

75 *Year Jubilee*

A History of the Auckland Kindergarten Association

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Auckland Savings Bank
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the Auckland
Kindergarten Association

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1983

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Introduction

A "Kindergarten Association" is one authorised by the Minister of Education, under the terms of the Education Act, to establish and manage kindergartens within its district. There are approximately fifty-four such Associations in New Zealand, of which the Auckland Association is by far the largest. Each Association functions under its own constitution but within guidelines laid down by the Department of Education. The activities of the various Associations are co-ordinated by a national organisation known as the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

All Associations are responsible for the observation of certain requirements relating to the administration of the kindergartens, as set down by Government. They must ensure that a well-balanced professional programme is maintained in their kindergartens, and are further responsible for the employment of the professional staff in the kindergartens. Associations also have the responsibility for the administration of all Government monies made available, and must make sure that each kindergarten under their control administers its finances in a satisfactory manner. While Associations are responsible for all kindergartens in their districts, certain responsibilities are delegated to local kindergarten committees.

The management of a Kindergarten Association is carried out by a Council, elected annually from the members and representatives of local committees.

This history, written at the request of the Auckland Kindergarten Association, attempts to provide an account of the first seventy-five years of the Association. There are two sections to the book: chapters one to seven, which outline the development of the Association itself, and chapter eight, a series of histories of each kindergarten ever established by the Association.

Almost all of the information for this book has come from the records of the Association. These include the published annual reports, and numerous boxes of unpublished correspondence, minutes, reports, and the like. The completely free access that was given to these files is very much appreciated by the author.

Although this history was commissioned by the Association, the views expressed in it are those of the author, and are not necessarily those of the Association.

Brian Marshall
Auckland, 1982

It will be noticed that many of the figures given in this book predate decimal currency. One pound (£) sterling comprised 20 shillings (/-) each made up of twelve pence (d). A guinea was 21 shillings (£1/1/-). At the time of the changeover to decimal coinage a pound was deemed equal to \$2.00. This bare equivalence takes no account of the effects of inflation. As a very rough guide, the value of the pound in 1910 would have been in excess of twenty times the value of the dollar today.

1. 1908-1910: *Beginnings*

The beginnings of kindergarten activity in Auckland are difficult to document. It is known that in July 1888 the Auckland Education Board granted the use of a building in Howe Street to a Mrs Lilly for a kindergarten. In 1897 the building was destroyed by fire, but at that time was no longer being used for kindergarten purposes.

By 1908, when the Auckland Kindergarten Association was established, there were two kindergartens already functioning in Auckland. One was in Remuera, the other in Epsom, and neither was free. Both however were fairly well attended.

The Auckland Kindergarten Association, which was established to provide *free* kindergarten services in Auckland, was formed on 8 October, 1908. The first meeting of the Council took place on 3 November of the same year, and the first annual general meeting of the Association was held on 26 February, 1909.

Much of the credit for the establishing of the Association must go to Martha Washington Myers, usually referred to as Mrs Leo Myers. The driving force and inspiration behind a free kindergarten system in Auckland, Martha Washington Myers was a woman of culture and ability, endowed with a keen sense of humour. American by birth, she had seen in her homeland the benefit to children of early kindergarten teaching, and its value in developing citizenship.

She could also point to the benefits accruing from free kindergartens in other New Zealand centres. Dunedin had established its first free kindergarten as long ago as 1889, while Wellington had established its first in 1905.

The constitution of the Auckland Association clearly sets forth both the objects and the administration of the newly formed body. The Association was to become a centre of co-operative action, arranging for the opening of kindergartens in Auckland. It was to provide the necessary organisation for the training of students as teachers, and was to grant diplomas of efficiency to successful students. Most importantly though, it was to assist in the establishment of kindergartens in the suburbs of Auckland for children whose parents could afford to pay for their education, and to establish free kindergartens for the children of the city poor. As it later turned out, the kindergartens which were established were all free.

It was also actively raising money. While the Government was not prepared to pay for a trained kindergarten trainer, it would pay a capitation of £2 per child on the number of children attending the kindergarten school, and would subsidise up to a "reasonable amount" an expenditure for equipment.

The Association raised money in a variety of ways. A sale of work and Christmas trees by the friends and children of the Remuera Kindergarten in December 1909 raised £35 for the free kindergarten fund. "An excellent dramatic entertainment" the same year, given by the "Full Moon Club", raised a further £44, and a garden party in December added another £32. In 1910 a performance by the Ponsonby Literary and Rhetorical Society added £10 to the coffers, a garden fete netted another £26, and a donation from the Auckland West Kindergarten Trustees gave a magnificent £100 boost.

Even so, the Association was still a long way from actually establishing its first kindergarten. It had, however, done its cultivating in the right patches, and a rapid procession of events brought the first free kindergarten to fruition much quicker than members of the Association might have envisaged.

From the very beginning it had been felt by those who were pushing for the establishment of a kindergarten, that it was the slum population of Auckland which was most urgently in need of kindergarten services. Freemans Bay was chosen as the first site because of the large number of workers' children there, many of whom were "badly envired". It was argued that the "excellent teachings and uplifting aims of the kindergarten [would] have full scope" in such an environment.

The speeches given at the opening of the Campbell Kindergarten throw some light on the situation in the Auckland slums, as perceived by those who had an early involvement in the affairs of the Association. Mrs Leo Myers, for example, noted that in Auckland there were slum children who were inevitable in a community where there were the idle and the thrifless, the degraded and the wasters. The question was whether the neglected children should be allowed to exist in "unwholesome surroundings". Some were destined to be thrown out into the streets, into noisy back yards, or shut up in dirty kitchens, either "wilfully neglected or left while father or mother were out at work. The free kindergarten would provide a means to place such children in a brighter and more elevating environment, to bring out what was best in their natures by a natural development, and make them truthful, self-respecting and industrious".

Certainly Freemans Bay was far from being the most pleasant part of Auckland. A slightly earlier description of the area states:

Membership of the Association was open to all persons interested in the education and well-being of young children. The annual subscription was set at one guinea, for which fee both husband and wife could join, and at the end of 1908 the Association could boast a membership of 41. By the end of 1909 this had grown to 64 members, and to 74 by the time the first kindergarten was opened in 1910.

The management and control of the affairs of the Association was vested in a Council, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents (one male, one female), a Treasurer, two secretaries (again one male and one female), and ten members, their numbers likewise equally divided between the sexes.

The new Association was quickly into action. Only twenty days after its formation, a demonstration of kindergarten work was given at St Mark's Hall, Remuera, before a large number of parents, well-wishers, and importantly, the Minister of Education, George Fowlds. The Auckland Association was extremely fortunate in having a very sympathetic Minister who had already given support to the kindergarten movement in Dunedin. He stated that the Government was prepared to subsidise pound for pound free kindergartens, under certain conditions, provided the subsidies would lead to efficient teaching. Any reasonable proposition put forward by the Auckland Board of Education would have his favourable consideration.

The Association found others to be helpful as well. The Inspector General of Education gave valuable advice about the most effective ways of taking action, while the Principal of the Auckland Training College, H. A. E. Milnes, also gave his time and assistance. In conjunction with the principals of the kindergartens in Remuera and Epsom he prepared a syllabus for the course of training of the student teachers; the students on the books of the Association were admitted to lectures at the Training College and the Technical School.

Although it was better to have students taught at the Training Colleges than those not taught at all, the Association favoured employing graduates from one of the kindergarten colleges in America or in England, students well versed in the Froebel system of educating children.¹

While the Association courted the Education Department and pushed for its own teachers, it was active in other fields as well. It had secured a number of girl students willing to take up kindergarten work, and had managed to include amongst the membership of the Association a considerable number of people of influence and philanthropic views.

1. See chapter 7 for the development of kindergarten teacher training.

“The homes of the workers . . . occupied the gullies of Newton, Freemans Bay and Parnell. . . The houses were tiny five room single-storey wooden bungalows set close together on a fifth of an acre or less. The front wall of the house was flush with the pavement leaving no space for gardens. They presented a drab site, crammed along the narrow streets that criss-crossed the gullies . . . Trees were absent in the gullies for all space not occupied by housing and streets was used for washing lines, small sheds and rubbish tips.”¹

Clearly there were no facilities where children could enjoy themselves.

Some people felt that as the kindergarten was to be for the benefit of the city, a more central location, preferably near the Town Hall, should be chosen. Such a location would be more easily accessible to a larger number of people. The Association quickly responded that careful thought had been given to the location of the kindergarten, and apart from the obviously greater needs of Freemans Bay, the possibility of being granted a good site at no cost had decided the matter. The Association was anxious, however, to establish kindergartens in various areas, and if the public could “suggest localities where good can be done and free sites be obtained, the Association would be only too glad to co-operate with them”.

Having determined that the first kindergarten should be sited in Freemans Bay, the next problems were the acquiring of the site, the erecting of a building upon it, and the raising of the necessary funds to do both.

It seems that an initial approach for a site in Beaumont Street had been made to the Auckland City Council, but this fell through when the Council realised it had already leased the property to somebody else. An approach was then made to the Auckland Harbour Board, and this met with a much more pleasing response. The Association requested the lease of lot 23, measuring 100 feet by 30 feet [30 metres by 10 metres], in Victoria Park, fronting on Patteson Street. The Harbour Board felt it could vest the land in the Association in the same way it had already granted land for a Sailors' Home. An amendment to the Harbour Boards Bill then before Parliament was agreed to by the Harbour Board, and the Association found itself with a site.

More good fortune was to come the way of the Association. In January 1910 it had written to Sir John Logan Campbell (who had

1. Armstrong, R. W., 1958. Auckland 1896, an urban geography. Auckland, unpublished M.A. thesis, p.68-69.

already donated Cornwall Park to the city) asking for his assistance in the foundation of a free kindergarten school. Campbell replied favourably in the following terms:

“I am in receipt of a letter. . . asking my assistance. . . The objects which your association have in view command my warmest sympathies, and anything I can do to assist in the formation of the character of the children who will ultimately become the citizens of the queen city of New Zealand claims my keenest interest. . . I do not doubt that the Auckland public would provide your association with the necessary funds, but as it is desirable that the good work should not be delayed, and believing that an institution from which so much is anticipated cannot be in existence too soon, I have had plans of a kindergarten school prepared, which I herewith submit for your approval. The plan is designed to suit the site which your association has obtained, and it gives me pleasure to ask your permission to defray the cost of the building as a gift from Lady Campbell and myself. The only condition I make is that your association shall undertake to maintain and keep open the building as a free kindergarten school.”

With great joy the Association accepted Campbell's offer. His gift included the cost of equipping the school, and enabled the Association to get to work on its first kindergarten without financial difficulty.

There is a tale, first printed in the 50th annual report of the Association, that Mrs Leo Myers had given an address at a luncheon about the desirability of establishing a free kindergarten in Auckland; sitting beside Mrs Myers was Logan Campbell, and according to the tale Mrs Myers found a cheque for £2,000 on her plate when she sat down after finishing her address. Alas, this entertaining story must be dismissed as fiction, for not only did the Association specifically write to Campbell for assistance, but there is ample evidence in Campbell's papers¹ that the bills were actually paid as they came up.

While the building was being erected, temporary accommodation was offered for the kindergarten. The Vicar and Vestry of St Matthews offered the Parish Hall as a temporary meeting place. Subsequently, and in spite of objections from the Labour Party urging that no kindergarten should be assisted by the Auckland City Council unless the kindergarten was under direct municipal control, the City Council offered a large room under the pavilion at Victoria Park as temporary

1. Auckland Institute and Museum Library. MS 51. John Logan Campbell, Folder 223.

premises. This offer was accepted, and on 22 February, 1910, the kindergarten opened there.

Work on the new kindergarten building continued. It was to be in brick, and the plans were in the hands of the architect Charles Arnold. Materials for the furniture arrived in January 1910 from San Francisco. The Director of the new kindergarten, Margaret E. Gibson, arrived from Sydney to take up her duties. While in Australia she had studied the management of the numerous free kindergartens there and had become acquainted with the system of teaching taught at the Sydney Training College. Logan Campbell presented a flag and flagstaff for the new building, and Lady Campbell a portrait of the King.

On 19 October 1910, before a large crowd, Logan Campbell handed the keys to the newly completed kindergarten building to L. J. Bagnall, who was Chairman of the Association's Council as well as Mayor of Auckland. Campbell declared the kindergarten open, adding in his speech: "Long may it remain so, and may the children be destined to go forth as well ordered and worthy citizens of the land — the ripened fruit of the Free Kindergarten".

The kindergarten appears to have got off to a fine start. In the temporary premises the rollcalls in February and May had comprised 13 and 27 children, but in the third term, in the new building, the rollcall had shot up to 60. At first parents thought it was rather a favour to let their children attend, and attendance was very irregular. On wet days the kindergarten was sometimes practically empty. Towards the end of 1910 children were coming much more regularly, and parents were beginning to show an appreciation of the work being done. A Mothers' Club was formed in October and in December a Plunket nurse gave a series of five lectures about the feeding and care of little children.

The kindergarten was in full swing in 1911. The children made various expeditions; to the blacksmith and boatbuilder at work, to the sawmill, the fire brigade and the railway station, and to Remuera Kindergarten. They were engaged in sowing seeds in a set of window boxes which had been donated so that each child might have a garden of its own. Mothers' meetings were held once a fortnight, and well attended, and the Plunket nurse gave more of her lectures.

There are a couple of contemporary press reports describing the benefits of the new kindergarten. The first is from the *New Zealand Herald*, dated December 1910:

"The splendid environment of the kindergarten, with its healthful and bright surroundings, is already having a beneficial effect on the minds and bodies of the little ones attending. They all looked chubby and rosy, and all appeared to love the ladies who looked after them so well."

The *Weekly News* in May 1910 offered this description of the kindergarten:

“We were fortunate in being able to see the children at their games, which, with their lessons, are all built on the one great plan of unity. They play in a circle, thus teaching the little ones that they are part of a whole, and that by all keeping the circle unity is formed, and yet just by one getting out of line that circle is spoilt. Of course when making toys out of plaster or digging in sawdust etc., no line is kept. Then, too, the furniture of the school has all been specially made, the tables cut out in geometrical squares and quite low; the chairs are quite tiny. As Froebel, one of the greatest authorities on the kindergarten system, puts it: ‘Children are brought into being, into a world with objects much too large for the awakening mind of the child to grasp’ . . . children from the age of three to five are admitted to this excellent school, when the mind is most elastic, and are taught to be tidy, clean, and industrious, thus making the work of the primary schools infinitely easier, and instead of the reading, writing, and arithmetic, the three H’s are substituted, head, hands, and heart. Some of these children are brought from the most wretched surroundings. . . The head mistress (Miss Gibson) visits each child’s home, and thus knows the environment of each nature. . .”

Clearly the Association could feel pleased with the progress it had made by the end of 1911.

2. 1911-1930: Steady Growth

The period between the establishment of Campbell Kindergarten and the onset of the 1930s Depression was one of expansion followed by some financial uncertainty, culminating in a consolidation of the work earlier done.

Seven new kindergartens were opened during this period: Newmarket in 1912, St James in 1913, Myers in 1916, Onehunga in 1925, Ponsonby in 1926, Sunbeams in 1927, and Otahuhu in 1928. Because of the Depression the next kindergarten, Haeta, was not opened until 1936.

Even before the Campbell Kindergarten had been opened the Association had expressed its desire to establish kindergartens in all those parts of Auckland where there was a need. A press report in 1912 noted this hope, and wrote of a possible future time when a kindergarten would be connected to every primary school in New Zealand. The President of the Association in 1913 expressed the hope that in time kindergarten work would arouse so much interest that the public would insist that a kindergarten be attached to every school.

The Newmarket Kindergarten was opened in June 1912 in the Oddfellows Hall¹, Newmarket. Great difficulty was experienced in finding suitable quarters, and the room used was not only too small, but located between the tram lines and the railway, was poorly sited as well. "We are still waiting for a site or for some great-hearted man like Sir John Logan Campbell to give a home for the Newmarket Free Kindergarten", noted the Association's annual report for 1912. With the exception of a Government grant of £2 per pupil and a small grant for furniture, the new kindergarten was started entirely with the funds collected by the Association.

In February 1913 the Association established its third kindergarten, St James, at St James Hall, Wellington Street. The St James Bible class made its premises available free of charge for kindergarten purposes, and 43 children were admitted in the first week.

1. The Association's Annual Report for 1912 names the Oddfellows Hall. According to both the *Auckland Star* and *New Zealand Herald* reports the kindergarten opened in the Foresters' Hall.

An entirely different affair was the establishment of Myers Kindergarten. Myers did not have to worry about inadequate space or the security of its tenure in some borrowed hall. It did not even have to worry about finding the money to purchase equipment. The kindergarten was the gift to the Association and to Auckland of Arthur M. Myers, M.P., who also presented Myers Park to the city.

For some time the Association had wished to establish a free kindergarten somewhere near Karangahape Road, in what was then the centre of the city and where there was a large artisan population. Plans for Myers Kindergarten were drawn up in early 1915, and the foundation stone laid at the end of that year. The kindergarten was formally opened in November 1916 by the Governor-General of New Zealand, though classes had begun the month before.

There are fascinating contemporary accounts of the new building. One report in the *New Zealand Herald* described it as "one of the prettiest and most effective that have yet been erected in Auckland, the tiled, gabled roofs, cream rough-cast walls and red brick finishing of Renaissance design giving it a most striking and picturesque appearance". The *Auckland Star* was equally enthusiastic. It commented that "there can be little doubt that the kindergarten... is one of the best-equipped institutions of its kind in Australasia. Throughout, in equipment, in design, and in surroundings, it is replete with brainy little commonsense ideas and devices which aim chiefly at killing that tyrannical ogre of the children's lives, cramming. In the first place, it is a handsome building. . . A spacious verandah, and above it an equally fine balcony, are the features of the front. . . at the back an imposing entrance, with flights of red steps leading to the upper storey only, gives anything but a back-door impression".

Inside the building, the ground floor comprised a central hall or 'Circle Room' some 40 feet by 20 feet [12 metres by 6 metres], from which three classrooms and various other rooms opened, including rooms for teachers and students training to be teachers. Upstairs there was a large room for a class of backward children, and sundry other rooms.

Outside the building it was proposed to create about 65 separate tiny flowerbeds, so that each child could be taught elementary gardening, and be the proud owner of his or her individual plot.

By the end of 1916, then, the Association had established four kindergartens. Campbell and Myers were in good spacious buildings. Newmarket had just been forced to move to another building because of poor location and insufficient space, and St James was starting to look for another building because its accommodation was proving

unsatisfactory. While developments had been fairly rapid, and results were clearly evident, the Association was now experiencing financial troubles. A proposal to open a kindergarten in Ponsonby in 1913 had to be turned down mainly because of the Association's financial situation, which has been strained to the utmost in acquiring a property in Eden Street to resite the Newmarket Kindergarten.

As early as 1911 the Council of the Association expressed the view that a large addition to the numbers of annual subscribers and donors was needed if new kindergartens were to be opened. While the annual report for 1912 noted that income had more than covered expenditure, "which favourable position is greatly due to the kind and liberal assistance afforded by the good friends of the Institution", the situation in 1913 was not so reassuring. With the government subsidy due but not yet paid, the ordinary income and expenditure left a debit balance of about £40. The annual report for 1913 urged strong efforts by both the Association and the kindergarten committees to increase their membership and their funds. Financial difficulties continued in the following years, the Association finishing 1915 with its accounts showing a deficit of £158, and another deficit, of £91, in 1916. Not until 1917 did the income and expenditure account show a credit balance, and then it was less than £6. This however appears to have been the turning point in the Association's financial affairs, for at the end of 1918, with increased Government subsidies, and renewed efforts by the Ladies' Committees, the Association had £493 in its account to carry forward to 1919.

Coupled with the drive for a larger membership was a suspicion on the part of the Association that the general public was not really appreciating its work. The Annual Report for 1915 noted that subscriptions received for that year amounted to only £79/10/-, "a sum totally disproportionate to the scope and character of the work undertaken for the benefit of the children of Auckland". The report for 1916 lamented that "the good work done gratuitously and willingly for the benefit of the children of the city deserves a better and more sympathetic response". At this time the Association was deriving its income from members' subscriptions, the fees paid by the student teachers, bequests and donations, while it was paying teachers, bearing the costs of training staff, disbursements on buildings not chargeable to the kindergarten committees, and general expenses. Income was insufficient for those purposes, and a much needed increase in the salaries of the kindergarten head teachers and assistants was simply not possible. The bank overdrafts at this time emphasised this point.

As early as 1911 the financial problems of the Association were being publicly aired. Sometimes it was suggested that a takeover by

the State might be the solution. At a public meeting held at Government House in 1911 the president of the Association made an appeal for funds to increase the Association's work. He claimed there were three important principles underlying the kindergarten system. It was idealistic, it was individualistic, and it was socialistic. "The work had high and lofty aims, it paid attention to the individuality of each child, and it taught the principle of true socialism — each for all, and all for each — in the little community formed by the children". The element of socialism was further developed at the same meeting by the chief inspector of the Auckland Education Board, E. K. Mulgan (who in 1914 and again in 1918 was president of the Association) and by C. J. Parr, the Mayor of Auckland. Mulgan argued that no educational system was complete which did not provide for little children. He and the Mayor agreed that the State should do this work, and believed that in years to come it would actually take it up.

Considering the financial state of the Association in its early years, such an option must have had some attraction. Nevertheless, both the Association and the separate kindergarten committees continued to raise their own funds in a variety of ways. An incentive for fund-raising by the individual kindergartens came in 1916 when kindergarten committees became responsible for their own finances.

There were a variety of ways to raise funds. One continuing source was from subscriptions, although the amount gathered by each kindergarten could fluctuate wildly from year to year. St James, for example, collected £113 in subscriptions in 1917, but only £19 in 1918 and £70 in 1919. Table 1 shows the amounts gathered each year by way of subscription. Some of the early figures for Campbell do not appear because it is not possible to distinguish in the accounts between subscriptions and donations. All figures are taken to the nearest pound. The total amount collected up to 1930 was over £3,800.

Other means of raising money included garden fetes, concerts, 'At Homes', and sales of work. The Newmarket Kindergarten had a garden fete in 1912 which raised £92 ("the children . . . performed some old English dances and games on the lawn which were greatly appreciated"), another in 1913 raised £73 towards a new building; a third fete in 1914 resulted in another £36 being added to the funds. A garden fete hosted by Lady Liverpool in 1913 raised £69 for St James Kindergarten. Myers Kindergarten was not so lucky. It wished to hold a garden fete in Myers Park and to charge admission, but the City Council opposed the application on the grounds that it was wrong to allow anybody to charge for admission to a park.

Kindergarten 'At Homes' had the double advantage of not only raising money but also providing an opportunity to display the work

Year	Campbell	Newmarket	St James	Myers	Onehunga	Ponsonby	Sunbeams	Otahuhu
1911	5							
1912	28	38						
1913	n/a	13	3					
1914	n/a	35	5					
1915	n/a	96	29					
1916	40	72	14	47				
1917	29	83	113	19				
1918	28	71	19	25				
1919	30	65	70	31				
1920	39	64	70	25				
1921	43	64	24	19				
1922	26	68	48	53				
1923	30	55	44	41				
1924	35	99	37	43				
1925	31	76	44	42	53			
1926	34	76	79	61	21	40		
1927	34	74	37	33	20	39		
1928	29	74	33	63	29	41	69	15
1929	27	82	93	42	14	55	52	8
1930	30	79	78	35	46	51	63	25
Total								
Amount	518	1284	840	579	183	226	184	48
Average to 1930	30	68	47	39	30	45	61	16

Table 1: Amount collected through subscriptions by each kindergarten, 1911-1930.

of the kindergarten. The press coverage that often followed such functions did no harm either. Sales of work were often profitable. The mothers from the Campbell Kindergarden were meeting once a week in 1912 to make clothes for sale at jumble sales, while a sale of work held by Newmarket Kindergarten in 1918 raised over £128, which was a very substantial amount in the wartime conditions then prevailing. The Myers Kindergarten sale of work in 1918 was opened by Lady Liverpool, wife of the Governor-General of New Zealand.

Concerts were yet another means of raising funds. One held on behalf of the Newmarket Kindergarten raised over £100 in 1919, but the major fund-raising event of this kind was in 1920 when the Butterfly Revue, staged in the Town Hall, saw over £1,000 distributed amongst the four kindergartens.

Fancy-dress balls were also found to be profitable. One held in the Town Hall in May 1919 saw £110 added to the coffers of Myers Kindergarten, and another in 1923 resulted in over £200 being added to the funds.

Bequests assisted the Association. From 1915 onwards the Association received £100 per year from the Dilworth Trust Board, and in the same year the J. C. Macky bequest of £500 was received, followed by the same amount from L. J. Bagnall after his death in 1917. By the end of the 1920s these bequests were each adding about £30 each year to the Association's funds. It was not until 1935 that the Association started printing a Form of Bequest on the inside front cover of its annual report. This form continued to appear until 1949. Of more value in financial terms were the contributions made by the Victoria League from 1924 to 1928. Its Daffodil Day in 1924 resulted in £40 for the Association, and the same amount in 1925. The following two years both saw £60 contributed by the League, but in 1928 only £27 was forthcoming, and thereafter nothing at all. Possibly it was an early victim of the Depression.

Levies on the individual kindergartens were begun by the Association in 1925. That year £280 was levied, £70 from each of the functioning kindergartens. The same amount was collected in 1926, but in 1927 the levy was reduced to £50 per kindergarten. By 1930 this was netting £400 for the Association.

The most important source of finance, though, was from Government subsidies. Table 2 indicates the actual amount received each year between 1910 and 1930, and shows the Government subsidy as a percentage of the total receipts of the Association each year. The percentage fluctuated considerably, reaching 40% in 1930. In 1917 the Department of Education increased the subsidy from £2 to £2/10/- per child (average attendance), but the 1918 annual report of the Association

lamented the fact that, while on the one hand it was pleasing to note that the efforts of the Association were receiving increased recognition, on the other it was regretted that the Government did not realise the necessity for more liberal aid. The Association felt that its teachers were underpaid, (now the responsibility of individual Committees), the schemes for training students suffered from a lack of adequate equipment, and most serious of all, the Association's ability to establish new kindergartens was being gravely hampered.

Year	Total Receipts	Government Subsidy	G.S. as % of T.R.
1910	425	61	14
1911	506	89	18
1912	569	59	10
1913	527	77	15
1914	505	81	16
1915	496	86	17
1916	508	185	36
1917	338	123	36
1918	1558	356	23
1919	2426	817 ¹	34
1920	3092	406	13
1921	3107	469	15
1922	3421	506	15
1923	3563	480	13
1924	3551	521	15
1925	2033	674	33
1926	2418	742	31
1927	2117	823	39
1928	2642	972	37
1929	3029	1160	38
1930	3287	1300	40
Total	40118	9987	25 ²

Table 2: Total receipts of the Association, Government subsidy, and the Government subsidy as a percentage of total receipts, 1910-1930.

Notes:

- 1) £483 normal subsidy plus £334 towards St James property.
- 2) Average percentage, 1910-1930.
- 3) The total cost of running the kindergartens in 1979 was \$2,374,000, of which the Government contributed \$2,059,000 or 87%.

