

# TAUHEI

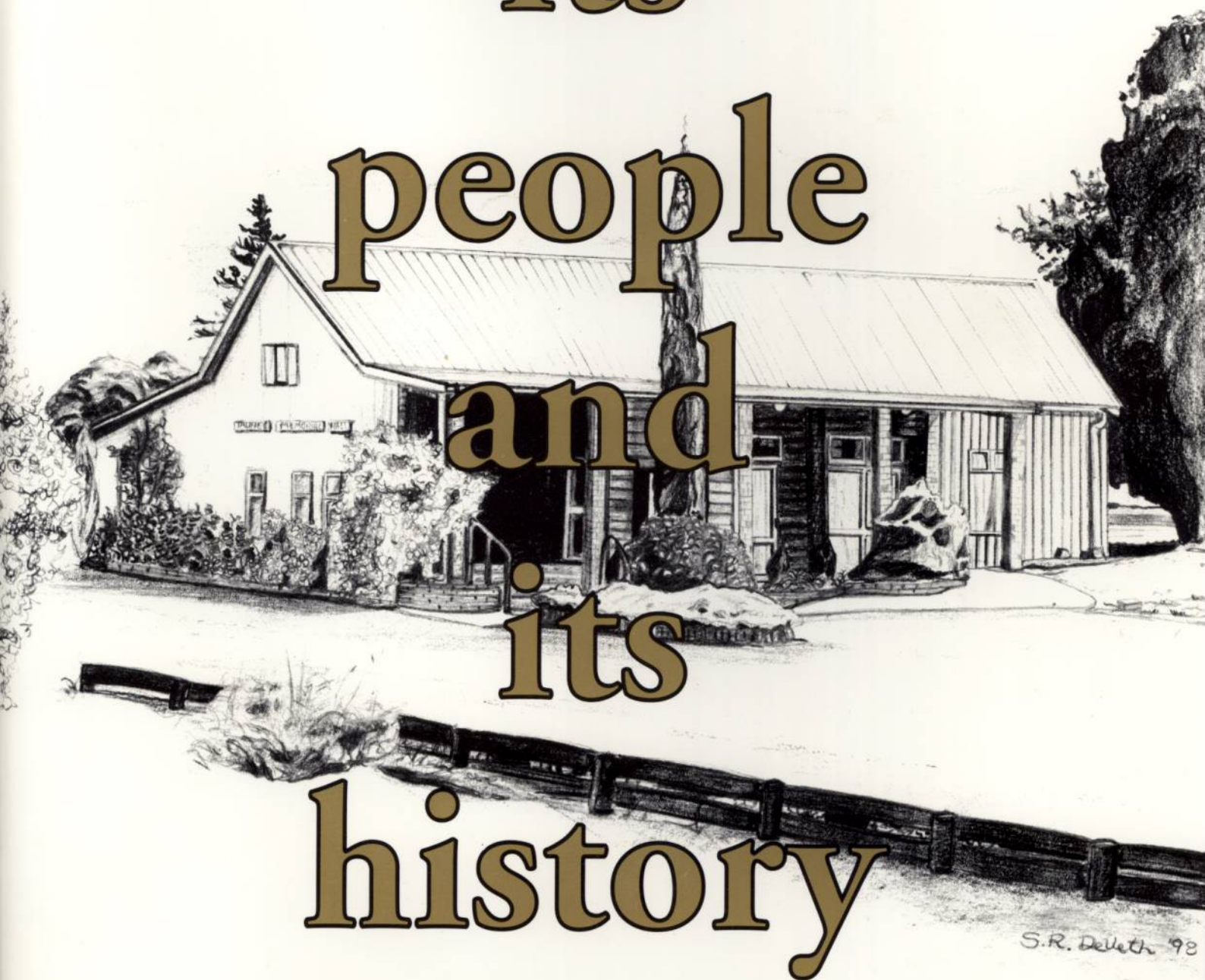
its

people

and

its

history



S.R. DeVeth '98

# TAUHEI

## its people and its history

(an update)

### Introduction

The beginnings of the district of pioneers goes back prior to 1909, but that was the year the school was built and Tauhei had its first centre of focus. In 1984 the School celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and it was a time to take a stroll down memory lane. Many people returned to celebrate in the occasion, friendships were renewed, and stories were shared. As part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee much work was put into researching and capturing the history of the Tauhei Community and preserving this in the form of a book. Little did those that worked on this project so tirelessly realise, that this book would become such a valuable and sought after publication.

It was on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1922 (ANZAC Day) that the Tauhei Hall came in to being. The Hall was built as a memorial to those that fought and died in the First World War (and later the Second World War) and, along with the school beside it, has played a very central part to the life and blood of the community. It was in 1997, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hall, that the present Hall Committee decided it would be fitting to do something to celebrate this occasion. We hope the celebrations to be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1998 will do justice to that, and that it will add to the many happy and memorable occasions the Hall has provided over the last 75 years.

This book, a reproduction of the 1984 book as well as a 14 year update, has been produced to ensure our history is preserved, to share how our district has developed, and to show what has and still makes our community so great. Community is not so much a geographical area but a group of people and there are truly many people who have contributed to make Tauhei the community it is today. For those that have gone before us, and particularly those that paid the ultimate sacrifice, we owe you so much and we say thanks.

It is the continuation of Tauhei's community spirit and the involvement and commitment of those today that: honours our forebears, that enriches our lives today, and that gives our generations of tomorrow so much to look forward to. Again we thank the many people that have shared their stories, that have filled in the pieces, and that have contributed so much to this book. As you read it may you enjoy remembering and learning of the past, and may you go on to enjoy giving to, and living the future.

Peter De Veth, Editor, and proud resident.

# FOREWORD

In preparing this booklet we have endeavoured to present a true and accurate record of the history of Tauhei School and District, both past and present, and hope that it will recall many cherished memories.

