

RERE SCHOOL HISTORY

P R O L O G U E

45 km's Nor-west of Gisborne is Rere a little hill country community. The school has a stable roll usually in the low 30's. There are 19 families supporting the school. The road is tarsealed and the trip to town only takes about 30 minutes. The school lies in a picturesque site with three rooms and a swimming pool. The school is equipped with sports equipment. There are three different routes that the school bus goes up to collect children. The teachers names are Mr. Brown and Mrs. Brown. The teachers aide is Mrs. Taylor.

School Committee

Chairman - J. Moroney

Secretary - D. Murphy

M. Jobson

J. Lane

F. Findson

Researchers

Donna Harris

Jeremy Hyland

Paul Moroney

Karen Murphy

Annabel Taylor

Background

The first registered land deed in the Rere district is dated 1875, when a number of Maoris legally claimed ownership to a large area of land which stretched from the present district of Ngatapa to Rere and Wharekopae. In 1885 the Williamson family purchased from the Maoris a large block of land known as Okapuatiu no 1. Block. Other settlers moved into the Rere and Wharekopae districts to settle including in 1884 a small area by the Rere Falls. The coach from Gisborne travelled this far and passengers travelled further had to go by horse back as the road finished at the Wharekopae River just above the falls. At this time Maoris shearers used to travel from the Ureweras to work in woolsheds of the Poverty Bay and adjoining hill country farmlands. On their return they used to stop at the Rere store to spend their wages as their chiefs would demand any money they returned with.

Life in the early 20 century was very harsh for the early settlers with bush to be cleared either riding tracks or where roads were formed they often became impassable in the winter time. Wool was baled into small bales to be packed on horse back to Gisborne. Fat lambs had to be driven on foot to the works in Gisborne also. It took several days to reach Gisborne by horse and buggy. A big improvement in the life of the district was the opening in 1906 of the Rere Bridge. Prior to that the river was crossed by fording the stream which was sometimes swollen by rain.

There was no school in the area until 1914 when a school was opened with a roll of nine pupils. They mostly rode to school and if living too far away they would be taught at home.



Rere Teachers

Year	Teachers	Year	Teachers
1914	Miss I.F Oldridge	1942	M.G Bagley
1915	Miss I.F Oldridge	1943	M.G Bagley
1916	Miss I.F Oldridge	1944	M.G Bagley
1917	Miss I.F Oldridge	1945	Unknown Miss Hale
1918	Miss W Canter	1946	J.W.T Sheppard
1919	Miss J.R Sneddon	1947	J.W.T Sheppard
1920	Miss J.R Sneddon	1948	M.J Fisher
	August 16th R Bulman	1949	W.G Duncan
1921	R Bulman	1950	J.V Ingram
1922	R Bulman	1951	J.V Ingram
1923	R Bulman	1952	J.V Ingram
1924	Miss A.P Bromne	1953	I.M Sutton
1925	D Sharp	1954	I.M Sutton/R.G Dann
1926	D sharp	1955	H Paraone
1927	Unknown	1956	H Paraone
	May M.A Mann	1957	H Paraone
	Nov D Mc Diarmid	1958	G Brown
1928	Unknown	1959	G Brown
1929	Unknown		3rd term B.R.Hawbly
1930	Unknown		R.J Finch
1931	Unknown	1960	R.J Finch
1932	Unknown	1961	R.J Finch
1933	E.S Beattie	1962	R.J Finch
1934	E.S Beattie		2nd term C.M Wall
1935	E.S Beattie		F.L Bignell
1936	J.H Scott		3rd term A.K.M Scott
	March 9th A.H Webb	1963	A.K.M Scott
	November 22nd J.M Bennett		2nd term P.C Sharp
1937	J.M Bennett		M.D Hacche
1938	G West	1964	M.D Hacche
1939	G West	1965	M.D Hacche
1940	J.C Hase	1966	M.D Hacche
1941	J Braingan	1967	K Webber + K Faulkner
	May 27th B.V Birryman	1968	K Webber + K Faulkner
	November 8th W.D Mc Lean	1969	J Townshend + K Faulkner
			2nd term K.G Brown+J Brown