In 1919 a Government subsidy on the land purchased as a site for the new St James Kindergarten enabled the Association to pay off a mortgage of £350 on the property. No further mention of Government subsidies is made in the annual reports until 1931, when the Government announced the cessation of all grants. Until that year the finances of the Association remained in a sound condition. The comment in the 1929 annual report was typical of most of the reports for the late 1920s, and carried the usual proviso: "The finances of the Association as a whole are in a very satisfactory position. It is to be remembered, however, that the increase in the cash balance will be used to provide additional buildings and furniture for the kindergartens."

An obvious indication of the improved financial situation of the Association was the opening of new kindergartens each year between 1925 and 1928. Onehunga (later named Cuthbert), was opened in November 1925, the first new kindergarten to be opened by the Association for nine years. Like Newmarket and St James it had early site problems. Ponsonby, the sixth kindergarten to be established, opened in the All Saints Schoolroom in February 1926, partly with the assistance of donations from the four oldest kindergartens. Sunbeams opened in early 1927 in the Eden Terrace district (the Glen Innes Sunbeams was established in 1963) and Otahuhu began operation in the St Andrews Hall, Otahuhu, in September 1928. The long-term suitability of the buildings used for early kindergartens appears to have been a minor consideration, for Otahuhu was yet another kindergarten which quickly found its original building unsuitable. As early as 1929 Otahuhu's need for different premises had become urgent. The Association's attitude in the late 1920s was that it was better to open a new kindergarten as soon as possible and worry then about finding permanent premises at a later date.

One of the most useful achievements of the Association in this period was in the field of health care. In the early years it was very common for kindergartens to have to close because of epidemics and severe outbreaks of contagious diseases. In 1913 attendance at the Campbell Kindergarten was affected by epidemics of chickenpox in the first term, smallpox in the second, and whooping cough in the third, while in the third term of the following year measles was prevalent. In 1916 the work of all the kindergartens was much hindered by epidemics of infantile paralysis and whooping cough, while the worldwide influenza epidemic at the end of 1918 resulted in the kindergartens closing earlier than usual for Christmas. Influenza closed Myers Kindergarten for a week in 1920, and plagued St James Kindergarten for a few weeks as well. Myers had to be closed again in November 1924, this time for two and a half weeks,

because of an outbreak of measles. In 1925 the kindergartens did not commence until 15 April because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Myers Kindergarten began monthly medical inspections in 1921. These quickly resulted in improvements both in attendances and in the general health of the children. Dental work was also included. In response to a request from the Association the Public Health Department agreed in 1927 to begin free medical inspections in all the kindergartens. Visits from St John Ambulance nurses were instituted. Milk and biscuits were provided to the children at Myers from the very beginning of that kindergarten, and in 1930 Onehunga was providing rusks and hot milk during the winter months. These were donated by a local firm.

By 1930 the Association could boast of eight kindergartens, attended that year by 336 children. Seven of the eight kindergartens were sufficiently busy to need, and to have, assistant teachers. The Association had accumulated funds of over £10,000, and a reasonably healthy excess of income over expenditure. Membership of the Association, which had stood at 74 in 1910, had risen to 389. It was reasonably well equipped to withstand the Depression of the early 1930s.

3. *1931-1949: Depression, War, and State Control*

It was not until the beginning of 1931 that the Depression made any notable impact on Association affairs. The Association had hoped to open a new kindergarten in the Point Chevalier district in February 1931, and permission to use a church hall which was most suitable for the purpose had been obtained. A local committee had actively raised funds, but when the Association applied to the Government for the capitation grant it was informed that owing to times of financial stringency no grants could be made to new kindergartens. It was not until 1938 that the Point Chevalier Kindergarten was actually established.

Worse was to follow. A letter from the Free Kindergarten Union to the Association noted that 1931 would be "somewhat of a struggle, owing to the reduction of Government grants", but the real bombshell came in December 1931 when the Government advised that all capitation grants and subsidies for free kindergartens throughout New Zealand would cease at the end of the month. This was indeed serious news for the Association. In 1930 it had received £1,300 from the Government and in 1931 £1,473; this to support eight kindergartens which at the time of the capitation cut had more than 500 children on their rolls. The Vice-President of the Association described the Government action as "a knockout blow, and one that boded grave danger to the work of one of the greatest humanitarian and social organisations of the world". The Association, at a public meeting in February 1932, urged the Government to restore the subsidy, even with a twenty per cent cut, and ventured the opinion "that the total withdrawal of capitation grants, implying the severe crippling, if not the total disablement of the Association's work, is a measure altogether too sudden and too severe in consideration of the value of the national function it performs".

Opposition to the Government cut came from other sources as well. Auckland Labour Members of Parliament expressed the view that even though the economic situation was difficult the work of the Association was of an essential nature, and promised that the strongest possible recommendations to restore the subsidy would be made to Government.

Members of the legal profession also supported the kindergarten movement. A Justice with special jurisdiction in the Children's Court, writing in the press, recognised that drastic economic measures were essential, but suggested also that closing kindergartens might be false economy when the ultimate interest of the community was considered. He argued that juvenile delinquency in Auckland had declined in the last year or two and that "most of the credit for this is due to the organisations and workers outside the Court, and I certainly think that the free kindergartens have had a considerable share in bringing about the present improved state of affairs". He concluded his letter by stating that "the total subsidy is, I believe, comparatively small, and it is surely better to spend a little with a view to starting these children off on the road to decent citizenship than to let them grow up into the class of people some of them are likely to do if they do not get the right start".

A deputation to the Government in March 1932, which included the Leader of the opposition Labour Party, a number of Members of Parliament, the Mayor of Wellington and representatives of the kindergarten movement in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill and Hastings as well as representatives of kindred organisations, urged the Government to reconsider its cuts. The deputation argued that one of the most important points to consider was the fact that it was the children of the poorer classes who would suffer most. "In times like the present," it was stated, "work in particular districts was more than ever necessary. The foundation of citizenship was being laid in the kindergarten, which developed both the physical and mental aspects of the child."

The deputation suggested the kindergarten movement was entitled to a reduced grant and would undertake to carry on with half the usual grant. It was noted that over 34,000 people had signed petitions which had already been presented to Parliament. The response of the Minister of Education was to suggest that if everyone who had signed the petitions donated one shilling and sixpence, there would then be sufficient funds for kindergartens! He also said he could not make a grant out of the education vote to kindergartens, as they were not under his control.

A further problem arose for the Association towards the end of 1932 when the Government, as an economy measure, raised the minimum age for attending school from five to six. The response of many of the parents was to press the kindergartens into accepting their children for another year, until they could go to school. The Association was reluctant to do this, as it did not have the funds available following the withdrawal of the Government subsidy. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Association also argued, somewhat dubiously, that "a child

beyond the age of five years has arrived at that stage when it wants to stop singing songs and to learn arithmetic". He added that providing a course for five year olds would also overlap the curriculum in the primary schools, and that was clearly the province of the Department of Education. It was decided that the Association would take five year olds so long as it did not prevent a child aged three from entering. In cases where this did occur, the older child would have to go. It seems unlikely that many five year olds actually stayed on at kindergarten.

In spite of the loss of the Government subsidy, the Association carried on. During 1932 the committees of the eight kindergartens generously contributed to the finances of the Association. The Council, lacking the funds, abandoned to the individual kindergarten committees its role of making appointments and fixing salaries for the kindergarten teachers. This resulted in varying amounts being paid for similar work being done by teachers in different kindergartens, and not until 1934 was this situation remedied. Even so, the Association managed to finish 1933 with its full complement of teachers.

Government-run Art Unions from 1932 to 1934 considerably aided the finances of the Association. In 1932 £1,315 was received, and a further grant of £808 in 1933 enabled the Association's work to be carried on "without undue financial strain". Of the £1,230 received in 1934 from Art Union funds, £1,050 was divided among the eight kindergartens, and the rest used by the Association for general purposes. As a result of this assistance the Association was able to adopt the earlier scale of salaries for teachers and assistants. Two kindergartens also benefitted from bequests. Campbell received £75 from the Catherine Smith Estate, and Ponsonby the same amount from the T. E. Smith Estate. The annual report for 1934 noted that "the Ladies' Committees continue to show most astounding enthusiasm and interest in the various kindergartens, with the result that every kindergarten is splendidly maintained". The Mothers' Clubs, it was also reported, were "doing excellent work", and clearly the gloom of the Depression was being left behind.

In 1935 the Association received £598 as a subsidy from the Government. The subsidy that year was £2/8/- per child, contingent on £1 being collected for every 15/- given as a subsidy. The Association found it impossible to collect sufficient money to obtain the full subsidy and finally £2/1/6 was received for each of the 376 children. The following year, the first full year of the new Labour Government, subsidies were increased to £4 per child, provided £1 per child was collected for 25/- per child paid in capitation. Further evidence that all was well again was the opening of Haeta Kindergarten in Edendale, the first kindergarten since 1928. The 1937 and 1938 reports recorded

that a section in Otahuhu had been purchased to build a replacement for the old kindergarten there; a section had also been bought in Virginia Avenue, Eden Terrace, for the Sunbeams Kindergarten; a new sunporch had been added to the St James Kindergarten; and the Minister of Education had granted recognition to the Northcote Kindergarten for capitation purposes.

Generally, the Association weathered the Depression fairly well. It had been in a sound position beforehand, and while its activities were obviously hampered and there were inconveniences, there was no disastrous collapse of activity or morale. Commenting on the cessation of government subsidies at the end of 1931, the Association had stated that "though the outlook for our future work is anything but bright, we are determined to carry on as well as we can with whatever funds are available". Constance Colegrove, Principal of the Teachers' Training School, wrote in 1932 of looking "forward to the future with courage and with hope, trusting we have left our darkest days behind us". By the end of 1933 this trust would appear to have been justified, for she wrote in her annual report for that year that "1933 has been a year of happy, steady work... Now that we feel that things are definitely on the upward grade again, with the Depression passing, we look forward to enlarging and extending our work".

The years between the Depression and the Second World War were good ones for the Association. At the end of 1937 the Government provided slightly increased grants by basing them on the average roll numbers of the kindergartens, rather than the average attendance. This enabled the Association to increase the salaries of some staff.

A new kindergarten was opened at Point Chevalier in 1938, and the Northcote Kindergarten, which had operated for three years as a private concern, joined the Association to become the first of the Association's kindergartens on the North Shore. A new building for Sunbeams Kindergarten, in Evelyn Street, Eden Terrace, was opened in August 1938 debt-free. Subscriptions had been received for this and the Government gave a grant of £840. £100 was available from the John Court Memorial Fund, Mr and Mrs H. J. Court paid the architect's fees, and the Mothers' Club gave £30 for lockers.

The beginning of World War II saw much more difficult times for the Association, yet during the war years it managed to double the number of kindergartens from 11 to 22. At the end of 1939 three kindergarten committees did not have sufficient money to pay the salaries of their teachers and the Council launched a special appeal for the money. In March 1940 a committee was established for the purpose of securing publicity for the work of the Association and to assist in the raising of funds (about £300 to £400 each year) for financially

embarrassed kindergartens. Throughout the early war years the Association found that many who had previously been able to assist could no longer do so, and it was fortunate that in 1940 the Government approved the payment of subsidies on the basis of £2 for every £1 collected, with a limit of £4 per child in each year. For some time, in fact, the Government set aside for kindergarten grants (throughout New Zealand) rather more than the various kindergartens could claim by way of subsidy. In 1941 the Government further assisted by undertaking to pay for the training of kindergarten teachers. It agreed to grant £50 a year to all students, plus another £25 for those who had to live away from home. The annual report of the Association for 1941 conceded that without the help of the Government its work would not be able to continue.

In spite of the financial difficulties, the overall effects of the war on the Association were slight; while there were problems for the most part these had no serious effects on the Association's work. One such problem was the requisitioning of kindergarten buildings for military purposes. Haeata lost its building early in the war and went through various trials and tribulations until the end of 1946 when it finally moved into a new and permanent home. Onehunga had to move in 1942 when the building it had used since it was opened was requisitioned. A nearby hall was made available and the Onehunga Borough Council was particularly helpful by putting the grounds in order for the Ladies' Committee.

Haeata also experienced difficulties during the war because the Association could not get Government permission to build. Shortages of materials and labour meant that buildings for military purposes, and hospitals, had precedence over educational and religious buildings.

There was some loss of staff during the war, but never to a serious degree. In 1942 two teachers resigned to undertake war work, but by way of compensation the Training School obtained the voluntary services of a music teacher, Joan Emery, who because of the war had come from London to New Zealand. Two Council members, W. H. Fortune and Kenneth B. Myers, were called up for military service.

A greater dislocation of staff occurred at the end of the war, when various members left to be married. Three teachers left at the end of the first term, and in the third term both the Director and Assistant Director of Point Chevalier left for this purpose.

The Association was slightly involved in the war effort itself. In 1940 the hours at Ponsonby Kindergarten were extended so that mothers could undertake work in factories. Although the scheme was generally successful, it did lead to some financial problems for the Ponsonby committee. In the same year the staff of the Training School began

meeting on alternate Tuesdays to work with material supplied by the St John Ambulance Association. Some of the Ladies' Committees raised funds for the war effort, and certain kindergarten buildings were designated for use in case of war emergencies. St James, for example, was to become a Communal Feeding Centre if the necessity arose.

Although the Association had been happy to extend Ponsonby Kindergarten's hours in 1940 so that mothers could work in factories, it had a quite different response in 1943 when the Education Department asked whether it would consider converting some of its kindergartens into day nurseries for children of mothers employed in essential industries. In Wellington two kindergartens had already changed into day nurseries; the Education Department stated it would not only pay the costs of any structural alterations to kindergarten buildings that might be necessary, but would also pay the wages of additional staff, including cook-housekeepers, and would grant increased subsidies to make good any loss of voluntary subscriptions.

The Association's response was not enthusiastic. The president of the Association, John Allum (who was also Mayor of Auckland) noted that it was "most undesirable that mothers of young children should be diverted from the primary task of looking after their families. They should be employed in industry only as a last resort". He added that judging by the large numbers of young women who were employed in government offices and other occupations not directly connected with the war effort, that stage had certainly not been reached in New Zealand. Representatives of kindergarten committees supported Allum. Some stated that if day nurseries were provided a number of mothers would probably be attracted from their home duties to industries "which were already offering phenomenal wages to women". Others noted that few of the mothers of children attending kindergarten were then in industry, and that there was no apparent need for day nurseries. It was also observed that where day nurseries were established, children, "including many whose fathers were in the forces, would be deprived of kindergarten facilities which had been provided at considerable expense".

The Association's response to the Department of Education was that for the reasons set out above, and because inquiries had not disclosed any substantial need for the setting up of day nurseries, it was not prepared to entertain the proposal. If the need arose however, the Association would be willing to co-operate to its fullest capacity.

In 1942 the Otahuhu Borough Council had suggested that kindergartens should be closed for the duration of the war. Apart from an earlier-than-usual closing in December 1941 "owing to the situation in the Pacific", the war saw no closing of kindergartens, but instead

a rush of new kindergartens being established.

Birkenhead was opened in June 1941, bringing to fruition the work and hopes of a group of enthusiastic women in that suburb. Mt Albert commenced operation in February 1943, and Mt Roskill in November the same year. In 1944 five new kindergartens were opened, bringing to 19 the total number under the control of the Association. Takapuna opened in February, Avondale and Selwyn after Easter, Mission Bay in August, and the most northerly kindergarten ever established by the Association, Warkworth, in September. In the final year of the war Belmont, Wakatere (Narrow Neck) and Papatoetoe Kindergartens all opened, but Warkworth had to close because of accommodation problems and the lack of a trained teacher. 1946 saw a continuation of this rate of growth, with new kindergartens opening at Blockhouse Bay and New Lynn. Pukekohe opened in 1947, Oranga in 1948, St Christophers and Meadowbank in 1949, and Milford and Glen Eden in 1950.

Warkworth was not the only kindergarten to close, however. Problems with sites continued to hamper the work of the Association, as they had done ever since the opening of Newmarket back in 1912. Mt Roskill, which had opened in 1943 in a church hall, had to close in 1945 when a new church hall was built and restrictions were imposed by the church authorities which made it impossible for the kindergarten to operate. It did not reopen until 1948, Avondale and Otahuhu both closed in 1948, the former reopening in 1951, the latter in 1956. Avondale closed because adequate space in its hall was no longer available, Milford was open only a couple of years before closing because of its unsuitable accommodation, the kindergarten remaining closed from 1951 until 1959.

In the early years of the Association's history the prospect of State control of kindergartens had not been seen as anything to worry about. Prominent people within the Association had even spoken in favour of it, and some saw the ideals and aims of the Association as basically socialistic. With the advent of the Labour Government in 1935, however, publicity expressed attitudes changed. In early 1938 the retiring President of the Association noted that the work of the Association appeared to be giving satisfaction, and therefore direct Government control seemed unlikely. In 1939 John Allum stated that while the Association was heavily dependent upon the Government, it wished to remain "a private affair giving free services to the people".

In 1945 the Minister of Education appointed a committee "to consider and report on educational services for children below school age, with special reference to the financing and control of such services

and training of personnel". The setting up of the committee followed a request made to the Minister following the Education Conference held in October 1944.

The principal recommendations of the Consultation Committee on Pre-School Educational Services, released in early 1947, included, amongst others:

- (1) That, in the interests of the mental, physical, and moral health of children, and so of the community, a programme of developing and extending pre-school education services should be pressed forward as rapidly as possible until they are in the end available to all who wish to use them.
- (2) That attendance at pre-school institutions should continue to be voluntary. . . .
- (3) That, since the health and right nurture of children must increasingly be a community responsibility as well as a parental one, the community should support, reinforce and supplement the resources of the home by establishing and maintaining a national pre-school system; and that therefore the Government should institute a State pre-school education service.
- (4) That a State pre-school service should be an integral though specially administered part of the national school system, and that the responsibility for national policy and development in the pre-school services should be with the education authorities.
- (5) That the existing kindergartens and play centres administered by voluntary bodies be absorbed into the State system, and that thereafter State assistance to voluntary bodies providing pre-school education services cease.
- (7) That for a limited number of years following the establishment of a State pre-school service, local areas should be required to raise a percentage of the capital cost of their kindergartens.
- (9) That the standard pre-school institution should be the kindergarten, broadly of the kind already established in New Zealand, rather than the all-day nursery school.

The response of the Association to the findings of the Committee was only luke warm. It lamented the fact that Government was not

allowing sufficient time for a proper consideration of the report. It decided to inform the Director of Education that the Association supported the recommendations of the report in principle, but with the proviso that where voluntary free kindergarten organisations either already established, or which might be formed in the future, expressed a desire to do so, they should be allowed to continue with adequate Government subsidy.

In its discussion of the report, the Council of the Association repudiated the suggestion that the voluntary system was generally repugnant in that it carried overtones of charity. Council also objected to the idea that the voluntary system had failed.

With the fall of the Labour Government in 1949 immediate worries about State control evaporated. It is interesting to note, however, the level of Government support at this time. In 1946 the Government subsidy to the Association accounted for 70% of its receipts, in 1947 57%, in 1948 79%, in 1949 73%. Under the new National Government the figures remained roughly the same, showing in the long term a tendency gradually to rise. From 31 March 1948 the Government provided increased financial aid to the Association. The old capitation allowance ceased, and payments were made to the Association to cover all teachers' salaries, which at the same time were increased substantially. The Government also increased students' allowances, while the subsidy on approved sites, buildings and equipment was raised from £1 to £2 for £1.

One of the consequences of teachers' salaries being paid by the Department of Education was a radical change in kindergarten timetables. Previously kindergartens were open to the children in the mornings only. Staff members stayed on in the afternoons, and worked after the children had gone, but the hours were optional. Minimum compulsory hours were introduced, resulting in sessions being held for the children on two afternoons each week. Whenever possible a different group of children were admitted to the afternoon sessions, so that a larger number of children could benefit from kindergarten experience, but in some kindergartens, for example Blockhouse Bay, a long day for the same group of children was conducted so that mothers were able to make what was then a long and time-consuming trip to the city.

4. *Floral Carpets, Street Day Appeals, and the Community Chest*

From 1945 onwards the Association engaged in a variety of substantial fund-raising efforts including floral carpets and Street Day and Community Chest appeals. These drives for funds were generally on a much larger scale than any pre-war efforts and, apart from the money raised, provided valuable publicity for the Association.

Probably the most spectacular fund-raising efforts were the floral carpets. Five carpets were organised, in 1945, 1947, 1951, 1955 and 1964, netting for the Association £2,381, £2,593, £2,686, £2,167 and £2,219. The idea of a floral carpet went back to 1941, when a most successful carpet had been arranged in Sydney, but the war had caused a delay in staging the event in Auckland until April 1945. The Association's floral carpet was the first presented in Auckland, but not in New Zealand, as the Barnardo Homes movement had arranged one in Wellington earlier in 1945.

The designs of all the carpets were the work of the Auckland architect, Horace L. Massey, and the reports in the *Auckland Star* and *New Zealand Herald* give a good impression of the Association's first carpet. "Literally millions of flowers in a profusion of beautifully blended colours were used in the construction of a floral carpet which formed the outstanding feature of the fair organised by the Auckland Kindergarten Association" wrote the *Herald*. The carpet, laid out on the floor of the Town Hall, measured 40 feet by 30 feet [12 metres by 9 metres], and the best view was to be obtained from the gallery. The flowers were arranged in a design representing a garden, with trees lifting into the sky. The trees were crowned with foliage of bronze and green hydrangeas, standing against a sky of soft blue hydrangeas. Smaller garden motifs were worked out by means of densely packed masses of asters, dahlias, marigolds, zinnias and chrysanthemums, ranging from white and palest yellow to deep autumn shades of gold and bronze and wine-red. Relief to make the design stand out was provided by flat nasturtium and other leaves, and there was an outer border of green

with a running design of white rabbits with pink eyes, pixies, and most realistic flying geese worked in feathery toi-toi.

The whole carpet was mounted on wet sand laid on waterproof paper in a wooden frame. Each individual flower had to be pressed into the sand, and a small band of eight people worked from 8 in the morning through till 2 the following morning to complete the task. The flowers were donated from city parks and private gardens.

In conjunction with the carpet, stalls were set up in the Concert Chamber, and a model kindergarten was on display. Admission to the floral carpet was one shilling for adults and sixpence for children, and door receipts came to just over £900. Sweets, produce, cake, work and garden stalls, mystery envelopes, tea rooms, photographs, a copper trail, and donations, brought the gross income from the floral carpet to £2,565. It was an unqualified success.

Each kindergarten received £100 from the proceeds and there was lengthy discussion about what should be done with the remaining funds. In December 1946, when it seemed that the Government would not be prepared to subsidise the training of an extra five students in 1947, the Association resolved, on the recommendation of the Floral Carpet Committee, to allocate up to £400 from the carpet proceeds for their training. In early 1947 Government changed its attitude and subsidised the students. The Floral Carpet Committee also resolved, at the end of 1946, to allocate ten per cent of the proceeds to a special emergency reserve fund to be used only at the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Association.

In November 1946, planning for a second floral carpet began, and applications were called for a paid Organising Secretary. The Association, through its Floral Carpet Committee, was prepared to offer 2½% of the gross takings up to £2,000, and 5% of any sum over £2,000, guaranteeing a minimum sum of £50. John Hawkins was appointed.

Publicity for the 1947 carpet appeared in the newspapers, on the radio, on cinema screens and tramway dashboards, in shop windows, and in poster displays. Twenty thousand handbills were printed for the Association, and these were distributed to homes throughout Auckland with the assistance of organisations such as the Boy Scouts. Calico street signs were mounted at the intersection of Custom and Queen, and Wellesley and Queen Streets, and in Newmarket.

A different design was used for the second carpet and again it was entirely successful. A profit of £2,381 was made from the carpet and accompanying stalls. Another £212 was received in donations after a letter soliciting funds was sent to local business houses and borough councils. Each of the 23 kindergartens received £101 as its share of the profits, and a Reserve Account of £259 was left for the Association.

The appointment of a paid Secretary proved a success, and for his efforts he received £91. The use of professional doormen and ticket sellers was likewise successful, enabling over 30,000 people to be handled without any confusion. The only complaint about the carpet was that the music provided by the organist and over the loudspeakers was "much too heavy and dull".

A new Secretary, W. Laird Thomson, was obtained for the 1951 carpet at a cost of £125. A different floral design was arranged, and various evening entertainments were provided, including a ballet and highland dancing, while on the Friday evening a carnival gala night was held. This included strolling players, sideshows, competitions, raffles, and in the Concert Chamber a Barn Dance. A total of £2,686 was raised, including £150 in direct donations to an appeal conducted in conjunction with the carpet. A copper trail around the carpet raised £75. More than 29,000 people paid admission to view the carpet.

Two more floral carpets were organised, in 1955 and 1964. The 1955 carpet design used a total of 600,000 blooms, and depicted a sea scene with an old galleon in full sail. White and grey toi-tois were used for the sails, giving the effect of movement. Anchors were depicted in the four corners and the sea theme was carried into the borders with squibs, starfish, crimson crabs and seagulls.

Financially the 1955 carpet was not as successful as earlier carpets had been. A little over £2,100 was raised, 29 kindergartens receiving £75 each. Attendance figures were considerably down, just over 12,000 people viewing the carpet. Nevertheless, it was good publicity for the Association, and involving as it did all the kindergarten committees and hundreds of helpers, it helped promote plenty of good spirit.

The final carpet was constructed in 1964. At a chairwomen's meeting in April 1963 it was decided to do away with the service of a paid Secretary as the kindergarten committees would do most of the work without any payment. It was felt that the paid organiser wanted to spend too much to get results.

The 1964 design consisted of Noah's Ark resting on a sea of blue delphiniums, hydrangeas and stock, while a border of brilliant orange flowers enclosed a panel depicting numerous kinds of animals. The carpet covered 1,008 square feet and £2,219 was raised.

Altogether the floral carpets raised a little over £12,000 for the Association. Considering the massive amount of effort that went into them, it could well be argued that the real value of the floral carpets lay in the publicity they gave the Association, rather than the monetary return.

Other forms of fund-raising, though much less spectacular, often brought in much greater sums of money. In the period between the first

and last floral carpets, Street Day appeals and Community Chest collections gathered a little over £16,000 for the Association, while contributions from Mothers' Clubs, jumble sales, garden parties and fairs raised nearly £68,000.¹ General donations and subscriptions saw more than £58,000¹ added to the Association's funds.

The Association first considered participating in Street Day appeals in 1943. At an Executive Committee meeting in February of that year it was resolved to send letters of appeal to various financial institutions; to write to the Minister of Internal Affairs asking if the Association could participate in a distribution of funds from the next Art Union or from one at a future date; and to ask John Allum if he could arrange for the Association to join with some other organisation in a Street Appeal.

It appears that nothing much came of the Street Day proposal until late 1945, when the Auckland City Council advised that it had allocated a day in May 1946 for a joint Street Day appeal by the Association, the Auckland Residential Nursery Association and the New Zealand Council of Christian Women. The appeal collected £1,279, of which the Association received £402. Expenses reduced this by about £25.

There was no Street Day appeal in 1947, the City Council being unable to allocate a day. Most of the fund-raising efforts of the Association were directed that year towards the floral carpet anyway.

A further Street Day appeal was held in September 1948, in conjunction with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and thereafter the annual appeals became a regular feature until 1958. In 1950 the Association was able, for the one and only time, to conduct a Street Day appeal from which all the proceeds would be retained by the Association and not shared with any other organisation. The following year the Association reverted to the previous situation, this time sharing its appeal with the Society for the Protection of Women and Children.

