

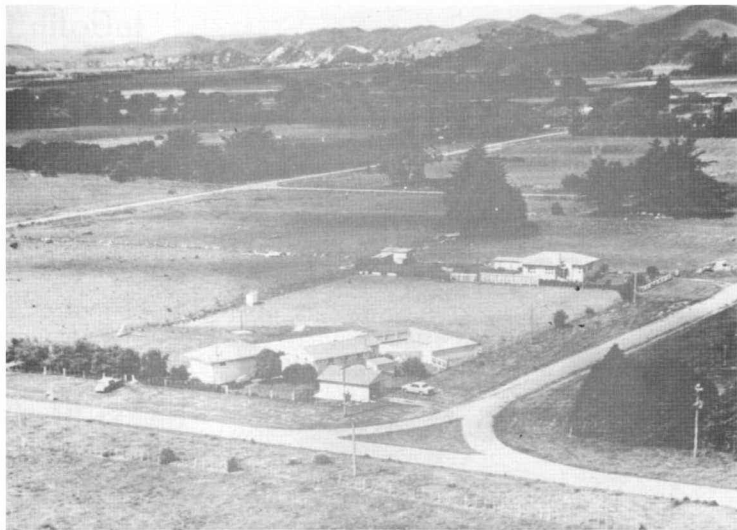
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# KUMEROA SCHOOL & DISTRICT CENTENARY



1884 - 1984

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**Centennial Celebration**  
**9, 10, 11 March 1984**

## Editorial

The Publicity Committee of the Kumeroa School and District Centennial Committee have produced this book to mark a hundred years of schooling and settlement and progress in Kumeroa.

Accounts of the life and times of many of the pioneer settlers is limited as most of them have passed on taking with them their wealth of memories of a bygone age.

We trust readers will bear with us and accept our apologies for any errors or omissions that may occur.

Our thanks are due to all those people who assisted with photographs, documents and information.

We trust that you enjoyed the celebrations, renewing old friendships and reliving many memories.

The Kumeroa District looks back with pride and forward with confidence as we embark on our second century.

S. M. Poulton

## Foreword

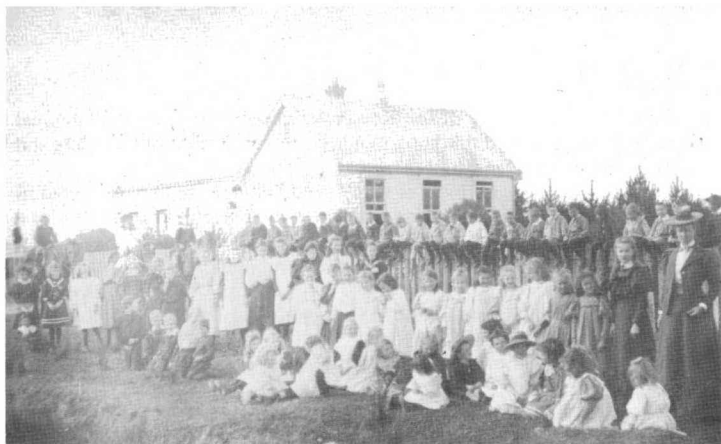
I take this opportunity to thank all Committee members who over a period of a year attended monthly meetings which culminated in the successful Centennial celebrations of 9-10-11 March 1984.

The dedication and co-operation of all concerned was, in my opinion, the most outstanding feature contributing to the enjoyment of all who attended.

If there are lessons to be learned they are that a Centennial denotes 100 years of history — history which is difficult sometimes to piece together. There are many of us who have wished we had taken more notice of our fathers' and grandfathers' stories of the past.

It therefore follows that as many of us as possible should record our own local history, by tape or writing, to help future historians, when they in turn seek memories from the past for their Centennials.

Bert Fountaine



*Early Kumeroa School on the original site.*

### KUMEROA SCHOOL — 1908



*Back Row: Mr Plank, Les Thomson, — Smith, Basil McMillan, —, Herbert McGovern, Tom Bryant, Arthur Slattery, Ted O'Hagen, Miss Waters.*

*Middle Row: Les Ross, Connie Little, Monica Dobson, —, Eva Rigley, Pearl Thomas, —, —, Thomson, Olive Bryant, Chrissie Dragor, — Kemp.*

*Front Row: Winnie Bryant, Ella Kemp, Winifred Dobson, Dot Thomson, Eva Martin, Constance Martin, Claude Ross, Ivan Bryant, Ralph Pritchard, Chas Dragor, Arnold Dunford, Steve Ross.*

# Kumeroa School and District

Kumeroa is a small country district lying to the east of the Manawatu River and is part of the Woodville County in Southern Hawke's Bay.

It was originally all heavy bush, being part of the famous 70 Mile Bush. It was surveyed and cut up into suitable blocks in the early 1880s.

Kumeroa was laid out as a township as the early surveyors expected the railway to come down on the western side of the river through Hopelands and round the Bluff and into Woodville. But with the passing of time as the railway came from Hawke's Bay, the proposal was scrapped and the present route via Matahūi (now Maharahara), and Victoria (now Papatawa) was decided on.

In the early days as the bush was coming down and the fencing going up, the district carried a fair population with large families the rule, rather than the exception. The school opened in 1884 with one teacher and at one time had a roll of about 106 and three teachers.

There was a two-storied hotel, two or three blacksmith shops, three butchers' shops and a Post Office. But with the advent of the motor car and the passing of the horse together with gigs, buggies, wagons and drays — modern high powered cars, tractors and lorries are now seen on the highways and byways.

The village now has only a Public Hall built in 1896 after the earlier one was burnt down, a small church and a three-roomed school.

Over the years the school has become one of the focal points of the District.

The original school and school house were close to the intersection of Kumeroa Road and Township Road. But in 1953 a sudden flooding of the Awapikopiko Stream swept through the school grounds. After some negotiations a new site was selected opposite Mr Cheyne's house and a new one-roomed school was erected. A room of the old school was then moved by the school committee a quarter of a mile to the new site and was set up as a film and assembly room.

During this period the school roll steadily increased until in 1957 a second teacher was appointed and the Hawke's Bay Education Board turned the old room into a second classroom.

Improvements came steadily. A staff room was added in 1959 and a concrete playing area laid. In 1965 a 40' x 20' learners swimming pool was built mostly with voluntary labour. This has proved to be an excellent amenity and is also used by local residents. Since the baths have been built no senior child has left the school unable to swim.

A new classroom was built in 1970 to replace the original prefab building. The school is now well equipped. Modern teaching aids including a movie projector, a film strip projector, a duplicator, record player, tape recorder and

more recently an overhead film projector present to the pupils a far wider picture of our modern world.

P. W. T. Poulton

## How did Kumeroa get its name?

A local Maori resident gives a probable explanation:

Kume — to pull

Roa — long

In earlier times, many canoes travelled up-river from Foxton and the Manawatu through to Dannevirke, with travellers often continuing into Central Hawke's Bay.

The worst gravel banks and shallows were encountered through Kumeroa, forcing the paddlers to get out and manhandle their canoes upstream. Having pulled the canoes over a shoal, they would get in and paddle in the deeper water until the next shallow water was encountered, when the same procedure would be followed. This was especially so in summer, when the river was low.

Hence the name 'Kumeroa', the long pull.



*Kumeroa School, 1913*

# Kumeroa School

## The First One Hundred Years

The year 1877 marked a milestone in New Zealand education — the introduction of free, secular and compulsory education. Prior to that attendance was optional and there was a fee of 1/- per week.

In 1884 when Kumeroa District School was opened with pupils of mixed ages the majority of the pupils would have had no formal education. In the early years of the school attendance was always a problem due to such factors as the weather, the state of roads and bridges, sickness and the need for children to help their parents with seasonal work. Truancy was also a problem and the fluctuations of the roll made teaching very frustrating for the early teachers.

Teachers Training Colleges opened in Wellington and Auckland in 1881 — but for many years trainees had to pay their own expenses. The main avenue of entrance to teaching was through the pupil-teacher system. This was, in effect, a form of apprenticeship, and the opportunity of a career for the local girls and boys.

In the early days the school went up to Standard VII as very few pupils had the chance to continue on to a secondary education. The Proficiency Examination, sat by the school leavers, was of great importance. It was held in November, and the school was closed for the day, except for the unfortunates sitting the exam. Later on it was held in Woodville. Often pupils who failed at their first attempt returned to school for another year to try again.

Epidemics of measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever, chicken pox, influenza and colds often closed the school for a time.

Discipline was maintained by punishment of the strap, lines, and being kept in after school. Children were punished for truancy, boys playing with girls, not learning homework, inattention, bad language, lying, bathing in the river during dinner hour, etc.

The following brief history of the school is taken from the Log Book:

9th June 1884

Kumeroa District School was opened close to the intersection of Kumeroa and Township Roads. Thirteen children attended. Subjects to be taught were: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling, Dictation, Form and Colour, Grammar, Geography, Singing and Class and School Drill. The Inspector's report spoke of urgency in getting a water supply for the school.