The compiling of this history has involved some interesting research and we have had the task of choosing the contents from the wealth of information which has been made available to us and hope that any errors, discrepancies or omissions which may have occurred will be forgiven. Our sincere thanks must go to all residents and ex-residents who provided us with books, old newspapers and photographs; to the interviewers and those interviewed and to the sixteen writers of different articles whose contributions, no matter how large or small, have made this publication possible.

We thank you all.

Lynette V. Revell (Williams)

George C. Hopa

David N. Gibson

# INTRODUCTION

The Tauhei School has been in existence for seventy-five years, having opened its doors to the children of the early settlers of the district in 1909.

The main purpose behind every reunion such as our present one must surely be to provide an opportunity for old friends to renew acquaintance and to reminisce over events and exciting memories of past years, many of which are recorded in the following pages.

Much has changed in seventy-five years of progress - one wonders what opportunities for progress are left - but more will occur in the years ahead. We hope that this Seventy-fifth Jubilee of our school's existence, following on the Golden Jubilee celebrations of 1959 and the Diamond Jubilee of 1969, will prove to be a happy and memorable occasion for all.

At times like these we are reminded of those true pioneers who first came to this district and who, by sheer hard work and foresight, helped to make it the prosperous and well-respected place in which we now live. Past pupils and ex-residents returning after a period of years will, I am sure, see great improvements in our district and I am confident we will see even greater changes for the good in the years ahead. We can now look forward to Tauhei's next milestone: the celebration of our Centennial.

Keith Rowling  
Chairman, Jubilee Committee

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PART I

*“TRUTH ABOVE ALL”*

# TAUHEI SCHOOL

The First Seventy-five Years

1909 - 1984



*FIRST SCHOOL, TAUHEI, 1909*

*BACK: Alice Trapski, Mary Trapski, Molly Neems, Mary Ormsby, Elsie Neem, Ben Heaslip, Clyde Ludwig, Fred Trapski, David Ormsby*

*FRONT: Rangi Ormsby, Ruth Smith, Nora Neems, Harold Heaslip, Daisy Ormsby, Charles Trapski, Jack Neems, Mr Harry Nuttall.*

*The original school, converted from a workman's hut, is still in use as a garage on a property at Mangateparu.*



## THE FIRST SCHOOL (The Shanty on the Hill)

ON the first of August, 1909, a school was opened on Mr Alexander Bell's property on the corner of Tauhei-Morrinsville Road and Cross Road. Mr Bell provided the building in which school was conducted and also assisted with the payment of the teacher's salary.

This building was a workman's hut on skids, some 234 square feet with lean-to benches around the walls for desks. The Tauhei School was better known then as "the shanty on the hill".

Twenty pupils were on the first roll and most of them were the children of Mr Bell's employees.

Mr Harry Nuttall was the first teacher - with a salary of one hundred and eight pounds a year. Each day he drove seven miles on a clay road from Morrinsville in horse and gig and later resided in Tauhei until his death in August 1912. An extract from the *Morrinsville Star* reads:

August 12, 1912

### DEATH OF TAUHEI SCHOOLMASTER

We are sorry to have to record the death of Mr H. Nuttall, the master of the Tauhei School. The deceased was taken ill at his residence with pneumonia and on Tuesday last, about midnight, was brought into Morrinsville on the way to Hamilton Hospital. He was attended at the Loloma Hospital until the train went. His condition was critical on arrival at Hamilton and on Sunday he succumbed to double pneumonia.

The deceased, who was a teacher in England, came to New Zealand a few years ago and for some time was engaged in farming in Rahotu, Taranaki. When the Tauhei School was opened he received the appointment. The deceased leaves a wife and three young children, to whom sympathy is extended.

By 1912, three years after the opening of this school, the increase in the number of children attending brought

about the decision to have part-time schools at Tauhei and Mangateparu. The schools were then known as Tauhei No. 1 and Tauhei No. 2, the latter being conducted at Tauhei in a cottage offered by a Mr Geison with No. 1 School still in the workman's hut.

At that point, before the part-time schools were established, an extract from the *Morrinsville Star* read:

May 31, 1912

### MORRINSVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

Some of the Tauhei Settlers applied for exemption from sending their children to school as they were beyond the four-mile radius. It was decided to grant exemption to Mr Farrant, the other applicants to be held over to see if a temporary school could be opened in a vacant building which would meet requirements until the new school is opened. If the Board does not open the temporary school, the committee will feel justified in granting exemptions to all children in the district.

It is considered a public scandal that there are thirty children in the district of school age and not attending school.

Mr E. Keyes, sole teacher, attended a half day at each school until 1914 when the present Tauhei School was built and Tauhei No. 1 closed down due to the difficulty of obtaining teachers.

By 1917 Mr Bell, unable to get labour because of the lack of a school, persuaded two families whose children attended Tahuna School to come to Mangateparu. He paid half the salary of the first teacher. A nearby resident, Mr C. Billington, was one of the children who moved from Tahuna School to attend Mangateparu School.

In 1919 the Mangateparu School Committee asked the Auckland Education Board for a school to be built at the Mangateparu present day site and that

Mangateparu and Tauhei be declared separate school districts.

Although the Education Board was approached as early as 1917 for the Mangateparu School, it was not until 1922 that the original settlement school was closed.

Now 75 years later this workman's hut on skids is still in use, with slight alterations, as a car shed on the property of Mr Cootes, two houses from Mangateparu Motors.

### PRESENT DAY SCHOOL

We have our early day settlers to thank for starting the ball rolling to acquire our present school of which we are all proud.

Our history shows that some four years of haggling took place before the site and school were put into operation.