In 1957 the Auckland City Council decided that Street Day appeals would cease after the 1958 appeal had been held and would be replaced by Community Chest collections instead. Some parts of the Auckland area had in fact instituted Community Chest appeals much earlier. As early as 1951 the Wakatere (Narrow Neck) Kindergarten committee had expressed its support for a Devonport Borough Council proposal to inaugurate a Community Chest, "provided it would eliminate street collections in Devonport". The Association was wary of the effects Community Chest collections might have on fund-raising activities.

1. In the period 1945-59. After 1959 the Association's Statements of Accounts do not detail many of the sources of income.

Responding to Wakatere's support for the idea, the Association noted that "it would be regretted if Wakatere confined their activities to the Community Chest, as they will be thrown back on their own resources — they could scarcely expect to receive a share of money raised through activities outside the Borough". The Wakatere committee in fact had little choice but to support the Devonport Community Chest as the local council had decided there would be no Street Day appeals in the borough for a trial period of two years.

The basic problem facing the Association was whether Community Chest funds raised in the various boroughs could be contributed to a pool of funds and then redistributed equally amongst all the kindergartens, or whether funds raised in a particular borough should stay with the kindergarten(s) in that borough. In 1955 the Association resolved "that money received from all Community Chests be paid into a common pool, and divided equally between the Kindergartens".

By April 1956 eleven districts in which kindergartens were operating had joined the Community Chest scheme, and no street appeals were made in these districts. It appears that funds allocated to kindergartens from Community Chest appeals at this time were all being paid into the Association's pool for redistribution. In October 1957 the Papatoetoe Kindergarten committee raised the issue of whether Community Chest money received by them should go into the pool, and the Association made clear its feeling that it should. In 1958 the New Lynn Community Chest Trust Board again raised the question and was told "that all the Kindergartens forming this Association are treated equally out of funds received from many sources, whether or not the local Kindergarten has any part in the raising of the money".

The Papatoetoe Community Chest Trust Board asked the local kindergarten committee in 1958 for an assurance that the allocation from the Community Chest collection to the Papatoetoe Kindergarten would be retained in the borough. The Association now decided that the Papatoetoe Kindergarten would have to keep faith with the Trust Board and retain the money in the borough. The kindergarten committee therefore would not make a donation, as such, to the Association, but would have to meet a special levy from the Association. In 1959 that levy was £40. The New Lynn kindergarten committee similarly decided against contributing to the Association's pool, but expressed the hope that the Trust Board would see fit to make the donation to the Association in the future. At the same time the Henderson Trust Board made grants to both the Association and the Henderson Kindergarten.

It now became increasingly common for local boroughs to contribute part of their Community Chest takings to the Association.

Both Birkenhead and Devonport did so in 1960, and the absence of any further reference to the problem in the records of the Association indicates that the issue had largely resolved itself.

The Association continued to receive money from Community Chest appeals until 1977, by which time the amount involved (\$60 that year, \$1,251 in 1976) had become negligible. Through the entire period that the Community Chest operated the Association received \$52,445 for redistribution to kindergartens. In earlier times the Community Chest had provided a useful source of funds, the Annual Report of the Association for 1962 noting that "the amount of the donations received from these Chests has been eminently satisfactory". In the 1970s, however, the Community Chest contributions did not even pay the Association's telephone accounts.

5. *A Disunited Union — the Auckland Association and the Free Kindergarten Union*

Early in the history of the kindergarten movement people working to establish and administer kindergartens throughout New Zealand felt the need for mutual consultation and assistance. In 1912 delegates from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin met in Dunedin to consider the formation of a national organisation, and at a second meeting in 1913 a New Zealand Union was formed. The outbreak of World War I resulted in the lapsing of any activity, and not until 1920 was the first Conference held in Wellington.

In the early 1920s, a period when educational methods were undergoing considerable change, the need for a properly organised organisation to co-ordinate the work of the Associations and set standards for student training and kindergarten practice became even more apparent, and in 1926, at a conference in Wellington, the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union was established.

The 1926 conference agreed that membership would be open to all free kindergarten Associations in receipt of a government capitation grant, that conferences would be held biennially, and that refresher courses for Principals of the kindergarten teachers' Training Schools would be held in the intervening years. A standing committee, consisting of a representative of each of the affiliated Associations, was set up to meet each year.

There is little mention of the Union in the Annual Reports of the Auckland Association. From 1934 until 1941 A. Kidd and E. H. B. Milson, both of Auckland, were President and Secretary of the Union, and the annual report of the Association for 1936 noted the "splendid work done by the Union in the interests of Free Kindergartens throughout New Zealand".

In 1944, however, the Association withdrew from the Union and did not rejoin until 1954. There is precious little said about this in any

printed source. The annual reports of the Association make no reference to the matter at all until 1952, when it is noted that two observers from Auckland attended the annual meeting of the Union in Wanganui, and again in 1954, when the annual report observed that "as a result of a decision reached at the last Annual Meeting, the Association has rejoined the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, and delegates attended the very instructive and enjoyable Annual Conference in Palmerston North in September".

The published histories of the kindergarten movement in New Zealand, by Helen Downer and Patricia Lockhart, merely note that "after withdrawing in 1941, the Auckland Association rejoined the Union in 1954, and since this date representatives have regularly attended Conferences. . ." The date 1941 is incorrect, as the Association did not withdraw until 1944.

The issue over which the Association left the Union was partly a constitutional one, and involved the voting powers of delegates. The Constitution of the Union provided that: "At any Conference each delegate shall have one vote and at any meeting of the Executive each members shall have one vote". The Auckland Association proposed that the first part of this clause be changed so that there would be:

1. One vote for each Association having one to four kindergartens (inclusive).
2. Two votes for each Association having five to eight kindergartens (inclusive).
3. Three votes for each Association having nine kindergartens and upwards.

Each Association would be able to cast its full number of votes at Conference meetings, irrespective of the number of delegates actually representing that Association. Coupled with this, subscriptions to the Union (which stood at two guineas) for each of the three groups would be two, four and six guineas respectively. The proposal would have given Auckland three votes, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin two votes, and Hastings, Hokitika and Invercargill one vote each. The remit was rejected.

In June 1942, Maud England, honorary secretary and treasurer of the Union, wrote to the Auckland Association in the following terms:

"I noticed that Mr Allum...said he was considering withdrawing the Auckland Association from the Free Kindergarten Union. I hope you will be able to get him to understand how much harm it could do to the Auckland Free Kindergartens. The Government now recognises the N.Z.F.K. Union as the body through whom the Associations work and will make all decisions as to financial aid and conditions of

work in consultation with the Union's Executive so that if Auckland becomes a mere local body its standing will suffer grievously."

No formal decision to withdraw from the Union was made at this time, however. At a meeting of the Association's Executive Committee in early July, it was resolved to inform Maud England that the Association was most unhappy that the Union Executive had approached (successfully, as it turned out) the Department of Education with a view to having the capitation increased from £4 to £5, in spite of Auckland's protest that this should not be done. It further resolved to state that the Association had noticed a tendency in Maud England's letters to interfere with local affairs "and that so long as the Union confines its activities to kindergarten work as a whole we recognise the benefit of belonging to it, but, unless we are allowed to manage our own affairs, we will have no alternative but to withdraw". At the same meeting the Association decided that as its office was very short-staffed due to the war conditions, it would no longer be prepared to furnish statistical information to the Union other than that which already appeared in the Association's Annual Report. With some justification the Association also asked that Maud England type her letters in future, as her handwriting was very difficult to read.

In May 1943 the Association gave notice that its delegates would move the same remit they had unsuccessfully moved in 1941. The Association took the opportunity to point out the inefficiency of the Union's office, expressing its concern that it had not received notification of the dates of the 1943 Conference. Somewhat pettily, D. O'Halloran, the Association's Secretary, wrote to Maud England pointing out that he had been directed to telegraph for the information and "that the telegram I sent to you was 'reply paid'. Your reply was 'collect' on which we had to pay 1/11d".

The situation came to a head early the following year. At a meeting of Council on 22 February, 1944 a resolution "that in view of our unsuccessful efforts, during some years past, to obtain fair voting powers in the affairs of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, Incorporated, we withdraw our membership from the said Union" was debated at considerable length and carried by 14 votes to 12.

There the matter seems to have rested until early 1946, when the Association announced it would be "pleased to rejoin the Union on conditions reasonably suitable" to the Association. It was essential though, that the constitution of the Union be amended to provide one vote per kindergarten, and also that the Union's office be placed in charge of a qualified professional secretary. These two issues were to plague relations between the Union and the Association for a good many

years to come. The Association was not loathe to shift its ground whenever it felt like it, and the personal animosity between D. O'Halloran and Maud England made solutions incredibly difficult to find.

In October 1946 the Association wrote to the Union advising that no further action was to be taken concerning rejoining the Union, and not until 1948 was anything more done about the matter. In that year there were a series of meetings concerning Auckland's relationship with the Union. In April the Minister of Education met with the Association in Auckland, mainly to discuss the question of increased financial assistance in order to provide better salaries for kindergarten teachers. The Minister indicated that he hoped the Association would rejoin the Union, as his Department wished to deal with only one body on matters of general policy. The Association outlined to the Minister its dissatisfaction with the Union, emphasising that many times letters to the Union asking for a reply had not been attended to, and that on matters relating to Auckland kindergartens the Auckland Association had not been consulted. The chief difficulty though, was "the question of fair representation", as the Union was not prepared to grant Auckland's request of one vote per kindergarten (not quite the same request as in 1941).

The Minister responded that he had approached the Union with a suggestion that a professional secretary, whose salary would be paid by the Government, should be appointed, and that the Union had approved this suggestion stipulating only that Maud England be permitted to remain Secretary until her retirement in 1949. The Association said it was happy with this, and that if the Minister could persuade the Union to make some alteration in the matter of voting representation, the Association might be willing to rejoin the Union. The Minister also agreed that the Association could still handle its problems through the Auckland office of the Department. Not all matters would have to go through the Union offices in Wellington.

In June 1948 the Minister of Education called a conference to discuss the establishing of a single union. This was attended by both the Union and the Association, but led to little progress. The Association reiterated that it would rejoin the Union only if the constitution was redrafted, a qualified professional secretary to the Union was appointed, and if the Auckland Association could continue dealing direct with the Education Department on all administrative matters.

The Union's Executive convened after this meeting and subsequently set out the changes it was prepared to make to accommodate the Association. On the question of voting powers at

conference it suggested that every affiliated Association be represented by two delegates, and that any Association which had established more than five kindergartens should be entitled to be represented by one extra delegate for every five kindergartens in excess of the first five. The Union was also prepared to make other concessions, such as altering the clauses in the constitution which read "composed of not less than ten women members" to "not less than ten men and women members" and to withdraw the obligation to form "a men's advisory committee".

The Union clearly thought at this stage it had convinced the Association it should rejoin. But the Association was far from happy. There was still a feeling that they would be "ruled from Wellington", and that the Minister, in spite of his assurances, wanted to eliminate the Association's direct approach to the Department. In August 1948, in a letter to John Allum, G. Sanders (who had been involved in the negotiations throughout the year) suggested that the existing Union be scrapped and replaced by a federation which would meet at least once a year. The activities would be limited to resolutions carried at any Conference, and it would act generally as a consultative body.

In September the Union produced a draft of an amended constitution, which the Association found "to vary little from the constitution already in existence". Nevertheless, the Association agreed to attend an Executive meeting of the Union in October, and appointed D. O'Halloran and Sanders as representatives. At this point the Union made an unusual move and sent a telegram to the Association which stated "Auckland now member of Union. Rule is each Association one delegate only. Sanders name already received. Can be changed to O'Halloran if wished. Either welcome, not both". It seems likely the telegram was meant to have a double effect. Firstly, it may have been hoped that Auckland, on being told it had been readmitted to the Union, would accept the fact; and secondly, by indicating a preference for Sanders rather than O'Halloran (and certainly not both), it would remove from the discussion table Auckland's most ardent and uncompromising critic of the situation in Wellington.

As it turned out, both O'Halloran and Sanders attended the meeting in mid-October, which not surprisingly was a failure. Both men made it clear that the Association was not a member of the Union, and they were in attendance to hear the result of the Union's deliberations on the Association's proposals for a new constitution. The Union indicated it would not concur with the Association's ideas, and the two delegates therefore stated that "until we have assurance of a desire to meet our wishes and collaborate with us, we are of the opinion that no good, by associating with the Union, is likely to accrue to our Association in the near future. We therefore recommend that consideration of the

question of joining the Union be postponed sine die”.

The Union's attitude toward the Auckland Association, and in particular to its two delegates, is nicely summed up in a letter from Maud England, as Secretary of the Union, to the Minister of Education. She wrote that the Auckland delegates to the Executive Meeting in October 1948

“contradicted each other and obviously knew nothing of either the old or the amended Constitution. They told us that women knew nothing about business and that the Auckland women on their committees took no part in the management of the Association.”

A further meeting between the Association and the Minister of Education was held in Auckland in February 1949. The Minister expressed the view that the criticisms of the Union by the Association had been dealt with in the new draft constitution, and suggested yet another conference in Wellington. The Association retorted that the only concessions offered by the Union had been an alteration in the voting power at conferences, and the making of a provision for men and women members, instead of women only. The Association assured the Minister that no genuine effort had at any time ever been made to fall in with Auckland's wishes, and that the question of adequate voting power based on the number of kindergartens in each Association was still the basic issue. The Association further noted other grievances, such as the fact that membership of the Union was open only to Associations incorporated under the 1908 Incorporated Societies Act, whereas the Auckland Association was incorporated under the 1908 Religious, Charitable and Educational Trusts Act. Auckland was not happy about the fact that the Union's Executive still included one representative from each Association, irrespective of how many kindergartens belonged to that Association. Furthermore, Auckland thought there should be a curb on the power of the Executive of the Union to expel a member by a simple majority vote and on any grounds or for any reason which in the opinion of the Executive was deemed sufficient.

By June 1949 the Minister and officers of his Department had drawn up a new draft constitution which, in his own words, embodied “proposals agreed on by representatives of your [the Auckland] Association and the Kindergarten Union”, and met “the various objections raised by your Association to the previous constitution”. The Association considered the new draft, and suggested some alterations, which the Minister considered to be “most reasonable”. Yet still the Association remained unhappy. Negotiations foundered on the question of the Association's direct dealings with the Education

Department, which the Association had found to be generally most satisfactory and wished to retain. The Association also wanted a change to the structure of the Executive of the Union, so that the Vice-Presidents of the Union would not be members of the Executive.

In July 1951 a meeting took place between the Director of Education and some members of the Union Executive in Wellington. The Union was informed that the Department of Education was proceeding with the gazetting of Kindergarten Regulations in order to legalise and safeguard the financial assistance being made to the kindergarten movement. The enforcement of these Regulations had been a possibility since 1948 when the Auckland Association had considered them a manoeuvre to force it back into the Union. The Department was, however, now prepared to delete from the Regulations the clause dealing with compulsory affiliation to the Union. Some members of the Union Executive were unhappy about this development, but the Director of Education made it plain that he was dropping the compulsory affiliation clause so that financial assistance to Associations not in the Union would be continued.

The Director was therefore asked by the Union if he would chair a meeting of all Associations to discuss the whole question. While he was happy to see a strong and sound kindergarten Union, and was prepared to assist, he was loath to interfere in the domestic affairs of that Union. His response was, accordingly, that he would only chair such a meeting if there was a 100% invitation from all Associations to do so, and if there was a 100% attendance of all Associations.

The Auckland reaction was not particularly helpful. It agreed to attend the Christchurch Conference in 1951 so that the issue could be discussed, but noted in a letter to the President of the Union that the matter had been discussed on various previous occasions but with little satisfaction to Auckland. The Association took the opportunity to reiterate that it was not prepared to give up its direct access to the Auckland office of the Education Department.

It then had a change of mind, and decided that no useful purpose would be served by attending the Conference in Christchurch. Instead, it suggested that the Union be wound up, and a meeting held later in Wellington to discuss the issues. Support came from the Christchurch Association, which agreed with Auckland that individual Associations should be able to deal direct with the Education Department if they so wished. Christchurch suggested that it, Auckland and the Dunedin Association should be able to work together to remake the Union. In August 1951 the Dunedin Association briefly resigned from the Union, and at the Christchurch Conference (which Auckland did not attend) the Christchurch Association stated it was also prepared to leave the

Union if drastic changes were not made.

The Conference decided to close its Wellington Office, and a consultative committee was set up to investigate the constitution and administration of the Union. Auckland accepted an invitation to appoint a representative to this committee.

The Association's position at this stage was clearly set out in a letter sent to the President of the Union in October 1951. The function of the Union should be restricted to the conduct of Conferences; there was little need for an Executive, and its only duty should be the preparation for a Conference. This could be done by a President, Vice-President and Secretary, who should be resident in the town where the next conference was to be held. The Association remained determined that it should be able to conduct its own affairs with the Education Department, and without reference to the Union or the constitution of a body which might usurp its rights of management.

The first meeting of the newly established committee took place in Wellington in January 1952. The Auckland delegate was J. H. Rose, who found "the attitude adopted by other members of the committee was somewhat uncompromising", and he "had difficulty in getting any concessions made to meet the views of our [Auckland's] Executive". Auckland's viewpoints received virtually no sympathy at the Conference, Rose reporting that "on one occasion during the two days I got one other member of the committee to support me. On every other occasion I was one to six".

Nevertheless a draft constitution was prepared. In June 1952 the Association decided that it did not consider it necessary to constitute a corporate body to call Annual Conferences, and that Conferences could be called by the Presidents of the four main centres alternately, each Association contributing to the cost. The Association was prepared to send delegates to the Wanganui Conference at which the draft constitution was to be discussed. The general feeling of the Auckland people at this stage was summed up by John Allum, President of the Association, who concluded his instructions to the Auckland delegates with the words "Good luck and come back whole".

The Wanganui Conference decided that the constitutional question should be discussed during the forthcoming year. Attitudes in Auckland began to change significantly after the Wanganui Conference. At an Auckland Executive meeting in September 1952 John Allum suggested that Auckland should rejoin the Union, because there was a better chance of getting the Union on a sound business footing if Auckland participated in its activities. One of the Auckland delegates to the Wanganui Conference suggested that other Associations did not take Auckland's concerns about the Union as seriously as Auckland did.

She added that Auckland would probably get little out of the Union by joining, but could put a lot into it. There was still some strong objection to rejoining the Union, particularly from O'Halloran and Sanders, and the matter was eventually adjourned indefinitely.

At an Executive meeting in June 1954 the Association resolved to recommend to the Annual Meeting of the Association that application be made to rejoin the Union. On 24 June the Union granted affiliation to the Association, and gave an assurance that the Association could continue to deal directly with the Auckland branch of the Department of Education. In its letter granting affiliation the Union noted that "the Union is a federation of completely autonomous Free Kindergarten Associations. The Union is concerned only with giving advice and help to young Associations and to prospective new Associations, when that help is asked for. In addition it provides the machinery for Associations to meet once a year on common ground to discuss remits which form the background of the policy of the Free Kindergarten Movement in New Zealand".

The battle appeared to have been won.

6. *1950-1983: Rapidly Changing Times*

The last thirty years of the Association's history have been characterised by enormously differing rates of growth, a whole new set of problems to be faced and solved, and some doubts as to just where the Association was headed.

The most notable feature of the 1950s and 1960s was the small number of new kindergartens which were opened. From 1950 to 1955 only seven new kindergartens were established, from 1956 to 1960 there were none (although five were reopened), and throughout the decade of the sixties only nine new kindergartens came into existence. By way of contrast, the seventies saw an enormous expansion of new kindergartens, nine being opened in 1975 alone, five in 1976, and a further seven in 1977. A number of these were funded almost entirely by the Government, and the absence of any substantial local financial input left problems for the Association to deal with. By the end of the seventies the boom had dissipated, with only one kindergarten being opened in 1979 and two in 1980.

It was not the Association's wish to restrict the number of new kindergartens during the 1950s and 1960s, but in 1950 the Education Department had ruled that no kindergarten Association could establish a new kindergarten until all existing staffing positions in established kindergartens were filled by trained kindergarten teachers. In 1950, to staff its Training Centre and its 26 kindergartens, the Auckland Association required 62 trained people. "This objective is most difficult to attain", commented the Association's annual report for 1950. The problem was emphasised at a council meeting in 1951 when, in response to a request from the Masterton Association for help to publicise their staff vacancies, it was suggested that it was unwise to publicise openings for staff in other centres as this might encourage staff to leave Auckland.

In 1956 the Education Department decided that for one year from July 1956 no new proposals for free kindergartens would be accepted by the Department or approved by the Government, owing to the acute shortage of trained staff. This "period of consolidation" was extended to March 1958, when it was decided that the Minister of Education

would determine in April of each year the number of new kindergartens for which application for recognition would be received in the following year. Recognition by the Government was necessary before any financial assistance to a particular kindergarten would be forthcoming from Government. The Union could recommend the kindergartens to be included, but the final decision was to rest with the Minister.

Clearly this hampered the Association's efforts to establish new kindergartens. In 1964 for example, the Minister advised that fifteen kindergartens throughout New Zealand could proceed with plans to open in 1965. Only one of these fifteen kindergartens, Kotiri (Mangere East), was an Auckland Association kindergarten, although the Association had three more kindergartens which had raised sufficient funds to enable them to become operational.

The building of new kindergartens in the Auckland Association area was slower than elsewhere in New Zealand, partly because of the Association's policy of making kindergarten committees raise the whole amount of money required without any advance being made by the Association. At a meeting of the Council Executive in late 1963 it was noted that "the building of new kindergartens in other areas seems to be going ahead very rapidly". The Dunedin Association was lending £800 free of interest to new kindergarten committees, Wellington 25% of the cost, free of interest, Christchurch was lending at 3%, while in the Bay of Plenty Association area one committee raised £1,000 and three others guaranteed £500 each. By the time go-ahead approval was given by the Department of Education, the committee had raised the amount loaned. While the Auckland Association felt that this action would enable a kindergarten to obtain earlier authority to prepare building plans, the need for the consolidation period was controlled by the staffing situation, and therefore there was no change in its policy.

Along with the Government restrictions on opening new kindergartens went the control over the number of students who could be admitted each year to the Training Centre. In 1956 the Association was granted 60 allowances for student teachers, and this was increased to 68 in 1957. In 1961 the Minister of Education authorised the training of married women as kindergarten teachers under certain conditions, but at the same time, because the proportion of untrained to trained personnel throughout New Zealand had become disturbing, announced another consolidation period, which meant that the opening of kindergartens not then approved would be considerably delayed. To help redress the imbalance the Government authorised further increases in the intakes to the Auckland Training Centre, 95 students being admitted in 1962 and 105 in 1963. Over the next few years the numbers were slightly reduced, but rose to 100 in 1968 and 115 in 1969, and

this included five married women.

Although there were considerable difficulties and delays in opening new kindergartens, the Association remained very active in raising money and acquiring new sites. In 1951 eight sites were vested in the Association for future development, and another four were vested in 1953. By the end of 1954 the Crown had vested control in the Association of 19 sites for kindergartens in the Auckland area, while three sections had been purchased, two leased from branch councils, and a further eight had been made available for kindergarten use in various ways. Seven established kindergartens were operating in halls with no kindergarten site in the district.

Along with the acquisition of sites, which continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s and contributed to the boom in new kindergartens which occurred in the 1970s, there was a very definite move towards housing all kindergartens in their own buildings. In its early years the Association had been happy to operate in local halls, but this had frequently led to accommodation problems. The 1950s proved to be no exception. Otahuhu Kindergarten had closed in April 1948 and did not reopen until early 1956. New Lynn was closed from December 1953 until October 1956, Belmont from December 1955 until June 1960, Owairaka from the end of 1955 until 1958, and Milford for seven years, from December 1951 until March 1959. All these kindergartens were closed because of accommodation problems. By the end of 1969, however, all kindergartens except Meadowbank and St Christopher's were housed in their own buildings.

In 1957-58 the Association celebrated its Golden Jubilee. This was marked by a number of events, including a Jubilee Ball in the Town Hall at which thirty debutantes were presented to Sir John and Lady Allum. In June 1958 a "special entertainment for children" in the Town Hall was attended by about 600 young children. To honour the Association the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union was held in Auckland, and many committees held Jubilee functions in their own kindergartens to mark the occasion. The Kindergarten Teachers' Association, under the chairmanship of Elizabeth Tunks, held a garden party at Mt Albert Kindergarten for all past staff and their children.

The Jubilee of the Association provides a useful point from which to look at the Association's progress. For the first time in its history, the accumulated funds of the Association, including buildings, furniture, investments and cash, exceeded the substantial total of £100,000. The Association was now operating thirty kindergartens, with average total roll numbers of 1,216 for morning and 993 for afternoon sessions. The Association could boast of seven life members and 325

ordinary members. One indication of the progress made by the Association was that the Minister of Education had decided that "in view of the growth in the number of kindergartens and students in training in Auckland" approval had been given to the creation of the new position of Supervising Director in the Auckland Association.

The appointing of a Supervising Director saw a considerable increase in activity. The initial appointment went to A. Pepler, whose duties included "professional responsibility for all the kindergartens controlled by the Association, thus leaving the Principal and the Training Centre staff free to devote all their time to the training of students". Pepler resigned her position in early 1959 because of ill-health, and was replaced by Mary Patrick who had been Supervisor of Students with the Wellington Kindergarten Association.

Mary Patrick introduced many innovations as Supervising Director. She was a most conscientious, loyal and popular person, and her appointment fortunately coincided with a growing realisation by the Association of its changing responsibilities.

What then, were some of the innovations introduced by the Association in the 1960s? Medical facilities for children were improved. In February 1964, when a new Plunket Training School was opened in Auckland, it was arranged that as part of their training Plunket students should spend one week in a kindergarten. Other observation work in kindergartens was being conducted by dental nurse students, primary and post-primary student teachers, play centre supervisors, infant mistresses and specialist teachers from the Foundation for the Blind and the School for the Deaf. In 1964 three small groups of deaf children were attending New Lynn, Henderson and Myers Kindergartens, each group accompanied by a teacher from the School for the Deaf. The number of children in these groups was limited to five, and the groups attended kindergartens on two or three mornings a week. By 1967 Takapuna Kindergarten was also taking deaf children. These programmes continued during the seventies. In June 1973 the Crippled Children's Society submitted proposals to the Association for the establishment of a small pre-school unit of physically handicapped children to be admitted to a kindergarten. In 1974 small groups were admitted at Kingsdene (Mangere) and Te Atatu North, and a further two groups were admitted the following year. The teachers for each of the four groups were appointed by the Crippled Children's Society, and the scheme was generally successful. In 1979 the Department of Education undertook to establish in kindergartens further groups for handicapped children, and in keeping with this move assumed financial responsibility for the four groups already existing in Auckland.

The unit for deaf children at Takapuna was closed at the end of

1979; since there was no longer any local need it was transferred to Oranga Kindergarten early in 1980.

In 1965 a number of Pre-School/Infant liaison groups were established, leading to a marked growth in the awareness of the benefits of sharing knowledge among all those working within early childhood education. Further liaison groups were formed in 1967, and also in that year a series of University Extension classes were held in a number of kindergartens, benefiting both parents and staff.

Perhaps the most important changes, though, related to the establishing of new kindergartens in disadvantaged areas. The Association first started to grapple with this problem in 1964, following a recommendation from the Inspector of Schools that ways and means be found to establish pre-school facilities in areas with special needs — including localities with numbers of non-European and culturally-deprived families, as in Otara and Te Atatu — at the stage when such educational institutions were most urgently required.

