## Fitzroy School Centennial Committee

The Centennial Committee expresses its thanks to advertisers, former pupils, friends and well-wishers for their support and enthusiasm, which have made publication of this booklet possible.



**FITZROY SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**  
(the organising committee for the Centennial Celebrations)

**BACK ROW (L TO R)** Mr G. Cleland (Treasurer), Mr D. West, Mrs E. Dixon, Mr D. Stewart, Mr P. Chilcott, Mrs B. E. Wood, Mr N. Cleland, Mrs N. Magrath.

**MIDDLE ROW (L TO R)** Mrs Y. Scott, Mr K. Kibby, Mrs G. Hughes, Mrs Y. Stewart, Mrs B. Murray, Mr V. Blance, Mrs G. Wright.

**FRONT ROW (L TO R)** Mrs A. Brotherson, Mrs A. Francis, Mrs N. Benton (secretary), Mr R. Cleland (chairman), Mrs D. Keast, Mrs B. Marshall, Mr C. Murray.

**Inset** — Mr H. Old and Miss J. Hamblyn.

Special acknowledgement is given to Messrs Charters and Guthrie for photographic assistance in the preparation of this booklet.

# Congratulations . . .



On behalf of the people of New Plymouth I extend best wishes and sincere congratulations to Fitzroy School on the achievement of 100 years' service to education in our city. The completion of a centenary of service to our community is sufficient reason to pour praise on the efforts of those involved in that process; more realistically we are delighted to be able to recognise and acknowledge the personal efforts of many people.

From small beginnings on the edge of the borough to a positive force within the city in terms of preparing pupils for responsible citizenship, is a record to be very proud of. Fitzroy School has achieved just that and continues to meet the challenging face of today's educational needs.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all associated with the School's celebrations a most enjoyable weekend and I appreciate the vital role Fitzroy School will continue to fulfil in the years ahead.

David Lean  
Mayor



On behalf of the Centennial Committee and the people of Fitzroy it is my joy and pleasure to welcome you, whether past pupil, teacher, committee member or helper, back home to Fitzroy for a weekend of reminiscing, nostalgia and reliving the past for a few brief happy hours.

For many of you, friendships will be rekindled from many years ago and even though physical appearances may have altered somewhat, for the better or for worse, yet the personality and spirit that was being moulded during our years at the school are still very much the same as then. Educational methods and processes have changed, but the qualities of character that were formed here with our friends are still largely unaltered. Academic brilliance or lack of it, has often been superseded by the depth of character and moral substance of the person who puts another welfare before his or her own self interest, taught and caught in part through our school years.

Many of us here this weekend will bear testimony to the little courtesies and small considerations that were taught to us while at Fitzroy.

For many the sports teams, swimming, and other recreational sport activities helped form the personal disciplines that were required to equip us all for our adult years.

We are all here this weekend to say thank you to a school that has had a considerable influence in the formation of the total you and me. The ways we express our thankfulness and appreciation will be as different as we are, but I'm sure that hugs and kisses, laughs and tears, are all delightful and acceptable methods.

My personal thanks to an extremely capable and dedicated centennial committee which has worked for over two years to help you enjoy this weekend. The best way you can thank them is to enjoy this weekend to the very fullest.

May God bless you in your remaining years.

Ross Cleland  
Chairman, Centennial Committee



I am honoured to be invited to contribute to your centennial booklet, and I take this opportunity, on behalf of Taranaki Education Board members, of wishing you a successful and happy celebration.

The school has reached a milestone and this is a most appropriate time to pause for a short while and reflect on those many years now past. We remember with gratitude those teachers, members of the school committee, and others, all of whom have worked so hard for the school. The centenary is a tribute to their efforts.

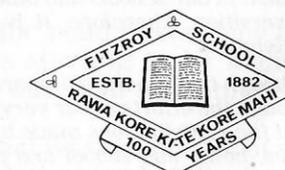
It is very easy to take the school committee for granted and not acknowledge its contribution to the school, and on this occasion I should like to give both past and present members of the school committee a special mention. Some members served the school for quite long terms.

On looking back on the history of the school I have noted that even from its early years the school was supported by a strong committee which undertook events such as fancy dress balls, concerts, galas, and dance-euchre evenings, all to raise funds to provide library books, sports equipment, musical instruments, and ground improvements and other outdoor resources.

You have indeed a fine school, which I am sure has a very special place in the affections of all those associated with it.

Congratulations and best wishes on this important occasion, and may you all have an enjoyable weekend of celebration.

J. F. Wards  
Chairman, Taranaki Education Board



## of buildings—



Schools are like people, no two are exactly the same. Of course, age and atmosphere (character) contribute to the aura of older buildings, but in New Zealand, with our changing curricula and the constant upgrading of construction codes to counter the damage and loss of life caused by earthquakes, we have very few schools which can really be termed "old".

The old part of the Pilgrims School at Winchester, in England, one of the famous schools in history, was built in the 14th century of timber frame and brick infill. While it looks wonderful with its creeper-covered walls, its mown grass in the quiet courts and playingfields, all nestling under the walls of the ancient cathedral, one can see blue sky through the roof and walls. The cost to maintain such buildings to a 20th century standard for teaching facilities as well as comfort must be enormous. In New Zealand the education boards generally have gone seriously into the red over recent years because of lack of adequate maintenance finance, and our buildings have few of the problems of those overseas.

At Fitzroy the "open-air" block, the main school, was designed by Chas. Moore and built originally in 1930. At the time it was revolutionary in concept and its influence on the design of New Zealand schools extended well into the 40s. The old "infant" block, built in 1923, was of very solid concrete, and took a lot of removing. With its high windows, and equally high window sills, it was considered to be too inadequate in form and facilities to be retained when, in the late 60s, the Ministry of Works and Development decided it was seismically unsound and permission was given to replace it.

So, in 1975, Fitzroy became the proud possessor of one of the most up-to-date school buildings in the country. Teaching has moved away from the formal placing of the teacher standing in front of rows of desks expounding to pupils and has developed into a more flexible co-operating pattern. The brief called for facilities whereby teachers could take large groups, normal classes or small groups. Apart from the "new entrants" room, where little ones can be introduced more gently into the school environment, all spaces flow into one another or can be shut off at will. The present Principal, Mr V. Blance, has told me that visitors, from both here and overseas, consider the block to be unique world-wide and are full of praise. Naturally, with constantly changing requirements, no one can ever say the ultimate in school design has been reached. All that can be said is that, for the present situation and at Fitzroy in particular, a workable scheme has been developed and I am proud to have been associated with it.

May it, and Fitzroy School, see many more students pass through successfully in the years to come.

J. Fathers,  
Chief Architect, Taranaki Education Board

## —blackboards



One hundred years ago the foundation pupils of Fitzroy School would have lived, worked and played in an environment that had not yet heard of electricity, paved roads, motor cars, aeroplanes, radio, and all of the other developments which present day pupils take for granted. They sat at long desks in crowded rooms with slate and pencil, and in their wildest dreams could not have imagined what classrooms one hundred years later would be like.

Only the blackboard and chalk remain to link the past with the present. The modern, bright and spacious classrooms equipped with tape recorders, overhead projectors, and a wide range of resource material in all subjects enable teachers to provide a broad education that we hope will equip the pupils of today to take their place in the world of the twenty-first century.

I congratulate Fitzroy School on its proud record and I wish it continuing success.

B. R. Smith  
Acting District Senior Inspector of Schools

## —and people



To me education is a "people" business, from the Minister at policy making level to the consumer, the student in our schools and other places of learning such as technical institutes, teachers colleges, and universities. Therefore, it is fitting that we gather from time to time to celebrate jubilees and centennials.