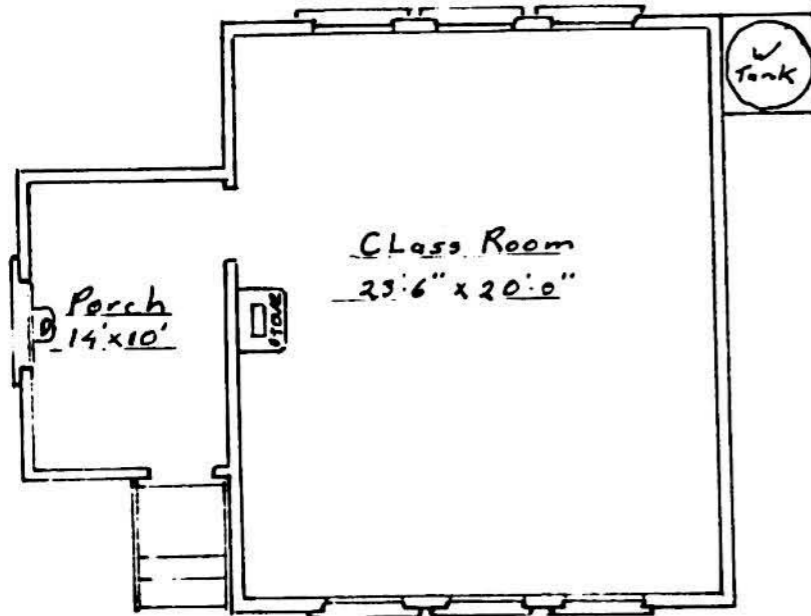
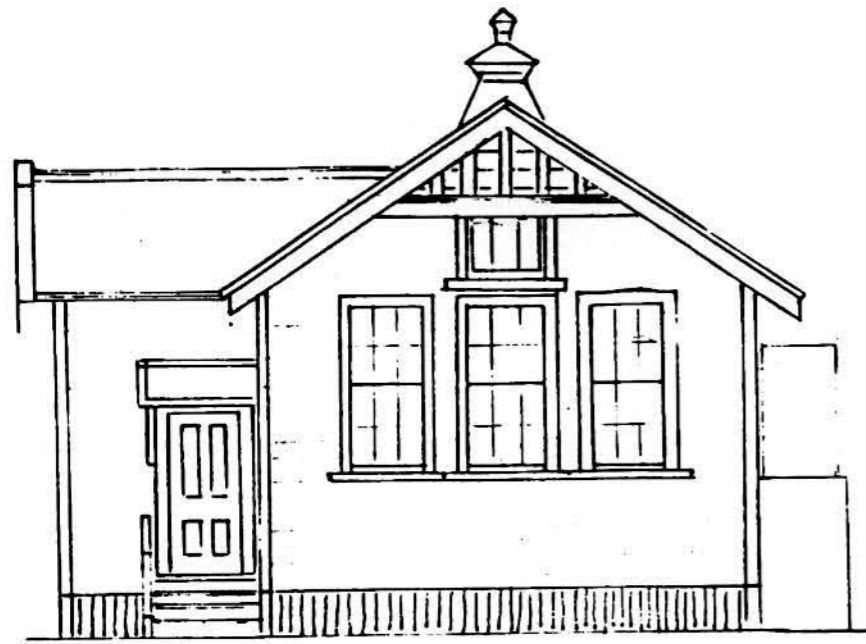
Application for the establishment of a school at Tauhei was first made on October 1, 1910 by way of a letter of petition forwarded to the Auckland Education Board by the settlers requesting a school to be built more central to the Tauhei residents. Owing to the proposed operations of the Tauhei Land Company and the opening of the creamery, the district was becoming thickly populated. The workman's hut was fast becoming too small to accommodate the number of children from both settlements. Of the number of children of school age in the two districts only fifty per cent were attending owing to the distance being too great. It was therefore evident that a school centrally situated between the two districts proved inconvenient to both.

Figures from the petition of the Tauhei residents show:

Total number of children	
under 15 years .....	48
Total number of children	
attending any school .....	4

# TAUHEI SCHOOL

1914



## ESTIMATED COST

SCHOOL	265.0.0
OUTBUILDINGS	35.0.0
FENCING	25.0.0
FURNITURE	35.0.0
	<u>£ 360.0.0</u>

Number between age of 5 and 15  
not receiving any education ..... 2 3

The Inspector of Schools considered, however, that the district was sufficiently well catered for by the existing Tauhei No. 1 School, and the matter was deferred.

Application was renewed in June 1911 through Mr H. Greenslade, M.P. who approached the Education Department. The matter was referred to the Schools Inspector, a Mr Priestly, who recommended that a new school to accommodate 40 pupils be erected at Tauhei on a site of five acres to be donated by the Tauhei, Land Company. This recommendation the Board approved, and steps were immediately taken to acquire the site selected with a view to erecting the building thereon. Defects in the title to the land, however, caused a delay of more than three years in its acquisition by the Board. At that stage school was still being conducted in Mr Geison's cottage.

During the period of delay in acquiring the land, Mr A. Noble wrote to the Board with a proposal. His farm was right opposite the Company's property and he suggested he move a shed to the roadside adjacent to the corner of the two roads, and lease the building for a period of three or five years at a rental of ten shillings per week.

This proposal never bore fruit and after four months of schooling in Mr Geison's cottage notice was received to quit the building and arrangements were made with Messrs Lennox Bros. (now Mr John Gibson's property) for the temporary use of part of their woolshed, at a rental of five shillings per week.

By this time residents of Tauhei were becoming frustrated at the delays in getting the school built and as well as Mr Noble's offer, both Messrs Geison and Lowry offered sites for a school, the latter's being directly opposite the present school. To make matters worse, a site was surveyed off opposite Matuku Road and this caused a storm of protest from residents who preferred the present day site chosen by the Board in 1910.

In the meantime the Board had been making great efforts to have the transfer of the land completed but the complications of a number of caveats on the property greatly delayed the deal. The Bank of New Zealand owned the land with Mr A. Bell either leasing the land and/or having first option of purchase. In August 1910 Mr W. B. Geison issued a caveat against the

Bank of New Zealand, and in January 1912 a further caveat was issued by the Tauhei Land Company which was formed in 1911. Negotiations by the Board were done with the Tauhei Land Company Limited - who presumed themselves to be the owners of the land but didn't hold a title for it. In 1912 the Land Company advised the Board that Mr Bell was the vendor.