A Development Committee was set up by the Executive of the Association's Council, to conduct public meetings and to try and form committees of interested residents. After three meetings in Otara the Committee "found a tremendous interest there for the development of pre-school services". The basic problem was finance, for areas such as Otara tended to consist largely of young families trying to establish themselves. The Association quickly found that while there was a general interest in kindergarten services, engendering the will to form committees and raise finance was altogether a different story.

The Development Committee decided that it was desirable to revert to the original concepts of the Association, which required that kindergartens be established in the districts where they were most needed, by people who did not live in those districts but who raised funds amongst their friends and in the more prosperous districts. The Association concurred with this, resolving "that existing kindergartens provide support to newly formed committees and that existing kindergarten funds which they may make available for the purpose be pooled for direct lending to newly formed committees after they have proved their ability by accumulating the bulk of the amount needed, and [requesting] the Executive [of the Council] to implement the proposal".

While the principle had been established, substantial difficulties remained. A successful appeal to the Auckland Savings Bank in 1965 resulted in donations of £250 for kindergartens in both Otara and Te Atatu, and the Child Welfare Division's decision to open a private kindergarten in Te Atatu was welcomed. It was hoped to make this kindergarten self-supporting, so that the energies of its committee could

be put into raising money for a free kindergarten.

The Association's policies met with some success. Establishment committees were set up in both Otara and Te Atatu; sites were found and in 1970 new kindergartens were opened. The available facilities, particular in Otara, did not meet the requirements of the burgeoning young population of South Auckland, however, and 'special need' kindergartens became a feature of the 1970s.

Kingsdene Kindergarten was the first of the Association's kindergartens to receive special assistance. Because of the number of Maori and other Polynesian children in the area it received a special grant from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs. Yendarra Kindergarten, in Otara, was the second to receive similar special assistance.

The Association had serious misgivings about the new Government policy of paying the full cost of the building to quickly establish these special needs kindergartens. In its annual report for 1972 the Association noted, with regard to Yendarra, that "this Kindergarten was the first one opened in our area without any large fund-raising efforts on the part of the people in the district. This means that there are not the same number of people who have had the necessary experience to run successfully a kindergarten". The annual report for 1976 indicated that this was a matter of continuing concern, because such kindergartens required a great deal of on-going assistance. Although the Government had been "wise in providing these kindergartens free of cost to the parents", there was considerable disquiet about where the Government's policy might eventually place the Association. Clearly the Association had no wish to be saddled with a large number of not very viable kindergartens. As it pointed out in a letter to the Minister of Education in July 1973, the Association was not a money-making body.

Coupled with this was the problem of dealing with different attitudes from children and parents. At the end of 1976 a mass resignation of the committee of one South Auckland kindergarten indicated the very real problems being faced. This particular committee had reached the end of its tether, because "our kindergarten is just a dumping ground for the children". There were also difficulties with the disruptive influences of some of the children, their poor health, and infrequent attendance. This was indeed a far cry from the "chubby and rosy" children who "appeared to love the ladies who looked after them so well" and were attending the Association's first established kindergarten way back in 1910. The Association was mindful of the difficulties in South Auckland, and in 1980, out of the proceeds of an International Year of the Child Telethon appeal, received \$10,000 to employ a social worker attached to the five kindergartens in the Mangere

area. The scheme was of benefit to teachers, parents, and children, but appeals by the Association to numerous organisations for funds to continue the scheme in 1981 were unsuccessful.

It would be unfair to imply that during the seventies Government did nothing more than establish kindergartens in areas which, while needing them, were unlikely to continue supporting them. In 1973 Government stated that it would increase the subsidies on new kindergarten buildings to \$4 for \$1 from \$2 for \$1, and that Education Boards were prepared to take over the maintenance of kindergarten buildings owned by Associations. Government also announced that the Department of Education would accept responsibility for obtaining kindergarten sites in future. These factors did much to relieve the constant pressure on the Association and on local committees.

In 1974 the Government introduced sessional grants to assist the financing of pre-school education. These were at the rate of \$2 per session to kindergarten committees and an administration grant in three installments of \$40 to the Association for each kindergarten under its control. In 1975 the sessional grant constituted 15% of the Association's total income, and in 1980 18%. Levies from kindergartens in 1980 provided 62.7% of the Association's income. 21% of the income of the kindergartens came from sessional grants in 1980, compared with 47% from parents' donations and 27% from fund-raising activities.

The Association was also mindful of its need to adapt to the changing situations of the seventies. A new constitution was adopted in November 1970, which divided the Association into four "areas": North, South, West, and Central and East, each area to elect two representatives to the Council. It was hoped that through such an organisation all kindergartens would feel they had more direct representation and so closer liaison with the Council. At area meetings establishment funds were set up to assist the building of new kindergartens, and while such funds were under the control of the Association they were dispersed after consultation with the appropriate area committee. In 1975 a fifth "area" was created.

A pooling system to create a building fund was established in 1975, and the annual report of the Association for 1976 described it as being "of great assistance to our Movement in enabling more kindergartens to be built".

In July 1978 the Association received the residue of the estate of Jessie Neill. Jessie Neill had been Secretary of the Association for over nineteen years, from 1951 to 1970. She held this position during a period when there were many changes both in personnel and in Association affairs. Noted as an highly efficient, loyal, dedicated person, she worked much longer hours than might be expected, and did not accept full

remuneration for her labours. Following her resignation as Secretary she was made a Life Member and on her death her estate passed to the Association. This amounted to about \$130,000, the bulk of the assets being invested in shares and trustee securities. The Association's Council decided that the major portion of the income from the investments would be channelled towards the provision of professional support services.

One of the most important activities the Association indulged in during the late 1970s was a bit of soul searching. In its 1975 annual report it examined "Auckland's special problems", noting that "we are far behind in meeting the needs of those parents who wish to have their children attend kindergartens". It was noted that there were still more children on waiting lists than actually attending kindergartens. It was further noted that while the Association had plans for forty-five new kindergartens, only seven establishment committees had been formed.

Along with this close examination of the material problems facing the Association was a questioning of the "quality of life" within the Association. This was summed up by the President of the Association in the annual report for 1977 when she asked:

"...progress in recent years has been rapid, but is it really progress? In the race to provide kindergarten education for more children, have we lost some sense of purpose and direction? Are we sufficiently concerned about the quality of the provision, about the needs of children, parents and communities in which they live? In the name of change are we losing a share of our own destiny and if so what are we doing about it?"

Clearly the challenges to the Association before it can mark its centenary will be just as great, if not greater, than those it faced in its first seventy-five years of activity.



Opening day at Myers Kindergarten, November 1916. The Hon. Arthur Myers (left), who gave the kindergarten to the Association, talks to the Governor-General of New Zealand, Lord Liverpool.





Attitudes to learning evolve but some things remain the same. Water and sand play in 1983 (*above, NZ Herald photo*); (*below*) enjoying their blocks, almost seventy years before.





Morning tea was a serious enough business, however welcome the food. *Below:* Fund-raising has always played an important part in kindergarten affairs. Five floral carpets such as the one here netted in excess of £12,000 between 1945 and 1964.





7. *Teacher Training — the Kindergarten Teachers' Training College 1910-1972*

From the very beginning of its activities the Association felt the need to be involved closely in the training of kindergarten teachers. As early as 1909 it had started negotiations for the engagement of a teacher (then known as a trainer) who had graduated from one of the kindergarten colleges in either England or the United States. The Association expected that the cost of securing the teacher, together with acquiring suitable premises and equipment, would amount to between £350 and £400 per year.

By August 1909 the Association had managed to secure the services of Margaret E. Gibson as a teacher, to begin early in 1910. Margaret Gibson, described in the *New Zealand Herald* as “a lady with excellent experience”, was the holder of the higher certificate of the National Froebel Union of Great Britain. She spent the latter part of 1909 at the Training College in Sydney to study the methods employed there for the training of students, and to become acquainted with the free kindergarten system operating in New South Wales.

Margaret Gibson was indeed a busy woman in 1910. Not only was she responsible for the training of the first batch of teachers, but she also took charge of the Association's first kindergarten. Some idea of the range of her work can be obtained from a report of a Government Inspector in July 1911, who wrote:

“The Principal is responsible for the management of the Kindergarten generally; takes an active share in the teaching, and draws up, term by term, the schemes of work for the year. . . Miss Gibson gives lectures to all the students on four days of the week in the afternoons, and they attend lectures on Drawing and Class singing. . . on Saturday mornings. . . Miss Gibson holds a class on Saturday morning for children above the kindergarten age, story-telling being its principal feature. She also holds meetings for mothers on alternate Tuesdays. . .”

At the end of 1911 she was able to relinquish her position at Campbell Kindergarten to devote all her energies to the teacher training programme.

The course of study for student teachers in 1910 occupied two years, with fees set at two guineas per term. To qualify for admission prospective students had to satisfy the Principal "as to character, health, and general ability". Teaching revolved around eight basic topics: psychology and study of child nature, methods of education, history of education, Froebel's principles of education, educational handwork (including modelling in sand and clay, drawing with pencil and brush, colour work, weaving, paper folding and cutting, curve sewing, and work with wood, cardboard etc.), school hygiene, nature study, and blackboard drawing. Class singing became an additional subject in 1911.

The training was both theoretical and practical in character. In a brochure published by the Association in 1910 the advantages of kindergarten training were clearly set out:

Kindergarten training helps to make a woman broader and more sympathetic in her outlook upon life. She learns to look upon education as a life building process which continues throughout life, and her close association with little children develops such qualities as sincerity, patience, and insight in a marked degree, and fits her to be an ideal wife and mother should she become a home maker, and under any circumstances makes her a more helpful woman than if she had not had the training.

Fifteen students received a year's training in 1910, seven of them being awarded diplomas. There were twelve students in 1911, nine in 1912, and thereafter a steady twenty or so, except in 1919 when numbers fell to 13. The diplomas awarded numbered eight in 1911, four in 1912, six in 1913, ten in 1914 (including one to Constance Colegrove, who later became Principal of the Teachers' College), and there followed a steady stream of graduates. Not all the graduates ended up teaching in Auckland Association kindergartens, however. The annual report for 1913 indicated that members of the "Old Girls' Association" — an organisation of graduates — had opened two new private kindergartens, at Takapuna and Mt Eden, while another two were working in Gisborne. The Association showed no indication of any concern that its graduates were not automatically teaching in its kindergartens. The annual report for 1917 noted that the training programme was "valuable to the students, as it fits them for posts in private schools as well as kindergartens". There were clearly insufficient positions to cater for the graduates being produced.

Almost from the outset the Principal of the Teachers' College received outside assistance. In 1917, for example, demonstrations of kindergarten teaching were being given by the Principals of the preparatory schools and kindergartens at St Marks, St Aidans, and Epsom, and by the Directors of the Campbell, Myers, Newmarket and St James Kindergartens. Class singing was conducted by a Mrs Moren, and physical culture was the province of a Miss MacFarlane. Standards were high, as reflected in the always complimentary comments of Inspectors from the Department of Education. The comment for 1920, that the students had "done eminently satisfactory work, and the [examination] papers give proof of an intelligent understanding of the principles underlying Kindergarten teaching", was a fairly typical one.

The 1920s and 1930s were decades of quiet development for the Teachers' College. The one hundredth person to graduate with a diploma did so in 1923. In 1924 Margaret Gibson resigned her position to go to South Africa, and was replaced by Constance Colegrove, who was to hold her position until 1949. The nucleus of a college library was created in 1928, the money coming from both the Association's Council and the Ladies' Committees. Perhaps the most significant change, though, came with the introduction of a new syllabus in 1928. This was issued by the Department of Education for the Elementary Kindergarten Certificate. The course of training still involved a two-year period, and was based on the study of education principles and practice (including the history and organisation of the modern kindergarten, child hygiene, and child psychology), English, nature study, manual arts and occupations, music and singing, and Dalcroze eurythmics. To enter the College a student had to be at least seventeen years old and have had a good secondary education. There were no fees to pay, and no salary to receive. The 1928 prospectus for the Training College stated clearly that the Association could not guarantee positions to students when they had finished their training, but offered four prospects. Students could become Assistants, and subsequently Directors (Head Teachers) in free kindergartens when vacancies occurred. They could take positions in the primary departments of schools. They could become "governesses in private families", or they could open private kindergartens of their own.

Until 1943 the number of students at the Training College averaged 15 per year, but from 1944 on numbers began to increase. There were 23 students that year, rising to 40 in 1947 and 45 the following year. An increase by the Department of Education in the quota of student teachers in 1950 to 55 called for a certain amount of readjustment at the College. The lecture programme was extended from five afternoons to five afternoons and two mornings per week. An increase to 60

students in 1951 necessitated further reorganisation of student training to accommodate the number of students. By 1960 this had grown to 75, and two first-year and two second-year classes were consequently organised.

The Association was always eager to attract suitable students for its College, but especially so in the early 1960s when the Department of Education started delaying the opening of new kindergartens until the staffing situation in established kindergartens had improved. In 1961 the Association extended its recruitment programme to include participation in the Commonwealth Technical Training Exhibition, correspondence with the head teachers of 131 secondary schools, visits to Auckland secondary schools to show slides of the College and of kindergarten children at work, a recruitment talk over the radio, extensive discussions with vocational guidance officers, and a College discussion session organised with the help of vocational guidance officers to which were invited careers advisers of secondary schools.

Numbers at the College continued to rise, reaching 95 in 1962 and 105 in 1963. In 1972, the year in which the Association gave up financial responsibility for the College, there were 138 students. The first married woman to complete the course did so in 1964.

The ever-increasing numbers of students caused both staffing and accommodation problems. The Association was fortunate that the Principals of the College tended to be long-serving. From 1910 to 1972 there were only five directors, Margaret Gibson serving two terms, from 1910 to 1913 and 1920 to 1924. Alice Hopkinson, a former student of the Froebel College at Bedford, was Principal from 1914 to 1919, and Constance Colegrove, Principal from 1925 to 1949, was the first New Zealand-trained Principal. She was succeeded by Fay Cawkwell in 1950, and the first male Principal, L. T. Robertson, began his term in 1971 following the death of Fay Cawkwell the previous year.

With the growth in the amount of work at the college in the early 1940s, it was found necessary to have an Assistant-Principal, and Fay Cawkwell was appointed to this position in 1945. A third member of staff was required in 1948, and M. Burt, of Onehunga Kindergarten, was promoted to this position. In 1950 a typist was appointed to the College, and in 1960 a fourth permanent staff member. From 1948 through to 1960 teaching had been carried out by the three permanent staff assisted by ten visiting lecturers. The Department of Education agreed to further appointments of staff in 1963 and 1969. For many years students maintained the College gardens, but the size of the gardens and problems in dealing with them during wet weather made the system unsatisfactory. A part-time gardener was appointed in 1965, though students still continued to assist.

Accommodation problems were at times severe. The College had commenced operations in the cricket pavilion at Victoria Park, transferring at the end of 1910 to the newly erected Logan Campbell Kindergarten building. In 1916 it occupied a portion of Myers Kindergarten, and in 1944 moved to the upper floor of the Myers Kindergarten building. This move involved various alterations, including the glassing-in of the balcony and the building of an office for the Principal. These alterations were undertaken by the City Council. The annual report of the Association for 1946 makes note of the "ample room for Student activities". During the 1950s, however, extra space became necessary. Lecture rooms were becoming badly overcrowded, there was a lack of storage space, library accommodation was woefully inadequate, there were no proper cloakroom facilities for students, no recreational facilities, and even toilet facilities were inadequate for the number of students attending the College. In 1958 the Minister of Education gave approval for the purchase of a large house at 43 Arney Road, Remuera, and the College moved into its new premises at the end of the third term, 1958.

During the early 1960s the Auckland Association had expressed its concern about the increasing cost to the Association of operating the Teachers' College. At the 1962 N.Z.F.K.U. Conference, as a result of a remit from the Auckland Association, a decision was made that the cost of the four Kindergarten Colleges in New Zealand be borne equally by all Government-recognised free kindergartens.

A "House Committee" was established by the Association in 1964 to look after the affairs of the Training College. Under its advice new furniture and equipment was purchased and general renovations carried out. Preparatory plans for a new lecture room, apart from the existing building, were approved by the Department of Education in 1964, and an all-weather tennis court and playing area was also established. The new lecture-room block came into use early in 1967, but by 1972 it had become necessary for two new relocatable buildings to be added to the College.

In 1972 the Association was approached by the Department of Education to find means of training additional students. Faced with this need for more kindergarten teachers the Association finally agreed that 40 additional students would be trained in Hamilton at the Hamilton Teachers' College, and another group of 30 would be trained at the North Shore Teachers' College, as well as those who were to be trained at Arney Road. The Department of Education recommended that in future an Auckland committee for Pre-School Education, under the Executive Committee of the North Shore Teachers' College, should control not only the group of kindergarten students at North Shore

Teachers' College, but also the Association's Teachers' College at Arney Road. The Association, somewhat reluctantly, agreed to this and it was implemented in 1973. This meant that the Association no longer had any financial responsibility for the Auckland Kindergarten Teachers' College, but to maintain the kindergarten interest in training for the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union Certificate three Association people were appointed to sit on the Auckland Committee for Pre-School Education.

In 1974 the Department of Education rather hurriedly decided to close the College at Arney Road and transfer this unit to the Auckland Teachers' College.

8. *Histories of the Individual Kindergartens*

This chapter details the histories of all the kindergartens established by the Association. It will be noted that the entries for each kindergarten vary considerably in length. This is in no way a reflection upon the relative importance of any kindergarten, but indicates only the eventfulness or otherwise of that kindergarten's history. Some long-established kindergartens which have functioned very smoothly have short entries, as have some newly-established kindergartens; while others, which have experienced turbulent histories and problems in finding sites, raising money, obtaining building permission and the like, have longer descriptions. Kindergartens which represented new developments in Association activity, such as Bairds, are also allocated more space, and parts of chapter eight should be seen as adding flesh to the bones provided in the earlier chapters.

ANCHORAGE PARK

This kindergarten was opened in Pakuranga in 1978. The Lands and Survey Department had made available in 1973 land adjacent to a school site which was surplus to the school's needs, but by 1976 the Anchorage Park Establishment Committee was beginning to express its dissatisfaction with the slow rate of progress being made. The Committee contemplated a situation where a "coalition-type kindergarten" organised by both Reeves Road Kindergarten and Anchorage Park would be operated in a hired hall. Part of the frustration which led to this proposal arose from the large waiting lists in the three kindergartens already existing in the Pakuranga area. In March 1976 Reeves Road had a waiting list of 406 three-to-five-year-olds, Whiteacres 150 three-to-five-year-olds, and Cascades Road another 46 in the same age group, plus 124 two-to-three-year-olds.

The Association was able to assist the situation by convincing the Education Department of the desirability of having a private architect for the construction of both Anchorage Park and a number of other kindergartens at the same time. Towards the end of 1977 the Government, wishing to stimulate the building industry, made available

funds for building kindergartens; and the construction of Anchorage Park was completed by March the following year, at a cost of \$46,950.

AVONDALE

Avondale was opened in the local Salvation Army Hall shortly after Easter, 1944, one of the five kindergartens opened by the Association that year. Adequate space in the hall was no longer available by 1946, however, and the free kindergarten closed at the end of the first term. The kindergarten continued on a paying basis in Victoria Hall, Rosebank Road, under Miss Keene, who had been an untrained Assistant to the Avondale Kindergarten Head Teacher. In May 1950 Miss Keene departed, taking her equipment with her and leaving a situation in which an average of seventeen children per day were being cared for by a married woman with no training and no equipment apart from a piano.

In 1949 the Department of Housing Construction agreed to transfer a section in Rosebank Road to the Department of Lands and Survey, which in turn vested the property in the Association. A new Avondale Free Kindergarten Association was formed in June 1950, and the kindergarten reopened in the Victoria Hall in 1951. The following year the church authorities made alterations to the hall which greatly improved conditions. In December 1956 the kindergarten moved into its new building in Rosebank Road.

BAIRDS

A site for a kindergarten in Bairds Road, Otara, was offered to the Association by the Housing Division of the Ministry of Works in 1961. At a public meeting in the East Tamaki Hall in October 1963, which only five mothers and their children attended, a committee was formed to try and interest other parents and to call a further meeting. Local interest was minimal however, partly because most residents were already committed to paying off their houses and furniture. As well, a small private kindergarten was being run in the Otara Hall; its fees were low and it was providing a satisfactory service. There was also some local feeling that the regulations for the setting up of a free kindergarten were too strict.

In 1972 the Plunket Society and the Association agreed on the advantages of erecting at Bairds Road a kindergarten with a Plunket clinic attached. The Plunket Society was prepared to provide \$5,000 towards the cost of the project, and the Association agreed to approach the Department of Education to put a case to them for approval.

The scheme was no great novelty. Such a kindergarten, known as

a Helen Deem Type kindergarten, already existed in Dunedin, but the Auckland office of the Department of Education, while backing the scheme, felt the need to refer the matter to head office in Wellington for approval. Wellington was much less enthusiastic, pointing out that "the department is not particularly keen . . . if the Plunket rooms are going to reduce the quarter-acre kindergarten site available". The Department would not subsidise the Plunket portion of the building, and the Plunket Society would have to agree to the Association having title to the buildings.

In early 1973 Dr N. C. Begg, the Director of Medical Services to the Plunket Society, approached the Auckland office of the Department of Education, pointing out to them that many of the mothers of pre-school children who would attend the proposed new Plunket rooms already attended other Plunket clinics in Otara, and that mothers already interested in Plunket services would be more enthusiastic about kindergarten facilities if a combined service could be provided. The Department became much more positive when it learnt that the Plunket Society had in mind only a situation whereby a Plunket nurse kept a watchful eye over the children attending the kindergarten, especially as the Society was still prepared to contribute the \$5,000.

Following many problems at Yendarra Kindergarten, the Association stipulated that it would go ahead with the proposal only if a committee was formed in the area, and it could prove its worth by raising "at least \$1,000 in a reasonable time".

In November 1973 the Plunket Society informed the Association that "because of the undue delay which has occurred since the project was first mentioned and because there still appears to be no progress, the Society has decided that it must withdraw from this combined scheme". This resulted in rapid negotiations between the Departments of Education and Health, the Association, and the Plunket Society, and by mid-1974 the scheme had become a possibility again.

By September 1975 preliminary plans for the Bairds Road Kindergarten — the Bairds Road Extended Day Experimental Kindergarten, to give it its full title — had been drawn up. The architect's estimate for the completed building and site was \$67,840. This was cut back to \$63,534, but with escalation of prices had risen to \$68,300 by June 1976. Clearly this was going to be no ordinary kindergarten.

It was proposed that the children attending Bairds Road would be drawn predominantly from the immediate area of the Bairds Road school. A few places would be available for children from the greater Otara area, particularly for referrals with special needs. Twenty children would attend five mornings a week only, and thirty would stay for the

extended day. These would be provided with a meal and a period of rest. A number of places in the extended day would be available for children referred by various social and medical welfare services. The number of such children in the kindergarten at any one time would be flexible and dependent upon the type of social needs of the particular children and the ability of the staff to cope adequately.

The Department of Education favoured a facility being made for some children to be supervised from 7.30 in the morning until 5.30 in the evening. The Association was not keen about this, and asked "is full day care . . . really the responsibility of this organisation?" It noted that existing kindergarten staff were not trained in custodial care, and that there was a definite resistance amongst a large number of kindergarten teachers to the need to care for or teach three-year-old children. "Teachers are not happy changing wet pants, putting on sticky tape, or wiping noses." Hours of 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. were eventually agreed upon.

However the basic problem at Bairds was probably finance. The Association sought a commitment from Government for continuing financial support. It was not prepared to see the Government establish the kindergarten and then leave its entire administration to the Association. As early as July 1973 the Association had written to the Minister of Education pointing out that while there was no difficulty about building a kindergarten in a special need area with the total cost being met by Government, the annual running costs were entirely a different matter. The Association firmly stated its view that when a committee did not work together first at fund-raising, it lacked the necessary spirit which was evident in other committees.

In spite of the Association's views that there were still "many points which require further discussion", the Government in October 1976 gave permission to commence the construction of Bairds Kindergarten. The misgivings of the Association were considerable. In a report dated August 1977 the Association stated: "With the Bairds Kindergarten, the basic facts are these:- The building is bigger, it costs more to insure, it costs more to clean, it costs more to heat than the average kindergarten. There are a total of fifty families instead of the usual eighty on which to call for parental support, either by way of donations or fund-raising. From these fifty families, it is expected that at least one-third will be seriously disadvantaged to a greater extent than the average Otara family, as these will be families of children admitted as special cases to the kindergarten."

The report re-emphasised that if Bairds Kindergarten was to be given half a chance to succeed, then it must be adequately provided for.

The attitude of the Department of Education provided little comfort

for the Association. Early in 1977 it had written to the Association that "on the matter of financing, the Department does not have a policy of providing written assurances of financial aid for any kindergarten."

In April 1977 a "Bairds Road Staffing Advisory Group" was established, consisting of one representative from the Association, the Teachers' Colleges, the Pre-School Advisory Service, the Kindergarten Teachers' Association, the local community, and the Supervising Head Teacher. It was to formulate guidelines for interviewing and selection by the Appointments Committee of staff at Bairds. Four positions were advertised — a senior head teacher, a first assistant, and two teachers. Appointments were made in June 1977, and the staff commenced their duties in August 1977. Until early in the third term only a morning programme was operated, to enable staff and children to settle and the needs of the children to be ascertained.

The new kindergarten differed from other kindergarten buildings in a number of ways. Apart from the additional floor area, it had a larger kitchen with more facilities, automatic washing and drying machines, furniture for the midday meal to be supplied to thirty children, beds and bed storage, more ablution facilities, and a medical inspection room. The medical room was for the use of Public Health and Plunket nurses, and it was anticipated that it would also be used by Department of Education psychologists, speech therapists, and others. Free dental care for pre-school children was provided at the school dental clinic at the adjoining Bairds School. Welfare workers working in association with the kindergarten were expected to represent both the Departments of Social Welfare and Maori Affairs, as well as local bodies. The Save the Children Fund undertook to underwrite the cost of the midday meals at the kindergarten, and also contributed over \$400 to purchase items for the kitchen and to establish an initial food stock.

The Association's misgivings about the viability of Baird's Kindergarten came to the fore again at the end of 1978. In a letter to the chairman of the kindergarten committee, the Association expressed its concern over matters relating to the non-payment of certain levies and accounts. The Association went so far as to state that "your committee's continued refusal to meet its obligations to the Association could cause the Council to reconsider its decision to accept management and control of Bairds Kindergarten."

In March 1980 Bairds opened after a period of eight weeks' closure at the beginning of the first term. During this time arrangements were finalised for various changes to the building and staffing entitlement. Alternations which separated the laundry from the kitchen facilities were completed. A House Mother was appointed, her main concern being

the health of the children. She also had responsibility for ordering and purchasing food for meals. With efficient management and budgeting the food account stood in credit, and the need for a subsidy from the Save the Children Fund had been eliminated. Roll numbers were reduced from fifty children per day to thirty-five, all children staying the extended day, from 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. During 1980 there were some difficulties in maintaining the roll at its maximum. In a report at the end of 1980 by the Supervising Head Teacher, it was noted that "the changes implemented at the beginning of 1980 have opened the way for this scheme to be the success those involved in the planning hoped it would be."