Although the process of imparting knowledge in the primary service takes place mainly in our schools through the efforts of our very competent and dedicated teachers, I am reminded during the course of my daily work, of the contributions made by teacher aides, clerical assistants, caretakers, cleaners, groundsmen, school committees, home and school and parent teacher associations, parents, departmental officers, advisers, board members, and staff and others.

I believe that the continuing strength of our education system is brought about by the contributions made by these individuals and groups and it is therefore appropriate that, on occasions such as the Fitzroy School's centennial, we pay tribute to those who have assisted us with our schooling and recount anecdotes relating to our teachers, fellow pupils, and those who made their mark. These to me are the ingredients for a successful reunion.

My wife and I look forward to joining you on this historic occasion in the life of the Fitzroy School at which no doubt many will be reliving the past, discussing the present, and contemplating the future.

The board's staff joins with me in extending to all who attend our very best wishes for an enjoyable and successful weekend.

J. C. Baylee  
General Manager, Taranaki Education Board

Settlement in Fitzroy does not date from the establishment of the Fitzroy Primary School in 1882, but that landmark does provide an approximate base point from which the district grew to become today's largest suburb of New Plymouth.

Ten years after the Maori Wars, in 1874, the Henui village district was only recovering from the destruction that had taken place and fewer than 40 houses, three churches and an empty hospital existed. When the school was opened there was a roll of 25 pupils, subdivision for housing was proceeding and the rural environment was being gradually transformed into one of suburban settlement.

When the first two-roomed school built specifically for use as a school was formally opened on September 2, 1883, the roll was 60. Today it is 300 with thousands of former pupils throughout the world remembering their Fitzroy school days with affection as a pleasant time of learning in a notable school in a sea-beach suburb.

## When the pupils had to shave!

Fierce discipline was needed to keep some of the pupils in order in the early days of Fitzroy School. In fact young men with beards and moustaches attended school before the turn of the century and the headmaster of the time, Mr John Young, frequently had to tell some of the "boys" — they were up to 20 years old — to shave!

These incidents were recalled at the time of the school's 75th jubilee by a former pupil, Mr W. D. Colson, then 75 years old, who attended the school between 1887 and 1891.

In those days parents kept their boys at school because there was no outlet in the way of trades for them.

Mr Colson was only five years old when he started at the Fitzroy School and he came into a world of harsh discipline. If anything was said "out of place," even on the playground, the headmaster became "very angry."

In one incident two boys had sworn at their mother. The headmaster lined the pupils around the wall of the classroom and thrashed the two boys as an example to any others who might think of treating their mothers similarly.

But if the early days of the school were the days of harsh discipline by today's standards, they were also days of justice. Mr Young had found two boys fighting near a well with a pump in one corner of the playground.

Mr Young drew a bucket of water from the well and then made the boys fight it out fairly.

When the headmaster saw that one of the boys was starting to be knocked about he stopped the fight and made them shake hands.

And what was the bucket of water for?  
To wash the blood off the boys' faces!

## Committee's careful conniving...

Overcrowding and bad sanitary conditions at the Fitzroy School provoked requests and a deputation to the Education Board seeking improvements, but by Christmas, 1904, nothing had been done. So the school committee took direct action and, by careful conniving, won from the Prime Minister of the Day, Richard Seddon, what the board refused.

Before 1904 passed into history, the committee decided not to open the school again until the long-sought improvements were made.

What might have happened in the face of such an ultimatum was not tested, for the opportune arrival in Taranaki of Mr Seddon on January 12, 1905, gave the Member for New Plymouth, Mr E. M. Smith an excuse to circumvent local authority.

The day was hot and the sun blazed on to the Pukekura sports ground, where Mr Seddon sweltered. Mr Smith paused to suggest a drive in cooler air and, an open carriage being found conveniently nearby, took the Premier for "a drive round New Plymouth."

They went straight to the Fitzroy School, where

committeemen were waiting. Conducted into the hot, stuffy atmosphere of the closed school, he agreed without demur to the committee's plea, perhaps in his haste to escape and continue his promised drive. So the committee obtained the promise of 200 pounds if the board would contribute a similar amount.

Alterations then made consisted of filling in the ground to street level in the vicinity of all buildings, raising the school, enlarging the classrooms and providing passages. A water supply was introduced from Clemow Road, replacing the tanks that had served since the well was found to be a sepulchre for a variety of objects.

The accommodation provided proved to be sufficient for the following 10 years.

We extend our congratulations to the  
Fitzroy School on attaining the first  
century.

**MOLLER GROUP OF COMPANIES**  
NEW PLYMOUTH

## It all started in a farmhouse . . .

The history of Fitzroy School goes back to June, 1882, when a petition praying for the establishment of a school in the district was presented to the Education Board through the No. 3 (Town) School Committee. It was decided by the board that inquiries be made by the inspector, Mr W. M. Crompton, as to how many children there were at Fitzroy already attending school and also as to the rent of a building suitable for a school.

Mr Crompton reported that there were 15 children from the district attending O'Connell's school and 10 at Miss Shaw's. He had reason to think there might be an average attendance of 45 children at a school established in the district, but many of them would be very young. He reported adversely on the use of the Primitive Methodist chapel as a school, because it was not central. He stated that Mr Barriball's vacant farmhouse might easily be put in repair and used both as a school and a residence.

It was resolved "that an infant school be established at Fitzroy in the most suitable place". Evidently the necessary repairs were made and on September 12 it was reported that a number of old desks and forms had been used to furnish the schoolroom.

A few days later the school was opened. The room used as a classroom was either the dairy or the kitchen of the old farm house. The average attendance up to the end of 1882 was 25.

In his report under date of January 4, 1883, Inspector Crompton writes: "Fitzroy Infant School has only been opened a very few months; all I have done is to watch the conduct of the school. The young lady recently appointed teacher (Miss Ellis) promises to be all that the board can require by way of patience, tact and temper in the management of a terribly untaught assemblage of children."

In February of that year Mr Barriball gave notice to determine the tenancy and on instruction from the board its architect later reported: "At the Henui Chapel there is inferior accommodation for 40 children; but there are offers of three first-class school sites at Fitzroy."

The chapel was taken for six months at 8/- per week. A little later the term was extended to 12 months so that a chimney might be built.

The disused chapel cannot be said to have been an ideal, or even a desirable place for a



The old wooden main school about 1916.

primary school. The area of land was very small, perhaps a quarter of an acre, and full of graves, the last interment there being either just before or just after the chapel was used as a school. If there was a water supply it must have been a tank; a well was obviously out of the question. The roof was shingled and leaked. The chimney mentioned must have been a monument or a work of art as its erection was authorised in May 1883, and it was reported as finished in November.

In 1884 a petition was received from Fitzroy residents asking that a school be erected and condemning the building in use as unfit. The petition met the usual "Non Possumus" that the board had no funds, but in March of the next year the architect was instructed to prepare plans for a school, and in April reported the plans were ready. Tenders were called, Messrs Mofflin and Dingle's for three hundred and forty pounds being accepted. In August the architect reported that the school was completed; a well for a water supply was ordered to be dug and the school to be handed over to the school committee.