February 1886

School closed for opening of Kumeroa-Manawatu Bridge. In the Log Book at this time Mr John Walshe,



- Chairman of the School Committee, deplored the poor attendance — half the school roll not at school.
- April 1886 At a meeting of the School Committee there was a long discussion as to the legality of women voting at a Householders' Meeting. The Chairman ruled that "householder" was to mean only the head of the family.
- November 1886 The first Master resigned and the Inspector of Schools recorded, "I found the school in such an utter state of disorganisation, it is a disgrace to my district. I have never seen things so badly managed and the children so badly taught during my life as a teacher."
- May 1887 Under the capable hands of Mrs Lynch the Inspector reported "School management much improved." Roll 49, total at school that day 24.
- August 1888 Mrs Lynch has 63 pupils on the Roll and an Assistant Pupil Teacher, Miss Little.
- March 1889 Commenced giving lessons in music. Found the first class strangely deficient in ear culture.
- September 1891 New room opened with Standards 3, 4 and 5 in it under Head Teacher and lower standards under Pupil Teacher in old room.
- February 1893 The first death of a pupil, Jennie McPhee from diphtheria. This was followed in March by the death of another pupil, Lily Kemp, from inflammation of the lungs.
- July 1895 Charles Welsh was punished for setting fire to the school on Wednesday.
- June 1897 Mabel Tattershall absent for the first time since 1892 — kicked by a horse.
- May 1900 Holiday in honour of Relief of Mafeking. Roll 85, highest attendance 77.
- June, 1900 "Visited the school today and presented Miss Burden with a supplejack, it being the only thing necessary for the good conduct of the school." Signed J. I. N. Mackie — School Committee.
- March 1903 Roll 99, present 90. New Headmaster, Mr Trimmer, finds school greatly overcrowded. Blackboards and maps urgently needed.
- April 1903 26 rifles, two whistles, one sword and one bugle received from the Education Department for Cadet Detachment. And in September Major Loveday in-



NEW ZEALAND.

Education Department.

# CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY.

(REGULATIONS FOR INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION OF SCHOOLS, CLAUSES 21 AND 22.)

This is to Certify that Dolly Bryant  
fulfilled the requirements for a Certificate of Proficiency at an examination  
held at Kumeroa, in the Education District of  
Kaukae Bay, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1905.

(Signed) 

Official designation: **Secretary**

EXTRACT FROM REGULATION 22 :—

"No one shall receive a Certificate of Proficiency unless he (a) obtains at least 30 per cent. of the possible marks in each of the subjects, English and arithmetic; (b) gains at least 50 per cent. of the possible aggregate marks in the following compulsory subjects—viz., English, arithmetic, geography, drawing; and (c) satisfies the Inspector that he has received sufficient instruction in the other compulsory subjects, and in the additional subjects, as required by these Regulations."

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- spected the Cadet Detachment. He reported, "A New Corps, but promising."
- February 1907 Thirteen boys from school attended Cadet Camp in Christchurch.
- December 1910 Average for year below 36. School loses second teacher. Attendance had improved greatly by this time but the Roll had dropped.  
For two of the First World War years no Committee was formed at the Householders Meeting but by April 1916 Kumeroa School once more had a School Committee.
- July 1919 Supplies of Dental Cream were distributed with cards and pamphlets regarding care of teeth.
- April 1925 School re-opened late owing to Infantile Paralysis.
- February 1926 Electric lighting installed in school and residence.
- February 1927 School closed for excursion to Foxton Beach. While bathing Mr J. O'Hagen member of School Committee, lost his life in the surf.  
Also this year 11 children learned to swim after being taken for swimming exercises in the river when weather permits.
- October 1927 Miss M. V. McDonald commenced teaching. In the Christmas holidays two years later Miss McDonald became Mrs Kemp and was sole teacher for 16 years.
- November 1931 The Dental Nurse visited and examined teeth of Primer children and reported that the teeth were above average.
- June 1934 Golden Jubilee of the school. About 300 old pupils, teachers and friends were present including seven foundation pupils. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed and a fancy dress for children was held in the evening.
- 1939 Religious instruction commenced. Radio was installed. Kumeroa School held its own lamb and calf competition with three lambs and 12 calves entered. They had previously entered in the Woodville Championship.
- December 1943 At a farewell to Mrs Kemp every family was represented and there was a school holiday granted by the committee. Mrs Kemp said, "Here I leave the place where I have been happy for so many years."
- July 1944 Diamond Jubilee — the School Roll was 20.
- September 1945 Four new entrants were admitted on the closure of the Otawahao Road School.

- December 1949 Miss R. A. Brown commenced conveying children from Otawahao to Kumeroa. Miss Brown resigned in August, 1950.
- September 1950 The bus service resumed. The bus, a Fordson Station Wagon, was purchased by local residents and driven by the teacher.
- July 1951 Flood from Awapikipiko Creek to edge of verandah of Schoolhouse.
- July 1952 A hole was dug for the septic tank.
- January 1953 Disastrous flood. School house and paddock covered in silt and silt reached concrete surrounding school.
- February 1953 A further flood. Teacher abandoned house and took up residence in factory house at Hopelands.
- May 1953 Tenders called for new school house on section opposite tennis courts and the school teacher was in residence in the new house by October of 1953.
- November 1954 The building of the new school on the present site commenced and in March, 1955 the new school was in use.
- May 1956 The old school was moved to the new site by parents and local residents. This room, originally called the film room and later known as the library, now belongs to the School Committee and is still in constant use.
- May 1959 Over 200 registered for 75th Jubilee celebrations. One first day pupil, Mr Charles Hall, was present.
- July 1959 First meeting of newly formed Home and School Association, and regular film evenings were held at school. School roll at 35 — school back to two teachers. The staff room built on to the school.
- Combined Country Schools Sports Days were held and sport was played with Hopelands School. Mr Cheyne was School bus driver.
- March 1961 A new rotary mower and piano were bought.
- September 1962 A combined Fancy Dress Ball was held with Hopelands School, a forerunner of many enjoyable evenings since.
- September 1963 District meeting to discuss raising funds for swimming baths, a milestone meeting in school history.
- February 1964 There was a Gala Day to raise funds for swimming baths.
- November 1965 After a tremendous amount of voluntary work by residents the school baths were opened. In December,

	after much swimming, certificates were given to 26 children.
March 1967	The start of Home and School ladies' working bees for the teacher. Curtains were made, sports uniforms sewn, library books were repaired and catalogued. Children took part in the music festival at Dannevirke.
1969	The School's first visit to Camp Kaitawa.
August 1971	The first of the tree planting days was held when Pinus Radiata trees were planted for future harvest by the School Committee.
May 1972	The adventure playground was constructed. The new classroom was erected, complete with cloakrooms and toilets and the senior pupils moved into it. This is the classroom at present in use.
November 1973	The school attended the opening of the new Hopelands Bridge.
February 1974	School picnic at Marima Domain. Very good venue but "weather somewhat inclement."
March 1974	School camped at "Pipi Bank", Herbertville.
July 1975	Heavy snowfall. School bus unable to do its run for three days.
September 1976	Two children to Christchurch to collect Award for winning first prize in Primary/Intermediate Section of the first National Schools Film Competition. Film called "The Four Heroes".
June 1977	Tree pruning working bee.
June 1978	School to Woodville for official visit of Sir Keith Holyoake.
June 1979	Visit by deaf pupils from St. Dominic's (Feilding).
October 1980	Senior pupils to Wharite — hike from the peak down through Coppermine Creek.
April 1981	School roll 20. Mothers commenced "play group" in the prefab.
May 1983	All pupils to Palmerston North for an exhibition of computers.
February 1984	Roll 9.

Throughout the years teachers have recorded in the Log Book "Energetic School Committee, one hundred percent district support and community involvement." Without this support there would not be the amenities, modern teaching aids and equipment taken for granted in the school today.

Today bus services and boarding schools allow every pupil access to

secondary education. There is no examination to pass before leaving primary school and education is compulsory to age 15.

The health, sight, hearing and speech of children are checked from the time they begin at school and many of the early diseases are controlled by vaccination. The Dental Clinic in Woodville takes care of dental health.

Misdemeanours committed today are much the same as in the early days although it is no longer a crime for boys to play with girls and punishment is much more subtle.

One hundred years on Kumeroa School, in spite of its small roll, is in good heart and still a focal point of the district.