It appears that Mr Bell refused to sign title over to the Education Board because he was of the opinion that if Tauhei School was built, no provision would be made by the Board for the children at Mangateparu. The Board assured him that two schools would operate, one at Tauhei and the other at Mangateparu. When Mr Bell finally consented to sign the title over, the Board would not act upon it as several caveats were entered into the title and the Board wanted a clean title. Eventually, however, the transfer was finally registered in February 1914.

Mr Bell had purchased the land from the Bank of New Zealand for the price of two pounds and five shillings and then sold it to the Board for ten shillings on November 17, 1913.

Immediate steps were taken to erect a school. The building consisted of a room 23ft 6in by 20ft together with a porch 14ft by 9ft and a shelter shed, usual outhouses and fencing. This was constructed by Messrs Beetham and Armstrong at a cost of three hundred and thirty pounds.

The new building was occupied from Monday, July 20, 1914 and was taught in full time by Mr E. Keyes with a roll of 21.

The opening of our school was celebrated with a concert and dance. The following was recorded in the local newspaper:

August 11, 1914  
*Morrinsville Star* (Tauhei Own Correspondent)

The opening of the new school was celebrated on Wednesday evening last when a concert and dance took place. The building was taxed to its utmost capacity, there being between eighty and one hundred persons present.

Mr McAlpine occupied the chair and explained that it would be a great advantage to the district to have a proper school building. Messrs Marshall and Hewitt (members of the Morrinsville School Committee) and Mr Pilkington (for the Whitiakahu School) also made brief speeches.

The following contributed to the programme: Misses Pilcher and Austin, and Messrs McAlpine, Keyes, Gonden and Hills.

At 11 o'clock dancing was commenced and continued until 3.30 am, music being supplied by Messrs R. Hunter and Pilcher.

A good supper was served after the concert, provided by the Tauhei ladies. The piano was kindly supplied and loaned by Mr Hunter.

In April, 1916, a letter was received from the Secretary of the Auckland Education Board stating that "in view of the decreased attendance, the Board has resolved that Tauhei Nos. 1 and 2 Schools shall be open half-time, each of the schools being open three days a week". This was made on the recommendation of the Inspector and this action caused some discontent among several of the residents but, because of the shortage of teachers, the Board would not consider sparing two of them for such a small number of children. Later in 1916 the Tauhei No. 1 School was closed. This did not meet with the approval of the residents and Mr Bell opened the school and paid the teacher on his own account. By October 1917 there were 15 pupils attending the No. 1 School, so the Board decided, to assume control of it.

In 1922 a petition was submitted to the Board calling for sufficient funds for the erection of a teacher's residence. The Department of Education declined the application on the grounds of lack of finance. However, the petitioners were not prepared to defer the matter and a further letter was written on May 14, 1923 to the Director of Education in which they stressed the need for a teacher's residence and, to strengthen their case, described the accommodation in which the teacher of that time was living. It was, they said, "a dirty hovel of a lean to, not at all becoming, and situated in a low, wet, unhealthy place a considerable distance from the school .... it is not expected that a man can be in a fit condition to do justice to our children, also his wife and family cannot live in such a locality."

The Department of Education realised the urgency of this case and on April 7, 1925 an advertisement appeared in the local paper stating that a teacher's residence consisting of five rooms, bathroom and pantry had been erected at the Tauhei School at a total cost of eight hundred and fifty-three pounds five shillings and sixpence. In the same year the one and only school room was turned around and an additional classroom of 18ft 6in by 20ft was added and these alterations were completed by 1926.

For a number of years the school roll continued to grow steadily until, in 1941, the building could not accommodate all of the pupils and the local

hall was rented for use as an extra classroom. However, at the end of 1943 this hall was burnt down, leaving about thirty pupils and teacher without a classroom. The girls' shelter shed (today the store-room in front of the library) was converted in a hurry to provide a classroom and was used as such for nearly three years. On October 7, 1944 tenders were called for the addition of one classroom to the school. It was not until October 1945 that the Board was able to obtain a suitable tender. The contract was let to Mr J. R. McKinnon who had agreed to do the work for the sum of one thousand four hundred and sixty-three pounds.

Until late in June 1946, when the third classroom was completed, thirty pupils and their teacher were forced to endure doing their work throughout the winters in the shelter shed under primitive conditions.

Although the school originally contained five acres, the frontage was incorporated into a road widening scheme and this left a poor site for recreational purposes. In 1954 an additional one and a quarter acres was acquired from Messrs F. J. and W. E. Brunskill and the Tauhei Hall Society under the Public Works Act and developed for playing fields.