BAYVIEW

An establishment committee had been formed in October 1975, and permission to prepare preliminary site and building plans was given by the Department of Education in February 1977. The Takapuna City Council made a grant of \$2,500 towards the costs of establishing Bayview Kindergarten in November 1977, and building was under way before the end of that year. The kindergarten cost a little over \$51,000 to construct, and commenced operation in mid-1978.

BELMONT-BAYSWATER

The twentieth kindergarten to be opened by the Association was in the Belmont Anglican Church Hall in February 1945. Government recognition of this kindergarten depended initially upon an improvement to the existing toilet facilities, the Senior Inspector of Schools in Auckland having noted that "as this district is not served by drainage and there is only one outhouse fitted with a pan, the accommodation is totally inadequate and in its present form unsuitable for use by small children. If proper lavatory accommodation is provided there is no objection to the building being registered as a kindergarten." The problem was solved.

In 1947 the kindergarten had to manage for a term without any Government grant, as no trained teacher could be found for the vacant position which existed. The Committee managed to keep kindergarten activities going and was able to get by with its existing funds. A trained teacher was appointed in June 1947, and as a consequence, Government capitation grants were recommenced.

Because of drainage problems a move to more suitable accommodation in the Presbyterian Hall was made in 1948, but by 1950 this too was proving inadequate, and a search was begun for yet another site. At the end of 1950 a site in a proposed subdivision in King Edward

Avenue, Bayswater was set aside. By 1955 this subdivision had not yet been proceeded with, and in November of that year the Presbyterian Church gave notice that their hall would not be available for kindergarten use after June 1956. At the end of 1955, however, it became necessary to close the kindergarten because of the lack of a trained teacher.

In March 1958, after the Lands and Survey Department had completed a survey of the King Edward Avenue subdivision, the site for a kindergarten was vested in the Association. In 1959 plans for a kindergarten in King Edward Avenue (renamed Rosyth Street) were prepared, and in June 1960 the new kindergarten began operation. The cost of the building, including architect fees and site work, was £5,891.

BIRKDALE

Following an inaugural public interest meeting in May 1961 an establishment committee was set up. An interest-free loan of £500 from C. B. Inward saw fund-raising get off to a useful start, and in early 1962 a site in Puriri Road (later renamed Beachhaven Road) was obtained. The kindergarten, which cost £6,500 to construct, commenced operation in August 1966.

BIRKENHEAD

Opened in June 1941 in the Returned Soldiers' Hall, Mokoia Street, this was the first of ten kindergartens to be opened during the Second World War.

In 1947 a site on the Skeates Estate was promised by the Lands and Survey Department to the Association for use as a kindergarten and was so vested in 1951. The need to move to a new site was emphasised in a letter from the Birkenhead committee to the Association in 1950, which noted that the building being used for the kindergarten was far too dirty and unsuitable for children. The committee was frequently being told that the kindergarten would be turned out because of its complaints about "the state of the Hall, the rats and the bad state of the lavatories". The situation was not improved in October 1951 when the Birkenhead Returned Services Club informed the kindergarten committee that the Club's electricity quota had been exceeded and that they had therefore decided to cut off the electricity during the day! An appeal to the Waitamata Electric Power Board saw the excess consumption cancelled, and a new allocation of power made "to allow the kindergarten reasonable use" of its facilities.

In May 1954 the kindergarten moved to the All Saints Anglican Church Hall in Hauraki Road while renovations to the R.S.A. Hall

were carried out. In September the same year the Anglican Church would no longer approve the kindergarten remaining in its hall, and a move to the Victoria Hall in The Crescent was made.

Further trouble faced the committee in 1955 when the Birkenhead Borough Council decided it was essential to build a road that would cut fifty feet [15 metres] off the Skeates Estate property in Hammond Road. The Association decided it would go ahead with erecting a building on the property, but would place it so that a wide strip could be removed if necessary for road development. The Borough Council reciprocated by authorising the issue of a building permit, but expressed its feeling that "the site is not in the best interests of the children in view of the traffic hazards expected when the Harbour Bridge is in use."

In June 1956 the new kindergarten moved into its new building in Hammond Place. By 1973 Birkenhead was again having problems with its site. It lacked suitable access and was too close to the commercial area of Highbury.

BLOCKHOUSE BAY

This kindergarten was officially opened in 1946, but for the year previous had been meeting as a private kindergarten. It commenced operation in the Blockhouse Bay Improvement Hall.

In the third term of 1947 Blockhouse Bay was without a trained teacher, and therefore received no Government grant for that term. It was one of three of the Association's kindergartens to be in this situation in 1947. A trained teacher was available early in 1948.

Because of its distance from Auckland the Blockhouse Bay committee made various departures from the normal running of the kindergartens in Auckland. In 1948 when half-day sessions were introduced, Blockhouse Bay asked for, and received, the retention of all-day sessions on Wednesdays, as it was not practical for mothers to travel to and from Auckland within a three-hour session. There was also a request for certain variations to be made in the times of opening and closing the kindergarten to meet the requirements of mothers who wished their children to be taken there by older children, or who were travelling by bus. It was not until 1955 that Blockhouse Bay's hours of opening conformed to those of other kindergartens.

In 1948 a site in Kinross Avenue was offered to the Association for the Blockhouse Bay Kindergarten, but it was found to be too small. The kindergarten committee located a suitable site in 1954, on land owned by the Auckland City Council. In 1955 the City Council commenced development of this area, and in 1956 leased for 42 years a property in Exminster Street to the Association at a yearly rental of

£1/1/-. By this time the old kindergarten site was proving most unsatisfactory. The playground was very soggy and unsuitable for outside play, and there were hygiene problems as well. Indeed, all of Blockhouse Bay had problems similar to those of the kindergarten. The local Residents and Ratepayers Association lamented in October 1955 that Blockhouse Bay had "no drainage and poor nightsoil collection, no footpaths and atrocious roads; no playing fields for children; no action on the city council's proposed development of block 76 for housing." Block 76 included Exminster Street.

By December 1956 the section had been formally leased, and sketch plans for a new building drawn up. The new building was completed at the end of 1958, at a cost of a little over £6,000, and officially opened in March 1959.

BOTANY DOWNS

This was one of seven kindergartens opened in 1977. A site attached to the Botany Downs Primary School was originally offered to the Association in 1971, but was turned down by the Association because there was no way it could finance the purchase of land to hold for future use. The Education Department arranged for the purchase of the site, and in 1973 it was agreed that the site in the meantime should form part of the school grounds so that maintenance and fencing could be undertaken by the Auckland Education Board.

An establishment committee was formed in August 1974, and by early 1975 sufficient funds had been raised to enable the committee to apply for a Government subsidy. There were delays with this, but at the end of 1975 permission was granted for the preparation of building plans. The plans were completed, and approved by the Department of Education, but in July 1976 the Botany Downs establishment committee was informed that its kindergarten had been deferred because of the need for economies in Government expenditure. Furthermore, because of the large number of kindergartens the Association wished to proceed with, a priority list had been drawn up and Botany Downs was declared low priority. There were loud protests from the establishment committee, and finally, at the end of 1976, permission was given for tenders to be called to build the new kindergarten. Recognition of Botany Downs as a Grade I kindergarten took effect from October 1977.

BROADLANDS

This kindergarten, in Sunnynook Road, was one of five opened in 1971.

An establishment committee had been set up in 1966, and in February 1969 the Waitemata County Council set aside for leasing a section of land for kindergarten purposes. Shortly after, permission was granted to proceed with preliminary site and building plans. Tenders were called in 1970, and the kindergarten constructed at a cost of \$20,000. The standard of work on the completed building was far from satisfactory, however. The Association complained to the contractors of work not finished on time, instructions ignored, promises not kept and work left undone. Poor workmanship and omissions from the contract were also noted. The contracting firm went into liquidation at the end of 1971.

BUCKLANDS BEACH

This kindergarten was opened in February 1976. A site in Oliver Road was obtained from the Department of Education in 1973 and an establishment committee set up in the middle of that year. Finance was quickly raised, and authority to prepare preliminary site and sketch plans was given in September 1974. The kindergarten was constructed at a cost of a little over \$40,000.

CASCADES ROAD

In December 1972 a committee was formed to work towards establishing a kindergarten in the Cascades Road area, Pakuranga. Assistance was received from the Manukau City Council in finding a site. An active fund-raising campaign was conducted, and by the end of 1973 about \$4,000 had been secured. This included a donation of \$500 from the Pakuranga Round Table.

Preliminary site and sketch plans were authorised in October 1974, and tenders were called for the construction of the kindergarten in June 1975. The building was completed, at a cost of a little over \$41,000, in time for activities to commence at the beginning of February 1976.

An adventure playground was completed in 1978.

CELTIC CRESCENT

In 1976 the Association held two public meetings to gauge the support for a kindergarten in Ellerslie. Only six people attended the first meeting, and twenty the second. An establishment committee was formed in 1978, and fund-raising was helped substantially in early 1980 with a donation of \$2,500 from the Penrose Rotary Club. There was a setback in July 1980, however, when advice was received that Government finance for 1980-81 was limited to funding for two buildings only, and that Celtic Crescent had not received sufficient priority to be included.

Site plan drawings were approved by the Department of Education early in 1981, and permission to call tenders was given. Celtic Crescent was included in the Government's building stimulation programme for 1981, and the kindergarten commenced operation in 1982.

CLYDEMORE

In April 1973 the Department of Lands and Survey reserved a site adjoining the Clydemore School, Otara, for kindergarten purposes. A tender for the construction of the kindergarten was accepted in August 1975, and towards the end of the year Government approved the appointment of a third teacher.

Clydemore was established with special Government assistance, which meant that the full cost of the building was met by Government. There were delays in completing the construction of the building, which opened in April 1976, and the period from February until April passed with the staff paying visits to local parents.

There was a mass resignation of the kindergarten committee at the end of 1976, mainly because of the lack of parental support. In a letter to the Association the local committee noted that "we all feel that Otara does not need kindergartens as much as they do need Day Care Centres. We all feel and have felt for some time that our Kindergarten is just a dumping ground for the children."

In August 1977 a four-week survey of the children at Clydemore revealed a distressing situation. Attendance was affected by a number of factors. On very wet days there was an average of only thirteen children at each session. Many who attended kindergarten made the journey there with a brother or sister who was going to the adjoining school, but a lot of older children did not attend school on rainy days. Illnesses, of either the children attending the kindergartens or the children bringing them, reduced numbers. Lack of transport was a further incentive not to attend. Most of the children at Clydemore were in poor physical condition, due to bad nutrition, inadequate clothing and footwear, low-grade shelter (badly heated and unsanitary homes), and poor home supervision.

At the time of writing this situation appears to have significantly improved.

COLWILL ROAD

An establishment committee for a kindergarten in the Massey area of West Auckland was formed in 1978. Application was made to the Department of Education for special assistance for this kindergarten,

and this was approved. This meant that the full cost of establishing the kindergarten was met from Government funds, including the purchase of equipment. Tenders were called in December 1979, and the kindergarten commenced operation towards the end of 1980.

CONSTANCE COLEGROVE

In October 1944 a deputation of Remuera residents waited on the Mayor of Auckland with a proposal that a site in Remuera Road be made available for a kindergarten site. In 1947 the Department of Lands and Survey advised that part of the site, on the corner of Remuera and Wairau Roads, could be used for this purpose. Protracted discussions between the Association, the City Council, and the Departments of Education and Lands and Survey followed, mainly because the Association felt the site it was being offered was not particularly suitable: the most desirable portion of the available land was being retained as a park. Not until 1953 did the Association accept the site originally offered to it, and this appears to have been largely in response to the necessity of closing down the Newmarket Kindergarten.

Tenders for the kindergarten building were called in March 1954, and Constance Colegrove Kindergarten commenced operations in February 1955.

An adventure playground was completed in 1967. By this time the waiting list of entrants stood at 210, and the need for a new free kindergarten in the area had become obvious. Constance Colegrove Kindergarten donated \$600 toward an establishment fund for a kindergarten being started in St Lukes Church buildings.

The kindergarten was reroofed in 1975, at a cost of \$5,800.

CUTHBERT

Originally named Onehunga, this was the fifth kindergarten to be opened by the Association, and the first for nine years. The kindergarten commenced on 9 November 1925, in the Coronation Hall, under the Directorship of R. Smallfield. The average roll in the third term of that year was 25, the average attendance 17. In 1927 the committee spent some time looking for a more suitable site, but had to turn down an Onehunga Borough Council offer of land because of financial difficulties.

The purchase of a site in Hill Street on which to erect a kindergarten was arranged in 1928, and the following year saw a concerted fund-raising effort. The move was never made however, and in 1942 the kindergarten had to leave the Coronation Hall as it was required for war purposes. A hall nearby was made available by the Onehunga Band

Committee, and the local Borough Council assisted the kindergarten committee by moving a schoolroom, putting the new grounds in order, and erecting playing equipment.

On Anzac Day 1945 fire did £200 worth of damage to the building and it had to be closed for a number of months. It was however adequately insured by the Council. An extra room was added in the playground in 1946. By 1947 a more suitable site was being sought, and in early 1948 agreement was reached on a site in Cameron Street. This followed a decision in 1940 that the Onehunga Centennial Memorial should take the form of a combined kindergarten-Plunket rooms. The new building was opened in 1957, and the kindergarten renamed Cuthbert after Ivy Marion Cuthbert, for many years chairwoman of the Onehunga Kindergarten Committee. The cost of the building was £6,882, of which £4,588 came from the Government, and £1,000 from the Onehunga Borough Council.

An adventure playground was completed in 1971. In 1974 extensions were made to the storage area at the kindergarten. The local committee in October 1975 suggested changing the name of the kindergarten to Onehunga-Cuthbert, to emphasise the locality, but nothing came of that proposal.

DEVONPORT

This kindergarten, at Narrow Neck on the North Shore, was opened in 1945. It commenced operation as the Wakatere Kindergarten, and until 1957 was housed in the Wakatere Hall. Consideration to moving to a new site was first given in mid-1954, and later the same year the Devonport Borough Council offered the Association part of a section in the Quarry Reserve in Vauxhall Road as a kindergarten site. The Department of Education was not very enthusiastic about the site, as quarrying was still being carried out. An assurance from the Borough Council that blasting at the quarry would not be allowed while the kindergarten was in session placated the Department, and towards the end of 1955 building and site plans were drawn up.

By mid-1956 conditions in the Wakatere Hall had deteriorated badly. The building never had been very satisfactory for kindergarten purposes, and a report in April 1956 noted that the toilets were in a poor state of repair and unclean, that a rubbish tip was encroaching onto the area around the hall, and that rats were to be seen even when the children were about. A quick tidy-up job was carried out and rat poison laid to prevent the kindergarten closing until the new building in Vauxhall Road could be opened.

The new kindergarten building, constructed at a cost of £5,400,

was in use from February 1957. With the change in premises the name of the kindergarten was changed to Devonport. In October 1967 a fire destroyed the Director's room, her cloakroom, and part of the toilet block. All the records of the kindergarten were destroyed. Temporary premises were found in the Rugby Hall until the damage was repaired.

In 1973-74 there was much talk about either extending the existing kindergarten or building a new one; and regrading the kindergarten. The original scheme was to build a new kindergarten, but this came to nothing because there was no land available. As an alternative, a plan was drawn up to add 600 square feet [60 square metres] to the existing building. In May 1973 the Minister of Education said he was in favour of this, and that Devonport should be used as a pilot project for grade two kindergartens. Plans were suitably amended to keep all interested parties happy, then in March 1974 the Association decided not to support an application to Wellington for Government approval because of opposition from the Kindergarten Teachers' Association. The Association asked for a survey to be made of all the children in the Devonport area under the age of five. In August 1974 a meeting of interested parents narrowly voted in favour of continuing with the extension to the building. In September the Association decided "as a result of the figures obtained from the survey of the Devonport area" that it would present a case for a grade two kindergarten.

The Department of Education advised in March 1976 that Devonport could not be extended, partly because of the need to cut back Government spending, but also because they felt it unwise to gather together groups as large as 60 children. It did, however, suggest an extended roll scheme for Devonport, which would enable the 105 children normally enrolled at a grade two kindergarten to attend, and would allow for the usual three instead of two full-time trained teachers.

This suggestion was adopted, and the implementation of it began in July 1976. A committee was set up at the same time to monitor the scheme but by 1977 was recommending that it be phased out.

The reasons for the scheme's failure were numerous. Perhaps the main cause was that the decision to introduce the scheme arose from a compromise solution to confrontation between local and central administration, rather than being based on a prescribed, predetermined set of criteria for establishing extended roll schemes. There was also an unwillingness on the part of some staff to operate the programme, and a lack of harmony and inadequate consultation between the various organisations involved — the Education Department, the Association, the Kindergarten Teachers' Association, and the local kindergarten committee.

In early 1979 this long-term problem at the Devonport Kindergarten

was solved when the building was relocated on the same site. It had slowly been sinking into an ash-filled quarry hole, and collapsing footings and foundations had meant that it had subsided some eight inches [20 cm] in some places. After the building was moved it was completely renovated and redecorated. A new roof, new floor coverings, a completely remodelled and renovated kitchen, a new interior storage area, and a new coat of paint greatly improved the kindergarten and substantially increased the building's life expectancy.

FAVONA

This was one of seven kindergartens to be opened in 1977. A site adjacent to a proposed primary school in Favona Road, Mangere, was made available in 1970. In May 1975 an establishment committee was formed to raise funds, and in September of the same year approval was given by the Government for special assistance for the kindergarten. This meant the Government would cover the full cost of the building, and the local committee would be required to raise money for equipment only. Tenders for the kindergarten building were called in March 1976, and a tender of \$40,423 accepted. Building progress was slow however, and the Education Board terminated the builder's contract at the end of 1976 and made arrangements for someone else to complete the building. The new kindergarten commenced operation in mid-February 1977. The staff reported for duty on the first day of February, and spent the first two weeks making many home visits, this being necessary in an area which had many non-European residents.

In April 1977 application was made to the Department of Education for a third teacher at Favona. For financial reasons Government could not see its way clear to allow this, and a suggestion from the Education Committee of the Association that the roll at Favona be reduced until a third teacher was appointed brought a strong warning from the Department of Education that continued Government recognition of the kindergarten (necessary for Government financing) would be jeopardised. In July 1978 a further, and this time successful, application was made for a third teacher.

FLAT BUSH

This was one of three kindergartens opened in 1970. Initial interest in a kindergarten in Otara was aroused in late 1964 when the Otara County Town Committee endeavoured to create enthusiasm amongst the Otara residents for the establishment of a free kindergarten committee in the area. The question of establishing a kindergarten was discussed at a meeting of the Town Committee in February 1965, at which

representatives of the Association were present. It was noted that a site in Bairds Road had already been vested in the Association, and five other sites set aside for pre-school purposes. A donation of £500 from the Auckland Savings Bank was available, but it was felt at the meeting that finance was still the real stumbling block. Most of the residents were trying to get established and were heavily committed to paying off their houses and furniture. There were few middle aged people in the district who were reasonably affluent.

The Headmaster of the primary school in the Flat Bush Road area pointed out to the meeting that there were over 1,000 pre-school children in the immediate vicinity of his school, about 50% of them Maori. Various schemes and ideas were floated at the meeting. It was suggested that it should be the Government's responsibility to provide a pre-school service, with the government erecting the building and its maintenance being undertaken by the local community. A suggestion from the Department of Education was that mobile classrooms might be used, to be converted into proper kindergartens later on. As a result of the meeting an Investigation Committee was set up, to try and enlist more members and to call a public meeting to ascertain the interests of the residents.

In May 1965 an establishment committee was created with the aim of building a kindergarten. In September 1966 it considered the possibility of buying or renting a prefabricated room to be erected on the kindergarten site, using voluntary labour. If this was possible it was proposed to operate, under the auspices of the Child Welfare Division, a private kindergarten that would be able to cater for quite a large number of children on a roster of one or two days a week. Several mothers were willing to act as staff, and in this way the committee hoped to establish a direct contact with many parents. The non-availability of a suitable prefabricated building meant that these ideas had to be abandoned.

In September 1968 application was made to the N.Z.F.K.U. to have Flat Bush Kindergarten placed on the priority list, and permission was received from the Department of Education for preliminary site and sketch plans to be prepared. Tenders were called in mid-1969, but problems arose because of high tendering. The total established cost (including architect's fees) in 1968 had been \$16,600, but the lowest tendered prices exceeded \$22,000, and the Department of Education was not prepared to seek financial authority to proceed with the project. Not until January 1970, after various cost-cutting exercises, was a reduced tender of nearly \$18,000 accepted.

Flat Bush Kindergarten commenced operation in October 1970. Early in 1971 application was made to the Department of Education

for a third staff member. In the application it was noted that many of the usual neighbourhood facilities were still lacking in the Flat Bush area, and that a great proportion of the population consisted of "uprooted Freemans Bay residents". It was further observed that the population was very mixed, with a high proportion of Maori and other Polynesian residents. Language and social problems were common, and the lack of language development and its effect on the children's future learning was a major concern. While the Association was employing and paying a Samoan woman for a few hours daily to assist at the kindergarten and to interpret for some of the children, the need for a full time and permanent form of extra assistance was felt.

The Department was sympathetic and suggested that the number of children attending the kindergarten should be increased by a second group of 40 children to cope with the great need in the district, and that two additional trained teachers be appointed. Thus there would be a Head Teacher and three teachers, all working full time, and 120 children. The children would be divided into three groups: Group A (40 children) attending every morning, Group B (40 children) attending two afternoons a week, and Group C (40 children) attending on another two afternoons a week.

The scheme was adopted in October 1971, but then had to be deferred until February 1972 as no trained staff were available. Staffing now became the problem at Flat Bush. The Association wrote to the Department of Education in February 1972 stating its view that the situation at Flat Bush (and other similar kindergartens) was more demanding than at the average kindergarten. The Association noted that teachers tended to shy away from applying for positions at Flat Bush, and suggested that some extra financial inducement should be offered in recognition of both the greater responsibilities and the difficulties of travelling to the area from most parts of Auckland. The problem continued in 1973, and a further letter was sent to the Department after one of the teachers resigned in June and two of the remaining staff had indicated they were resigning at the end of the year. The Department was not particularly sympathetic, but fortunately the beginning of 1974 saw new staff become available.

In response to the vandalism problem which had made it very difficult to maintain the outdoor equipment at Flat Bush, the Department in 1974 placed an "Ideal" garage on the kindergarten site, at Departmental expense. This provided increased secure storage space. The extended roll was phased out in early 1976, and the staff reduced from four to three. The roll was set at 40 children for the morning session and 40 for the afternoon session.

Financial problems and a lack of parental involvement in the affairs

of Flat Bush remained a continuing problem. In 1975 for example, and again in 1977, the kindergarten had been exempted from paying its \$200 building levy to the Association, because it simply did not have the funds to do so. At the annual general meeting of the kindergarten in March 1976 the chairman pointed to the lack of support given by parents. By the end of 1976 the kindergarten committee had "dwindled down to six active members", and the Association expressed its concern at the level of parent interest. By 1978 the situation had improved and a committee of fourteen was elected that year.

GLEN EDEN

A committee of twelve people had been formed in December 1944 and a kindergarten opened in Glen Eden in February the following year. The kindergarten met in the local R.S.A. Hall, and by early 1948 had a roll of 25 children. This was not a free kindergarten, but in 1949 it made arrangements to become part of the Association's network of free kindergartens.

The Anglican Church Hall in Clayburn Road was made available as a meeting place. The Department of Education was not enthusiastic about the hall, but eventually sanctioned its use on condition that this be for no more than three years (during which the local committee was to acquire a site and collect funds for a permanent building), that the roll was kept to thirty children, and that "every effort is to be made to keep costs down and funds are to be expended, if possible, on equipment and storage accommodation that can be moved to a future permanent building".

Glen Eden was recognised as a free kindergarten by Government from February 1950. In June 1950 a site in Clayburn Road was reserved by the Department of Lands and Survey for kindergarten purposes. By July 1952 the Glen Eden committee had raised £500 towards a new building, and the Department of Education permitted an extra year's tenancy in the Anglican Hall. A further extension was given in September 1953, and again in December 1954, at which time it was expected that the building would be completed by May 1955. There were delays connected with the plans, however, and tenders were not called until August. The new building was opened in August 1956, at a cost of a little over £4,000.

GLENFIELD

In 1857 various sites were considered and rejected in the Glenfield area, but towards the end of the year a suitable site in Mayfield road was vested in the Association. While funds were being raised for a free

kindergarten a private kindergarten was being operated by the establishment committee. In 1961 the private kindergarten had a licence from the Child Welfare Department to cater for 43 children.

In October 1963 the old Glenfield School was closed and the Waitemata County Council suggested that the Association might like to lease part of the property, at a peppercorn rental, instead of building on the Mayfield Road site. Both the Association and the Department of Education considered the school property to be superior, and in November 1964 a sufficient area was made available.

Tenders for the kindergarten building were called in July 1966, and Glenfield Kindergarten commenced operation in November 1967. A waiting list of children who wished to attend Glenfield totalled 185 in November 1967, and had increased to 303 by May 1972. By October 1977 the number of the list had grown even larger, and there was considerable agitation from Glenfield for an experimental extended roll to cope with the situation. The opening of the Marlborough Kindergarten partially relieved the pressure at Glenfield.

GLEN INNES

In 1957 the Glen Innes Residents and Ratepayers Association commenced inquiries about a suitable site and the opening of either a kindergarten or a playcentre in its area. This resulted in the Kindergarten Association arranging for a site in Taniwha Street to be set aside for kindergarten purposes, and an establishment committee was formed in 1958.

A survey of the child population in the Glen Innes area in 1960 shows that there were approximately 500 pre-school children to be catered for, and in 1961 Glen Innes was placed on the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union's priority list for new kindergartens. At the end of 1961 the Association made available to Glen Innes approximately £1,200 from the defunct Sunbeams Kindergarten in Eden Terrace, and the Department of Education concurred that Glen Innes could be treated as a reopening of the old Sunbeams rather than as a new kindergarten. This meant that recognition of the new Glen Innes building as a kindergarten became automatic, and the problems of waiting on the priority list and the Government's "period of consolidation" (see chapter six) were avoided.

Tenders for the building were called in May 1962, and the kindergarten opened in February 1963. The name was changed from Sunbeams to Glen Innes in March 1975.

GREEN BAY

Interest in a kindergarten in Green Bay dates back to 1967 when the Association started searching for a suitable site in the area. Approaches to local schools indicated no suitable sites adjoining any existing schools, and the Lands and Survey Department advised the Association that no local Crown land was available either. The Waitemata County Council, however, agreed to set aside a site in La Rosa Street.

By February 1969 the local establishment committee had raised over \$4,200, and in that month Green Bay was placed on the Kindergarten Union's priority list. Tenders for the building of Green Bay were called in July 1970, and the kindergarten commenced operation in June 1971.

In 1975 a small piece of additional land was leased from the Waitemata City Council so that an adventure playground could be established.

HAEATA

The ninth kindergarten to be opened by the Association, and the first for eight years because of the Depression, this kindergarten was established in Edendale in 1936. The average attendance that year was 19 children, but by 1940 this figure had risen to 47.

In 1941 the building used by Haeata was requisitioned for military purposes, and the Mothers' Club consequently worked hard to raise funds for a building of their own. By the end of 1941 the necessary money was available and a Government promise of a pound for pound subsidy up to a maximum of £700 had been obtained. A site adjoining Gribblehurst Park, Sandringham, was offered by the Mt Albert Borough Council.