J. L. Perry

## Kumeroa School

### Teaching Staff

#### HEAD TEACHERS:

1884—N. G. Hall  
1886—Mrs Lynch  
1889—A. E. Jones  
1893—Miss Burden  
1903—J. H. Trimmer  
1906—B. Bagley  
1907—L. J. Plank  
1911—Miss J. P. Grigor  
1915—Miss C. Milne  
1919—J. A. White  
1921—S. J. King  
1923—E. M. Le Petit  
1924—J. C. Sutton

1927—Mrs M. Kemp  
1944—Miss F. Lester  
1946—L. H. Mollring  
1947—P. J. McCarthy  
1950—C. R. Howlett  
1958—D. J. Dale  
1960—M. J. O'Brien  
1963—C. Perry  
1967—C. W. S. Olivecrona  
1970—R. H. Newson  
1975—R. McLennan  
1977—S. J. Williams  
1984—Miss C. McIntyre

#### ASSISTANTS:

1889—Miss Little  
1893—Miss G. Grey  
1906—Miss Gregory  
1907-10—Miss Waters  
1917—Miss J. Redwood  
Miss D. Thomson  
1921—Miss McBratney  
1957—Mrs N. Howlett  
1958—Mrs J. M. E. Dale  
1960—Mrs A. Oxenham  
1964—Miss M. Brunton

1967—Miss S. Chisnall  
1967—Mrs L. Compton  
1968—Mrs C. Huddleston  
1969—Miss R. M. Stanton  
1970—Miss W. L. Wells  
1971—Mrs F. Mears  
1973—Mrs C. Huddleston  
1974—Mrs B. Wallbank  
1976—Mrs P. Huddleston  
1979-80—Miss J. R. Burnett

## School Committee Chairmen

1884—Mr George Gilbert	1920—J. Leitchfield
1885—Mr Holloway	1925—Mr J. Cheyne
1886—Mr John Walshe	1929—Mr J. Little
1889—Mr Milner	1931—Mr A. B. McMillan
1891—Mr Bradford	1936—Mr W. Hutchins
1893—Mr J. I. N. Mackie	1946—Mr A. Ramsden
1901—Mr Bargrove	1951—Mr C. A. Fountaine
1902—Mr P. H. Lynch	1957—Mr D. Druce
1904—Mr R. Pattison	1959—Mr D. G. Wareham
1906—Mr Mackie	1961—Mr G. O. Miller
1914—No committee elected	1975—Mr W. Poulton
1916—Committee formed — ? Chairman	1977—Mr M. Poulton

## Early Schooling on the Otawahao Road

### Miss Davis's School 1928-1932

The first school in the Otawahao Valley was started in 1928 by the Davis family at their home 'Te Waerenga'. William and Margaret Davis and their family of five were a prominent farming family of those times.

The school was held in the homestead's drawing room and Molly, one of the three daughters, was the teacher. She had no teacher training, just a lot of common sense, and kept good discipline with the aid of a ruler and strap.

The roll was five and consisted of three Fountaines, Bert, Mabel and John, Rachael Poulton and Terence Kearins.

The Hawke's Bay Education Board's first inspection report was dated December 1928. Molly recalls her first visit by a Board Inspector. One pupil had moved on to the Kumeroa School and during a visit there the Inspector remarked on the child's good reading. Where did he learn this? At Miss Davis's school he was told. So a telephone call to Molly from the Kumeroa School teacher was the only warning she had. No time to panic! And so the Board became aware that a little school of which it knew nothing was operating.

Later the roll increased to nine with one pupil coming from the Totara Road in the next valley and boarding with the Poulton family on a weekly basis.

Some transport was provided by Molly's father. 'Pat' in the gig and sometimes 'Henrietta' in the buggy. This was usually in the afternoon for taking the Kearins, Fountaine and Poulton children home. They walked to school in the morning.

MISS DAVIS'S SCHOOL 1928/32



*John Fountaine, Terrence Kearins, Frank Fountaine, Teacher Miss' Davis, Janet Poulton, Trill Wilson, Rachael Poulton, Mabel Fountaine.*

OTAWHAO ROAD SCHOOL — 1938



*Jean Smythe, Ken Mickleson, Beryl Smythe, Jim Mickleson, Maureen Kearins, Doreen Smythe, Graham Ramsden, Philip Mickleson, David Beales, Michael D'Ath, Maurice Kearins, Cedric Poulton.*



To make her pupils stand up properly and develop good straight backs, Molly would have them lying on their backs on a board floor for what seemed like hours. This was done in a vacant shepherd's house and can easily be recalled. Probably not done on a regular basis.

Miss Davis's school was closed in December 1932 thus ending five years of the Otawahao Road's first school.

### **Correspondence School at Rangiwiu 1933-34-35**

Following the closure of Miss Davis's School some pupils went off to the Kumeroa School. Others in the years 1933, 1934 and early 1935 had Correspondence School lessons in the Poulton's 'Schoolroom' supervised by a governess; at various times Miss Arlidge, Miss Beauchamp and Jean Langtry. The roll was about seven drawn from four families. Maurice and Maureen Kearins, Rachael, Janet and Wilfred Poulton, Trill Wilson and Eddie Poulton.

Strict discipline and a lot of singing lessons at the piano are recalled from these years, one requirement of the governess being that she play the piano, and teach singing.

### **Otawahao Road School 1935-1944**

The next seat of learning, the Otawahao Road School, opened in April 1935 and was held in Mr Bill Smythe's shearers' whare. The first teacher was Miss M. J. Nelson. The roll was seven, Phil Mickleston, Beryl and Doreen Smythe, Maurice and Maureen Kearins and Janet and Wilfred Poulton.

The children came to school in various ways. Two or three on ponies, some on bicycles and others on foot; some barefooted, even on stormy or frosty winter mornings. The ponies were grazed in the paddock around the whare and sometimes in the large sheep yards. One got badly griped and nearly died through getting a tummyful of rich fresh grass. On another occasion two ponies were let out to graze on the road on Fountaine's Flat, there being no grass around the whare and sheepyards. Mr Grubner the 'Poundman' found them and two children had to accompany him home where a somewhat annoyed father had to pay up £2.

During shearing the children moved to a tent in Mr Charles Fountaine's large hayshed close by. Mice often nibbled the books and rubbers and caused distraction during lessons. As there were no windows the big double doors had to be left open for light, sometimes with the easterly drizzle drifting in. There was a tarpaulin laid on the ground and Miss Callaghan remembers the wind getting under it and upsetting her easel blackboard.

Mr Smythe's woolshed was used for play acting and physical education (where the wool bales were useful) and for the end of year break-ups and concerts.

Roy T. C. Williams was a flamboyant teacher, generous and with perhaps more money than was the usual lot of teachers of that time. When he left the school in May 1936 he bought handsome books as presents for all the pupils.

Miss M. Callaghan taught in the whare and in the new school in the years 1936-41. She lived in Palmerston North and boarded during the week with resident families. This necessitated her driving through the Manawatu Gorge early on Monday mornings. In those days cattle were allowed to be driven through the gorge, but had to be through by 7 a.m. Miss Callaghan recalls on several occasions pulling her little Morris 8 close in to the rocky bank while scary cattle were rushing past. Quite alarming for a young town-bred girl. On another Monday morning she was surrounded by a large mob of steers going her way and could feel them pressing against the sides of her little car until one reared up in the crush and landed on the bonnet.

The summer of 1936 was the year of the Polio Epidemic and schools did not open until well into the first term.

Mrs Davis, who always took a great interest in the school, gave a fountain pen annually for some years, to the pupil with the neatest work throughout the year. The first one went to Ken Mickleson now a paediatrician in Auckland.

On hot afternoons in the summer term Miss Callaghan took her children swimming in the Otawhao creek. The pool was in the Fountaine's paddock above Smythe's bridge where the creek ran into a papa bank. The pool is much the same now as it was nearly fifty years ago.

Following representations from the settlers, the Education Board built a one-roomed school on an unused roadway and close to the shearer's whare. It was opened in the third term of 1937 with a roll of 15. This turned out to be the highest roll obtained as in subsequent years it declined a little, 12 in 1938, 13 in 1939 and 1940 and down to ten in 1941.

This period of five or six years could be considered the halcyon days of Otawhao Road education presided over by Miss Myrtle Callaghan, a truly dedicated and loveable backblock teacher.

The School closed in 1944 because of a lack of pupils. The room was moved to the Wilder School near Waipukurau in November 1949.

Otawhao Road children found their way to the Kumeroa School and many went off to boarding school as soon as they were old enough.

So ended nearly two decades of pioneer schooling on the Otawhao Road.

P. W. T. Poulton



*Back Row: Mabel Fountaine, Millie Last, Phyllis Jones, Jessie Bridges, John Fountaine, Peter Miller, John Colhoun, Ossian Miller, Billy Jones, Doris O'Hagen.*

*Middle Row: Kathleen Miller, Irene Newhook, Helen Little, Mary Jones, Geraldine Little, Will Kemp, Dick Jones, H. Last, Herb Kemp, Ronald McMillan.*

*Front Row: Gladys Jones, Jean Last, Violet Robb, Mildred Hutchins, Marion Colhoun, Noel Jones, Ralph Last, Max Robb, John Bryant, Alan Johnston.*

## **Kumeroa School Golden Jubilee 8th June 1934**

(from a newspaper clipping)

### **Celebrations and Dance**

Friday, 8th June marked an epoch in the history of the little settlement of Kumeroa when the school celebrated its golden jubilee. Beautiful weather prevailed and there was a large attendance numbering well over 200, including Hon. A. E. Ransom, Messrs G. A. Maddison, chairman of the Hawke's Bay Education Board, H. S. M. Quigley, Rev. Waugh, and Rev. Frost, members of the Education Board, and many ex-pupils and ex-teachers of the school as well as a large number of residents of the district. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Hon. R. Masters, Minister of Education, and Mr Cuthbertson, a member of the Hawke's Bay Education Board, while congratulations were received from the "Dobson girls", Mrs Pease and the Farmers' Women's Division.