The official opening ceremony took place on September 2, and was celebrated by sports for the children, the prizes being presented by Mrs White. There was a public tea at which 300 pupils and visitors were entertained, and after the tables were cleared at 7 p.m. there was a public meeting, a concert and dance. Everything was free and the arrangements were in the care of a ladies' committee. Fitzroy School has always had excellent ladies' committees and the very first helpers were Mesdames J. B. Hendry, O. Knuckey, J. Bland, C. F. Foote, F. Galgher, L. Kibby, J. Douglas and Misses A. Stemp, E. Hendry, N. Corbett and J. Laing. Addresses were given by the chairman and a member of the Education Board, and by chairman of the School Committee, Mr J. H. Hendry, and others. The highest attendance for one half-day of the quarter was given as 60 and speakers stressed the necessity for more regular attendance.

The building was described as "one of the finest in Taranaki with accommodation for — pupils. There are two rooms, each provided with a fireplace and also ample space for a playing ground." In the light of modern opinion this seems an over-statement. The rooms with their galleries were not very large and the "ample playing grounds" comprised one acre. From this had to be deducted the space occupied by the buildings and a horse paddock.

The building unfortunately was built on low piles without regard to possible street levels. When the Henui Road Board constructed a footpath the School was a foot or more below the footpath and consequently storm water gathered round and under the building in wet weather.

The teachers during this formative period were Miss Ellis from September, 1882, until October, 1883; and Mrs Hogarth, from October, 1883, until her death in November, 1885. Mr John Young was appointed to fill the vacancy temporarily and applications were called for a permanent teacher. As a result of a petition from the residents, Mr Young received the appointment and the school was created a full standard school for the first time. The reputation of Mr Young as a teacher was so great that the roll increased rapidly and an assistant had to be appointed. Long before the end of 1886 the school was overcrowded.

In 1904 the position at the school became so desperate and its sanitary condition so bad that after appealing in vain to the department and the Education Board it was resolved by the committee not to reopen the school after the Christmas holidays until it was put in a sanitary condition.

However, on 12th January, 1905, an appeal was made to the Prime Minister, Mr R. J. Seddon, during a visit to New Plymouth, and after an inspection of the building and hearing

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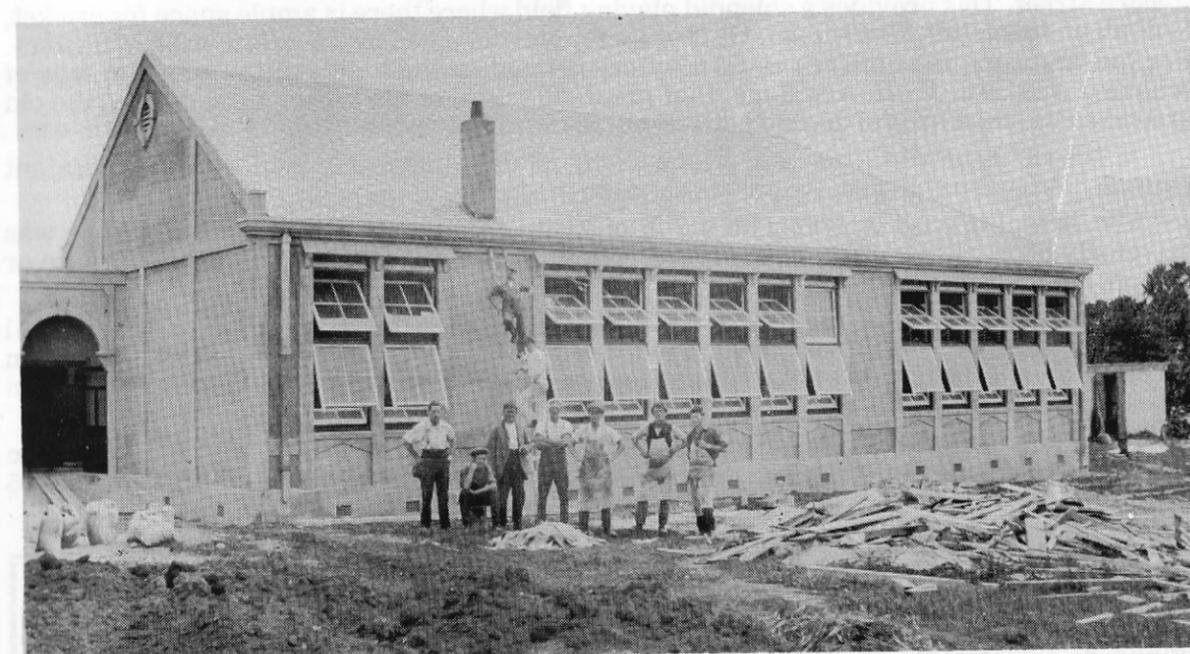
the deputation, he gave immediate assistance from the Government to an amount of two hundred pounds, provided the Education Board would give a similar amount. The renovations were proceeded with immediately. These consisted of filling the ground to street level, raising the school correspondingly, enlarging the classrooms and providing passages. While this work was being carried out, the children were accommodated in the Fitzroy and Church of England halls. In the same year town water was supplied to the school and at last the well was filled in and the tanks dispensed with. The increased accommodation proved sufficient for the next ten years.

In 1913 the School Committee raised sufficient funds for the erection of a gymnasium and shelter shed. This building, measuring 40 x 24 feet, was built at a cost of eighty-nine pounds. A floor was added two years later.

By 1915 the School was again overcrowded and the gymnasium was "borrowed" by the Education Board as "a temporary expedient". This expedient lasted almost continuously until 1930. In 1918 an excellent classroom was added to the main building. In 1922 the first two rooms of the Infant School, together with a porch were erected and were first occupied in 1923. Two further rooms in this block were added in 1925 and a further room, cloak room, teachers' room and porch were completed in 1929.

Further representations by the Committee resulted in two rooms of the "free air" type being erected in 1930, and the gymnasium was finally vacated. In 1935 three further "free air" type rooms, a headmaster's office, teachers' room and storeroom were added to the two original "free air" rooms and the old building, after 50 years' service, was demolished.

The most modern of the classrooms in the old block was combined with the gymnasium and moved to a site on the Sackville Street frontage and made into an assembly hall. Dressing rooms, a store room and a kitchen were added and a few years later this became the social centre of the school. Later still it was provided with a ceiling, a stage, a new floor, and a radio gramophone. It made possible the formation of the Young People's Club, the holding of school assemblies, the institution of house socials, and the inauguration of Flag 500 evenings, cribbage evenings, and the holding of dances and other social gatherings. When the film strip and movie projectors were purchased it was here that visual education was provided for the children. It has proved one of the School's greatest assets.



The start of the infant school in 1922. Originally these two rooms were built and opened for use in 1923. Two more rooms in this block were erected in 1925, and a further room, cloak room, teachers' common room and porch completed the block in 1929. The whole block was demolished in 1976.

In September, 1941, our dental clinic was built and the children were treated on the premises instead of having to journey into the Central School for attention.

In 1943 the Hillsborough School was consolidated on Fitzroy and in the following year Tarurutangi School also joined with Fitzroy. The children were conveyed to and from school by school buses. These sixty additional children again led to overcrowding and in 1947 a temporary classroom was erected next to the Assembly Hall.

In 1943 also a Special Class was established, and were housed in a portable classroom next to the infant school. In 1949 a very fine Special Class room was erected. This building had its own conveniences, washroom, store room and handwork bay all under one roof. It had hot and cold water laid on and was in every way ideal for the purpose for which it was built. It was here the Special Class carried on its excellent work until, through lack of a suitable teacher, it was closed in 1952.

In 1941 the larger of the two baths was opened by the Hon. H. G. R. Mason, to the great delight of everyone connected with the school — the children in particular. The school was greatly indebted to Mr C. H. Moore, the Board's architect, for his great interest in and enthusiasm for the project. Later a learners' pool was added and the school then had ideal facilities for the teaching of and practice in swimming.