In February 1942 permission from the Ministry of Supply to erect a new kindergarten was deferred until "the major portion of the Emergency Building Programme" was completed, and again in May a building permit was deferred as "the major portion of the building industry, both in manpower and materials was required for essential defence building activity".

While money was being raised and a site obtained, the Haeata Kindergarten met in the Eden Park pavilion. In May 1943, because of financial deficits incurred by the Eden Park Control Board, Haeata lost its free use of the pavilion and was asked to pay £40 a year in rent. The Haeata committee felt that this was beyond its existing money-raising power, and that its ability to run the kindergarten was based on the donation of premises. The committee also felt that other factors made £40 an unrealistically high rent. The kindergarten's cleaners, for example, often had to clear up after people who had nothing to do with

the kindergarten, and this had been acceptable only while the premises were rent-free.

This kindergarten is now called Sandringham.

Haeata was also set back by committee dissension. Towards the end of 1943 the kindergarten committee (or Ladies' Committee) set up a building committee. This was responsible for raising funds, but also seems to have been closely involved in clearing the Gribblehurst Park site for the new kindergarten. The building committee drew up a building plan which was unsuitable for the proposed site. Another, larger, site in Gribblehurst Park was offered to accommodate the proposed building, and it was suggested by the treasurer of the building committee (who was also Vice-President of the Association) that a sub-committee, with the power to act, be set up to deal with it. This sub-committee would bypass the Ladies' Committee "to avoid wrangling as few ladies know much about plans". The move was thwarted and the treasurer resigned, threatening to refund to the donors the money they had contributed towards the new kindergarten.

By September 1944 redrawn plans and specifications for a new kindergarten had been completed, and an approach to the Government for a subsidy of £2,000 was made. This was a considerable increase on the £700 requested in 1941. When it was realised that the committee did not have sufficient funds on hand the subsidy became unobtainable. The committee then searched unsuccessfully for disused military buildings, and in October 1945 was further discouraged when the Education Department advised that a condition applied to subsidies for kindergarten buildings was that the land on which the building was being erected had to be vested in the Association or in the Crown. The Gribblehurst Park site was merely leased from the Mt Albert Borough Council for 42 years from September 1944, and at the end of the lease the Borough Council had the right to remove and convert to its own use all or any of the buildings on the land.

It was not until the very end of 1945 that Haeata's troubles came to an end. C. G. Macindoe donated a section in Kenneth Road, adjoining Gribblehurst Park, and a tender of £2,674 for the erection of a kindergarten building was received. A new plan was necessary to suit this section, and in February 1946 the government announced a subsidy of £1,337 for the erection of a building.

The new kindergarten was officially opened in October 1946. It consisted of three playing rooms, a kitchen, and a combined staff and medical room. The kindergarten quickly turned out to be a busy one, and in 1948 the Haeata committee asked that the waiting list be closed, and that in future it be restricted to a definite number of children. There was also a request for an extra assistant.

At the end of 1957 an application was made to the Education Department by the Association to have the rolls at Haeata reduced. Although the waiting list was fairly high it was felt that it would be more satisfactory for both the children and the staff if the rolls were smaller. The space both in and around the building was no longer proving adequate for a 60-child unit.

There were difficulties locating equipment sheds in a section which was too small, and in 1968 the Haeata committee suggested to the Association that the time had come to seek ways and means of providing a larger area. Amongst the committee's proposals were either shifting the building to a larger site, or selling the existing building and site and rebuilding on a larger section. An application to the Mt Albert Borough Council for a site adjoining Gribblehurst Park and adjacent to Thanet Avenue was turned down in 1971. In early 1972 the Association sought to have Haeata transferred to the Edendale School site, but this came to nothing. At the end of 1972 the Department of Education approved the sale of the land and buildings being used by Haeata so that the kindergarten could be relocated in the grounds of the Mt Albert Primary School.

The Haeata committee had by this time accumulated \$7,000 towards the costs of relocation, and the old kindergarten building was valued at \$14,900. It was felt that the old building was not suitable for moving to a new site and so in 1975 it was suggested that after the new Haeata building opened at Mt Albert Primary School the Association should retain rather than sell the old building, and reopen it after some renovation as a Grade O kindergarten (25 children per session). Although old it was still in good order and required a minimum amount of work to bring it up to an acceptable level. This scheme was accepted by the Department of Education, and the old Haeata Kindergarten reopened in February 1976 as Sandringham Kindergarten. The kindergarten on the Mt Albert Primary School site, which opened in September 1975, was named Morningside. Morningside rather than Haeata was considered the more suitable name as it described the area served by the kindergarten.

HENDERSON

In 1953 the Henderson Borough Council leased to the Association a section in Station Road at a peppercorn rental of £5 per year. A kindergarten building was constructed by the end of 1953, at a cost of just over £6,000, and the Henderson War Memorial Free Kindergarten commenced operation in April 1954.

Because of the congested nature of the area where the kindergarten

was sited, the Borough Council in September 1963 offered an alternative site in Valley Road. This site was acceptable to the Association, and the existing kindergarten building was moved there in early 1965.

A waiting list of 384 children at Henderson prompted the Association to approach the Department of Education in July 1967 with a view to enlarging the existing Henderson building and grounds. The response from the Department was negative, but from 1970-71 a pilot scheme involving an extra roll of afternoon children and the employment of more staff was in operation. The scheme went some way towards reducing the size of the waiting list, although in March 1976 it still stood at 256. At this time the Department of Education suggested a reduced roll at Henderson, from 130 to 105 children, but retaining the existing three teachers. At the end of 1977 a steadily falling waiting list and concern about the low number of hours available to the children attending Henderson led to the phasing out of the extended roll scheme.

HIGHLAND PARK

This kindergarten was opened in April 1974 in the Howick area. In October 1970 the Howick Borough Council set aside a site on the Benross Place Reserve for a kindergarten, but the scheme failed following objections from local residents. Early the following year a site in Yeoman Place was offered by the Borough Council, but again there were objections from local residents, as well as problems with size and fencing of the site. At the end of 1971 a Community Centre site was rejected by the Department of Education because it was not a practical location. In May/June 1972 the Association made a new approach to the Department concerning the Community Centre site, and this time permission was granted to proceed with the establishing of a kindergarten there.

While the protracted negotiations for a site were being carried out the local establishment committee had been actively raising money, and by August 1972 had established a building fund of \$9,000. In early 1973 the name Highland Park was adopted as the official name for this kindergarten. Previously it had been known as both New Howick and Howick No. 2.

Permission from the Department of Education to proceed with working drawings was given in May 1973, and tenders were called in September. The construction of this building, costing just over \$35,000, was more expensive than the cost of other kindergartens at this time because, as the site was part of the Community Centre, the kindergarten had to be complementary to the other buildings and so be built of brick.

In August 1975 the committee of Highland Park Kindergarten donated \$1,000 to the Botany Downs Kindergarten establishment committee.

HILLSBOROUGH

A private kindergarten had been operating in Hillsborough since 1958. At the end of the 1960s it was located in the basement of St David's Church on the corner of Hillsborough Road and Currie Avenue but, because of the growing activities of the church, it had become clear that the space being used by the kindergarten would soon be required. The kindergarten had an 'A' licence from the Child Welfare Department because of the high standard of teaching and administration, but not because of the premises, which were barely adequate. A roll of 38 children was being maintained, and by September 1970 there was a waiting list of 97 children.

Towards the end of 1969 the Mt Roskill Borough Council offered the Association part of the West Reserve for kindergarten purposes. Another part of the Reserve had already been allotted to the Hillsborough Playcentre Committee. While having kindergartens and play centres in very close proximity was not generally favoured, the Association could apply to the Department of Education for approval to negotiate with the Borough Council for a lease as it felt that in such a heavily populated area there was no reason why both pre-school organisations should not function efficiently.

Initially the Department was not prepared to sanction two pre-school establishments close to each other, and insisted on the established ruling of no kindergartens within a mile of a play centre. In December 1970 the Department relented after the Association and the Playcentre organisation had met and expressed their willingness to operate pre-school facilities close together in areas such as Hillsborough where sites were difficult to obtain.

There were objections from local residents, however, who took out an injunction concerning the use of reserve land for building purposes, and the Borough Council changed its mind about the proposal. The Association then looked at sites in the grounds of Hillsborough School, in Carlton Street, and on Railways land, but each proved to be unsuitable. The local kindergarten committee proceeded to contact estate agents to see what suitable land was available, and although a list of twelve sites was provided, none of them had, on its own, sufficient area. Two adjoining sites each costing \$7,000 were located, but the Department of Education was reluctant to consider them so long as reserve land was still available.

This involved a reconsideration of the West Reserve site, and in November 1972 the Association applied to the Mt Roskill Borough Council to erect a kindergarten there. The Council, which all the time had been in favour of a kindergarten, had by now changed its bylaws, making the way clear for an application to be made for a kindergarten site as a conditional use of reserve land. The Roskill Reserves Action Committee, formed in early 1973, now sprang into action and distributed a circular letter to residents in the vicinity of West Reserve, opposing any building on the Reserve. Some forty objections to the proposed kindergarten were received by the Borough Council, including one from the Auckland Playcentre Association.

The Borough Council nevertheless agreed to grant the Kindergarten Association a site on West Reserve. As a result a number of local residents appealed to the Town and Country Planning Appeal Board and the Playcentre Association threatened Supreme Court action to obtain an injunction. This posed particular problems as the Borough Council's offer was contingent on approval by the Playcentre Association. But before the appeals from the Playcentre Association and the Roskill Reserves Action Committee against the Borough Council's decision could be heard the Kindergarten Association was offered, by the Borough Council, an alternative site in Keith Hay Park. This was gratefully accepted.

The Playcentre Association was not yet prepared to let the matter rest, and in March 1974 wrote to the Prime Minister protesting at what it saw as a "duplication of pre-school facilities in an area where the pre-school-aged population is already catered for". These protestations came to nothing, and the waiting list at the still-functioning private kindergarten illustrated the fallacy of the Playcentre argument.

Tenders for the Hillsborough Kindergarten were called in November 1974, but because they were too high they had to be called again. Permission from the Education Department to accept a tender was eventually received in March 1975, and the new kindergarten opened in February 1976, at a cost of \$43,500.

HOBSONVILLE

An establishment committee was set up in mid-1968, and in November 1970 the Waitamata County Council set aside a portion of the Trig Road Reserve (later Ryan Road) for kindergarten purposes. The Department of Education suggested in May 1971 that a Grade O kindergarten, catering for 25 children in each of the morning and afternoon sessions, be established because of the small number of pre-school children in the area.

Tenders were called in August 1972, but the Department of Education considered that all four of the tenders received were excessively high. The architect was asked to revise his drawings, and in March 1973 revised plans were sent out to the tenderers. Initially there was no response, and only after telephone calls from the architect did two reply, one with a higher tender than before. The other tender was accepted, and Hobsonville Kindergarten commenced operation in February 1974. The total cost of the building was a little over \$28,400.

In February 1977 the Department of Education authorised the preparation of preliminary site and sketch plans for extensions to Hobsonville, so that it could be converted to a Grade One kindergarten, catering for 40 children each session. Tenders for the extensions were called in October 1977, an additional teacher was appointed in March 1978, and the numbers of children attending increased shortly afterwards.

HOWICK

Interest in a kindergarten at Howick goes back at least to 1952. In that year two local ladies who were operating a play centre two days a week made inquiries with the Association concerning the establishing of a kindergarten. In September 1955 the Howick Borough Council expressed its willingness to make available a site for kindergarten purposes, and in 1960 the Howick Free Kindergarten Society received Government permission to proceed with a building. This permission was conditional on the Howick Association becoming affiliated with the Auckland Association, which it did in 1961.

Tenders were called in 1962, and the new kindergarten opened, on a site leased from the Howick Borough Council at the beginning of 1963.

By 1966 the waiting list of children wishing to attend Howick had grown to 300, and the Association gave permission for the kindergarten to give preference, in placing new children on the waiting list, to children from Howick, Cockle Bay and Bucklands Beach.

An adventure playground was completed in 1969.

IDLEWILD

This was one of two kindergartens opened in the Mangere area in early 1975. A site adjacent to the Viscount Primary School was made available in 1972, and an establishment committee was formed in June of that year. Tenders for the kindergarten building were called in November 1973 and the building was completed at a total cost of \$36,300. In 1977 the kindergarten had to be closed for four weeks because of a fire.

KAURI PARK

An establishment committee was formed in February 1969, following a public meeting in Birkdale, and a site adjacent to the Kauri Park School was obtained. By November 1970 the committee had raised \$3,750, and was able to request that Kauri Park be placed on the building priority list. This was done in May 1971, but it was not until August 1972 that tenders for the new kindergarten were called. The building was constructed at a cost of just over \$30,000 and the first children to attend Kauri Park did so in November 1973. An adventure playground was completed in 1976, but was later demolished as it was unsafe and, according to the Auckland Education Board, erected "in a most untradesmanlike manner".

KINGSDENE

An establishment committee was set up in late 1969 in the Mangere area, and a suitable site in Mascot Avenue found. Because of the large number of Maori and Polynesian children in the area special aid was received from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs in the financing of Kingsdene. Together with the \$3,500 from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs went a grant of \$500 from the Auckland Savings Bank. Kingsdene commenced operation in September 1971.

In June 1973 the Crippled Childrens Society submitted proposal to the Association for the establishment of a small pre-school unit of physically handicapped children. The first group attended Kingsdene from February 1974, for two hours each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning.

KOTIRI

This commenced operation as a private kindergarten located in a church hall in Buckland Road, Mangere. In 1958 it had a roll of 46. In October 1958 the Department of Education approved a site for a free kindergarten, but nothing came of the proposal. In late 1961 another site was found in Hallberry Avenue and the following year the Mangere East City Town Committee approved the leasing of the site to the Association at a peppercorn rental of £1 per year.

In August 1962 the Kotiri establishment committee was formed, and by 1963 it had raised the necessary money to proceed with the building of a kindergarten. There was some delay caused by the Government's "period of consolidation" policy (see chapter six), but in May 1964 approval was given to proceed with a building., Tenders were called twice, as the first set of tenders were considered to be too high. Kotiri commenced operation in August 1966.

LADY COBHAM

This was one of five kindergartens opened by the Association in 1944. Initially known as Selwyn Kindergarten, it commenced operation in the St Andrew's Church Hall, Epsom. In 1956 land was leased from the Auckland City Council for a new site, and in 1957 the new building in Aberfoyle Street, Epsom, was completed. The kindergarten was renamed Lady Cobham, and is one of only five Auckland Association kindergartens to be named after an individual.

LOGAN CAMPBELL

This was the Association's first free kindergarten. It was formally opened on 19 October 1910, but actually began operation in the Cricket Pavilion at Victoria Park on 22 February, until the new building was completed. The first director was Margaret Gibson, but she was relieved of this position at the end of 1911 to devote more time to the training work of the Association. Jessie Fendall replaced her as Principal. The average roll in 1911 for terms one, two and three was 60, 65 and 62; the average attendance 45, 45 and 49. In 1916 the Campbell Free Kindergarten, rather than the Association, became responsible for its own finances.

A sunporch and other improvements were made to the building in 1938, and in 1945 extra land was added to the site to enlarge the playground which had become inadequate for the number of children attending. Indeed, in a letter to the Auckland Town Clerk the Association noted the "wretched conditions" at the kindergarten.

Towards the end of 1951 the Auckland City Council made a pound for pound grant up to £400 for repair work on the building, and in 1952 the kindergarten was completely renovated throughout and the interior considerably lightened by the use of pastel colouring.

In 1957 the Campbell Kindergarten committee started preparing plans for the restoration and alteration of the kindergarten, at a cost of between £5,000 and £6,000. Early in 1957 the redevelopment of Freemans Bay commenced, and the possibility of the kindergarten site being in the way of, or at least very close to, the Harbour Bridge approaches, raised the question of whether a new site should be sought. The Association was very fortunate that the Cornwall Park Trustees at this time gave a grant of £4,000 to the kindergarten, for this enabled its relocation on a site in Tahuna Street. The Auckland City Council agreed to lease the Tahuna Street site to the Association at a rental of

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1. Further details of the early history of this kindergarten are given in chapter one.

one shilling per year, in return for the Auckland Harbour Board (which had made the original site available to the Association in 1910) making that site available to the City Council at a nominal rental for recreational purposes in conjunction with Victoria Park.

Tenders for the building were called in September 1959 and the new kindergarten began operation in June 1960. With the opening of the building came changes in the daily programme at Logan Campbell. Previously the kindergarten was taking 60 children every morning, and on two afternoons a week these children were provided with a light meal and a rest period before going home at 2.30. In the new building a Grade I, 40-child kindergarten was established, with a normal roll of 40 children in the morning and afternoon and with no lunch or rest. At this point the name was officially changed from Campbell to Logan Campbell Free Kindergarten.

Throughout 1960 efforts were made to increase the roll at Logan Campbell. In September the morning roll stood at 25, the afternoon at 26, and the waiting list totalled seven, four of whom were too young to attend. At the end of 1960 the Director of Education, "after careful consideration", approved the grading and staffing of Logan Campbell for 1961, but subject to a review at the end of the first and second terms. By May 1961 the combined morning and afternoon roll had risen to 70, and continued Government recognition of the kindergarten seemed assured.

In October 1963 the entire Logan Campbell committee, "amazed and horrified", resigned after an acrimonious council meeting in September when they had "insults and accusations thrown at them by a member of another kindergarten". In December 1963 a new committee was elected.

Early in 1967 an appeal was made to the Department of Education for additional assistance at Logan Campbell as a "special" kindergarten with particular problems arising from the number of non-European children in attendance. While the Department did not feel that an extra staff member would solve any problems, it did however give permission to reduce the roll to 30 children at each session. In November 1975 the Department approved the appointment of a third teacher at Logan Campbell, and a reversion of the rolls to the normal 40 children per session.

In 1978 a grant of \$1,000 from the Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate was received for improvements to the kindergarten's playground.

LYNFIELD

In April 1975 the Auckland Kindergarten Association obtained the lease from the Mt Roskill Borough Council of a site adjoining Halsey Drive School. An establishment committee was formed in July 1975, and tenders for a new building were called at the end of 1976. Lynfield Kindergarten commenced operation in October 1977, having been constructed at a cost of nearly \$51,000.

McNAUGHTON

An establishment committee was formed in July 1975 to establish a kindergarten at McNaughton Avenue School, Mangere. In September 1975 approval was given for special assistance to the kindergarten, meaning that Government would cover the full cost of the building. Tenders for the building were called in August 1977. In August 1978 approval was given for a third teacher at McNaughton.

MANGERE BRIDGE

This was one of two kindergartens opened in the Mangere area in early 1975. A site adjacent to the North West Mangere Intermediate School had been made available to the Association in September 1969, and an establishment committee was formed a year later. The Maori and Island Affairs Department made a grant of \$1,440 towards the costs of the kindergarten. It commenced operation in February 1975, having been built at a cost of nearly \$36,000.

MARLBOROUGH

This kindergarten, on the North Shore, was opened in 1974. An establishment committee had been formed in June 1969, and in 1971 the Association leased from the Waitemata City Council a site in Agincourt Street on which to build. Delays in construction occurred when the original tender prices were found to be too high, and modifications to the design of the kindergarten were requested. After the modifications were made negotiations with the lowest tenderer took place, but the price was still far in excess of the amount which could be approved for Government subsidy. Further delays occurred when the Waitemata County Council unexpectedly decided to call for any objections to the erection of a kindergarten in Agincourt Street. Not until March 1973 was the Department of Education able to let a contract for the construction work to begin. The kindergarten was built at a cost of just over \$33,000 and commenced operation in February 1974.

MASSEY

A committee to raise funds had been established towards the end of 1969. In November 1970 a site on the Agincourt Street Reserve was considered, but nothing came of the proposal. It was not until mid-1973 that a site adjoining the Massey Primary School was agreed upon, and it was June 1974 before permission was given to call tenders. The new kindergarten, which cost a little over \$42,000 to construct, opened as a Grade I kindergarten in May 1975. By October 1978 the waiting list at Massey Kindergarten had grown to 300, nearly 200 of whom were more than three years old, and a successful application was made for a third teacher.

MEADOWBANK

This kindergarten was opened in September 1949, and was the twenty-eighth opened by the Association. Until 1963 it operated in the Community Hall, Meadowbank Road, but in that year a new building was opened at 122 Meadowbank Road. As early as 1951, however, a search had been made for a permanent site for the Meadowbank Kindergarten. In 1955 a site was transferred from the Housing Construction Division to the Department of Lands and Survey so that it could be vested in the Association.

By 1959 Meadowbank Kindergarten was in a sorry state. The Community Hall was proving quite unsatisfactory; on wet days the rain came in under the front door and sometimes through holes in the ceiling. After each weekend the playground would be littered with broken glass and rubbish. There was a lack of interest in the area in both the kindergarten and the upkeep of the hall; repair work tended to be left undone, and support from parents was poor. The financial position of the kindergarten was not good either.

Although a site had been vested in the Association in 1955, nothing was done about building on it until 1961 because of doubts about its suitability. By 1961 the building fund stood at over £2,000 and it was felt that a beginning should be made. In May 1961 the Department of Education refused to give permission for the building of a permanent kindergarten because it was not convinced that minimum rolls could be maintained. Strong representations from the local committee, which pointed out that the existing kindergarten already had a full roll plus a waiting list, and that a number of parents would not send their children to the existing kindergarten because of the unsatisfactory condition of the community hall, caused the Department to change its mind. In October 1962 tenders were called for construction of the new building, which was officially opened in November 1963.

MILFORD

This kindergarten commenced operation in the Baptist Hall, Dobson Street, in February 1950. At the end of 1951 the kindergarten had to vacate the hall, and new accommodation was found in the local Surf Life Saving Club rooms. This proved quite inadequate, however. The floor was continually damp, very little equipment was available, there was no control over other groups of people using the rooms, the roof over the toilet leaked and access to the toilet was muddy, and the grass in the playground was full of broken glass. At the end of February 1952 the kindergarten was therefore closed.

A survey was carried out in mid-1953 to determine the need for a kindergarten in the Midford area, and proposals were made for the leasing of a site off Kitchener Road from the Takapuna Borough Council. Nothing came of this.

In 1956 a site in Pierce Road was leased from the Borough Council, and in 1958 tenders were called for a new kindergarten building. Milford Kindergarten reopened in March 1959.

MISSION BAY

An initial meeting of interested residents was held in March 1944 and arrangements were made for the use of the local Methodist Church Sunday School Hall in Patteson Avenue. The kindergarten commenced operation in August 1944 with a roll of thirty children. Because of the number on the waiting list an afternoon session was started in November the same year, catering for a further twenty children. This was soon increased to twenty-five.

In 1948 the Association negotiated successfully for a site between Patteson and Atkin Avenues. In mid-1949 the kindergarten received notice that it would have to vacate the Methodist Hall at the end of the year, but the church authorities later agreed to allow the use of its building until a new kindergarten building was constructed. This proved to be a lengthy business, and it was not until the end of 1953 that tenders were called. Mission Bay commenced operation in its new location in May 1955.

MORNINGSIDE

Morningside opened in 1975, and was built to replace Haeata in Sandringham. The early history of this kindergarten is related in the section dealing with Haeata. In 1976 a small strip of land was obtained from the Mt Albert Primary School so that an adventure playground could be constructed.

MT ALBERT

The thirteenth kindergarten to be established by the Association was at Mt Albert. This was opened in February 1943, with forty children enrolled. Work had begun initially in 1939, but the opening of the kindergarten had to be postponed because of the war.

Mt Albert was first located in St Margaret's Schoolroom, McLean Road, but in 1947 the Mt Albert Borough Council gave permission for the Association to use part of the Ferndale property. This beautiful old house had belonged to a Mrs Garlick, who, just before her death, expressed the wish that her home should be used for the benefit of little children. The Borough Council made extensive alterations to the house, and one half of the building was allocated to the Plunket Society, the other half to the kindergarten. The garden, with its spacious lawns and fine old trees, made an ideal playground, and together with the generously proportioned rooms of the house, was an admirable environment for children.

In 1975 the Mt Albert Kindergarten Committee commenced raising funds for a new building on the grounds of Ferndale House, adjacent to the existing home, and at the end of 1978 an architect was authorised to proceed with drawings. During 1979 and 1980 there were town planning problems, the Lands and Survey Department holding up progress while it considered whether to accept a "local purposes" designation for the site, which was in a recreational zone. Although these difficulties were sorted out there was a further problem, this time concerning the lease from the Mt Albert Borough Council, and not until January 1982 was it finally signed.

MT EDEN

This kindergarten was opened in early 1980. The need for a kindergarten in Mt Eden had been long established and in 1971 the Mt Eden Borough Council approved in principal the use of part of Taylors Park in Mont Le Grande Road for kindergarten purposes. After town planning hearings the use of this site was disallowed by the Borough Council in 1974. A site in Milton Road was subsequently found, and after lengthy town planning objections it was secured. An establishment committee was formed in June 1977, and in 1978 planning permission was received from the Department of Education. A grant of \$4,300 was given by the Mt Eden Borough Council at the end of 1977, in recognition of the fact that Mt Eden was "regretfully deficient in facilities of this nature". The Rotaract Club of Newmarket generously donated \$1,400. The kindergarten commenced operation in February 1980.

MT ROSKILL

This kindergarten opened on 1 November, 1943, but had to close temporarily in 1945. It had been a flourishing kindergarten, with 45 children on the roll and nearly twice that number on the waiting list, and had met in the Methodist Schoolroom, Kingston Street. When a new church hall was built, restrictions were imposed which made it impossible for the kindergarten to continue. The committee decided in November 1945 to close for a year and make an effort towards acquiring their own building. In 1948 a Presbyterian hall in Mt Albert Road was found to be suitable and a small kindergarten was able to commence operation. The average roll number for the first year of the reopening was 28 children in the morning and 16 in the afternoon. Work towards a building of their own was undertaken, and in 1951 part of the Mt Roskill Domain was obtained as a site. Plans for a new building were approved in January 1952, and the new kindergarten, built at a cost of £9,000, was officially opened in May 1953.

MT WELLINGTON

As early as September 1957 the Association had begun to seek a site for a kindergarten in Mt Wellington, but an old quarry offered by the Department of Lands and Survey was turned down as being unsuitable. Not only was the site completely unattractive, it was also some distance away from the housing development in the area.

In November 1958 a private kindergarten, with 19 children, commenced operation in a church hall. It was intended that this should function until sufficient funds were raised for a free kindergarten. After protracted negotiations a lease was signed in May 1965 with the Mt Wellington Borough Council for a site in Hamlin Road. Tenders for a kindergarten building were called in July 1966, but concern at the prices being tendered led to further delays and considerable frustration on the part of the local committee. Eventually, at the end of the year, permission was given to proceed with construction, and in November 1967 Mt Wellington gained government recognition as a Grade I kindergarten. The private kindergarten closed at the end of the second term, 1967, in anticipation of the opening of the free kindergarten.

MURDOCH PARK

This kindergarten was originally known as Puhinui. An establishment committee was set up in 1960, at which time a private kindergarten, catering for 40 to 50 children, was meeting in the Anglican Church Hall, Seddon Avenue, Papatoetoe. By 1966 this was running at a small loss

each year.