In opening the function, Mr A. B. MacMillan, chairman of the school committee, thanked all those present for coming along, hoping that the

meeting would bring back many pleasant and happy memories. He then called on Mr R. Pattison, one of the early settlers of the district, to address the gathering.

Mr Pattison was greeted with applause on rising to speak and gracefully acknowledged the tribute paid him. He expressed pleasure at being present on such an important occasion. He had been as long in Kumeroa as the school. He went there in April 1884 and had been associated with the welfare of the district ever since. There had been vast changes in many ways since the first settlers arrived some 50 years ago. Men and brave women who pushed out over the line into what until then was a no-man's-land. When he cast his memory back along those years and recalled the obstacles that had to be overcome and the hardships that had to be endured, he could not help feeling proud that he belonged to the same race of people but it was to the brave and courageous women of the early days that he took off his hat. They were often left on their own, invariably with a young family, while the husband was away earning a few pounds to keep things going and make a home. Those women had courage



*ROBERT PATTISON came out from Scotland with his parents in 1861. He obtained the Kumeroa farm in 1886 — 480 acres of solid bush. Five acres of cherry trees were planted in 1897, and he also had an apple orchard which eventually extended to 20 acres.*

of a high order. Mr Pattison addressed a few words to the children present and told them not to forget the race to which they belonged and above all keep up its best traditions. In the early days of the school, there was only one road which led out through Mr Gaisford's station and joined the main road opposite where the Oringi railway station now stands. All other tracks were only pack tracks and in winter time some of them were almost impassable. The one on which they now travelled to Woodville in their motor cars was like the rest, just a pack track and just beyond Mr Hales' homestead was just a bog. Now all

was changed. Gone were the pack tracks. Gone were the vast stretches of virgin bush and in their place were flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and comfortable homesteads.

Of all the pupils who had passed through the school during the last 50 years none had not been a credit to his or her parents and to the school. Throughout the history of the school they had been very fortunate in having men and women of a high standard to teach the children and he was pleased to see four of them present. They were Mrs Lynch, Mr L. J. Plank, Miss Burden and Mrs A. E. Dickens. The chairman of the school committee had asked him to extend to them a most cordial welcome to the golden jubilee. Before concluding, Mr Pattison mentioned specially two public spirited residents of Kumeroa — Mr T. F. Fountaine, who had given a most valuable prize to the school every year since 1890, and Mrs N. M. Burnett, who made the school a magnificent gift in the shape of a fully equipped tennis court. He thanked all those who had helped to make the jubilee function the success it undoubtedly appeared to be and in particular Mrs Miller, who had done all the secretarial work.

The Hon. E. A. Ransom, Minister of Lands, said that he was pleased to have been given the opportunity of attending such an important function and to meet so many old acquaintances and friends. He congratulated all those who had been associated with the school and complimented the present committee on the great progress that had been effected. Speaking on the primary production of the country, Mr Ransom said New Zealand looked to the farming community for its prosperity but the greatest difficulty today was to find paying markets. The attitude adopted by foreign countries was to shut their doors to our products. They sold their own produce internally at good prices and exported any surplus to Great Britain at greatly reduced prices which made competition almost impossible. If the world was to prosper it could only come from international trade but unfortunately the tendency seems to be in exactly the opposite direction and that being so, our only alternative was to trade within the Empire and for the Empire to close its doors to foreign imports. At the present time 88.6 per cent of our exports were going to British countries but there was no reason why the whole of our exports should not go to British countries. That the market was there, was recently stated by Sir Henry Page Croft, who in an appeal for the Dominions, said that Great Britain was still importing £172,000,000 worth of foreign agricultural products. The British farmer, of course, had to be protected but the British public could consume the whole of their own products and still find it necessary to make large importations. It was of paramount importance that our own products be of the very best quality not only to compete with other products but because the quality article would always command the best markets.

Mr G. A. Maddison (Hastings), chairman of the Hawke's Bay Education

Board, stated that the Kumeroa School was one of ten schools out of 200 schools in the Hawke's Bay Education Board area that had celebrated its golden jubilee. The school was opened on June 8, 1884, with an attendance of 35 pupils and that the records showed that in 1903 the attendance reached its peak, there being 106 pupils on the register. He expressed his gratification to the various committees during the past 50 years for the faithful service they had rendered in the interests of the children's education. They had always done their work in a businesslike manner, and it was noteworthy that none of the Board's records showed that any Kumeroa committee had ever applied to the Board for assistance. He facetiously remarked that he hoped that the present committee would not immediately send in an application. Kumeroa had indeed been fortunate in its school teachers and it was to those teachers that many of the ex-pupils owed their success in life. He congratulated the present committee on the advancement the school had made and the splendid order in which the school and grounds were kept. Addressing the present pupils, he impressed upon them to attend school regularly as their future life depended wholly on their school life, to work hard and play hard and so build up and maintain the principles of our great British Empire. In concluding, he asked the present teacher, Mrs Kemp, to grant the children a holiday on Monday, which intimation was received with loud cheers from the pupils.

Other members of the Education Board, Mr H. M. S. Quigley and Rev. Waugh and Rev. Frost, also briefly addressed the gathering.

Some of the early pupils of the school, Messrs Jack Wright, Harry Wright, I. W. N. Mackie and Mrs Burnett also spoke and entertained those present with many happy and humorous incidents of early school days in Kumeroa.

Mrs Kemp, the present teacher, called the roll of the foundation pupils of the school, the following answering as being present: Mrs C. Hyland, Mrs Louise Gilbert, Jack Wright, Harry Wright, Alfred Bunning, Hettie Bunning and Mary Debrecey. During the afternoon items were rendered by Mrs F. Shearman (recitation), W. J. Miller (songs) and folk dancing by a party of ex-pupils.

After the singing of the National Anthem, afternoon tea was dispensed and the remainder of the afternoon spent in renewing old friendships and the happy exchanging of reminiscences. In the evening a most enjoyable dance was held in the hall, the children in fancy dress having the floor until 10 o'clock. There was an exceptionally large attendance and the floor space was taxed to the limit. Music was supplied by a professional orchestra from Woodville, extra dances being played by Mr E. O'Hagen of Dannevirke. In judging the fancy costumes, Mrs H. M. Smith and Mrs C. S. Hyland had a most unenviable task in selecting the various winners. For the best fancy dress, John Fountaine as an Indian Prince and Geraldine Little as Crinoline were awarded the prizes, while Kathleen Miller as Grandma and Bobby Newbrook

as John Bull received the prizes for the most original costumes. Others in fancy costume were as follows: Frank Fountaine, soldier; Michael D'Ath, mechanic; Eddie Poulton, golliwog; Terence Kearins, Greek; Maurice Kearins, Robin Hood; Peter Miller, jockey; Ossian Miller, buccaneer; Colin O'Hagen, Simple Simon; Ronnie MacMillan, pierrot; Billy Jones, rolled oats; George Hutchins, soldier; Noel Jones, jester; Brian Bryant, soldier; John Bryant, soldier; Doreen Smythe, Little Red Riding Hood; Jean Smythe, toy soldier; Edna Hudson, folly; Irene Newbrook, O.K. Sauce; Mary Jones, Early Victorian; Allan Johnson, Tommy Atkins; Doreen Johnson, powder puff; Gladys Jones, pierrette; Marion Colhoun, star fairy; Shirley Bryant, daffodil; Trill Wilson, nurse; Rachael Poulton, gypsy; Janet Poulton, Alice in Wonderland; Wilfred Poulton, Mickey Mouse; Elaine Wareham and Olive Toogood, bride and bridegroom; Clare and Dulcie Toogood, two little girls in blue; Nola Sinclair, dancing girl; Joan Arrow, gypsy; Roslein O'Neil, Dutch; John Colhoun, pirate; William Kemp, jockey; Herb Kemp, Anderson's flour; Mildred Hutchins, Victorian lady; Max Robb, Maori; Vi Robb, marigold; Laura Robb, mother's help; Patsy Rodgers, duck and green peas; Maureen Kearins, butterfly; Geraldine Little, crinoline; Helen Little, Victorian lady; Jessie Bridges, home rule; Graham Zimmerman, cowboy.

#### KUMEROA SCHOOL — 1958/59



*Back Row: R. Lawrence, R. Wilson, D. Lawrence, K. Wilson, J. Wareham, D. Dale (Teacher).*

*Second Row: S. Agnew, T. Brown, D. Hutching, G. Bryant, T. Druce.*

*Third Row: J. Wilson, A. Brown, D. Wareham, D. Last, J. Druce, C. Wilton.*

*Front Row: R. Last, M. Hutching, S. Wilson, L. Wilton, L. Mear, L. Tangiora.*

# Kumeroa from 1926

## Recollections of Hilma Brown

The roads were all gravel with many pot-holes and uneven surfaces. The County Roadman, Mr Bill Parish, did his best with shovel and wheelbarrow to keep them in repair, with the occasional help of the Woodville County grader. The resultant humps on the grass verges delighted little boys who rode their bicycles over them.