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Year

Teachers

1970

K.G Brown + J Brown

1971

K.G Brown + J Brown

1972

K.G Brown + J Brown

2nd term D Alexander + G Alexander

1973

D Alexander + G Alexander

2nd term J Sharp

3rd term Mrs P Graham + Mr P Graham

1974

Mrs P Graham + Mr P Graham

1975

Mrs P Graham + Mr P Graham

2nd term Mr Bruce Thompson + Mrs Charlotte Tho

1976

Mr Bruce Thompson + Mrs Charlotte Thompson

1977

Mr Bruce Thompson + Mrs Charlotte Thompson

1978

Mr Bruce Thompson + Mrs Charlotte Thompson

1979

Mr Rod Hibbert + Mrs Judy Hibbert

1980

Mr Rod Hibbert + Mrs Judy Hibbert

1981

Mr Paul Brown + Mrs Gaye Brown

1982

Mr Paul Brown + Mrs Gaye Brown

1983

Mr Paul Brown + Mrs Gaye Brown

1984

Mr Paul Brown + Mrs Gaye Brown

School Rolls

Year	Start	End
1914	8	
1915	8	7
1916	12	
1917	12	
1918	16	
1919	11	
1920	11	
1921	15	
1922	15	
1923	13	
1924	10	
1925	9	
1926	13	
1927	9	
1928	12	
1929	11	
1930	17	
1931	18	
1932	14	
1933	13	
1934	13	16
1935	26	27
1936	26	27
1937	26	27
1938	26	27
1939	26	27
1940	21	20
1941	21	20
1942	21	20
1943	21	20
1944	12	10
1945	14	10
1946	17	10

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The school opened for the first time ever on the 18th of May, 1914.
There were eight children on the roll. They were:-

William Evans
Leslie Rowland Ferguson
Evelyn Elsie Ferguson
Lena Ferguson
Marjorie Isabel Glennie
Kathleen Mavis Glennie
Margaret Francis Glennie
Geoffrey Glennie

Miss I.F.Oldridge (Teacher)

26th November 1915

School closed because of epidemic of measles.

8th February 1916

Children raise money to buy a desk, blackboard, cupboard and other articles. They raised 3 pounds.

24th September 1917

Dominion Day. Pupils sang hymns and saluted the flag.

28th April 1918

The teacher changed the holidays because she couldn't get back from holiday.

10th June 1918

School closed for one week because teacher had the mumps.

23rd February 1920

Mr. Bullians (school inspector) visited the school to help plan the years work. He said "Children work very nicely and appear anxious to get on."

26th April 1920

School committee elections were held. The following were elected:
Chairman Mr. Semmens
Mr. Evans
Mr. Mayfield
Mr. Hooper
Mr. O'Sullivan

11th - 15th April 1921

School closed due to measles epidemic.

26th May 1922

The school was closed and disinfected because of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever.

5th December 1925

Mr.A.J.Harris provided christmas tree and acted as Father Christmas.Mr. Rawnsley spoke a few words to the children. Then a dance was held and the money raised was to buy a lawn mower.

5th March 1928

School opened in a new building two miles from Rere. (Near George Winiatas present house)

3rd February 1931

Terrible earthquake. No damage to school.

June 1932

All children suffered from eye blight.

August 1932

Builders add a porch and woodshed to school.

27th August 1933

School committee plant 100 trees on North bank.

29th July 1935

School closed for three weeks because of whooping cough.

31st March 1936

Mr.M. Faulkner and Mr.A. Davis came to school to discuss the playground and fences. Work was carried out levelling playground.

16th October 1936

The teacher has got influenza and has closed the school to medical attention. (Mr. Webb died several days later)

1st. February 1939

School opens in a new building (the existing old room) many things not working.

7th June 1939

School closed early and parents took children around Rere t plant gum trees (77) on Mr.G.C.Faulkners at what was to be called the Rere School Plantation.

20th October 1939

School closed for ten days for Scarlet Fever.

27th March 1940

School closed for two days on account of the death of the Prime Minister.

8th April 1941

A wireless set (battery) was installed at the school.

7th September 1943

School opens for third term three days late as teacher could not get to school due to flooding.

10th September 1943

School closed for special holiday in honour of the capitulation of Italy.

7th March 1944

As there were only three children at school as the weather & road conditions were extremely bad I closed the school early

14th August 1945

Closed school at lunchtime having heard the 11a.m. broadcast the surrender of Japan.

13th February 1947

Power board employees who are now working on a new line to Rere were asked by me to speak to the children on the dangers of explosives which they use.

21st April 1947

Received note that school will be admitted to the Country Library Service from 1-4-47.

"School" signs erected by A.A. patrolman on either side of the school.

1st December 1947

School closed by health department as a precaution against the spread of infantile paralysis.

2nd February 1948

School remains closed to children until precautions taken by the Health department on account of poliomyelitis epidemic are lifted.

1st March 1948

School opened today after lifting of poliomyelitis restrictions.

14th June 1950

School closed on the forenoon in order to accompany chairman and committee member for interview with Mr. Hill, board member, re school buses in this district.