In 1948 a further two rooms of improved design with store rooms, cloak room and corridors were added to the main block.

After years of representation an art room was added to the Assembly Hall in 1952 and the construction of a commodious teachers' room with kitchenette was commenced above the headmaster's office and the old teachers' room. The old teachers' room became a library and housed the radio set for the main block.

During the years the one acre bought in 1883 which provided "ample playing grounds," has been greatly increased. The additional land was acquired as follows:

In 1891 one acre, on part of which a teacher's residence was built, was purchased. In 1919 two roods were bought and on this the main block now stands. In 1920 one acre was bought and the Infant School now occupies this site. The 32 perches, on which the Special Class room was later built, was added in 1930. The site of the baths, the basketball court and the dental clinic was purchased in 1940.

In 1948 a most valuable acquisition was made in the purchase of some three acres in Record Street. This provides a splendid playing field where there is ample space for cricket, football and athletics. The house on this property was occupied by the previous headmasters. For the first time the children could play cricket and football without the constant fear of breaking windows. Mr E. Armitage, that great old friend of the school, once defined the old ground as "a small area of ground entirely surrounded by windows".

A school, however, does not consist only of buildings and land — the important ingredients are the children, the parents and the teachers.

The School opened in 1882 with a roll of 25. In these early years the attendance was extremely poor, at least 30 per cent of the children being absent each day on any excuse or without excuse at all.

By 1884 the roll was 69. By 1888 the roll had climbed to 100. It then gradually declined until in 1892 it stood at 75. In 1912 it had again increased to 144. By 1922 it had reached 303 and in 1932 it had further increased to 521. The school reached its peak roll in 1952 when 648 children were in attendance.

Due to the transfer of 60 Tarurutangi and Hillsborough children to Bell Block and the opening of Highlands Intermediate School which absorbed our Form 1 and 2 pupils, in 1955 the roll dropped to 437. It climbed again, but has receded steadily to the present day.

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## And so we come to the last quarter of the century.

It has been a continuing story of growth and participation. Successive school committees have guided developments with the very strong support of Parent Teacher Association committees, a development of the previous Welfare Association. The school is indebted also to the many teachers who have served in a period of significant change in teaching practice, in school curriculum and in school organisation. The final decade, in this "centennial story" has, in fact, perhaps been a period in which teachers have had to meet demands that have called for great resourcefulness and flexibility — 'co-operative teaching practice', 'use of varied audio-visual aids and techniques' being prominent examples of requirements.

The children themselves, have ably upheld the traditions of their long-established school and that has been evident in several spheres of endeavour, whether it be on the sports fields (at school or nationally in subsequent times) or in such as school choir efforts of note.

The roll of the school since the 75th Jubilee has steadily declined from some 500 pupils to the 300 of today. This decline has been quite gradual, but in recent times the population drift nationally has figured greatly in fall in numbers.

Well, how has it gone during this last quarter of Fitzroy's 100 years?

**Dec. 1958** — Workmen erected the school name above the memorial gateway.

**May 1960** — The present heating system came into being. Changes to this have only been to the new infant building in 1976.

**1960** — Also a year to remember for those of a Std 3/4 class who built 'Port Waikaraka' and all that.

**1962** — March, installation of the filtration plant for the baths completed.

**June 1971** — New corridor along the back of the main school block with accompanying new toilet facilities in use.

**April 1972** — Major remodelling of all but two rooms of the main school building.

**July 1973** — Small art storage space added near eastern end of the main school building.

**July 1973** — Old school hall demolition begun on 28th July.

**1974** — March — First Joint Venture Hall Committee met. Members were — Mrs B. Wood and Messrs D. Quickfall, W. Briggs, P. Steffensen, D. Simpson, E. Prentice, B. Rudd and H. Old.

**Sept. 28, 1974** — New Hall officially opened by His Worship the Mayor, Mr D. V. Sutherland. Mr K. Bruce, immediate past headmaster of the school was specially invited back to the school to participate in the function as the project was begun during his term of office.

**Nov. 1974** — Old library building was removed from its site adjacent to the new hall. Highlands Int. School took the building which is part of that school's camping facility on their premises.

**Jan. 16, 1975** New Infant building commenced — pouring of foundations.

**Nov. 1975** — Main hard court areas torn up for resealing.

**Nov. 17, 1975** — Keys to new infant department building handed over to school.

**Aug. 1976** — Present Principal began three-month overseas educational visit to the British Isles. Mr Blance was the third recipient of the Taranaki Savings Bank Scholarship awarded for this purpose.

**Oct. 4, 1976** — Demolition of the old Infant Dept block commenced. Completed October 15.

Oct. 29, 1976 — Final tidying of grounds following demolition. The old building was a landmark and served the school well in its 53-year life.

Jan. 1980 — Rooms 2 and 3 in main block remodelled.

April 3, 1980 — A singular event. Miss Sheila Wilson, Dental Nurse in Charge at the school, retired from service after spending 32 years of her 40 years at Fitzroy School.

Sept. 22, 1980 — 36 interested Fitzroy folk were elected to the committee charged with the organising of the school's Centennial Event.

June, 1981 — School choir took part in a combined N.P. Schools' Music Festival at the N.P. Opera House. The only record of any similar festival was that of a smaller venture back in 1937. The Fitzroy choir performed very well indeed and Miss J. Corbitt, their teacher, was also one of the principal co-ordinators conducting massed choir items. The school's principal was the first chairman of this venture.

March 1982 — PTA committee held special Centennial Gala Day with proceeds of \$2000 going towards School Swimming Pools Project. The children of the school added to this effort with their Swimathon which produced nearly \$2200.

## A fine example of self - help



By Elsie Jupp, nee Burr, who in nine years at school from February 1923, was never late and never absent. She was presented with a Certificate for Exceptional Record of Attendance by the then chairman of the Taranaki Education Board, Mr S. G. Smith in 1931. Her brother, Arthur John (Jack) Burr, was never late or absent in seven years at the school — a remarkable family achievement.

The advance of Fitzroy began with the establishment of the trams in 1912, when it rapidly became New Plymouth's biggest suburb, and extended down to the sea and also inland. The school buildings hardly kept pace with the district.

Thus the erection of the Fitzroy Infants

School in 1922 and the official opening in 1923 was welcomed by many parents. And so my school days began.

Miss Elsie Andrews continued in the new building in her role as Infant Mistress. She was ably assisted by Miss L. Corney, who was to give many years of sterling service, along with Miss B. Allen of the main standard classes.

Fitzroy might be quoted as a fine example of the splendid work that could be done by school committees.

Owing to the lack of money in those days, fund-raising to provide school and sports equipment and ground improvements was a must.

Regular Saturday night dances held in the Fitzroy Public Hall, Darnell Street, provided a main source of income. The success of these functions was due to the generosity of the local grocers, Gallaghers Bakery, local butchers and Mr Harold Hall for donating milk over many years.

Home made cakes were supplied by the ladies committee. Music for dancing provided by Miss Lola Hook, piano, and Mr Frank Guscott, violin, made evenings most enjoyable. Dances in

aid of the school over ensuing years had expenses covered from funds.

Mr Dick Kibby, carrier, provided a truck, and many hours of his valuable time to assist at all functions. The appointment in 1926 of M. G. A. Lyall as headmaster brought a wealth of music to the school. A fine pianist, and singer, his arrival was to be the forerunner of many fund-raising activities.