The Post Office and Store, owned and operated by Mr and Mrs George Fulcher until the arrival of the motorcar closed their business, and the Post Office telephone was transferred over to Mrs McMillan as operator. The Rural Delivery Mail was delivered every week-day afternoon from Woodville by Mr Ralph Wills. There were only two other telephone lines in Kumeroa, with ten subscribers on each. The 138 went to Mr M. Poulton's in Totara Road and the 158 to Mr P. Poulton's on Otawhao Road. The telephone to Mr Hartgill at Otawhao Station was connected across the river to Dannevirke Exchange. In 1937 another line, the 31, was brought into Kumeroa; this also had ten subscribers and later 11 when Mr H. Last was added.

The dairy farmers who delivered their milk to Hopelands Dairy Company in milk cans on horse-drawn spring carts or wagons were Messrs Bill Miller, Ronald Robb, Les Thomson, Sam Colhoun, Chas Brown, N. McMillan and George Lovell and Dan McCool. Messrs Tom Bryant, Bill Hutchins, P. Last, T. Kemp, J. O'Hagen and O. Bridges separated the milk and sold cream to United Dairy on Pinfold Road and used skim milk to rear pigs. During World War II all milk had to go to Hopelands for cheese for the Army. The factory purchased their own truck to collect the extra milk.

A mobile farrier with his own forge called every week to shoe the horses on the farms. A butcher delivered meat twice a week as there was no refrigeration in those days. A baker, Mr Kruse from Palmerston North, delivered bread also twice a week and grocery orders were collected on Monday and delivered on Wednesday by Galbraith's from Woodville.

The Kumeroa Shop was later purchased and donated by Mr A. Ramsden to the Anglican Church and transported to its present site and redesigned. Some of the local brides who have been married there were Aileen Brown, Isobel Bridges, Reta and Mary Morison. Many christenings have also been witnessed there.

There was a very active Tennis Club with tournaments for top players to compete against other Clubs, also Tennis Club Dances for funds.

The Hotel was a residence for Mr and Mrs Teddy Kemp and later for Mr and Mrs Ian Carlyle.

Many Hopelands and Kumeroa girls were fruit pickers at Mr Cheyne's



raspberry garden and Mr Pattison's cherry orchard. These included Phyllis and Mary Jones, Isobel and Jessie Bridges, Flo and Jessie Brown, Madge Cranfield, Valerie, Noeline and Olive Toogood, Joan Arrow and Elaine Wareham.

By 1936 there were 35 pupils at School and Mrs Kemp was teacher. The pupils came on horses, bicycles or walked and some pupils who left in Standard VI rode their bicycles into the Woodville High School daily. Many others did correspondence lessons at School.

During the war Red Cross meetings were held in the Hall for making bandages, papier mâché splints and bowls, and sewing and knitting clothes and rugs for refugees. These women later formed a branch of W.D.F.F. Women's Division of Federated Farmers, which existed for several years then disbanded. The Women's Institute flourished for many years, then went into retirement over 50 years later.

The Dog Trials have been very popular with nearly all farmers and shepherds and has been held on the same property, then owned by Mr Cranfield and then expanded to adjoining properties. The year that Mr Bill Smythe won the New Zealand Shorthead and Yard with Queen was a real honour — probably about 1937.

The Easter Saturday Sports were held on Mr Melhuish's property opposite the Hall and incorporated the Athletic Club — running, cycling and walking races. Highland Piping and Dancing competitions were also held with a Sports Club Dance in the Hall that evening.

Many other dances were also held in the Hall, especially during the war years when so many of our local boys were farewelled before going overseas and a big Welcome Home evening for all those who returned safely.

Euchre card evenings were held in the Hall during winter months and later an indoor sports evening of bowls, badminton, table tennis, darts, etc.

To go shopping in Woodville was no problem for Mrs Charlie Newbrook. She would just take her little daughter Irene by the hand and walk. Mr Travers Kemp was also a walker. Mr and Mrs Jim and Ella Grant would mount their bicycles and Mrs Gladys Miller, Miss Pearl Lynch and Mr Dick Burton also did likewise for many years. Mrs Jones would drive her horse in a gig — most others by this time owned cars.

The farms were ploughed and cultivated with horse-drawn implements until tractors were used from about 1938. Mr Robert Pattison was first to own a steel-rim Fordson.

Some achievements of past pupils with apprenticeships and determination:  
Kevin McCool — Manager N.Z. Electricity Department.

Lynne Fountaine — Fully qualified Dental Surgeon.

Michael Brown — Engineer and Toolmaker with his own well-equipped workshop.

Colin Cheyne — Motor mechanic with his own motor garage and workshop. Angela Miller, Janet Brown and Anna Kiernan are school teachers.

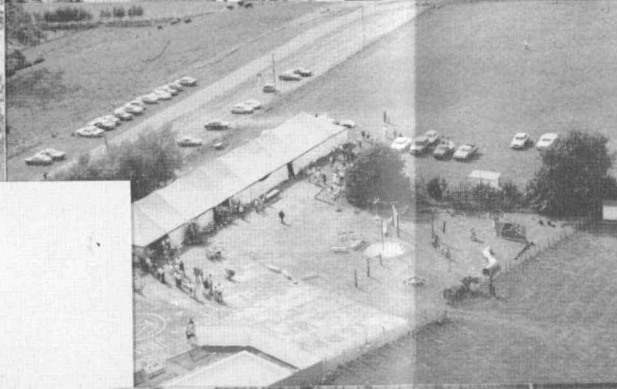
And not forgetting our own President of 1984 Jubilee Committee, Mr C. A. (Bert) Fountaine, an old Kumeroa schoolboy with secondary education at Feilding Agricultural College. A great nephew of Mr T. F. Fountaine, the original owner of the Fountaine farm; a pilot in World War 2; Chairman of Woodville County Council; a Justice of the Peace and he recently obtained a bus driver's licence for the Kumeroa School Bus to convey the children to school, thus keeping up his interest in Kumeroa School.



*T. F. Fountaine took up his farm on the Otawhao Road in 1886. Previous to that, in partnership with J. H. Montieth he had the contract for road formation and bridges from Woodville to Ngawapurua. He built a two-roomed cottage and store which was also Woodville's Post Office. He was the first Post Master.*

*On his Kumeroa farm he felled the bush, erected fences and sowed good English grasses.*

*T.F. liked wood working. His kowhai chairs and tables are still in use. He died in 1939 at the age of 96, a pioneer in the true sense of the word.*



## KUMEROA SCHOOL — 1969



*Back Row: M. Last, A. Miller, A. Kiernan, M. Morison, L. Miller, C. D'Ath.*

*Second Row: C. Olivecrona, G. Last, A. D'Ath, L. and S. Kiernan, B. Kiernan, F. Morison, R. Stanton.*

*Third Row: N. Hofmann, B. D'Ath, J. Ramsden, W. Crawley, S. Kiernan, M. D'Ath, A. Morison, T. Poulton.*

*Fourth Row: P. Hofmann, D. Crawley, M. Hewson, E. Poulton, R. Olivecrona, H. Miller.*

*Front Row: K. Hofmann, K. Severinsen, H. Ramsden, E. Hewson, K. Kiernan, N. Last, K. Olivecrona, J. Poulton, N. Crawley.*

## It Was Rough in Those Days

Tom Bryant was born in 1894 at Kumeroa, and entered Kumeroa School in 1899.

After he left school he worked on his father's farm at Kumeroa, where he has lived all his life. The farm is now owned by his son.

Tom remembers the first bridge over the Manawatu River at Hopelands, which was destroyed when the approaches were burnt. The present bridge is the third.

The railway had not long come to Woodville. A Mr Pattison who was, he thinks, the first land owner in Kumeroa, told him that when he came from Napier to inspect the Kumeroa land the railway went only as far as Norsewood.

Mr Pattison said he travelled from Norsewood to Woodville by coach and walked the final distance to Kumeroa across the hills and through the bush. When Mr Pattison returned, three years later, the railway line had reached

Woodville. He bought a farm and became well known in the district with his cherry orchard.

About 1850 there was a Maori Pa at Kumeroa. A war party came through from Horowhenua, and although the local Maoris were warned, the raiders caught up with them and killed them.

Tom says that when he was a young man he asked an old Maori if anyone had escaped the slaughter. The old Maori said that seven people had escaped, and that one of them was his grandfather.

When Tom's grandfather first went to Kumeroa to inspect the land he travelled from the Ngawapurua Pa in a Maori canoe. The farm had been recommended to him by the man who had surveyed it, so he bought it.

The licence to buy the farm was signed by Queen Victoria. A copy of this document, which is reportedly still in existence, is in Tom's possession.

Tom's first teacher was Miss Maidie Gray, who used to walk two miles to the School every day and home again. Miss Burden was the Headteacher. Later there was Mr Trimmer, Mr Bagley and Mr Plank.