From 1960 a search had been made for a suitable site for a free kindergarten to replace the private one that the establishment committee was operating. A site was eventually found in Chestnut Road and purchased from the Anglican Church for £1,500 at the end of 1966. The lease of a small adjoining strip of land from the Papatoetoe City Council to make up an area sufficient for kindergarten purposes was also negotiated. This was part of Murdoch Park.

Tenders for Puhinui Kindergarten were called in June 1968 and the kindergarten commenced operations in July 1969 as a Grade I kindergarten. Early in 1971 the name of the kindergarten was changed to Murdoch Park, as it was felt that Puhinui was not an accurate description of the location.

The private kindergarten continued its activity after the free kindergarten had been established.

MYERS

This was the fourth kindergarten to be opened by the Association. The building, situated in Myers Park, was presented to the Association by the Hon. Arthur Myers, and the kindergarten was formally opened on 16 October, 1916, though classes had begun a month before. The average roll for the third term of 1916 was 59, the average attendance 36. The first Director was Jessie Fendall, who transferred from Campbell Kindergarten.

Monthly medical inspections for the children were commenced in 1921. By 1927 the kindergarten had a staff of five. In 1954 the situation had changed, and Myers was faced with the possibility of being downgraded to a Grade I kindergarten. Active efforts to attract more children to the kindergarten were consequently made, but for the year ended 31 May, 1959 the average daily attendance was only 25 in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

A Myers Kindergarten newsletter dated March 1962 indicated that children were going to the kindergarten from as far away as Titirangi and Howick, while many were from Parnell and Remuera. Even so, although suburban kindergartens often had enormous waiting lists, Myers remained less than full.

In November 1971 Myers Kindergarten was approached by the Education Department to allow the establishment of a kindergarten group for five deaf children and this proposal was approved.

NEW LYNN

The New Lynn Kindergarten was opened in 1946, and initially operated in the St Thomas Church hall in Islington Street. In July 1952 the kindergarten was told that it would have to vacate the hall by the end of the year as it was needed for parish purposes. In fact the kindergarten continued to function in the hall until the end of 1953.

In August 1953 the New Lynn Borough Council made available from War Memorial funds £900 towards the cost of establishing a new kindergarten, and agreed to lease a section of land at a nominal rental of £1 per year. The kindergarten was to form part of a War Memorial Community Centre in New Lynn. Tenders for the new building were called in July 1955, but in November that year the Borough Council suggested a different site, in Totara Avenue. All parties found the new site acceptable, and the kindergarten commenced operation in its new building in November 1956.

In 1975 a small unit of deaf children started attending New Lynn. A setting-up grant of £100 was received from the Department of Education for this purpose.

NEWMARKET

The second of the Association's kindergartens to be established, Newmarket opened on 12 June 1912 in the Oddfellows Hall, Newmarket. Great difficulty was experienced in finding suitable quarters, and the room used in 1912 was too small to allow for any expansion of numbers. It was also badly sited, between the tram line and the railway. The first teachers were E. Miller and J. Robertson. The average roll in terms two and three was 28 and 25, the average attendance 18 and 17. In 1913 a cottage and small section in Eden Street were purchased for £300, another £200 was spent on renovations, and the kindergarten was moved to more satisfactory premises.

At the end of 1953 Newmarket Kindergarten was closed, the Committee taking responsibility for a new kindergarten in Wairoa Road, Remuera, to become known as Constance Colegrove.

NORTHBRIDGE

In 1957 a site in College Road, Northcote, was set aside for a kindergarten. The Onepoto Free Kindergarten Establishment Committee was formed in September 1966, and permission to prepare preliminary site and sketch plans was given in December 1968. In April 1969 the establishment committee changed its name from Onepoto to

Northbridge. Northbridge Kindergarten commenced operation in August 1971.

NORTHCOTE

This was the tenth kindergarten to be opened by the Association, and the first on the North Shore. It began operation under the auspices of the Association in 1937, but had functioned independently prior to this date. By 1944 its premises had become inadequate, and arrangements were made to move into the hall of the Methodist Church in Stafford Street. This site was not entirely satisfactory, either, as the hall was not available for kindergarten work in the afternoons, and early in 1949 a move was made to the Parish Hall in Church Street.

In 1946 a section was purchased for the Onewa Kindergarten in Gordon Road, but in 1952, when it was realised that the section was at the junction of two proposed traffic lanes to the Harbour Bridge, the Association decided to sell. In 1953 an alternative site was secured in Nutsey Avenue.

Tenders for the kindergarten building were called early in 1957, and when the new building was opened the following year the kindergarten changed its name from Onewa to Northcote.

OMANA

An establishment committee to proceed with a second kindergarten in Papatoetoe was formed in October 1977. The Association had begun investigations for a site two years earlier, and by April 1979 a site in Omana Road had been confirmed and cleared of all town planning procedures. Some doubts were expressed at the end of 1979 by the committee about the suitability of the site, there being relatively few children in the area, although a survey a few years previously had clearly indicated a need. Tenders for the building of the kindergarten were called in November 1980, and the new kindergarten, built at a cost of over \$100,000, commenced operation in 1981.

ONEHUNGA

See CUTHBERT

ONEWA

See NORTHCOTE

ORAKEI

In May 1944 the Orakei Kindergarten Committee applied to the Association for recognition, indicating that it had received permission to carry out its activities in the local Church of England hall in Kepa Road. This site was considered unsatisfactory by the Association.

In May 1946 a site in Orakei was vested in the Association. The local committee explored the idea of securing a building from the War Assets Realisation Board, and an army building was found that would be suitable. Approval from the Director of Education for use of the army building was forthcoming in July 1946, and the building was purchased for £400 in August 1947. However the Building Advisory Committee in Wellington (part of the Ministry of Works) advised that "because of the very critical material supply position existing at the present time" a permit could not be issued to convert the army building into a kindergarten.

During 1947 and the early part of 1948 correspondence flowed back and forth concerning Orakei Kindergarten. It was noted, in May 1948, that the local committee had purchased its army building; had proceeded to have an architect prepare plans and specifications for the conversion of the building; had received from the Education Department a promise of a £1 for £1 subsidy; and that the Association had obtained a site. All that was needed was the building permit. Finally, in July 1948, approval came from the Building Control Sub-Committee of Cabinet, subject to a permit being issued by the District Building Controller in Auckland. This was issued early in 1949.

The long delay in obtaining the building permit resulted in the whittling away of the local committee, and in mid-1949 it became necessary to call a public meeting to form a new, active committee. This committee was duly elected, but further delays occurred because new building plans had to be drawn up. The idea of converting the army building was abandoned, and as an entirely new building was to be erected, the usual minimum standards had to be observed. The army building was sold to the Pupuke Golf Club for £450.

Even more delay arose over confusion about the plans. An architectural firm drew up new plans which took more than a year to complete, although the local committee claimed it had asked merely that the plans for the army building be modified to meet the new minimum requirements.

After all these problems had been sorted out, site work was under way in January 1953, and in February 1954 Orakei Kindergarten commenced operation as a Grade I kindergarten.

ORANGA

In July 1947 a group of Oranga residents formed the "Oranga Kindergarten Association", and in September 1947 the Oranga Association became affiliated to the Auckland Association. Kindergarten teaching was initially carried out in a hospital annex which had been erected by the Oranga Progressive Association. In April 1949 the Department of Education approved a site in Waitangi Road for kindergarten purposes, and in 1954 part of an adjoining section was also acquired to make the original section to a more suitable size.

Permission to call tenders for the construction of a building on the new site was given in November 1957, and late in 1958 the new building was completed.

In 1979 a special unit to cater for deaf children was set up at Oranga, replacing a similar unit at Takapuna.

ORATIA

This was one of five kindergartens opened in 1978. A site adjacent to the Oratia Primary School was obtained in 1975, and an establishment committee was formed in April 1976. In late 1977 funds were released by Government for the construction of several kindergartens in the Auckland area. The release of funds was designed specifically to stimulate the building industry, and was conditional on the building of the kindergarten being completed by March 1978. Thus the construction of Oratia Kindergarten was able to proceed, at a total cost of a little over \$53,000.

OTAHUHU

This was the eighth kindergarten to be established by the Association. It was opened on 17 September 1928, when twenty children attended. By the end of 1928 the roll stood at 55. The use of St Andrews Hall was obtained, with piano, furniture and crockery included, at a rental of £26 a year. By 1929 however, the need for new premises had become urgent, and in 1931 the lease of a house and grounds in Princes Street was arranged. In 1937 land was obtained for a new building, and in February 1939 building plans were submitted to the Education Department for approval. In November 1939 however, because of the outbreak of war and the resulting difficulty in raising finance, a proposal was made to cut down the size of the kindergarten and erect only half of the proposed building.

A move to temporary premises in Queen Street was made early in 1942, but wartime difficulties, and post-war shortages of building

materials, meant that by 1948 no real progress on a new kindergarten had been made. In February 1948 the premises occupied by the kindergarten, which was property owned by the Otahuhu Borough Council, was taken over by the Council at short notice for its own use. The kindergarten was consequently closed down.

The section which had been obtained in 1937 was not large enough for a 60-children kindergarten and in 1950 the local borough council announced it was going to take it under the Public Works Act for use as a town hall site. The borough council recognised the need for a site, however, and in September 1950 it set up a special sub-committee to look into the problem.

In June 1951 the council offered the Association a half acre of land, known as Cunnold's section, adjoining Murphy Park, and a year later the Department of Education gave its approval to the site. A new kindergarten committee was formed in 1953. Permission to call tenders for the building was given in June 1954. By the end of 1955, when the building was nearing completion, the question arose of the Government's ruling that no new kindergartens could open until all teaching positions in existing kindergartens were filled. The assistance of the local Member of Parliament was sought, and in December 1955 the Director of Education announced that the Department's ruling would be waived so that Otahuhu could open. Staff were duly appointed, in January 1956, and Otahuhu recommenced operation in February.

From 1970 a pilot scheme involving an extra roll of afternoon children and the employment of more staff was in operation. The scheme was to promote greater language development and proved to be of value. At the end of 1977, however, Government advised that the scheme was to be phased out. The local committee objected to this proposal and the local Member wrote to the Minister of Education supporting the continuation of the scheme. The Minister replied that there was no need to continue the scheme at Otahuhu, and argued that the extra salaries being paid were not justified by the increased numbers of children attending. The Association was unhappy with the Minister's response, stating that "it is sad that economics take precedence over the needs of children".

OWAIRAKA

In August 1950 the Owairaka Kindergarten Committee applied for affiliation to the Association, and in April 1952 a kindergarten commenced operation in the Owairaka Baptist Hall, Richardson Road.

In 1954 a site off Richardson Road was obtained. At the end of 1955 the kindergarten had to close because of staff shortages, but reopened in the Baptist Church Hall, Owairaka Avenue, in February 1957.

In the meantime, progress was being made with the drawing up of plans to modify a Keith Hay pre-built building for kindergarten purposes. The initial plans were approved by the Department of Education in October 1957, tenders were called in April 1958, and the new building was in use by November the same year.

PAKURANGA

Following a public meeting in July 1965 an establishment committee was formed in the Pakuranga district. In May 1966 six possible sites were inspected, and in September 1966 the Manukau City Council agreed to lease a site in Reeves Road. In December 1967 permission was received from the Department of Education to proceed with preliminary site and sketch plans. Delays occurred in early 1968 when the architect pointed out that it was impossible for the site to accommodate the basic-plan kindergarten, or to provide adequate sunny playing areas. The Manukau City Council agreed to change the site dimensions, but this involved redrafting the lease for the site. Further delays were caused by the death of the Department of Education's regional architect, and Departmental approval of the building plans for Pakuranga were not forthcoming until April 1969. The new kindergarten commenced operation in May 1970, thus relieving to some degree the pressures on Howick Kindergarten.

By February 1972 the waiting list at Pakuranga had grown to 612 children, making it the largest waiting list in New Zealand. In August 1972 the Minister of Education gave permission for more children to attend Pakuranga, and for the Association to appoint an extra trained teacher to work five half-days a week. In October 1974 a third full-time teacher replaced the part-time teacher. Early in 1976 the extended roll scheme at Pakuranga was discontinued, in spite of protests that, although waiting lists had been reduced, most children were receiving only about one term of kindergarten experience before entering school. The Department of Education's viewpoint, however, was that extended rolls were not to be regarded as the accepted method of reducing waiting lists on a permanent basis. They were intended only as a temporary measure to bring some relief while Associations worked towards providing additional kindergarten facilities. While the extended roll system had operated at Pakuranga two new kindergartens in the area had been opened, and a third had reached the planning stage.

PAPATOETOE

Papatoetoe Kindergarten opened in September 1945 in St George's Anglican Schoolroom, Landscape Road. A site on the corner of St George Street and Wilmay Road was vested in the Association in 1949. Tenders for a building on this site were received in September 1953, and Papatoetoe commenced operating in its new building in May 1954. At this time the kindergarten changed from a 60- to a 40-child unit.

In April 1956 the Papatoetoe Kindergarten Bowling Club was formed, initially organised and run by the kindergarten committee. At the end of 1975 the Bowling Club ceased functioning.

By the middle of 1959 the kindergarten had a 22-month waiting list, but the shortage of trained kindergarten teachers, together with a lack of Government funds to provide subsidies on new buildings, made the provision of a second kindergarten virtually impossible.

PARNELL

In August 1969 an establishment committee was formed to work towards a free kindergarten in the Parnell area. In 1970 six possible sites were investigated, all to no avail, and in 1971 an Auckland City Council offer of a site off Stratford Street was rejected as the site was unsuitable. Enquiries about sites were then directed to the Anglican Church, New Zealand Railways, the Harbour Board, and the Auckland City Council, and while the responses were sympathetic, no firm proposals were forthcoming. Eventually, after nine months of intensive negotiation with the Auckland City Council, the Association received approval in 1977 for the leasing of a site on Alberon Reserve. The difficulties of finding a site revolved around the fact that Parnell was a fully developed inner suburb, and existing school sites, already rather small, were unable to give up any portion of their land for kindergarten purposes. There were a large number of objections to erecting a kindergarten on reserve land, and Council resolved to proceed with building activity as soon as the site was obtained.

While the search for a site had been conducted, a private kindergarten had functioned in the Knox Church Hall. This kindergarten had existed for at least 35 years, but the hall was far from suitable for kindergarten purposes.

Building of the new kindergarten began in early July 1978, after some landfilling had been completed, and kindergarten teaching commenced in February 1979. Because of site difficulties Parnell was the most expensive kindergarten yet built by the Association, costing about \$65,000. In mid-February a crib retaining wall, some two metres high and twelve metres long on the boundary of the kindergarten

property, collapsed after torrential rain had fallen. Mud, water and topsoil from the adjoining backyards cascaded down on one side of the kindergarten to a height of one metre.

The kindergarten had to be closed for several weeks because of the potential danger of the large pile of mud and debris leaning heavily on the back of the building. The business of allocating responsibility for the collapsed wall, seeking compensation and setting about the task of cleaning up and repairing the wall dragged on for weeks. By June 1979 the retaining wall had been restored with a much more dependable structure.

POINT CHEVALIER

In 1937 Peter Fraser, then Minister of Education visited Point Chevalier to help the Association raise public interest in the establishment of a local kindergarten. The visit was successful and by the following year the area had its own kindergarten. In 1945 the Hallyburton Sports Club hall being used by the kindergarten was no longer available. The use of a section was acquired at a nominal rental and an army hut purchased for re-erection upon the site with voluntary labour by the children's fathers. The new building, which provided a most attractive home for the kindergarten was opened in September 1946.

By 1970 it was becoming necessary to renovate parts of the kindergarten. In that year the washroom, toilets, and cloakroom were repaired, and in 1973 a storeroom was built. The playground was resealed in 1974. In 1978 the Association programmed a new building for Point Chevalier for some time after 1982, and the local committee decided to place ten per cent of all its fund raising into a building account.

POINT ENGLAND

In 1973 the Association was approached by a Community Committee formed in the Glen Innes area regarding the establishment of a kindergarten in the area. There was a considerable amount of spare accommodation at the Point England School, and both the Headmaster and school committee were in favour of some of it being used to house a kindergarten. An approach was made to the Education Board for approval, and following a long period of inactivity a meeting of interested parties was called in October 1974. This resulted in formal approval being given, and in December an establishment committee was formed to raise money to buy equipment.

The kindergarten was established in what used to be a Special Classes Block at the school. A prefabricated garage was placed on the

site to house outdoor equipment. The total cost of the kindergarten, opened at the end of July 1975, was only a quarter of what was normal at the time.

In 1976 a supernumerary teacher was placed at Point England. At the beginning of 1977 however, because of the revised supernumerary scheme introduced by the Minister of Education, no supernumerary was allocated to Point England. The lack of a third teacher led to staffing problems and the Association first applied for a third teacher, and then decided to appoint a supernumerary teacher itself. In August 1977 the Department of Education finally approved the appointment of a third teacher, subject to annual review.

PONSONBY

This was the sixth kindergarten to be opened by the Association, and commenced operation in the All Saints Schoolroom on 1 February, 1926. The first Director was Vere Middleton, who remained at Ponsonby until 1936, when she transferred to Myers Kindergarten. Donations of £75 from Newmarket, £50 from Campbell and £25 each from Myers and St James enabled the new kindergarten to become established.

In 1937 the kindergarten moved into a building in Ponsonby Terrace, and in 1944 £534 was collected at a Queen Carnival to carry out additions and alterations to the building. A new kitchen was constructed, as the kindergarten provided midday meals for the children, and improvements were made to the toilet facilities and the teachers' room.

The midday meals scheme dated back to 1940, when the kindergarten became a day nursery because of war conditions which demanded that some mothers work in factories essential to the war effort. The beginnings of the scheme were naturally limited as finance was scarce and cooking equipment, longer working hours for the staff, and some kind of domestic help in the kitchen all had to be considered. There was however a good response from the parents and within a month of the scheme starting 47 out of the 50 children were attending for the full day. After two months an old gas stove, loaned by the Gas Company, was installed in the small kitchen, and a mother was appointed to serve the food. At that stage it was not possible to give a full, balanced meal, but the children's sandwiches were supplemented with hot vegetable soup and a dessert.

This arrangement continued for almost a year, the kindergarten committee begging vegetables, making money through the Mothers' Club for kitchen equipment, and even starting a large vegetable garden.

At the beginning of 1942 a full midday meal was offered. Suitable menus were planned and arrangements made for the teachers to come early each morning to prepare the vegetables. Fortunately the staff were extremely interested in the scheme, even though only a small increase in their salaries was possible for the extra work.

The financial situation of the day nursery was at times precarious, as it was dependent entirely on the mothers' donations of three shillings per week to cover the food, cleaning and cooking expenses, and extra equipment. It is curious that in 1943, when the Government asked the Association whether it would be prepared to convert some of its kindergartens into day nurseries to assist the war effort, the Association should ignore the good work being done at Ponsonby and reply to Government that no such need existed.

At the end of the war Ponsonby wished to continue the nursery, particularly to aid mothers with large families and no domestic help, those with personal problems, war widows, and mothers with housing and similar difficulties. As well as the sixty children who attended the day nursery, there were another 50 on the waiting list. In April 1946, however, the finances of Ponsonby were in a sorry state, there being insufficient funds to pay the teachers. Most of the Ponsonby committee resigned at this point.

For some years the kindergarten had had the use of an old school building adjoining the kindergarten, given to them rent free by the Education Board. The Ponsonby-Herne Bay Returned Services Association approached the kindergarten for use of part of the old school as club rooms and arrangements were made for them to share. In order to enlarge and improve the rooms, however, the R.S.A. required the whole building, and so in 1947 purchased a Nissen hut, at a cost of over £200, for the kindergarten to use as a rest room for the children.

In 1950 Ponsonby was officially made a Grade II kindergarten. There had previously been a sufficiently high roll but the kindergarten had been in the happy position of having sufficient voluntary helpers not to need a second assistant.

The Returned Services Club decided in 1951 to move its club rooms, and the Ponsonby committee purchased for £200 (subsidised, after much correspondence, by the Government) the Nissen hut it had occupied in 1947.

By 1958 the committee was finding the maintenance of their old building a considerable burden. It had spent £400 on repairs and maintenance, and because of the location of the kindergarten had not been able to raise the money easily. Much of the equipment needed replenishing or replacing. The committee felt that the population it

served was, on the whole, neither as young, active, nor as prosperous as in other areas, and that most people were indifferent to the kindergarten, even though it operated as a Nursery School and so offered a social service greater than was usually given by a kindergarten. They also noted that many of the mothers of the children found it necessary to work, and were therefore not available for fund-raising activities. Nor were they able to contribute financially. Because of irregular hours and overtime many of the fathers were unavailable too.

In July 1959 the kindergarten was able to lease part of the site of the old Ponsonby School adjoining the kindergarten and a number of improvements were carried out. Early in the following year, faced with the loss of their Nissen hut and the basement of the Council Hall on the next section, both of which had been used for storage purposes for outdoor equipment and for beds for sixty children, the kindergarten erected a larger than usual equipment room.

In April 1967 a meeting was held at Ponsonby Kindergarten to consider its future. At that time Ponsonby was still a Grade II kindergarten, with 60 children on the morning roll, some of whom remained for the midday dinner and sleep in the afternoon. Since 1948, when most other kindergartens had started the double shift two days a week, Ponsonby had carried on its existing programme of providing dinner and afternoon sleep. With the forthcoming retirement of Gwen Gilbert, who had been head teacher at Ponsonby since 1942, it was felt that if changes were to be made they should commence before her retirement. Gwen Gilbert was herself in favour of changing to the usual Grade I situation, with morning and afternoon rolls of 40 children and with no provision for dinner or afternoon sleeping. The Association felt that the need for the special services offered by Ponsonby kindergarten had largely disappeared, and the Department of Education consequently regarded the kindergarten, this taking effect at the beginning of the second term in 1968. The Association had also asked that the Department allow a staff of three at Ponsonby (as already existed), to cope with the large non-European element, and after some discussion the Department consented to the request.

There were continuing problems with the maintenance of the old building. In winter it was very cold, and a check in 1971 revealed that various sections of the electrical wiring were in a dangerous condition and that the whole building required rewiring. The previous year the floors had to be replaced. They had been sanded so many times it was simply not possible to sand them again. Part of the problem was that the kindergarten building was leased from the Auckland City Council, and the lease put the onus on the Association to carry out all repairs and maintenance on the building, both externally and internally. In

mid-1971, with the proposed redevelopment of the Freemans Bay area, the Association asked the Council to consider a site for a new kindergarten building in the redevelopment scheme. By early 1972 the problems were getting worse. Because of corrosion much of the plumbing system was ineffective and water was lying under the building. The spouting also required replacement.

Some help was forthcoming from other kindergartens, but not from local authorities. The Mission Bay Kindergarten contributed £200 towards maintenance costs, and the Mill Crescent Kindergarten in Matamata also offered to help. An approach to the City Council for financial assistance to repair the plumbing was however turned down. In 1976 the Association granted Ponsonby exemption from contributing to its Building Fund, providing that the \$200 which normally would have been given was placed in a special fund for the maintenance of the kindergarten. This policy was continued in 1977 when Ponsonby became ineligible for maintenance repairs through the Education Board because the Ponsonby building was not vested in the Association. In 1981, following negotiations with the Auckland City Council about changes to the lease and land titles for the kindergarten, it was designated "local purposes (site for a kindergarten)", and the management and control of the site was vested in the Association. The lease with the Council was terminated. This meant that Ponsonby became eligible for maintenance under the same scheme as for all other kindergartens.

PUHINUI

See MURDOCH PARK

PUKEKOHE

In 1947 a grave shortage of kindergarten teachers meant that three kindergartens in the Auckland area had to manage without trained teachers, and the Association had great difficulty in coping with the many requests for new kindergartens to be opened. Pukekohe was fortunate in having a trained teacher available, and a kindergarten was opened that year. Pukekohe is now administered by the Franklin Association.

RANUI

In December 1977 the Association purchased for \$10,000 a 120 square metre transportable day care centre building. There was no Government subsidy, the money being provided by the Association, the Ranui

community, other kindergarten committees, business houses, and various individuals. The Auckland Savings Bank and New Zealand Insurance both donated \$1,000, and Universal Homes \$500. A site had been secured the month before, when a Playcentre Association site was transferred to the Kindergarten Association. Ranui commenced operation, as a Grade O kindergarten, in July 1978.

RATHGAR

An establishment committee to raise funds for a kindergarten in the Henderson area was formed in June 1969, and in May 1970 the Henderson Borough Council gave permission to convert a house in Valley Road to a kindergarten. This was to be for a period of two years while sufficient funds were raised for a new building. At the same time a lease was signed with the Waitemata County Council for a site in Longburn Road. Rathgar commenced operation in June 1975, having been built with the financial assistance of a special grant from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs. In 1981 a satellite kindergarten at Pomaria Road was established in a school classroom.

ROSKILL SOUTH

In September 1952 the Roskill South Residents and Ratepayers Association determined to erect a hall for kindergarten purposes; from 1960 both the Auckland Association and local committees were busy looking for a suitable site in the Roskill South area. Approaches were made to the Department of Education, the Auckland Harbour Board, the Wesley College Trust Board and the Mt Roskill Borough Council.

A public meeting called by the Council in February 1965 led to the forming of the Roskill South Establishment Committee, and later the same year approval was given to a site in Linden Street. Negotiations for the lease fell through, however, and not until August 1967 was another site found in Mariposa Avenue. Further difficulties arose because this piece of land was actually owned by the Auckland Harbour Board, which had to hand it over to the Borough Council as an established reserve before it could be leased to the Association. Not until March 1969 was the lease signed. In September, however, the Council offered an alternative site, in Dominion Road, and in December the Association indicated that it would be prepared to accept this site rather than the one in Mariposa Avenue. A new lease was signed in February 1970.

Further problems arose concerning the placement of the kindergarten building on the site. The Association, the Borough

Council, the Regional Architect of the Education Department and the Association's architect were all involved, and the matter was not resolved until the Association's President met with the Borough Council in October 1970.

By the time a tender was accepted for the new building in April 1971 a great deal of unpleasantness had arisen and the Association recognised the need to reform the local committee, which had dwindled in numbers, and to get enthusiastic support for the project.

Roskill South Kindergarten commenced operation in February 1972. In 1977 the kindergarten operated an extended roll scheme, to cater for additional children, but this was phased out during the first term of 1978.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S

St Christopher's Kindergarten commenced operation as a Grade I kindergarten in St Christopher's Hall, Margaret Avenue, Prince of Wales Estate, Mt Albert, in February 1949. At the end of 1949 the kindergarten moved to St Lukes Church Hall.

By 1958 the roll of St Christopher's had declined to the point where the Department of Education could consider withdrawing from payment of salaries and subsidies. The local committee was urged to canvas the area for extra children, but by October 1959 the average roll was only 23 for morning sessions, and 15 in the afternoon. Small rolls continued to be a problem, and at the beginning of 1963 the Director of Education would grant recognition of St Christopher's (for financial purposes) for the first term only "to enable efforts to be made to build up the roll to a reasonable level to justify the recognition of two teachers". By April the rolls had risen sufficiently for the Director to be satisfied that Government subsidies for this kindergarten should be continued.

In September 1969 St Christopher's was regraded as a Grade O kindergarten. Early in 1972 the St Lukes Vestry decided to sell the premises in which St Christopher's was housed. A St Christopher's Establishment Committee was formed in March 1972 to work towards a permanent home for the kindergarten, and temporary accommodation was found in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Mt Albert Road. In April 1974, as no suitable site had been found, it was suggested that the Establishment Committee go into recess, but in September that year a site was made available by the Ministry of Works and Development in the grounds of the proposed Carrington Technical Institute. It was decided that St Christopher's should revert to a Grade I kindergarten, and tenders for the new building were called in July 1975. Problems arose with the Mt Albert Borough Council over a building permit, and

the new building became operational only at the beginning of the second term, 1976.