26th June 1950

First "Janet & John" series.

3rd July 1950

The attendance for this day was extremely low; 10 present out of 27. The heavy rain had caused many slips completely blocking the Tangihau Road and the road east of the school. There was a fatal accident in the district on Saturday 1st of July.

3rd October 1950

School reopened this day having been closed since the 18th of September owing to an illness of the teacher.

7th February 1952

School closed this day owing to the death of His Majesty King George VI. Teacher in attendance at school and flag raised to half mast position. A talk will be given to the children on this matter.

10th November 1952

School closed this day for senior children to be taken to the intermediate school to take part in the Cook County 75th celebrations.

29th May 1953

Mr. Taylor-Smith, programme organiser from 2XG, and a technician arrived this morning to make a recording of the coronation ceremony to be observed in all schools. The children did very well and most interested in the tape-recorder. The recording is to be cast on Sunday night as part of a programme entitled "The Children of Gisborne Present....."

7th August 1953

Workmen started concreting playground.

5th April 1954

The carpenters arrived this morning to begin erecting the new prefabricated classroom..

9th December 1954

Walter Hyland today slipped and fell off the forms. He fell rather badly and broke his right arm. He was taken to the Gisborne hospital by Mrs. Kemp.

1st February 1955

New schoolhouse is occupied for the first time.

2nd February 1955

First run made by school bus driver (temp) Mr. Gemmell.

7th March 1955

Heat wave continues. Water in tanks very low.

25th March 1955

Gravelling of school house frontage begun.

6th April 1955

Water short. Using water from reservoir (temp).

16th April 1955

First heavy rain for months.

14th April 1955

Heavy snowfall. Heaviest for over 20 years.

15th July 1955

School closed. Heavy rains previous night caused numerous landslides which completely sealed roads.

1st August 1955

Epidemic of measles.

1st July 1956

Completion of water storage tanks.

17th September 1956

Completed basketball court.

22nd February 1957

Old lavatories pulled down.

24th June 1957

New heater bars installed.

5th February 1958

Staffroom and infant bench completed.

17th June 1959

Garage at house completed.

5th October 1959

Carpenters proceeding with alterations.

4th October 1960

Two Gisborne carpenters began laying concrete to give us a tennis court.

25th February 1963

Received 4 copies each of 12 books - Ready To Read.

11th March 1966

School picnic held at Waihirere Domain.

15th April 1966

Bus broke down and took three days to repair.

18th August 1966

Three members of the British Isles rugby team visited the school. They were: J. Teller, D. Grant and D. Thomas.

10th November 1967

Hugh McMillan hit on the head with a piece of hardboard used for film blackouts. Required stitches.
School bus involved in collision in Peel St. with Mrs. Maudes car.

5th October 1969

First Rere School newsletter published.

24th October 1969

School bus crashed into a PNT truck.

17th November 1969

Senior room children travelled to Napier for the week.

27th March 1972

Work begins on the construction of the new swimming pool. continued for about 6 months.

19th November 1972

Mr. Warwick Hickling took the first plunge in the new pool.

22nd November 1972

Board builders begin on new classroom (existing Senior room). This replaced the prefab which Mr. Murphy duly purchased.

1st November 1973

School fathers commenced work on building the changing shed for the school baths.

18th December 1973

Official of swimming pool.

6th June 1974

Working bee to erect retaining wall for parking area in front of school.

17th June 1974

School closed due to bus immobilisation from slips etc. after storms the previous day.

5th August 1974

School dam behind house burst and emptied at 6:30 a.m. approx.

23rd July 1975

Heavy fall of snow at school. 1 - 2 c.m. lay on concrete area. Hylands snowed in.

17th November 1975

The school was closed for the day because of 2 large swarms of bees appearing on school. After one or two exciting chases the bees were dispersed.

5th December 1975

New trampoline arrived from Gisborne. The children raised approximately \$160 of the \$200. A very good effort.

11th February 1976

Working bee held to commence construction of adventure playground. Tyres installed plus sandpit.

15th June 1976

Mr. B. Cattle and Mr. W. Hyland commenced extensions to P.E. shed to allow additional storage.

14th November 1976

Senior room children travelled to Auckland for a week. Billeted with pupils of Birkdale North Primary School.

25th January 1978

Wharekopae School is to be closed. The ten children were enrolled at Rere. Roll of Rere 43.

22nd February 1978

Serious mishap with the bus when the battery caught fire. All children escaped without injury.

7th December 1978

Enrolled Barney Devery. Roll now 59 but have been informed that Wharekopae School will reopen in 1979.