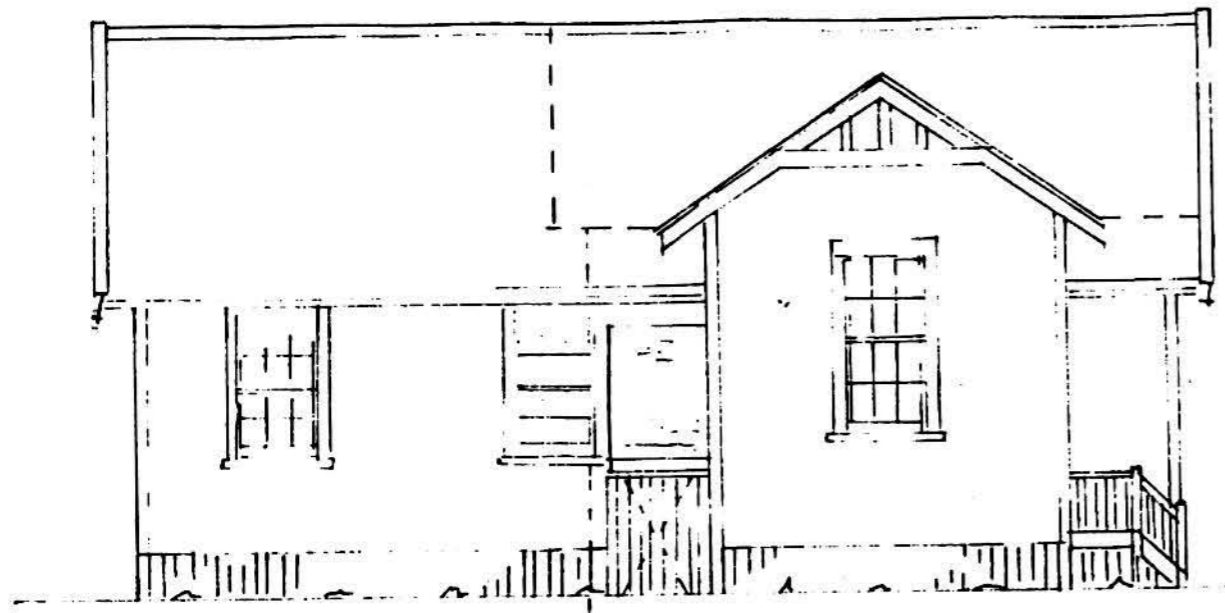
Due to the influx of students to the school over the years a new modern block was built in 1955 consisting of a classroom, working bay and staff room. This was erected at a cost of approximately three thousand five hundred pounds.

In 1968 the old original block was remodelled and an additional prefab classroom was transported to Tauhei from Bankwood Primary School. This prefab is now our school library.

Since that date our school has withstood little change. The roll has grown at a natural rate, but not so that the rooms have become over-crowded, bearing in mind the contribution of the senior pupils to the Intermediate School at Morrinsville since 1969.

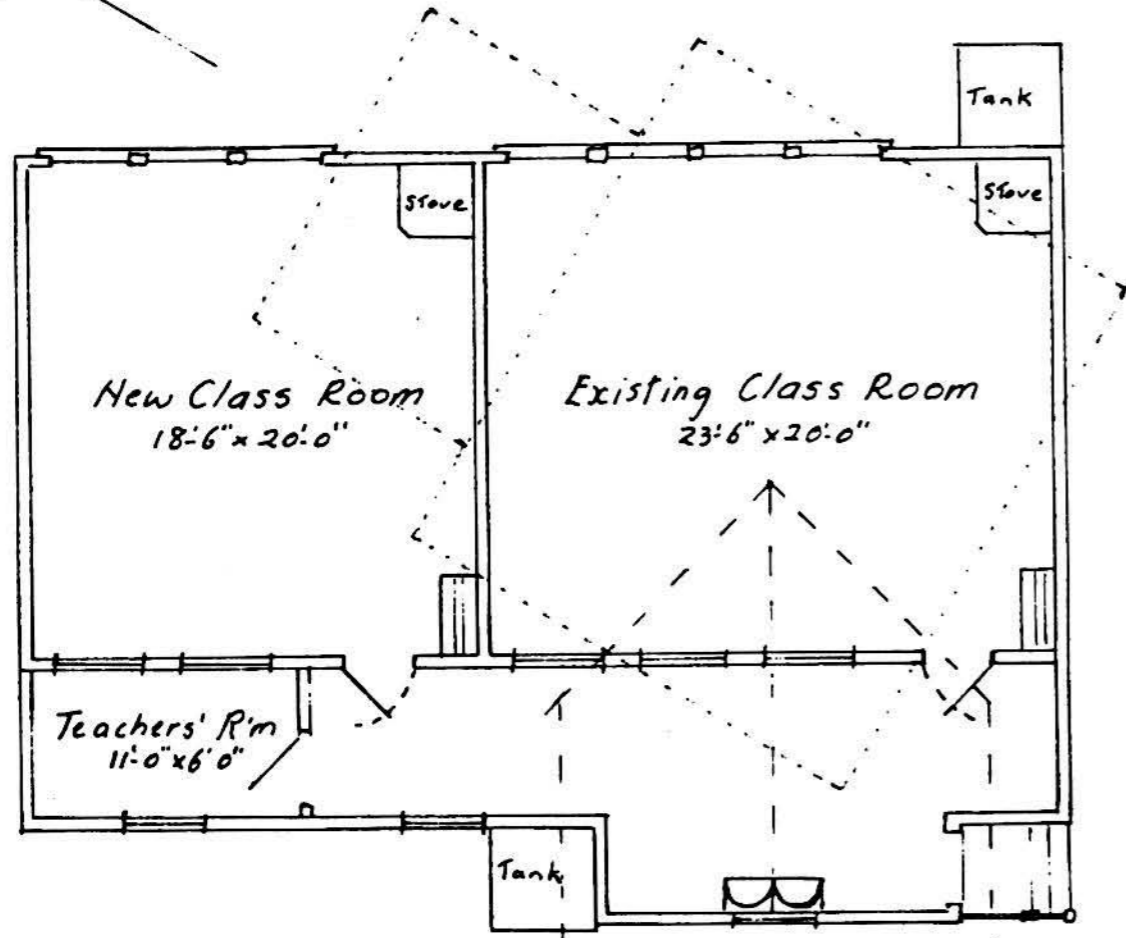
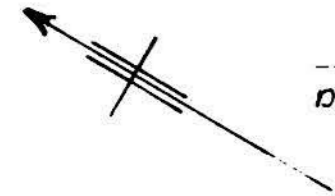
At present Mr Russell Yates, our respected headmaster, efficiently conducts the Tauhei School with his staff of two. The present school roll is around 64. Fifty one pupils is the limit for a three-teacher school and although school rolls rise and fall it looks likely that Tauhei School will remain a threeteacher school in the near future.