In June 1975 a small unit of the Crippled Children Society joined the kindergarten. This consisted of five children and one teacher.

ST HELIERS-GLENDOWIE

A site in St Heliers was offered by the Department of Lands and Survey in August 1949, and vested in the Association early in 1951. By November 1951, however, the local establishment committee had decided that the site was too small, and that a kindergarten located on it would not be able to cater for many children. The Department of Education was quite unsympathetic and refused to consider a change of site. In October 1952 a St Heliers Free Kindergarten Parents' Association was formed, and by February 1953 it had raised about £500. By April however, the Parents' Association had gone into recess, and in June the St Heliers-Glendowie Progressive Association sponsored a public meeting to elect a new committee.

By September 1955 £1,400 had been raised for a kindergarten, and sketch plans for a building had been prepared, but by February 1956 there were fresh problems in maintaining a local committee. A public meeting to elect a new committee had to be postponed because of insufficient attendance, but it was possible to form a committee in March.

Because of nationwide staffing problems, and the Government's "period of consolidation", it was not until April 1959 that word was received from the Department of Education that the building of St Heliers Kindergarten could proceed. Tenders were called early in 1960, but the Department of Education considered that all three tenders received were too high, and it became necessary to alter the proposed design of the building. Tenders were resubmitted in July 1960 and in September the Department gave its permission to proceed with building. The new kindergarten commenced operation in November 1961. Elizabeth Tunks was appointed the first Director and held that position for eighteen years until 1978.

ST JAMES

This was the third kindergarten to be established by the Association. It opened formally on 17 February, 1913, forty-three children being admitted during the first week. The first Director of the kindergarten was Miss Cruickshank.

The kindergarten was held in the St James Bible Class hall in Wellington Street, which was made available free of charge. This was

found to be not entirely suitable and in 1917 a site in St James Street was secured at a cost of £650. Because of the war nothing was done immediately about constructing a suitable building on the site but by 1921 the kindergarten committee was ready to commence work on building its new school, having put much effort into fund raising. Progress was delayed however by the refusal of the tenant on the St James Street property to move! By the end of 1922 he still had not moved, and at this time the kindergarten had to shift from Wellington Street. The Deacon's Board of the Beresford Street Congregational Church allowed the use of the Church Hall free of rent and the committee was compelled to alter the name of the kindergarten to St James Street Free Kindergarten.

Trouble continued to plague the kindergarten in 1924. The number of children attending was steadily declining, and it became necessary to try and obtain a site further away in the direction of Grey Lynn. After a great deal of searching a section in Home Street was obtained for £350, and plans for a new building, to cost an estimated £1,400, were drawn up. Another room in which to house the kindergarten temporarily had to be found, as the Beresford Street Church Committee could not let the kindergarten use their Sunday School room any longer. Hard work and perseverance were eventually rewarded when, in July 1924, the new building in Home Street was completed. The cost of the building was £1,185, half of which was paid by the Government, the other half being raised by the committee.

St James' position had improved sufficiently in 1926 for its committee to make donations of £25 to each of the newly established Onehunga and Ponsonby Kindergartens.

A sunporch was added in 1937, and up-to-date toilet facilities and a toyshed in 1941. By 1951 the grounds of the kindergarten were in a very unsatisfactory state. Piles of cut grass and debris littered the area, making it unsuitable for use by the children. The Secretary of the Association wrote to the Mayor of Auckland (conveniently also the President of the Association) pointing out the state of the grounds, and the City Council agreed to level and sow the area in grass, and remove the accumulated rubbish, noting at the same time that "it must be understood that it is not customary for the City Council to undertake these jobs". Trees and shrubs were also planted.

At the end of 1950 the St James committee purchased a house and section behind the kindergarten for £1,400 with the idea of selling the house and incorporating the section into the kindergarten playground. The house was not sold until 1957, when it fetched £1,550 (from a land speculator who promptly resold it for £2,400!).

In early 1958 St James became a Grade I kindergarten because of

its declining roll. (At the end of 1957 the rolls stood at 39 children in the morning and 34 in the afternoon, with no waiting list.) The depressed nature of St James was further emphasised when an appeal was made to other kindergarten committees for funds to build up the equipment for the children. Thirteen kindergartens gave over £200. By mid-1965 the situation had begun to show signs of improvement. The Supervising Head Teacher noted in a report that "the whole tone of the kindergarten has improved tremendously and . . . the mothers are taking an active interest." The report commended the St James committee for its work in improving the conditions in the building.

By the end of 1965, however, there was trouble again with the small rolls. At the close of the third term, 1965, there were only 61 children enrolled, 39 for the morning session and 22 for the afternoon. A full roll was 80 children, and 60 was the minimum to preserve Education Department recognition for the payment of teachers' salaries and subsidies for equipment. In mid-1966 a report was presented on St James Kindergarten describing the situation as it existed at the end of July that year. The roll had shown great improvement since the end of the third term, 1965, and the kindergarten had become more widely known in the area. This was in part due to the efforts of agencies such as the Health Department, but mainly to the kindergarten teacher and her assistant, who had established a good relationship with the parents in the area.

The report indicated that the children at St James were racially very mixed and came from disadvantaged families. The difficulties of language, behaviour, discipline, health and hygiene were such that the teachers had to spend a great deal of time with individual children in routine situations. The overall design of the kindergarten made it impossible for two teachers to supervise the whole area at any given time. In an attempt to meet the needs of the children the kindergarten had, for the previous two years and the weather permitting, controlled the play programme by having all children inside for the first half and outside for the second. This ensured that children remained within the vision of the teachers at all times.

The Supervising Head Teacher's report on St James, dated September 1966, described a very sorry state. There were plumbing problems, a fence had collapsed, the wooden gate into the playground was broken and held together with wire, the floor in the corner of one of the playrooms had subsided, the French doors did not close properly, several window panes were missing and many windows did not latch properly as the frames were warped. There were insufficient towels for the children, insufficient provision was made for hygiene and first aid, and the equipment and play materials were not up to standard. A

continually low bank balance over the previous few years had meant that maintenance of the building and equipment had been lacking.

A report, also dated September 1966, from J. Brockett, a College Assistant at the Kindergarten Teachers' College, noted that the area served by St James was a poor one, that many of the families were migrants, and that a disturbing number of the children at the kindergarten had health problems which required the attention of the staff. It noted that a large proportion of the children had little or no spoken English and put forward the view that special attention to language was essential. This would involve some departure from usual kindergarten procedures, and include grouping the children roughly according to ability; close observation on the part of the staff would be necessary and they would need to be aware of the requirements of individual children.

In November 1966 moves were made to meet some of the material needs of the children. James Stenberg Ltd donated an assortment of shoes for the kindergarten, Ambler and Company donated shirts, L. D. Nathan and Company donated a quantity of tea, and Milne and Choyce a Christmas cake and biscuits. In May 1967 the Association took over responsibility from the St James committee for a year, for the payment of the daily milk supply to the kindergarten children. This was subsequently extended for a further year.

The Association also successfully appealed to the Education Department for an additional teacher at St James as a "special" kindergarten with particular problems arising from the number of non-European children in attendance. In May 1967 a second assistant teacher was appointed. At the same time, and after being turned down three times when applying to the Education Department for the money, the Association agreed to pay for the reblocking of the sunken corner of the playroom.

In 1972 the Association appealed to established kindergarten committees for funds to repair and upgrade St James to a limited standard with a view to maintaining it for another ten years; \$2,510 was donated for this purpose. An estimated \$3,150 was needed, however, and appeals were made by the Association to the Auckland Master Builders' Association, the Electrical Contractors' Association and the Master Plumbers' Association for any assistance possible. There was a negative response from the electricians, but the Master Plumbers' Association offered free labour for the plumbing work. They also donated the plumbing materials. A further approach to the Education Department was successful. The Department agreeing to pay a \$2 for \$1 subsidy on the costs involved in upgrading the kindergarten because of the unusual circumstances involved. By early 1973 the work had been

completed. In 1975 \$780 was spent improving the drainage of the kindergarten site.

In August 1977 the Auckland Education Board advised the Association that it considered St James had reached the end of its economic life, and recommended replacement within five years. Maintenance would cease in February 1982. In 1979 a site on the Newton Central School site was sought, and in 1981 was approved. Considerable concern at the state of the kindergarten was now being expressed by its staff. It was noted that because of the large size of the building it was difficult to get cleaners at a rate that could be afforded. Toilet smells were becoming "appallingly bad", and the staff toilet had no window. Storage space in the outside shed was insufficient, and space inside the building was considered totally inadequate. The Association decided to determine the current market value of the property, with a view to selling and re-establishing on the Newton School site.

ST JOHNS

An establishment committee was set up in February 1971 and a site in Howard Hunter Avenue, Glen Innes, was vested in the Association in early 1973; permission to call tenders for a new building was given a year later. The local establishment committee, however, was not at all enthusiastic about the basic plan from which kindergartens are designed and built, and wrote to the Minister of Education urging him to prevent "the erection in our area of a kindergarten which . . . is grossly overpriced and badly designed". At a special meeting of the Sites and Establishment Committee in June 1974 it was agreed that the St Johns committee could change their architects; the committee in their turn guaranteed that the plans produced by their own architects would meet all the requirements laid down by both the Department of Education and the Association, that the building would be ready for occupation by February 1975, and that the complete project would cost less than \$32,000.

Tenders for the new building were called in September 1974, and St Johns, built at a final cost of \$42,000, commenced operation in May 1975. The opening at the same time of a private kindergarten in the nearby Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall saw St Johns start with smaller rolls than had been expected.

SANDBROOK

A site at Bairds Road Reserve, Manukau City, was leased to the Association in 1975. Sandbrook was a Special Assistance Kindergarten, and initially had no functioning committee. The Association acted in

a caretaker capacity. The kindergarten commenced operation at the beginning of 1977, with a staff of three. A committee was established soon afterwards. Vandalism, and a general lack of local support, have been major problems for Sandbrook.

SANDRINGHAM

This kindergarten was opened in February 1976 as a Grade O kindergarten in the old Haeata building. Its early history is recorded in the section relating to Haeata.

Prior to the reopening of the kindergarten the Association approved the expenditure of \$2,800 for improvements to the building over and above what the Education Board would carry out as repairs.

SELWYN

See LADY COBHAM

STURGES ROAD

An establishment committee was formed in May 1976. Early in that year a site in Sturges Road, Henderson, was reserved for a kindergarten, and sketch plans of the proposed building were approved in June of the following year. Sturges Road commenced operation in May 1978 as a Grade I kindergarten.

SUNBEAMS

This was the seventh kindergarten to be established by the Association, and it opened on 1 February, 1927 in St David's Hall, Virginia Avenue. By 1930 the kindergarten had the highest average attendance for the year of any kindergarten in Auckland and held this position until 1934. In 1937 plans for a new building were drawn up, and the promise of a Government subsidy was obtained. The new building was opened in 1938, at a total cost (including the land) of £1,604. In 1942 a playroom was built in the kindergarten grounds, giving much needed extra space and adding to the overall appearance of the kindergarten. Further space was created in 1945 when the verandah was roofed over and glassed in. By 1957 the lack of children of pre-school age in the Eden Terrace area had caused the rolls of Sunbeams to drop to the point where it appeared uneconomic to continue the kindergarten's operation. At the end of 1957 it was reluctantly decided that the kindergarten should be closed, but it was hoped that Sunbeams could be reopened at a later date in a new district. By the end of 1959 the equipment from Sunbeams had been distributed to other kindergartens or otherwise disposed of,

and in 1961 the property was sold. A new Sunbeams, in Taniwha Street in the Glen Innes area, commenced operation in 1963.

SUNBEAMS (Glen Innes)

See GLEN INNES

SUNDERLAND

In December 1976 the Association wrote to the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union requesting that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a Grade O free kindergarten at Hobsonville Air Force Base. There was already in existence a pre-school building, of 90 metres, set in a large attractive playground. The pre-school building had previously been used by the Playcentre Association, but because of the inability of that Association and the local people to provide supervisors, the Playcentre had closed in December 1976. The Air Force was prepared to upgrade its building to meet the Association's requirements, and while it was envisaged that this kindergarten would be primarily for the children of R.N.Z.A.F. personnel, the Air Force stated that they would prefer to see the enrolment of a percentage of civilian children.

The N.Z.F.K.U. replied that it and the Department of Education had "many misgivings about the kindergarten being established on the base as experience in the past has not been happy when pre-schools have been established on service bases." However, subject to seven points on which the N.Z.F.K.U. wanted agreement it was accepted that the kindergarten could be established.

Most of these points were agreed to by the Air Force. Although a formal lease of the site to the Association was not acceptable to the Air Force, it saw no problems concerning the admittance of non-military personnel on to the base for kindergarten purposes. The Air Force asked, and the Association concurred, that the number of non-military pre-schoolers be fixed at a maximum of six per session. This was to guarantee that the kindergarten would provide primarily for R.N.Z.A.F. dependents. The Department of Education was not prepared to accept the idea of a split roll, and by June 1977 the Air Force was expressing its concern at the delay in proceedings. "Seven months have now passed. . . If the Kindergarten Association cannot advise a final decision in the next calendar month, our request to establish a kindergarten on Hobsonville must lapse and some other form of pre-school education facility will have to be established."

Further discussions took place between the Association and the Air Force, and agreement was reached to set up an advisory committee to

supervise enrolments. This satisfied the Department of Education, and permission to proceed with the kindergarten was given in September 1977. The Air Force immediately made available \$1,000 for the purchase of equipment and the kindergarten commenced operation in November 1977.

In June 1979 the Air Force advised that it had approved in principle the allocation of an area of land for a new kindergarten building. There were problems concerning the leasing of the land: a request for the lease from the Hobsonville office was mislaid within Defence Headquarters for 14 months! Not until March 1982 was a draft lease received by the Association.

SUNNYVALE

An establishment committee was formed in 1969 in Sunnyvale, Henderson; a site on the Kaikoura Street Reserve was set aside by the Waitemata County Council in April 1970 and approved by the Department of Education in December the following year. Approval to call tenders was given in November 1974, and the new kindergarten, built at a cost of \$35,700, began operation in April 1975.

TAKAPUNA

Takapuna Kindergarten commenced operation in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Hall's Corner, Takapuna, in February 1944. As this hall was not available to the kindergarten in the afternoons a move was made, in 1948, to the Gospel Hall in Jutland Road. In 1949 however, the kindergarten received notice to quit the hall, and at the end of the first term another move was made, this time to the Takapuna Surf Club on the Strand. Attendance was now limited to thirty children. This hall was far from ideal, and a search began for a better site. In August 1952 a site in Hurstmere Road was vested in the Association, and sketch plans for a building were approved in June 1954. Teaching in the new building commenced at the beginning of 1956.

The Hurstmere Road site was two-and-a-half times the size of a usual kindergarten site, and this caused various problems. It was a large area to maintain. In 1958 the local borough council contemplated erecting a block of toilets on part of the land, and some councillors expressed in the press their opposition to the site. "It is quite a ridiculous site — like having a kindergarten in the middle of Queen Street," said one. The request to erect a toilet block was turned down, but in 1960 the borough council again approached the Association. This time the local committee agreed in principle to the borough council acquiring a strip of land from the kindergarten site, provided it was fenced off

from the rest of the site, and with a restroom for women only.

In 1966 Connie Smith retired from her position as President of the Takapuna kindergarten committee after eighteen years in that position and 23 years on the committee. She accepted the position of Patroness of the kindergarten.

In 1967 a pre-school class for deaf children was set up at Takapuna Kindergarten. This consisted of five children and a teacher, and the unit operated until 1979.

By 1971 it was felt by the Association that the growing city of Takapuna had engulfed the kindergarten site which was by then in the heart of a busy shopping centre. A dangerous traffic situation had developed, and the kindergarten was sitting unsuitably on one of the most valuable pieces of land in Auckland. In October the Association acquired an option to purchase a suitable site in Bracken Avenue, and Ministerial approval was forthcoming in May 1972. As the Association had already contributed towards the cost of the original kindergarten building the full cost of constructing the new building was met by the Department. It was operational from the beginning of 1974, although the move to the new site was not without its trauma. Guidelines for action and decision-making were never very clearly laid down, and in the latter stages of the project officers of the Association and the Department of Education and the architects were "involved in much acrimonious discussion and time-consuming enquiries".

TE ATATU NORTH

This was one of three kindergartens opened in 1970. A site for a kindergarten in the Te Atatu North area was first offered to the Association by the Department of Lands and Survey in mid-1956. The site, in Titoki Road, was rejected by the Association because it was felt that it might be difficult to maintain the required number of children on the roll as the kindergarten would serve only the south-western section of the Te Atatu housing area.

Towards the end of 1962 a private kindergarten was operating in Te Atatu, in a church hall; about to lose their accommodation, this kindergarten was anxious for some affiliation with the Association. Nothing came of this.

In February 1965 the headmaster of Rutherford Primary School on Toru Street, M. Schmidt, approached the Association about the possibility of a kindergarten being established in Te Atatu. A committee was set up, a bank account was opened, and inquiries were made for premises in which to open a private kindergarten and thus secure the interest of parents. The Association supported the scheme and gave

some practical assistance by approaching the Waitemata County Council for a site.

A Sunday School hall was obtained as premises, and a private kindergarten opened under Child Welfare supervision. A charge of 7/6d per week for four mornings, and 4/6d for two or three afternoons was made. The kindergarten was run by a trained kindergarten teacher, with an assistant, and there was an initial roll of 40 children for both morning and afternoon sessions, with a waiting list of 50. It was hoped that the kindergarten would be self-supporting, so that the energies of those involved could be put into making money for a free kindergarten.

Although this was not how their kindergartens were usually established, the Association was fully behind the efforts being made in Te Atatu. It expressed its congratulations and best wishes, and was eager in its offers of any needed assistance.

Meanwhile, negotiations were concluded successfully between the Association and the County Council for the leasing of a kindergarten site in Harbour View Road. By early 1968 sufficient funds had been raised for the Te Atatu Kindergarten to be placed on the N.Z.F.K.U.'s priority list for new kindergartens, and an architect was appointed to prepare plans and specifications. The new kindergarten was constructed in late 1969, at a cost of nearly \$18,000.

In 1974 a small group of crippled children made use of Te Atatu North Kindergarten. They remained under the care of their own teacher at all times, and so did not take the places of children already on waiting lists. The scheme was notably successful.

1975 and 1976 saw a spate of burglaries at the kindergarten, resulting in an unsuccessful application to the Department of Education for a burglar alarm.

TE ATATU SOUTH

In October 1968 the Waitemata County Council advised the Association that it would be agreeable to a kindergarten being established on the Divich Avenue Reserve. An establishment committee was formed, and the site approved by the Department of Education. Permission to call tenders for the building was given in August 1972, but delays occurred at the end of the year because of town planning objections to the scheme. Permission to go ahead with the scheme was received in February 1973, but the conditions laid down meant that an extra \$3,000-\$3,500 was added to the costs. These costs related mainly to an access driveway, which had to meet county roading standards, and stormwater which now had to go into a stormwater drain rather than into soakpits. There was considerable correspondence about who should

pay the bill, especially for the access way, and not until November 1974, some sixteen months after the kindergarten had opened, was the matter resolved. The Department of Education gave a 2:1 subsidy.

TITIRANGI

An establishment committee was formed in July 1970. Initially there were problems finding a suitable site, and difficulties between the Association and the local committee, but in May 1971 these were put aside, the local committee passing a resolution "that this committee because of difficulties in the past recognise the need for closer liason [sic] between ourselves and the Auckland Kindergarten Association in the future".

In June 1971 the Department of Education gave its approval to a kindergarten on the Lopdell House site in Titirangi, even though this was adjacent to a playcentre site. The Department's approval was conditional on the entrance to the kindergarten being some distance from the entrance to the playcentre site, and the proposed kindergarten building had to be completely relocatable, that is capable of being shifted.

The Playcentre Association was most unhappy about the siting of the kindergarten in close proximity to one of their units, but the Department of Education ruled that the kindergarten could proceed. Tenders were called in August 1972, and the kindergarten commenced operation in April 1973.

After the winter of 1973 it was obvious that there was a severe drainage problem at this kindergarten. In the middle of winter the major portion of the outdoor play area was unusable. There were further problems in November, the kindergarten having to be closed for a while when the sewage holding tank ceased to function, resulting in sewage running over the surface of the site. These problems resulted in the postponing, and eventual cancellation, of the official opening ceremony at Titirangi. It was not until early 1976 that the drainage problem was finally solved.

WAKATERE

See DEVONPORT

WARKWORTH

The most northerly kindergarten in the Association area, Warkworth was opened in September 1944. The average roll for 1944 was 12. Because of accommodation difficulties and the lack of a trained teacher

it had to close in 1945. In 1947 much of the kindergarten equipment was sold. Interest in a kindergarten was maintained however, and in 1957 a new committee was formed and a private kindergarten established. The Association, which had the funds of the original kindergarten in its keeping, was not prepared to see these funds transferred to a private kindergarten. On the advice of the Free Kindergarten Union the private kindergarten transformed itself into a Nursery Playcentre, and in 1966 the Association agreed to transfer the old kindergarten to the Warkworth Playcentre.

WESTLAKE-FORREST HILL

Following a public meeting in July 1955, and a house-to-house survey which revealed that over 250 children in the Westlake area of the North Shore wished to attend a kindergarten, a local committee was established and approaches were made to the Association. Because of the shortage of teachers it was agreed, at a further public meeting in August, to operate temporarily as a paid kindergarten. The kindergarten was promised the use of a new church hall which was then being built, and overtures were made, directly and not through the Association, to the Department of Education concerning a site.

Following a meeting with the Association it was decided that a private kindergarten could be opened, but that the Association itself would investigate the possibility of finding a site for a free kindergarten. It was not until the end of 1962, however, that a suitable site was found, when the Waitemata County Council agreed to make available land in Maire's subdivision. The site was approved by the Department of Education in March 1963.

Plans and specifications for the new building were approved in July 1965, tenders were called in October, and the new kindergarten commenced operation in August 1966. The private kindergarten closed at the end of the first term, 1966.

In the mid-1970s the kindergarten experienced considerable flooding problems, caused by water flowing down a hillside and collecting under the building. This resulted in the wooden floor being continually damp, and the floorboards warping. A new drainage system was laid down in 1977 at a cost of a little over \$2,000.

WESTMERE

Westmere Kindergarten opened in February 1952, in the St Cuthbert's Church Hall. There were initial problems with the afternoon roll, which

at one stage in 1952 stood at only two. When Westmere was mooted the number of children in the district gave confidence that there would be full morning and afternoon rolls, even though there was already a private kindergarten operating in the area. After the opening of the free kindergarten, however, most mothers were reluctant to send their children to the afternoon session which operated on two days of the week only. Since the morning session was full they were sent instead to the private kindergarten. Efforts were made to increase the afternoon roll which by the middle of December 1952 stood at seven. By the end of February 1953 it had grown to 21, and in March 1953 Westmere was officially recognised by Government for the payment of grants and subsidies.

Towards the end of 1955 a site was obtained off Leamington Road, and by September 1956 sketch and site plans had been drawn. In November, however, it was decided that a kindergarten placed on this site would have difficulties maintaining its rolls, and a decision was made to search for another site. A section in Garnet Road was secured for the Association early in 1957. Permission to call tenders was given in September, and the new building came into use in October 1958.

At the end of 1957 falling rolls were again a problem at Westmere. The average afternoon roll for October was only 24, but by the end of the first term 1958 this had dropped to 16. The average afternoon roll for the whole of 1958 was 25, but this picked up to 37 the following year, before falling back to 30 in 1960 and 28 in 1961.

WHITEACRES

An establishment committee was formed in March 1973, at a time when the kindergarten situation in the Pakuranga area was a desperate one. There were over 500 children on the waiting list at the one kindergarten operating there. In August 1973 a site on the Wakaaranga Primary School land was delineated for kindergarten purposes, and the Department of Education, recognising the urgent need of Pakuranga, promised to expedite proceedings as quickly as possible. In October 1973 the Association received \$1,000 from the Pakuranga Round Table for kindergarten work in the area, and half this amount went to the Whiteacres fund. Work on the new building began in July 1974, and Whiteacres Kindergarten commenced operation in February 1975.

YENDARRA

In 1964 several sites in Otara were set apart for pre-school educational purposes. In mid-1970 a site adjacent to the Yendarra Primary School was designated for kindergarten use. An establishment committee was

already in existence by this time. By June 1971 it had been agreed that Yendarra should receive special aid from the Departments of Education and Maori and Island Affairs, and permission to proceed with the building was given accordingly.

The Association quickly expressed its concern about the financing of Yendarra. In a letter to the Minister of Maori and Island Affairs it noted that his department was contributing \$3,500, the Association was guaranteeing up to \$2,000, and the local committee had gathered \$700. The Association observed that the local kindergarten was very slow in raising finance, and there was "no confidence that it can raise the money that will be required". The Association suggested that unless money could be found from other sources the project at Yendarra should not proceed.

By September 1971 the financial problems had been solved. The Government agreed to pay two-thirds of the cost, together with the grant of \$3,500 from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs. Tenders were called towards the end of 1971 and one for nearly \$26,000 was accepted. A \$500 donation was made by the Auckland Savings Bank and the Maori and Island Affairs Department contribution had climbed to over \$7,000.

The Yendarra Establishment Committee was disbanded at the end of 1971. Its financial abilities had been almost non-existent. \$500 was lost on a ball which only 54 people attended, although 180 were catered for. "The liquor bill was astronomical and it does not appear that much if any was returned," lamented a report on the situation at Yendarra. Although goods had been donated for Christmas raffles the committee members would not organise, sell or buy tickets. It was suggested that the prevailing attitude was that the building of the kindergarten had become a certainty, and it was up to the Government to pay. A new committee was formed in February 1972.

Yendarra Kindergarten opened in July 1972. Application for a third teacher was made in November the same year, but rejected by the Department of Education because of the low attendance figures.

Early in 1973, at a meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee of the Association, it was decided to disband the existing Yendarra committee. A report from the Association's Treasurer at the time indicated financial chaos. Donations and funds entered in the cost book but not banked amounted to over \$300. The financial records of the committee were a shambles. There were no records, for example, of the number of raffle books that had been given to people to sell. Neither was there a record of the money raised from a fashion parade. On a number of occasions money had been banked but there was no record of where it had come from. Proceeds from a petrol raffle were shown

in the books to be \$165, but there was no indication of the banking of that money.

A new committee was elected which managed to bring the kindergarten's funds into a healthier position. This also took a much more active roll in the day-to-day running of the kindergarten.

In early 1974 approval was given for the appointment of a third teacher. This followed a renewed plea from the Association, in which it was pointed out that there were special problems at Yendarra in dealing with "particularly aggressive" children who showed "little regard for adults, children or property".

By mid-1975 the tide had turned. Yendarra could report a substantial bank balance and profitable fund-raising activities were being undertaken. A Mothers' Club was started, and the employment of a new cleaner and lawn-mowing contractor led to a greatly improved appearance for the kindergarten.

Donations from other kindergartens totalling \$450 enabled some new equipment to be bought towards the end of 1977. Over \$500 worth of theft and damage occurred following a break-in at the kindergarten in August 1978.

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