March 1979

Rere school children run to town raising money for World Vision.

29th May 1981

New library moved in by transporter.

6th October 1981

Senior room children involved in trip to Napier for the week. Billeted in Tamatea.

26th May 1982

Video equipment purchased for the school.

23rd June 1982

Householders meeting held at school to discuss the future of the Rere Hall. Decided to demolish the building. Tenders called.

18th March 1983

Senior room children leave for a trip to Camp Kaitawa.

2nd June 1983

Photo-copier purchased for the school.

Interview With William Evans

A First Day Pupil 1944

1. WHERE ABOUTS DID YOU LIVE? AND CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE STATION THAT YOU LIVED ON AT RERE?

It was either owned or leased by a Mr. Pat Parker and Mr. Pat Parker took me to school on my first day on the front of his horse in the pouring rain. I was living on what you would call the Coopers Estate. The woolshed wasn't all that far back down the road from the hall.

2. HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE IN RERE?

Six months approximately.

3. WHAT OTHER DISTRICTS HAVE YOU LIVED IN SINCE MOVING FROM RERE?

After Coopers Estate I moved to Wainake then I went to the Ormond school and then moved to Tokomaru Bay for six months before going to High School.

4. WHAT WAS SOME OF YOUR FAMILIES BACK GROUND?

Before my father came to New Zealand he was a baker a Pork butcher, Grocer and then he came out here and was a farmer and then he had a farm where the show grounds are now. Then I had a brother killed in a very serious shooting accident. Then Mr. Pat Parker set us up with a married couple and thats how we got to Rere.

5. WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL DAYS?

Lovely days but only one day I played the war, by the way the first school was at the Rere Hall.

6. WHAT KIND OF GAMES DID YOU PLAY AT SCHOOL?

I'm sorry I can't remember but I know we weren't allowed down near the river in case we fell in and went over the Rere Falls.

7. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT MISS I. F. OLDRIDGE?

She was a lovely person. She used to come and stay the weekend and I used to get up early and go and jump into bed with her.

8. WHERE ABOUTS DID SHE NORMALLY LIVE?

At the Glennies and they owned the shop.

9. HOW DID YOU GET TO SCHOOL?

I walked but I did have a pony but I don't think there was a horse paddock by memory.

10. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CAME OUT TO RERE?

Oh it was about ten years ago I should think.

11. DID YOU NOTICE ANY OF THE CHANGES?

Not from memory except that in my day when I went to

school there was Electric, the place reticulated for Electricity and the generator was run by the falls. And every now and then a log would come down and block it, actually the Rere lighting system is now over at the Hotel at Tiki Tiki.

12. DO YOU REMEMBER MUCH OF THE WAR DAYS AT SCHOOL BECAUSE THE TEACHES WOULD HAVE BEEN MOSTLY WOMEN TEACHERS WOULDN'T THEY?

I was at Central School at the time and I can remember walking home and thinking about what it was all over. We had two or three return soldiers and they were teaching but mostly women teachers. Then there was Mr. Larson and he had a big scar across the back of his head and we were frightened of him frightened to go to school. He used to use a bike tyre tube to hit us and boy did it hurt. He actually ended up in the asylum.

13. WHY DID YOUR FAMILY LEAVE RERE?

One of the reasons why my family left Rere was because he was a baker. The road from Ngatapa to Rere was clay. When the wool wagons went in which would be January and February and they would take in a years supplies of flour and other groceries. When my father left Rere he brought a taxi.

14. WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR JOBS AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL?

I served my apprenticeship in Nimons as a fitter and turner and then went on refridgeraters for about eight years and then the slump came. My father had started a store at the corner of Stout street and Fitcherbit street and he was a pork butcher so he made sausages you know just to make a few bob because of the slump. And then I took over from him and it became the Evans baking factory by the Royal Hotel. Then I shifted to where the Evans baking Factory is now and I brought the Ice Cream Factory.

15. WHAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT DID YOU GET AT SCHOOL?

I don't think Mrs. Oldridge would have hit us she was a real lovely person and a beautiful piano player. She used to play for the send-offs. By memory there were alot of send-offs. I those days instead of having one or two shepherds they would have three or four and all those young fellas were enlisted for the war and there also used to be scrub cutters and fencers developing the country. There was an old fencer who worked for Mr. Pat Parker. They used to say that he was so old that they would find him one day dead in a post hole. His family lived in Manutuke they used to reckon that when he went home they would take the cheque off him and let him stay the night and then give him the boot and send him back to make so more money. By the why there was no sport for the children but for the parents Mr. Glennie and Mrs. Stephens were the champion trap shooters.