May our up and coming pupils share a bright and prosperous future with our Tauhei School and its motto "Truth Above All".



S.W. ELEVATION.

Dotted lines indicate position of existing school



ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL 1927



The school as it is at the present day.



School "A" Basketball Team 1957, winners of the Amelia Begovich Cup. L to R: B. Whakaari, R. Daley, J. O'Neil, J. Hermes, B. Daniels, M. Hopa, D. Brightwell, C. Noble (seated).



## SCHOOL SPORT

Our school is now well served with a large football field for sport which plays an important part in school life but for many years the school playing area was inadequate and deterred sporting activities. The old horse paddock was useless owing to the wet and heavy nature of the ground and it was not until 1956 that a new football field was finally levelled, drained and in use.

During the early school days, sports days with neighbouring schools were spasmodic affairs. With Mangateparu, Motumaoho, Whitikahu and Orini schools being the closest, inter-school sports were shared with them but 'spasmodic' was right - perhaps once in two years! It was not until 1949, when Morrie Davies arrived as head teacher, that Tauhei was introduced to the Mangawara School Sports Circuit which was a real sports bonanza for Tauhei children after what they had been used to. These sports events were held annually at Gordonton and included schools from the eastern Waikato region.

In 1970 Tauhei School left the Mangawara Circuit and joined up with the Tahuna and Districts Sports Circuit. This change was due to a closer communication with the schools of the the Tahuna circuit which had been going since the early 1940s. The four original schools were Tahuna, Hoe-0-Tainui, Patetonga and Mangateparu. Originally these sports days were called the Dental Clinic Sports Days which had come about when the schools joined together for a sports day to raise money for equipment for a dental clinic at Tahuna School.

As well as these annual sports events, for many years Tauhei has had football and netball teams which compete with neighbouring schools in friendly and enjoyable games during the winter months.

From 1955 to 1969 there was a junior tennis club at the school which conducted yankee tournaments twice a year. A cup was presented to the school by Mrs Harris for the top player, either boy or girl.

## SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL

Some thirty years passed by from the first digging of our school baths to the actual opening of the present school swimming pool.

In 1924 the first swimming pool was mooted and digging commenced but filled-in in the following year. In the early 1940s plans were revived and ac-

tioned to the point of a bulldozer arriving to dig the hole, and once again it was filled in.

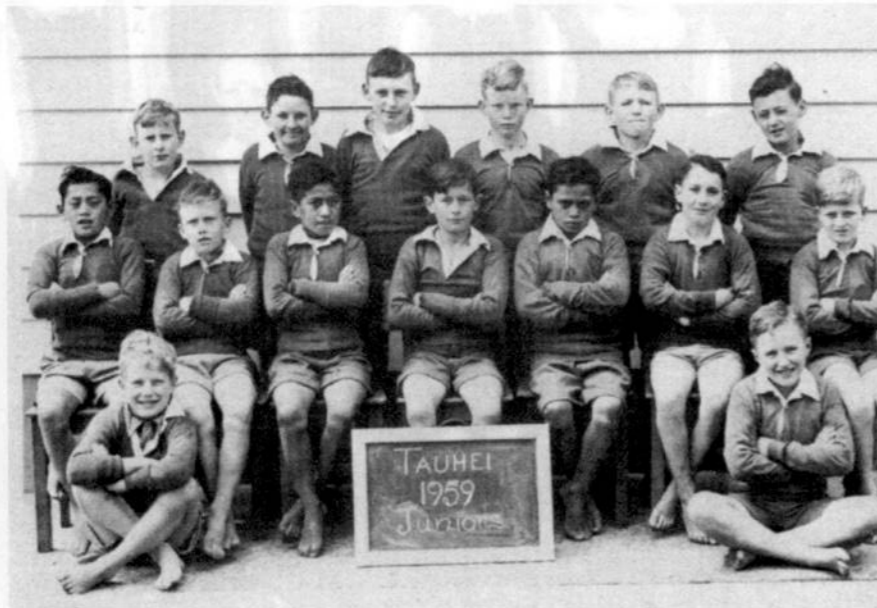
It appears that the school baths have been a history of indecisive moves by teachers and committee men. With more tolerant teachers and committee men, along with district effort, the pool was finally built and opened in 1954.

The pool is an asset to the school in an educational sense as it provides the opportunity for instruction in swimming and lifesaving as well as being a

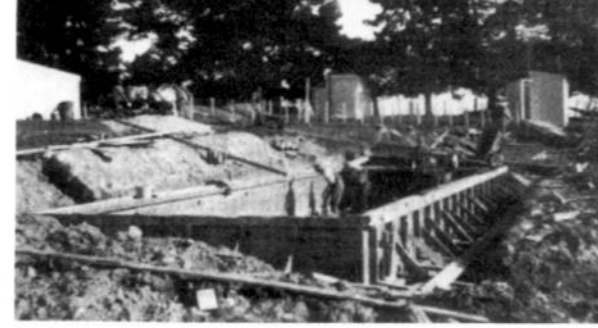
great source of enjoyment to the children. Swimming sports are an annual event and during the summer months the baths are open to the district for their enjoyment at a small fee. Many residents living close by have helped out by supervising the baths during the summer holidays.



First Fifteen, 1948. L to R, back row: - - - - , R. Pompey, H. Palmer, P. Reid, Mr T. C. C. Wilson, A. Gardiner, G. Crow, D. Gibson, K. Emery. Front row: N. Pene, D. Te Amo, T. Johansen, P. Hopa, G. Tavener, G. Hopa, W. Te Amo.



Juniors, 1959. Back row: K. Wooderson, B. Harris, W. Frost, J. Annis, G. Gee, B. O'Neil. Middle row: W. Whakaari, G. Ralph, D. Daniels, M. Atridge, J. Whakaari, P. Covich, R. Jackson. Front row: R. Judd, J. Dimman.



The swimming pool under construction.