The old iron school gymnasium, built in 1913, was the venue for many of these events. Rehearsals for fancy dress balls, concerts, scout, guide and cub meetings kept us well occupied.

Successful gala days drew much support from the public for the well-laden stalls.

The displays for enrythmics, folk dancing

and drill, which were given by the children, were distinctly creditable, both to the pupils and the teachers.

Several queen carnivals held over the years drew much enthusiasm and again proved succesful financially.

And so to February in 1931, when Napier was devastated by a violent earthquake, Fitzroy School welcomed into their daily routine 26 pupils from that area. The old, two-storey pavilion sited at the East End Beach housed them during their stay.

Mr Reginald Day escorted them on foot to and from school, each day. As the year 1931 ended so did my association with Fitzroy School as a pupil.

### SOME THOUGHTS:

**1914-18 Great War:** As the war progressed until the end, we marched around the school block beating tin cans every time an Allied victory was announced.

**Horse Paddock:** There was a half-acre paddock between the school ground and R. M. (Dick) Johnston's in Barriball Street for the grazing of horses while pupils were at school. Monitors kept the water troughs full.

**Boy Heroes:** Nookie Johnston (son of Dick Johnston the horse trainer) and Joe Gray (son of renowned jockey Hector Gray) were both apprentices and rode race horses before and after school — real heroes of ours.

**Waiwakaiho River:** This was our playground. There was no swimming pool at Fitzroy in our day so we learnt to swim in the river 200 — 300 yards downstream from the Waiwakaiho Bridge. A little shady for learners, deep shady for the swimmers that qualified.

**Whitebaiting:** We enjoyed that to the full just below the bridge, catching them by the kerosene tinfal day after day in the August holidays and cooking and eating some of them on the riverbank. What we and our families couldn't eat made good fowl feed!

**Willing Helpers!** Tommy Hook carted boulders from the riverbed to Parkin's crusher, and we helped



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him fill the dray all the May and Christmas holidays — three horses to a dray and we nearly killed them by filling the dray so quickly!

**Bridge Collapse:** This meant a week's holiday from school, but we went over the Railway Bridge to play and raid Whitcombe's Orchard situated where the Tavern is now.

**Boy to Man Overnight:** Charlie Hogenson left school in Standard 5 to join the Navy. A few days later he looked like a man to us in his naval uniform.

**Smart Road Freezing Works:** Built by 1917, closed 1922 — now the Fertiliser Works. The building and operating of these works was a boost to Fitzroy as large numbers of men worked there and nearly all had children at school. Those of us who lived anywhere near the works spent no end of time there helping and hindering the staff and, incidentally, learning a lot about the operation.

**Maori/Pakeha Relationships:** These were very good in those days with Maori Pas fairly numerous, the biggest being near Smart Road — Skipper's Pa with quite a few attending school — Jimmy, Nobby, Apua and Mary in my day — as well as Tito's and others whose names are obscure now. Apua died of pneumonia in 1918 and Standards 4, 5 and 6 marched to the Maori Burial Ground on the side of the hill just past showgrounds and formed a guard of honour to a wonderful schoolmate of ours. A very sad occasion for all of us.

**Smart Road Sports:** Smart Road supplied some noted sportsmen. Bill Brewster and Roy Yardley both won a Round the Mountain Road Cycling Race.

In our days they held Greyhound Racing (called coursing then) on grounds near Haskell's and we made quite a bit of money catching rabbits and hares, which the greyhounds chased live over measured distances. The rabbits had escape holes at the end to go through to get away from the hounds. It is replaced by tin hare racing today.

**Waiwakaiho Bacon Factory:** This was closed after World War I (later reopened as a soap works). An influenza epidemic followed the war and we had to go there to and from school to gargle in an effort to keep the epidemic under control.

**Kibby's Cows:** Daytime grazing for Kibby's cows was just over the bridge and Fred Pycroft had the job after school of driving cows to Kibby's Horse Stables. Nearly all us "kids" learnt to ride on Kibby's horse, which Fred rode.

**Learning to Milk:** Most of us learnt to milk by helping farmers who had cows entered in the Summer Show every year and we all got free passes for helping.

**Football:** We used to play Bell Block and Central School and one year Bell Block beat us 21 to nil when one of the boys scored 7 tries. His name? Albert Falwasser, one of the great New Zealand wingers in his day, a Hawke's Bay winger, N.Z. Maori All Black and later a N.Z. Rugby League winger to tour England — surely a magnificent wing three quarter.

**Waiwakaiho Saleyards:** There was always a lot of entertainment for us there. Roy Eva's father was the manager of them.

**Dental Nurses:** Molly Lovell made history as being one of the foundation nurses and became one of the prominent people involved.

# The noisy day peace was signed

By Mr Roy Hall, a former member and administrator of the Fitzroy School Welfare Assn (now the Parent Teachers' Assn) for many years.



His administrative ability and knowledge of people in the area has been of tremendous assistance to the school.



Apparently the headmaster, Mr Oscar Johnson, received official confirmation the day peace was signed to end World War I in 1918. He immediately sent all the "town" pupils home to arm themselves with any tin that would make a noise when it was hit, plus a few spares for our "country" pupils, with instructions to return to school as soon as possible.

When everybody had returned we were lined up in four lanes and marched around and around the Barriball, Sackville, Clemow and Record Streets block, banging our tin drums until the powers that were decided we had vented enough of our enthusiasm on the area and dismissed school for the remainder of the day.

I was only six years at the time but that memory has stayed with me all these intervening years.

## The Rifle Range

Situated on the southern boundary of the school and backing on to the homes of the Kinsella's and the Hook's. It consisted of 25 feet of a round tubular tunnel with a target attachable at the far end.

The school had three air rifles and if you wanted a turn you purchased five slugs for a penny, were issued with a rifle and away you went shooting.

This was great fun while it lasted, but as with all good things, it had to come to an end. Several of the boys (only Standards 5 and 6 were allowed to shoot) decided that it would be more fun shooting through the fence at Tommy Hook's hens. After they had succeeded in killing several we were all barred from our Rifle Range, as it turned out, forever!

## Doctor Elizabeth Gunn

This dear lady was the Health Department's visiting nurse. It was her usual practice to visit the school about twice a year. If we got word of her coming on any particular day there were always quite a few absentees.

She specialised in tooth examination and whenever she found a decayed molar, the remedy was salutary: Out with her stick, a dig into the gum beside the tooth, and, hey presto, no tooth — a sure cure, but one that left many a tearful pupil vowing to run away from school when she appeared again.

I think it was the same lady that introduced the school to tooth brush drill. We were instructed to bring a toothbrush and a glass tumbler to school, monitors were appointed to mix the liquid used for cleaning our dirty teeth and mouths, and we all then marched past distribution point receiving our tumbler of cleanser, returning to our class line where we were instructed and supervised by our class teacher into the art of mouth hygiene.

## Fred Clark

During most of my school days Fred was a pupil in the same class. He had no use of his legs and came to school in a wheelchair.

Each week two pupils were appointed to take care of Fred. He would be wheeled to school by either his brother or sisters, and then the monitors would take over.

His chair was parked in the porch and his two guardians would lift and carry him into the class room to his easily accessible desk in the front row. This job was always considered an honour and eagerly sought after.

Many people will remember Fred in after school days driving around in a special invalid motor car.

## Mr Charlie Kingston

The school was extremely fortunate when Mr Kingston, a great full-back for the All Blacks,

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from the team at Fitzroy Colour House we pay tribute to the Fitzroy school and congratulate them on 100 years of service to the community. May the next 100 years see the school still functioning as efficiently.

offered his services as coach for the senior boys' rugby team.