Although there were no secondary schools when Tom was a boy, he did enrol in the Correspondence School of Hemmingway and Robinson for a couple of years.

The highlight of Tom's visits to Woodville was a trip by hansom cab from the centre of the town to the Railway Station for one shilling.

Tom Bryant — 1975

## **Kumeroa — Hopelands Sports Club**

The holding of the Kumeroa — Hopelands Sports on Easter Saturday 1984 marked the 67th annual event of the amalgamated club. Previous to about 1911 independent clubs ran meetings at Kumeroa and Hopelands. The first Hopelands Meeting was held on Mr Mitchell's property on River Road (now Mr Coats) and at least one was held on Mr B. Sinclair's farm. The Kumeroa meetings were held on Mr Thomson's (now R. Last's) farm not far from the present grounds.

About 1911 the two Clubs amalgamated and meetings were held at Mr Thomson's until the 1914-18 war intervened. After the war the Club was revived and activities were transferred to Mr Litchfield's paddock opposite the Hall. Easter Saturday was the day chosen — a feature that has remained ever since.

Athletic events, horse events, highland dancing, cycling and tug-o-war were included in the programme. In 1925 piping was one of the main items on the programme.

The Club resumed activities after the Second World War and in 1953 moved to its present grounds on Mr C. Mabey's property. These grounds have proved to be excellent, smooth and level and with all weather access. The terrace for spectators and cars gives a good view over the lower area where the horse and pony competitions and the novelty events are held.

Owing to counter attractions on Easter Saturday entries in Highland and athletic events fell off gradually and were finally abandoned. However, the horse and pony events were steadily on the increase and novelty events proved popular with the public. A more recent addition to the programme is the Dog Trial, a small show ring event which has created a great deal of interest.

At the conclusion of the day a dance is sometimes held and for many years a smoke concert was held during the year.

Many members and competitors have given long service to the Club. A Life Membership was started in 1954 in recognition of the services of the supporters. The Club is financially sound and it is hoped that it will continue to serve the community for many more years.

#### KUMEROA SCHOOL — 1974



*Back Row: Mrs Wallbank, Paul Cleghorn, Charmaine Powell, Rachael Speedy, Steven Perry, Dermot Miller, Seamus Keirnan, Julie Poulton, Andrew Davidson, Karen Hofmann, Janelle Powell, Sandra Speedy, Mr Newson.*

*Middle Row: Shane Powell, Paul Hofmann, Katrina Keirnan, Howard Powell, Elizabeth Poulton, Nicholas Hofmann, Helen Miller, Rachael Davidson, David Powell, Angus Morison, Nigel Last, Rosemary Poulton.*

*Front Row: Diane Fountaine, Mark Wallbank, Jane Wallbank, Michael Poulton, Richard Perry, Karen Cleghorn, Stephanie Poulton, Julian Powell, Keryn Newson, Jillian Newson, Vanessa Orme.*

## St. Andrew's Anglican Church

The building itself was originally Dobson's store and was situated close to 'The Lodge', now owned by Mr and Mrs K. D. Hutching. Mr A. Ramsden bought the store along with the land and house when the store was closed in 1930.

Mr D. W. Dunford and the Rev. G. W. Davidson saw the possibilities of using the store, with some alterations and additions, as a church in the district. Mr Dunford gave a small section of land and the building was donated by Mr Ramsden.

Mr W. H. Toogood did the actual moving which entailed putting the building on two totara stringers and sledging it a few hundred yards. He also added the chancel and put in the two stained glass windows.

The first services were held in 1931. The Vicar of Holy Trinity, Woodville, the Rev. G. W. Davidson came out on a regular basis. The first wedding celebrated at St. Andrew's was that of Miss Olwin Cranfield and Mr Norman Mabey.

The original two wooden candlesticks and the cross were made and donated by Mr Toogood. After the death of the Reverend Davidson, the family donated two brass candlesticks and a cross which were dedicated in his memory.

For many years Mr and Mrs Dunford and Miss Tattersall decorated the church for Harvest Festival with flowers, fruit and vegetables and a sheaf of wheat at every pew.

Owing to dwindling congregations regular monthly services were discontinued in 1976. Some well attended services have been held on Christmas Day since then.



## Kumeroa Sheep Dog Trial Club

About 1910 W. H. Gaisford formed what was known as "The Bush District Dog Trial Club" run by voluntary contributions. Trials were held near the main road just north of the Matahiwi Hill. Later it was shifted nearer to Dannevirke which made access difficult from Kumeroa until Claude Mackie and H. F. (Pompey) Cobb had the idea of a separate club in Kumeroa. J. I. N. Mackie was approached and he offered grounds and sheep if a club was formed. A public meeting on 25th January 1912 saw the formation of the Club with J. D. Ramsden elected President.

The first trials were held on Mr Mackie's property, Campfield, on 24th and 25th July 1912 after a severe snowstorm. Mr D. McDonald from Waitahora was the Judge for the two heading and one huntaway events. At this time there were about a dozen affiliated Clubs in the North Island. Today there are about 200 in New Zealand.

In February 1916 the Club went into recess and was revived in 1919 when trials were held near J. Little's home on Otawhao Station. All events were shifted to their present site on Jackson's Road in 1922.

After the Depression the number of entries began to increase and extra grounds on Messrs. Jackson and Beatson's properties had to be used. Competitors came from all over the southern North Island and the standard of entries was high. W. Smythe won the New Zealand Yarding event at Blenheim in 1937.





The Club carried on during World War 2 for Patriotic Funds so that members returning from active service were given a cheque to help with their rehabilitation.

A new clubhouse was built following the war and today a strong committee of ladies ensure a very high standard of meals are served to all competitors and committee men.

The Trials are now held over three days, run over five courses, with often more than 500 entries per meeting. Last year three of our members qualified for the New Zealand Championships. The Club owes its success to the support given by the local community of the Kumeroa and Hopelands Districts and is looking forward to its 75th Jubilee in 1987.

## **Kumeroa Domain**

At the end of last century when the railway from Napier was being constructed it was thought that the line would pass through Kumeroa and a town would be built there. Hence the reason for the layout of the present village site. Areas were put aside for Church, Police and Recreational Reserves. A Domain Board was formed to administer the last named and the ground was let for grazing. A tennis court was built in the south-west corner but after some years it fell into disrepair and closed.

After some time the Board went out of existence and the Crown Lands Department controlled the Domain and funds from rents were put aside. About 1930 the sum of £400 was accumulated. Aware of this, some of the residents woke up to the fact that this sum could well be put to some use for sport in the district.

In February, 1933 a public meeting was held in the Kumeroa Hall when a new Domain Board was formed and the money handed over to them. It was decided to build two tennis courts costing about £200 and these courts served the Tennis Club for many years. However, after many years these courts fell into disrepair and the Tennis Club ceased to exist.

In 1983 \$7,000 was raised by voluntary contributions from resident families and a Communities Facilities Grant from the Internal Affairs Department and this was used to re-surface the courts with concrete. Many working bees were held to clear and level the area and fence it.

In 1948 the Kumeroa Hall was incorporated in the Domain Board and has been kept in a good state of repair by them ever since. The Hall, painted for the Centennial, should remain a district amenity for some years yet.

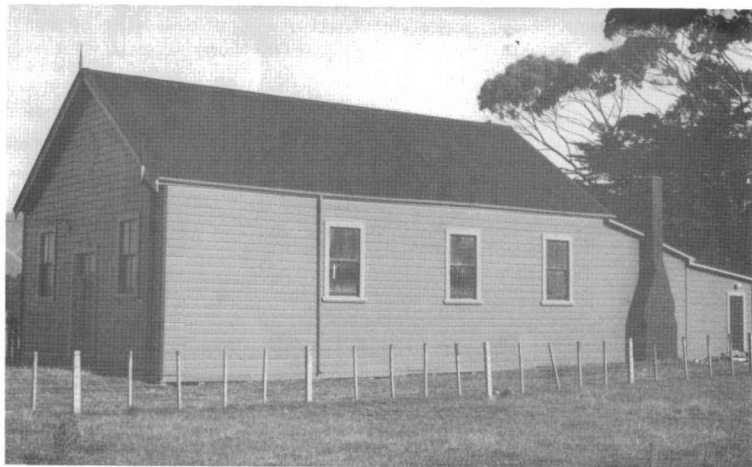
The name of the Domain Board was changed to the Kumeroa Reserve Board in 1980 which still keeps a careful watch on all the property involved.