Fun in the pool! L to R: - - - - , K. Williams, D. Stark, Miss Holmes, R. Wiggins, A. Kenington, L. Abercrombie, J. Woolly, C. Morrison, C. Williams, - - - - , S. Barrowclough, D. Bowman and C. Mason.

## CALF CLUB

Calf days have been held since the early 1930s. In 1941 the Tauhei School Committee decided to form the Tauhei School Calf Club. Delegates were appointed to attend the Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Club meetings in Morrinsville and the first club day was held at Tauhei on November 23, 1942.

Since the movement commenced the Tauhei Calf Club has been well to the fore in both the quality and numbers of calves and lambs exhibited. Tauhei School was one of the first to adopt the practice of pupils being responsible for control on calf club days when in 1949 the calf club was run by the children themselves. The club's growth is indicated by the increase of entries from 11 calves in 1943 to 52 calves and 15 lambs in 1969. Still today a large percentage of the children have entries - 31 calves and 11 lambs in 1983 - a

drop from 1969 bearing in mind the drop in roll with the contribution of senior pupils to the Intermediate School.

Trophies competed for at our Tauhei Calf Club are

Lambs - Wildan Trophy for Most Obvious Pet, senior pupils; Kolock Trophy for Most Obvious Pet, junior pupils; Allied Farmers Cup for Champion Lamb.

Calves - F. B. O'Neil Cup for Child Effort; J. T. Crosby Cup for Champion Dairy Type and the Dibble Cup for Best Bull Calf.

Those pupils who either win or are placed with their calf or lamb at Tauhei are eligible to compete further at the Morrinsville Group Field Day. This is a day where up to ten surrounding schools also attend. Tauhei has done very well with their strong competition, winning the Hetherington

Trophy eleven times. This trophy is presented to the school which scores most points on the day and we are proud to have held it for the last six years in succession. This record says a lot for the quality of the stock bred in this strong farming districts. Many pupils have taken animals to further success at the Waikato A & P Show.

A pupils' flower show is also held in conjunction with the school calf club. The day is well attended and enjoyed by most of the Tauhei community and will continue to be worthwhile as long as adults remember that it is a children's day and do not themselves become too involved and competitive.



Group Day winners, 1947: G. Tavener, J. Gibson and H. Palmer.



A serious business, this Calf Club. Neil Rowling, 1958.

## SCHOOL BUS

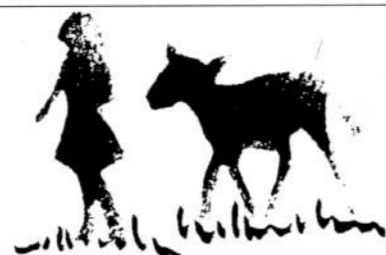
From long dreary walks, horse riding and occasional rides on the cream lorry to a very convenient bus service: we have come a long way over the years getting to and from school.

Mr Harry Greentree, a pioneer of Tauhei, had children who attended Morrinsville District High School and they drove each day by horse and gig, while other children rode bicycles to Motumaoho to connect with the train to Hamilton Tech. It was Mr Harry Greentree who supplied the first bus in the district for the transportation of children to the Morrinsville District High School—a Ford with canvas sides driven by Athol Greentree and later a 1929 Chevrolet seating 21 with Stuart Greentree as the driver.



LEFT: Waiting for the old bus, circa 1949.

BELOW: Some familiar names featured on the cover of the 1949 Calf Club Day programme.



### PROGRAMME

#### CALF CLUB SHOW

12.30 p.m.

Thursday, 3rd November, 1949.

**JUDGES:** Classes 1-10 & 12: Messrs Howarth & Ellicott.

Dairy Type:  
Roaring & Handling:

Teams for field Day:

Show Manager,  
Ring Steward,  
Ring Steward,  
Call Steward,  
Result Steward,  
Result Board Steward,  
Gate Steward,  
Field Stewards:  
Holding Pens Steward:  
Ribbons Stewards:  
Messengers:  
Refreshment Stewards:

School Committee  
Naora Pene  
Naora Pene  
Peter Reid  
Keith Reid  
Rex Hight  
Ken Emory, Gavon Crow.  
John Brunt  
John Morgan, Robin Ansley  
Brian Evolveigh  
Dick Brunt, Alice Toimo.  
Alan Reid, Graham Hastings.  
Celia Pene, Patricia Frost,  
Patricia Morgan, Margaret Bethell  
Patricia Savill  
Headmaster  
Naora Pene  
Eileen Emory.

Treasurer:  
Chairman:  
Hon. Secretary:

The first bus for the transportation of the children to the Tauhei School was called for in 1938 when a letter was written to the Education Board asking if something could be done regarding the transport of children who lived long distances from the school. Some children lived nearly four miles from the school and no means of transport other than an occasional ride in the cream lorry which sometimes didn't pass the school until 10 o'clock. The other children who had to either ride on horseback or walk arrived at the school frequently wet through and too tired to take an intelligent interest in their lessons. There were also several children of school age not attending who would have if transport had been provided.

A deputation from the Tauhei School Committee waited on the Hon. P. Fraser (Minister of Education), whilst he visited Morrinsville, with reference to obtaining a much-needed bus service. Shortly after the application had passed through the various channels, a tender for the bus contract was received from Mr R. E. Hansen of Orini who lived two miles from the proposed starting point of the bus route.

Mr Hansen, in 1939, became our first bus contractor with the help of Mr Walter Tavener who lent money to purchase a Ford truck chassis for a bus. Even through the dark war years when petrol was scarce, the bus kept going with Mr Hansen's ingenuity—a school bus running on a coal fired gas producer.

The route covered 40 miles per day with 40 stops over fairly rough roads and Mr Hansen gave an excellent service that went on for many years.

In 1940 the Education Board tried to save costs by cutting the bus route down but this proved most unsatisfactory as many children were missed out and had to walk a mile over paddocks to connect with the bus.