Many, many hours were spent by the boys after school in the old galvanised iron gymnasium standing at one end with all the other team boys running full tilt at them and with Mr Kingston teaching them how to tackle around the legs.

Nearly all that team of boys eventually played senior football in Taranaki and all were renowned for their ability to tackle opponents, no matter what size.

#### Moturoa V Fitzroy at Cricket

Moturoa School was leading the local school competition in cricket and Fitzroy had to play them at their school out by the port. Moturoa batted first and, believe it or not, were all out for seven runs. Roy Eva, Dennis Crapper and Tommy Clark were the bowlers.

This was an unheard-of situation and naturally Fitzroy thought they were in for an easy win.

However, after nine of our best men had batted, there was only one run on our score book and the two last men were in — Dick Hamilton and myself.

Dick was what everybody called a blind slogger and I was only in the team to make up the eleven players and to field at long stop, which in those days was a place behind the wicketkeeper to stop everything he missed.

Dick had his usual blind swipe at the last ball of that over after he came into bat and the ball went over everybody's head for four runs. It was then my turn. The ball somehow hit my bat and went between two fielders for one run and that made us six. Only two more runs required to win.

Next ball, Dick had another blind swipe. The ball went way up in the air and we managed to run one more run but the fielder missed the catch and before he could retrieve the ball Dick yelled for me to run like hell and we scored that winning run.

The champions had fallen!

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#### Concert in Fitzroy Hall

I quite well remember a concert put on by the school in the Fitzroy Hall. A play finished the evening and among the leading characters were Alan Crapper, Seton Richardson, Bert Harvey Mucker Hawkins and Sid Spiers.

For the life of me I cannot remember any of the girls in the cast. Perhaps I was too young.

#### Collection for Dr Banardo's Homes

For years, thanks to the great efforts of Miss Allen, Fitzroy created a very proud record of collections that several times topped all schools in New Zealand.

#### Miss Allen

A great teacher, a great lady. Known by every pupil who went through school during her long career.

Speaking to her the other day, I reminded her of the distress shown by her one morning when she drove past the school and saw a working bee topping all her beloved pohutukawas along the road frontage.

She burst into tears that morning and said to me and others: "You have killed them, they will never recover".

She now agrees with me that they are more beautiful than ever, but she was not the only one that morning who thought her beloved trees had gone.

A book written by the same lady detailing all her experiences while at Fitzroy School would be eagerly read by all pupils who attended our dear old school during her reign as teacher and later as secretary.

#### Broken Legs

About 1922 or 1923 there was a spate of broken legs in the playground while the boys were kicking and chasing the football.

It was not till after about four broken legs that the cause was found. Some of the younger children had been tying the long heads of the rat-tail grass together at the top, thereby forming a perfect trap for anybody running at full tilt until tripped by circle so formed.

Because the trap broke when the leg broke, it was quite a time before the answer was found.

All the School buildings which existed during those 50 memory packed years are now gone, but the pupils of that era will never forget the Old School Building, the galvanised iron gymnasium (later to become the hall), the solid concrete cool room called an infant block, the old wooden shelter sheds or those terrible toilets on the southern boundary.

All pupils of that 50-year period must agree that it was a wonderful school, run and controlled by a wonderful set of people.



FITZROY SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION — 1982

BACK ROW (L TO R) Mrs J. Tamati, Mrs H. Wells, Mrs L. Mills, Mr B. Francis, Mrs V. Harvey, Mrs L. Humphreys, Mrs R. Newton.  
MIDDLE ROW (L TO R) Mrs M. Muir, Mrs S. Geraghty, Mrs G. Wright, Mrs M. Field, Mrs M. West, Mrs S. Moratti.  
FRONT ROW (L TO R) Mrs M. Bromley, Mrs G. Lindsay (Treasurer) Mrs L. Vivian (Vice President), Mr V. Blance (President), Mrs B. Darling (Secretary), Mrs D. Green, Mrs J. Valentine. (INSET Mrs V. Seccombe and Mrs J. Burson).

## Parent-Teacher Association —

It all began back in 1882, of course, but not in the accepted committee structures of the latter half of this school's hundred years.

The Fitzroy school Welfare Association it was that heralded in the first formal group back in 1937. Mr A. L. Roberts headed a strong parent support committee and he remained its chairman for the whole of the 20 years leading to the school's 75th Jubilee in 1957.

Many will remember the work, too, of Mrs Priest, now deceased, and Mrs Harvey, Mrs Hughes, Miss B. Allen and Mrs N. James all living today, work that was accorded life membership of the association.

## A FITZROY STORY

It was folk such as these who helped develop the all important parent support that is part of a school and they laid the foundations for those who carried on the task later. The school is indebted to both Mr and Mrs Roy Hall in particular for their contribution in more recent times.

Working bees and fundraising, the now familiar parent-teacher activity, have

helped maintain the school and support its work throughout all these years.

The baths feature in particular and have been perhaps the major concern, an annual concern that all schools contend with. But so, too, has the provision of the all-important books and equipment for the essential classroom scene. The costs mount year by year and have reached quite staggering proportions in this Fitzroy's 100th.

Just look around, too, at garden and the likes of playground equipment and again the hand of parent-teacher association is to be seen.

Think of all the many and varied pupil functions that have been made all the more successful and pleasant because of the ready band of workers behind the scenes, providing for and dispensing all the

necessary goodies — at fancy dress balls — socials — infant parties. And they were there, too, presiding over the centennial party just prior to this big event.

School committees of the school have indeed been indebted to the PTA for the part they have played in the total life of the school. Fundraising has necessarily been to the fore, but any school must have support in other ways and Fitzroy's PTA groups have always been active in promoting and encouraging high parent interest in the overall life of the school.

Their task has been one of a mixture of disappointment and thrill, and come what may they have pressed on hopefully because they have always had the good of children at heart.

Fitzroy says "thank you" to them for their generosity in so many ways.

# Joint Venture Hall was an exciting challenge

by Derek Quickfall

**Following a report from the Taranaki Education Board in 1967 that the existing hall was nearing the end of its useful life, the Fitzroy School Committee commenced planning for a new hall. The old building, which had been converted from a gymnasium and added to over the years, had served the school well.**

Early in 1968 the New Plymouth City Council agreed in principle to erect a public hall on council property at Waiwakaiho Park to replace the Fitzroy Community Hall in Darnell Street, which had been demolished some years previously.

Mr Norton Moller a former school committee chairman, promoted the idea of a joint-venture hall to serve the interests of both school and community. Meetings were convened between representatives of the New Plymouth City Council, Taranaki Education Board, Fitzroy School Committee and Parent/Teachers Association to consider the proposals and

protracted negotiations took place through to 1970, when the council became convinced of the merits of the scheme.

Agreement was reached between the council and the education board under which the school committee agreed to raise the sum of \$10,000 towards the cost of the new hall, while the education board would contribute \$8000 by way of a building subsidy. The balance of the contract price was to be provided by the city council.