## A DISTRICT FOOTBALL TEAM — 1943



*Back Row: Eddie Poulton, John Bryant, Alan Compton, Brian Bryant, John Fountaine, John Christian, Frank Fountaine, Ernest Toogood, Lincoln Hills.*  
*Front Row: Alan Arrow, Dave Mabey, Charle Mabey, Ossian Miller, Ron Mabey, David Druce, Bill Smythe.*

## THE HALL BUILT IN 1896



## Kumeroa Women's Institute

In 1930 a group of women decided to call a meeting in the Kumeroa Hall with the idea of forming an Institute for our district. Ladies present were: Mesdames L. Bryant, G. B. D'Ath, W. Davis, W. Fox, D. Dunford, C. Fountaine, W. Gray, W. Hutchins, M. Hudson, J. Johnston, W. Killock, T. Kemp, F. W. Kemp, B. McMillan, J. Little, W. J. Miller, J. O'Neil, J. I. N. Mackie, C. Mackie, G. Lovell, R. Mabey, — McDonald, C. Newbrook and Misses P. Lynch, M. Tattershall, I. Bridges, N. Davis, I. O'Hagen along with Miss Stops, of Wellington; Mesdames Burnett, de Malmanche and Vowell of Woodville; Mrs Purdy, Pahiatua and Mrs Walker, Mangatainoka.

Thus our Institute was formed on the 24th October 1930. Meetings were held every third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Kumeroa Hall and we were affiliated to the Wellington Federation. Later we were in the Bush-Wairarapa, then the Bush Federation.

In 1931 when the Napier earthquake struck, the Institute, along with other organisations, was responsible for providing blankets, clothing, food, etc., for earthquake victims and all members helped out where they could. 1931 also saw the Rose voted as our Institute emblem.

August 1932 saw a change of name to Kumeroa-Hopelands Country Women's Institute and this has remained with us. Membership reached 38 at one time, but the numbers made a slow decline in later years.

Highlights of the Institute's life have been prize winning courts in both Woodville and Pahiatua Shows, also catering for several years for the local dog trials. During the 1939-45 War we were very active in making and sending parcels of cakes, biscuits and other goodies to all soldiers who left from our district. Prisoners of War received donations through Red Cross from us.

Over the years Christmas Parties were held for district children as well as members, but in later years they had to be abandoned owing to costs. A dance each year, after the Sports on Easter Saturday, was another highlight. This was abandoned in 1970 owing to cost of music, etc.

In 1980 our Institute celebrated its 50th Birthday, on exactly the same date as it was formed, 24th October. We were all very proud to have with us Mrs F. Southee (nee Ivy O'Hagen), a foundation member. Members came from far and wide to celebrate this great occasion with us. But alas, three years later, our Institute had to go into recess, because of lack of members, this being a sorry day for Kumeroa C.W.I.

J. Hutching

# Kumeroa celebrates 100 years

(from the Dannevirke Evening News)

Kumeroa School was the centre for celebrations to honour the centenary of the school and district at the weekend.

The weekend began with a wine and cheese on Friday evening attended by 170 people accommodated in the school and a marquee.

Registrations began at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning and decade photographs were taken before lunch. The first decade had just one person represented — 93-year-old Ivy Cheyne of Woodville and the next decade had three people.

The 310 people who came to the luncheon were piped into the marquee by former pupil Karaline Francis (Brown) and former resident Malcolm Wright, who used to play for the Pahiatua pipe band.

## Trees planted

On Saturday afternoon the nine present pupils of the Kumeroa School planted two totara trees to mark the centennial.

Toastmaster for the evening dinner function was local resident Michael D'Ath and before-dinner speeches were a welcome by ex-pupil and chairman of the Centennial Committee, Bert Fountaine, welcome and toast to absent friends by Mrs Hilma Brown, widow of a former pupil, and guest speaker was Pahiatua MP, John Falloon.

Following the dinner there were a number of toasts and replies — to the school, to teachers and pupils, to former pupils and to the school committee.

The Sunday morning church service was conducted by the Rev. Felderhof with the prayers and blessing by the Rev. Father D. P. Levins who postponed his trip home to Ireland by one day to attend the celebrations.

The service was attended by 150-180 people and was followed by a luncheon provided by the ladies' committee.

On display during the weekend were old photographs and relics including a plough and other farm tools and equipment of the last 100 years.



*Miss Christina McIntyre, teacher at the time of the centennial celebrations.*

— Courtesy Dannevirke Evening News

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## TOAST LIST

### Toastmaster

Mr. M. J. D'Ath

### Welcome

Mr. C.A. Fountaine

### Guest Speaker

Hon. J.H. Falloon, MP

### The Queen

### Absent Friends

Mrs. H. Brown

### Grace

Mrs. E. Fountaine

### The School

Mr. C.A. Fountaine

### Reply

Mr. S.J. Speedy

## Hawke's Bay Education Board

Mr. D.F.W. Walker

### Teachers and Pupils

Mrs. J. Hutching

### Replies

Mr. R. Newson  
Mrs. G. Mitchell  
Mr. T. Druce

"School days, school days,  
Dear old golden rule days,  
Reading and writing and 'rithmetic  
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick.  
You were my queen in calico,  
I was your bashful barefoot beau,  
You wrote on my slate, 'I love you so  
When we were a couple of kids."

### School Committes

Mr. G.O. Miller

### Reply

Mr. M.A. Poulton

### Residents

Mr. G.F. Ramsden

### Reply

Mr. P.W.T. Poulton

"The more we are together,  
Together, together,  
The more we are together,  
The happier we will be.  
For your friends are my friends,  
And my friends are your friends.  
The more we are together,  
The happier we will be."



On Saturday afternoon former pupil Max Robb brought his spring cart and horse to the school and gave rides. A pioneer of aerial top dressing in the district, who has been spreading super for 35 years, joined in the celebrations with an aerial lolly scramble.

The weekend was also a chance for former pupils of the Otawhao Road school to meet again. This school was open from 1935-1944 and a former teacher, Miss M. Callaghan of Palmerston North, taught there for its first six years.

Fifty years ago at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations Mrs W. Miller was thanked for her work as Secretary.

Her daughter-in-law, Mrs Margaret Miller, was presented with a spray and thanked for her untiring work over many months as Secretary for the Centennial Celebrations.

## Thoughts from a former Teacher

The community of Kumeroa has given generous support to its school. Interest in the school has contributed significantly to many educational opportunities. To mind come pet show days, end of year functions, tree planting and other working bees, fancy dress balls, as well as school or class outings and camps to such venues as Pourerere, Herbertville, Kaitawa, Wellington and Turangi. Community interest in the progress of children assisted in keeping teachers keen to provide enlightening learning experiences for pupils.

In any field of endeavour there must be progress. The past 100 years have seen much in the way of change in Kumeroa School and District. As the second century begins, the interdependence of people — neighbours, landowners, hired help, contractors and teachers — will continue to give strength to the community. For 1984 and on very best wishes.

Rod Newson  
(Principal Kumeroa School 1970-1974)

A district is made up of many people of diverse talents. The bushmen who cleared the land, the fencers who fenced it, the farmers who farm it, both small holdings and hill country blocks.

The women who tended their families in primitive conditions in early days when large families were the rule and not the exception; the modern women who tend their smaller families, assist with the intensive farming of today and give their worth to outside interests.

The storekeepers and tradesmen, the teachers, the shepherds and dairy farm workers.

And always the children — learning and playing — the next generation. Children reading in a double bed with a candle between the pillows before the advent of electricity. Children swimming in the river and streams then and now. Children doing their lessons with slate pencils, children writing their stories with biros. Children growing up and fighting for our country in two World Wars — sometimes three sons from one family — sometimes the only son who never returned. Children leaving the district for further education and to follow their walks of life, spreading the length and breadth of our country and exploring others.

Many of Kumeroa's children came back to pay homage to the District at its centenary, to renew old friendships and reminisce. The Committee and present residents appreciate the effort made by so many to come so far.

The marquee is down, the fence is re-erected, the children are back in their classroom. Ghosts from the past are laid as photos and mementos are returned to their owners. The memories remain of a warm, happy weekend linking past and present.

J. L. Perry

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I was born in Dunedin Scotch Parents. Father Glasgow Mother Highland. They emigrated to NZ at different periods, both landed in Dunedin. met on a sheep station about 1865. after they married and settled on a small bush section, on the outskirts of Dunedin, and made a home there, split and sold firewood in Dunedin Dunedin had horse teams about 1870 so the population must have been considerable even then, as the settlers had only a few acres each the bush was soon cut out most of the settlers sold to a neighbour, to milk for the town supply. most of them

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came to the N. I where there were better prospects, my father went away shearing for many years in the summer months often from mid October till April, he held the worlds record for blade shearing 2500 his shearing cheque enabled him to spend most of the winter on his selection, this he continued to do when we came to the N. I He left Dunedin 1879 landed in Napier, stayed there 6 months he went into the country shearing and April he got a bush section at Klemeroa 10 miles from Woodville, but 17 miles there and 14 from Dannevirke He left Napier the end of April

Extracts from a notebook written by Jack Wright  
The soil house mentioned was built on the present Dunford farm quite close to the church. A few shelter trees and a large pear tree mark the site.