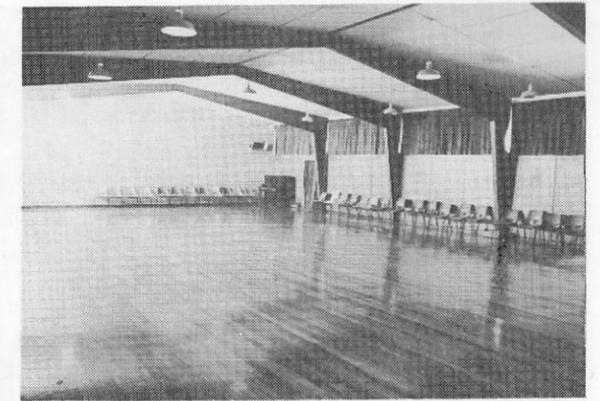
Conditions of control were agreed upon by all parties providing rights of occupancy and provision made for a committee to administer the hall once it had been built.

An inaugural meeting of all interested parties was called to form a committee and join with the school interests in raising the required sum of \$10,000. The estimated cost of the hall in August 1970 was \$35,000.

The committee formed comprised Mr N. R. Moller (Chairman) (past chairman of the school committee), Messrs D. N. Quickfall (current chairman, school committee), J. S. Putt (deputy chairman school committee), I. S. Russell (school committee), K. H. Bruce (headmaster), H. Old (former chairman school committee), A. Clements (representing outside interests), T. S. Duxfield (chairman/Teachers Association), Mrs A. H. Brotherson (school committee and teacher association), Messrs J. D. Gilbert, V. A. Blance (Headmasters following Mr Ken Bruce) joined the committee together with a former headmaster, Mr E. H. Diack. Mrs Y. Scott replaced Mrs Brotherson.

Over the next two years fundraising was carried out using a variety of methods. Helped by a donation of \$500 from the Taranaki Savings Bank, there were raffles, a scrap metal drive, paddy's market, mannequin parades, sales of light bulbs, market days, old clothes sales, projects by pupils, delivery of new motor vehicles, gala days and P.T.A. projects and a "Steptoe" auction sponsored by the Fitzroy Rotary Club. The raising of these funds was a challenging but enjoyable task, which brought all of the school interests together in sharing a common goal.

By August, 1972, the joint-venture hall committee became most concerned with the escalating costs which were occurring on all building projects. With some \$3500 of the target figure outstanding, an arrangement was made whereby four supporters of the school provided guarantees to enable the deficit to be covered by



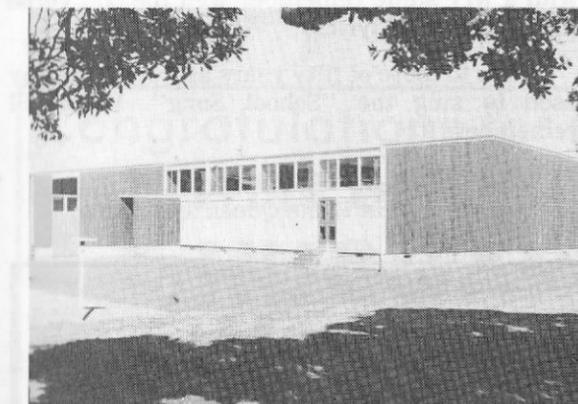
Fitzroy Joint Venture Hall — interior view.

way of a bank overdraft while fundraising continued.

Meanwhile, the continuing escalation in building costs were reaching the stage where they exceeded the funds available, posing the very real problem that the project might have to be shelved. With some pruning, including the elimination of a stage area, coupled with a very welcome grant of \$1000 from the Taranaki County Council, together with an increase in the education board's subsidy from \$8000 to \$10,000, the way was paved for the work to proceed.

However, another disappointment was in store because when the old hall was demolished it was found that it had been sited on a considerable depression in the ground, which would require additional foundations for the new hall. These additional costs amounting to \$1371 had not been allowed for, but after some further pruning the successful contractor, Brough Construction Co. Ltd, in July, 1973, was authorised by the Taranaki Education Board to proceed with the work.

The new hall was formally opened on 28th September, 1974, providing a facility which is used widely by both the school and the local community.



Fitzroy Joint Venture Hall.



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THE FITZROY SCHOOL SPECIAL CHOIR, 1982:

Back Row: (L to R) Tao Wells, Taani Smith, Steven Rasmussen, Paul Lehndorf, Daryl Putt, Karl Tamati, Manu Scott Mathew Clarke. Middle Row: (L to R) Kylee Reynolds, Thea Chamberlain, Hayley Darling, Stephanie Matuku, Louise Hutton, Larrissa Parker, Bridgette Thompson, Deidre Velvin, Clara Groves, Tania Lindsay. Front Row: (L to R) Sally House, Karen Pease, Bry Kopu, Miss J. A. Corbitt, Kelly Mack, Rachel Masters, Louise Geraghty.

## Singing is a notable tradition at Fitzroy

Singing together has always generated feelings of wellbeing and warmth and no doubt in those very early and hard days of the New Zealand pioneer-frontier community, song was a very important part of the business of living — living conditions that welcomed a goodly measure of cheer.

There are many who will remember back to the rousing refrains of old, the time-honoured

pieces that bring a tear to the eye, and perhaps with a wry smile remember well the odd verse that sported new lyrics.

And so to those of fifty years ago when Fitzroy used to sing the "School Song". Who still remembers it?

*'Our Fathers here in the days of old,  
When the great White Queen was ruling,*

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*Were all enrolled as pupils bold  
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Salute we now with song of praise  
All the old, old names of the bygone days'.*

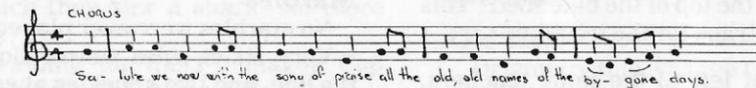
There were three other verses, but this first verse was the one usually sung by the whole school. This was a notable Fitzroy first, too, as it was the school's infant mistress of that time, the late Miss Elsie Andrews, MBE, a revered Taranaki personality, who wrote the words to the song and put it to the tune of "Pour out the Rhine Wine".

That old school song is not a part of today's Fitzroy scene, but then times have a habit of changing.

Fitzroy, like all schools, has provided varied music programmes over the years and much of note has been influenced by people who have had particular gifts and expertise.

The late Mr Lyall, headmaster in the 1930s, was an accomplished musician and folk of his day will have their memories of his contribution in this way.

And no doubt there have been many instances of other fine contributions. We note in recent times the work of Mr W. Curtis in the 1960s which brought credit to the school.



It is a continuing story, too, and the school records with great pride the part it has played in promoting the highest of standards in this vital area of school life in very recent times.

In 1981 it supported the staging of an all New Plymouth Primary Schools Music Festival at the New Plymouth Opera House and all Fitzroy folk were indeed proud of the performance of the school choir, a performance that owed much to Miss J. Corbitt, their choir leader. Miss Corbitt also took a leading part overall as conductor of the massed choirs and was one of three musical directors of the venture.

The school's principal, Mr Blance, added to Fitzroy's contribution by leading the committee that provided the necessary total arrangements of a very successful effort indeed, and it has been a repeat story in 1982, with our Fitzroy choir maintaining a degree of excellence that is noteworthy.

The school, however, expresses itself quite totally in song, as can be seen in the all important weekly school assembly and again the "sharing" "togetherness" and pleasure derived from music. Song is indeed at the heart of the whole tone of Fitzroy today and Miss Jenn Corbitt has led her colleagues with distinction in achieving something that is unique.

## Memories . . .

Having had a look around Fitzroy as it is now and thinking back to 1916, I am amazed. To the best of my ability to remember, the only business places there were the Post Office, a hairdresser, Aroa's Store, Taylor's Store, Harvey's Butchery, and Farmer's Bakery (son Harry went to school with us) and Miss Bint worked in the shop.

Teachers then were Mr Johnson, complete with bun hat and cane, Miss Andrews and Miss Allen.