By train which ran to  
 Makotaku, in those days, stayed  
 in an empty share that night  
 and went on by waggon next  
 day to Dannevirke, stayed  
 2 sawn timber buildings  
 there a week, then went on to  
 Tchoraiti, where we got the use  
 of a 2 roomed slab whare, Father  
 my elder brother & I went to  
 Pumeroa, to build a sod house  
 which took 6 weeks, when

it was built, the <sup>rest</sup> remainder  
 of the family came by horses  
 and a dray, little or no  
 furniture in those days  
 Father made a table  
 There were no vegetables, but  
 plenty of meat, Pumpkins  
 and cabbage & docks  
 and wild honey.  
 the road men left pumpkins  
 all potatoes came from Hastings  
 peaches in season & docks  
 there was several hundred acres  
 of grass land, which nobody

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Owned, so all the settlers were able to keep a cow or two, and more later, The women made butter & sold it to the new settlers road men and bush fellers.

Some wealthy men from England Scotland, took up land offered later for selection, and the labor they employed increased. the population at first the women had a hard struggle, a lot of them never saw a town for three years, most of them did not have a dress

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good enough, they all without exception wore home made sandals at home, they kept their boots to visit the neighbours.

from one to 3 miles away excitement when the news of a new settler, one family from the S.I. 2 sons & 9 daughters and they had horses & a dray and a hand sewing machine One daughter a dress maker

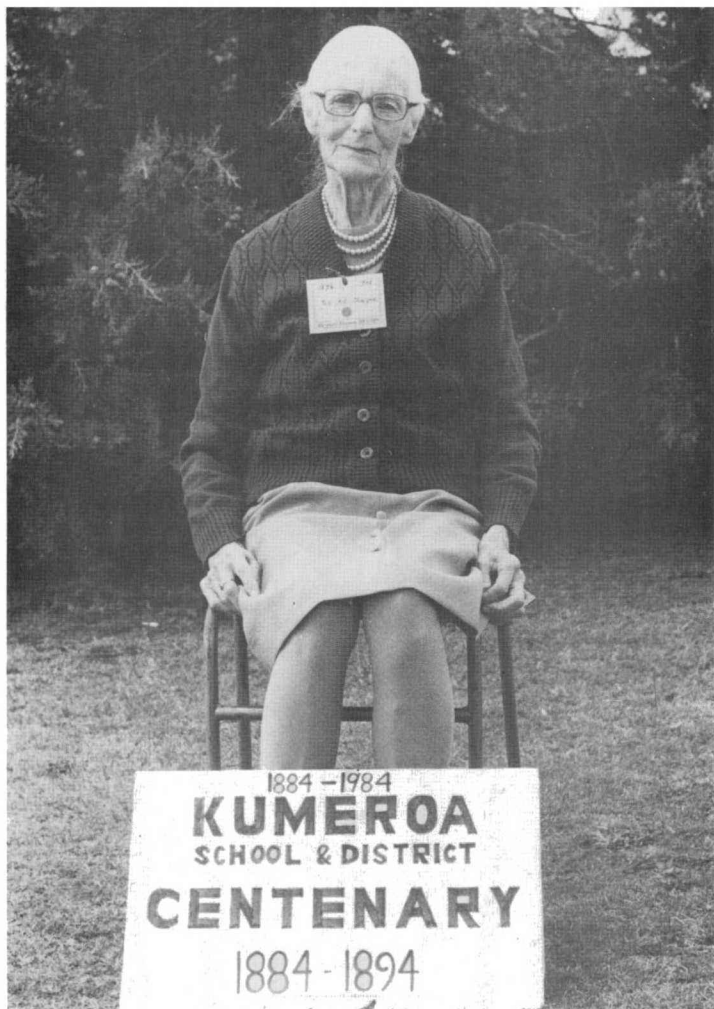
her brother took her in  
the dray with the machine to  
the neighbours in the morning  
and went back for her at  
night, she was in great demand

A big flood in the manawatu  
river, the store cart could not  
come from Dannevirke

2 men on a tree

A school starts opened, we dug  
the garden till the school-bill-ringing

We ate Konini berries and  
lawer berries. The wild  
horses were a nuisance  
We worked in bush before &  
Her school & Saturday and  
looked for lost cattle on  
Sundays, the store opened  
& sold lucky packets. I got  
a diamond & ruby ring



*Mrs I. Cheyne.*



*Back Row: L. Thomson.  
Front Row: E. Pritchard (O'Hagen), L. Salmon (Galbraith).*



*Back Row: E. Grant (Kemp).  
Front Row: C. Barkwith (Dragor), J. Shepherd (Farley).*



*Back Row: B. Wornall-Smith, J. A. Cheyne, J. O'Hagen, H. Carrington, L. Carrington.  
 Middle Row: D. Stratford (O'Hagen), M. Fraser (Dobson), I. Baker (McInnes), J. Gatchell (Brown), A. Howes (Bryant), B. King, J. Wood.  
 Front Row: M. Willoughby (Harmer), A. Annan (Harmer), I. Thomasen (Carrington), E. Hayes (O'Hagen), E. Procter (Hansen), F. Marshall (Dobson), M. Last, I. Goodman (Smith), W. Phillips (Cammock).*



*Back Row: N. Jones, W. Jones, R. Last, H. Last, K. McCool, G. Zimmerman, R. McMillan, W. Kemp.  
 Middle Row: M. Robb, R. Jones, P. Mickleson, G. Hutchins, M. Buchanan (Jones), O. Miller, J. Fountaine, C. A. Fountaine.  
 Front Row: K. Kilsby (Miller), E. Brown (Hudson), K. Mayo (Hudson), P. Singers (O'Hagen), P. Mettam (Jones), G. Mitchell (Little), G. Miller (Jones), V. Sanders (Robb), J. Shotter (Last), I. Farrell (Newbrook).*



*Back Row: P. Hutchins, I. Jones, R. Ramsden, E. Jones, C. Cheyne.  
 Middle Row: A. Jury (Brown), T. Bryant, E. Hudson, N. Hudson, D. Edwards (Bryant), C. McDougall (Bryant).  
 Front Row: B. Reid (Jones), G. Bressell (Jones), B. Cornwell (Zimmerman), S. Kopytko (Bryant), F. Katene (Mackie), D. Goodin (Cheyne).*



*Back Row: R. Last, A. D'Ath, D. Hutching, J. Druce.  
 Middle Row: J. Agnew, T. Druce, K. Wilson, J. Wogan (Wareham), S. Spackman (Agnew), A. Brown, D. Last.  
 Front Row: T. Brown, J. Boyte (Mettam), S. Percy (Mettam), E. Golding (Stubblings), R. Wilson.*



*Back Row: S. Spackman (Agnew), J. Wogan (Wareham), M. Dawson (Wareham), J. Bannister (Maurice).*

*Middle Row: B. Beattie (Bryant), K. Francis (Brown), M. Caffery (Smith), P. Sinclair (Stubbings).*

*Front Row: I. Fountaine, D. Ramsden, J. Hutching.*





*Back Row: A. Morison, B. D'Ath, A. Ramsden, C. Last, B. Fryer, N. Perry.  
 Middle Row: A. D'Ath, M. Cleghorn (Morison), L. Miller, J. Hindmarsh (Perry), B. Hagen (Fryer), Mr C. Olivecrona (Teacher), Mrs S. Olivecrona.  
 Front Row: C. Larking (D'Ath), A. Kiernan, S. Poulton, A. Wakely (Hauraki), M. Graham (Last), A. McDowell (Miller).*



*Back Row: N. Last, J. Powell, M. Poulton, R. Perry, R. Newson (Teacher), S. Kiernan, S. Perry, D. Miller.  
 Middle Row: M. Wallbank, P. Cleghorn, S. Poulton, D. Fountaine, V. Orme, J. Wallbank, M. Cleghorn, S. Powell.  
 Front Row: S. Speedy, Mrs Wallbank (Teacher), J. Powell, E. Poulton, R. Speedy, C. Powell.*



*Back Row: D. Blake, P. Fountaine, M. Whakatutu, M. Kiernan, T. Whakatutu, M. Hutching, C. McIntyre (Teacher).*

*Middle Row: W-J. Powell, S. Bush, P. Orme, B. Speedy, S. Fountaine.*

*Front Row: M. Whakatutu, K. Wright, Y. Whakatutu, A. Hutching, G. Blake, B. Poulton, N. Wright.*



*Back Row: M. D'Ath, C. Poulton, G. Ramsden.*

*Middle Row: W. Poulton, P. Mickleson, R. Ramsden, R. Poulton.*

*Front Row: D. Elliot (Smythe), J. Kiernan (Smyth), M. Callaghan (Teacher), J. Drake (Poulton), B. Rickaby (Smythe).*



*Back Row: I. Fountaine, O. Miller, G. Ramsden, W. Poulton, J. Morison, H. Fountaine, M. Wright, P. Poulton, M. Bush.  
 Second Row: M. Perry, R. Perry, D. Druce, M. Poulton, C. McIntyre, C. Johns, Y. Whakatutu, L. Meads, A. Brown.  
 Third Row: S. B. Ramsden, S. Poulton, M. Miller (Secretary), C. A. (Bert) Fountaine (President), H. Brown, J. Perry, M.  
 Gorrie, J. Hutching.  
 Front Row: P. Johns, N. Perry, M. Wright, C. Morison, A. Morison.*