I was one of those known as the Smart Road Kids and we enjoyed school and holiday life together. Between us we contributed quite a lot to the school history and thankfully I can remember a lot of it.

A 2lb loaf of bread cost 3 pence in those days and one loaf was a good feed as we went home from school.

Congratulations for the first 100 years

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# When a strap was nailed to the ceiling



by Darcy Crone,  
Mayor of Inglewood  
and former Fitzroy pupil.

## Many a tale can be told about straps at school!

One such tale relates to Bill Manners — a six-footer then, who for devilment nailed the strap to the ceiling by means of placing desks on top of each other to enable him to reach this height. Some teachers at this stage used very thin straps for obvious reasons!

Another tale relates to Miss Downes' bicycle. Who tied her bike to the top of the bike shed? This person received 26 straps for the trouble!

Strapping was not left to the male teachers. Miss Allen and Miss Andrews were both proficient. In fact, it was felt Miss Allen might need a box to stand on!

### Trees

Each Arbor Day, Alex Purdie donated several pohutukawa trees to plant around the grounds and between the cabbage trees along the school frontage in Barriball Street.

On one occasion, when a cricket ball landed in one of the very large cabbage trees, Colin Salt climbed up to retrieve it and landed on the ground with a broken arm!

These cabbage trees over the years caused widespread criticism, especially when it was time to have them removed. However, after various attempts had been made, they were finally removed — and not a word was said.

### Dancing Classes

For at least twenty years, every Friday night, children flocked to Arthur Roberts' dancing classes in the old Fitzroy School in Darnell Street. These cost 1/- a night, and nobody missed a dance. This helped with the problems of young folk on the streets.

### Marbles

No marbles were ever played on 1st May Why? Very strict rules were followed. No crossing the line, and two knuckles always on the ground, were two of the rules.

Thank goodness for dirt potholes along the edge of the cinder path — ideal for marbles! Not all concrete like today.

### Teeth

Cabinets were in the corridors outside each classroom, containing toothbrushes in small glasses. When it was time for toothbrush drill, a small amount of white powder was added to the water, which turned pink when mixed, and then used for cleaning. Some pupils drank this mixture afterwards. One day the white powder was substituted with Epsom Salts!! Fortunately it was discovered before it was administered.

### Milk

Remember those half pint bottles of warm milk, with cardboard tops with a round hole in the middle, pushed in for the straw?

Some milk boys had to milk 15 cows before calling. They would call at the back door of each house with the appropriate dipper (1 pint or 1 quart), and measured the required amount into the householder's billy.

Milk run boys worked 6.30 to 8.30 a.m. for 1/- a week, and were allowed one pint of milk a day. For milking the cows a boy was allowed his nightly meal.

### Papers

Paper boys worked from 2 — 5 a.m. collecting from the paper office and rolling their own papers (approx 16 papers) for 8/- a week; in addition to this they had to collect the paper money as well.

"London Pies" were the pies of the day.

New bicycles at this time cost eight pounds. Petrol was 1/8d a gallon.

### Broken Biscuits

Mondays and Tuesdays were the best days to buy broken biscuits from Aroa's Store — 3d or 6d a bag — as these included chocolate and fancy varieties. Those who had to wait until Friday put up with plain biscuits.

### Swimming

Mr Lyall, the then headmaster, used to take the children to the Fitzroy Beach, until the occasion on which they saw a shark. No more swimming there!

Young folk training for the Flannagan Cup trained at the Waiwakaiho River weir in waist-deep water, against the current.

Learn-to-swim week for Standards 4-5-6. Before commencing lessons pupils had to sandbag a pool by the Fitzroy Quarries, approximately 20 yards long and 3 feet deep. They then attended every day for a week for lessons.

When swimming was mastered, the pupils progressed to the Shallow Shady, and then to the Deep Shady. We understand this spot is still being used today.

### Gardens

The older boys' weekly chore was to look after the gardens, which were located where the Reading Centre is now by the Clemow Road entrance. The produce was given away to the poorer residents of the area. This piece of land

(32 perches) was bought in 1930 to use as an agricultural instructional plot, and a means of access to the school from Clemow Road.

### Bellringer's Orchard

How many boys remember stealing fruit from Bellringer's orchard? And the wire fence that went around the outside of it? Many a time the boys fell out of the trees — some have the scars to prove it! Football was also played in Bellringer's paddock. The Fitzroy Catholic Church and Clinton Street is now occupying this area.

Even though a great scheme was worked out involving one to watch and two to pick, this still did not prevent boys from being caught. One boy caught by Mr King, the policeman, was fined 10/- and confined to his house for 24 hours!

### The late Fred Clark

Fred was an invalid, who would be remembered driving himself around the streets in his three-wheeled invalid car. He was helped very willingly by his fellow pupils while in a wheelchair at school.

He was very clever at making objects, particularly those that flew. These sometimes consisted of a cotton reel and propeller — soaring up and hitting the telegraph and power pole cups.

### Old Hall

Originally this was the Gym, situated near the present Medical Room. Owing to shortage of room, this was divided by curtains and used as classrooms by Standards 5 and 6, before being shifted to Sackville Street to be used as a Hall. A stage was added in due course.

### Picnics

The Ngaere Gardens were a favourite spot for the Fitzroy School picnics. Pupils would be picked up by train at the Fitzroy Railway Station, Ronald Street, for their day's outing.

### Napier Earthquake

Thirty children were evacuated from Napier by train, and billeted with Fitzroy families for a time. They were marched up Barriball Street, with Fitzroy children leaning over the fence and feeling very sorry for them because they had no homes, etc. The pupils were only too happy to welcome them to their school.

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# Heads held high on the sporting field



Right from those very old days when a hockey stick was but any old stick, and having footy jerseys was a vastly different thing to cater for in a school, Fitzroy has held its head high.

Records abound in the 100-year story of the playing field and there will be many an old pupil who will savour the memories of the "good old days" back there in the 20s and 30s — Bellringer's paddock.

How about those post World War II folk? Rugby championship titles featured yet again and so it has gone on right up to the present day.

The story of the "Red and Black" is a story of great inter-school deeds and days and we salute those who began it all long ago. We salute,

too, the old pupils who have brought further honour to their old school through gaining national honours in later life and we salute those who are still proudly carrying on the traditions of Fitzroy.

North Taranaki netball titles in 1979, 1980, runner-up 1981, testifies to this, and the school's 1982 team is undefeated so far this season.

And it is still out there on court and field, week after week, learning to enjoy sport for its own sake, that is of the greatest importance. The school today looks to those representing their school to think with pride about all that the red and black of Fitzroy means to its sporting traditions.

## Congratulations Fitzroy School

While at your centennial we welcome you to browse around our store and view our selection of hardware and building supplies, household hardware, china and giftware, garden and sporting depts.

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## NETBALL — "A" TEAM — 1982

Back Row: (L to R) Tracey Smith, Sally House, Bridgette Thompson, Karen Pease, Suzanne Scott.

Front Row: Rachel Masters, Deidre Velvin, Bry Kopu, Louise Geraghty.



This team is undefeated in the now completed North Taranaki Primary School Netball Championship (Std 4), although the overall 'title' has yet to be decided.

The school has had a series of successes in this championship title in 1979, 1980 and runner-up last year (1981).

## A Bird's Eye View



Fitzroy 1982, looking down on it all — spread out like a map. Top right corner is the new Fitzroy Village, close to the site of the former Bellringer's paddock. The old Infant Block, demolished in 1976, was situated near the far end of the present sports track.