Our bus had several names pinned to it but one of the oldest must be the old 'Butter Box'.

The bus contract has been held by Mr R. E. Hansen, Mr S. D. Sharp, Mr E. Amon, Mr R. Hicks, Martelli Motors and presently Greenline Motors of Morrinsville who render the residents of Tauhei an excellent service with children destined to and from their school picked up and delivered only yards away from their homes. The district is well catered for in this present day with the primary school bus and another bus catering for intermediate and college pupils.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

### Horses and Saddle Shed

In the 1920s horses provided the only means of getting about and practically all children rode to school, so of course there are many memories of those by-gone days. The black horse which came into the school porch and ate the children's lunches! The boy who bet the others that his horse could clear the gate and was left suspended from the top barbed wire. The mob of stray horses which entered the school grounds with the boys proceeding to try them out. The focal point of those days was the saddle shed, especially on wet days - having your lunch in the shed. Lots of fun in one hour!

### The Windmill

Many may remember the constant clanking of the windmill - a fairly Heath Robinson piece of equipment. A tank supplied water to the horse paddock trough, school residence and the school for drinking and one hand basin - no flush toilets at that time. In a fair wind the windmill would pump like crazy and water everywhere. More often than not in a strong blow the system would break down and then no water. One season has been recorded as having 24 days without water. Some of the older ex-pupils may remember Pop Harris, Arthur Bates, Van Brunt, Russ Hight and Lindsay Brightwell spending many hours getting the windmill to function after a breakdown and then often Tom Cooper, an engineer from Morrinsville, would be called in to mend the broken parts.

### Toilet conveniences or inconveniences?

Some thought the toilets were great fun. A yearly contract was let to the Standard 6 pupils to empty the loo cans at 2/6 per week and the afternoon session off school. Digging holes in the hard clay of the normal Tauhei summer was a fair man's job for boys. It was in the horse paddock and the holes didn't go down perhaps far enough. What didn't fit in the hole went over the top. Washing facilities were nil.

James Brown riding up to the school and calling out: "There is an aeroplane going over!" and everyone rushing out to see their first aeroplane.

### Brush, Rinse and Spit Drill

Lining up on the asphalt with your jar, salt and brush every morning to clean your teeth was the only dental protection at Tauhei School for some years.

School Trips are an important part of education away from the school either for pleasure or serious study. The first school excursion may well have been a trip by train to the Auckland Zoo in 1927. Arapuni Hydro was visited in 1928 per Woods' cream truck, Karapiro Hydro was visited during its construction and Hamilton Lake has been a popular venue with visits in 1935, 1948 and 1955. Over the years there have been many and varied school trips which ex-pupils will remember. The modern trend is to take individual classes away for several days on educational trips.

## TAUHEI SCHOOL COMMITTEE

From 1909 to 1919 the Tauhei School was administered by the Morrinsville School District Committee. Messrs C. Trapski, W. R. Lowry and J. Hewitt were delegated to be responsible for the Tauhei School during its early years 1909-1914. Later Mr C. Cheyne (1913) and Mr A. Noble (1914-19) represented Tauhei on the Morrinsville committee. All matters of attention had to be brought before the Morrinsville District School Committee. It also appears that the only communication between teacher and committee was by correspondence, unlike today when the head teacher meets with the School Committee.

Reading through old committee files we notice that teachers wrote asking for permission to alter holidays due to sickness throughout the school. Noted also was that all accounts had to be brought before the Morrinsville District School Committee to be passed for payment. Some examples:

G. A. Gummer - One pound seven shillings and fivepence (stationery for Tauhei School).

Tauhei School Cleaning - Two shillings per week.

It was May 1920 when a separate school district was established at Tauhei and the first Tauhei School Committee was elected. They were: Messrs A Lawrence (Chairman), P. Palmer, I. B. Harris, A. J. Watson, J. Findlay.

Studying the minute books in hand we note that there is never a shortage of willing parents to stand for the School Committee and various jobs are allocated to members within this committee. Some of the tasks they are involved with include mowing school grounds; calf club; bus routes; water systems; sports events and equipment; firewood and coal for school use; school picnics; fences; gates and paths; trees, hedges and gardens; swimming pool maintenance; playground equipment; building maintenance and furniture.

As well as donated items from various people, many improvements to the school have been the work of the school committee which shows the enthusiasm and interest that we have within our school. An adventure playground, sand-pit and flying fox are just a few of the leisure activities our children can enjoy. A trampoline was purchased for the enjoyment of all by the School Committee combining their funds with the PTA. The local Young

Farmers Club gave a generous donation towards the cost of a weather shelter which was erected beside the school gates for children waiting to be collected by parents.

School Committees have been responsible for the raising of funds in various ways. Laying concrete paths, felling trees, fattening cattle and lambs and selling hay off the football field have been some of the projects that have helped school finances.

In recent years the Education Board has rewarded members of the School Committee who have contributed ten years or more of service, with a certificate. Members who have completed ten years' service since 1959 are Messrs K. G. Rowling, G. T. Harris, C. D. Williams, I. Reed and R. G. Stark.

At this stage the opportunity should be taken to thank our committees for the valuable services rendered to our school. (See page 23.)

## PTA.

The first meeting of the Parent Teacher Association was held at the home of Mrs R. Curiett, Manuel Road, Tauhei on May 24, 1967.

The foundation committee consisted of President Mrs R. Curiett and Mesdames C. Barrowclough, A. Abercrombie, G. Wiggins, Mr M. Morrison and the Principal, Mr D. Kennington.

The first committee was against being a fundraising body and decided to remain non financial. They decided to have a general meeting with all parents invited once a term and this would be held in the school. This committee wanted to be a liaison between staff, parents and School Committee.

In February 1968 Mr B. Whiting, the new Principal, stressed that the PTA meeting was the opportunity to place educational matters before the parents. This resulted in many educational meetings which were well supported and successful. Some examples of these meetings were evenings on new maths, reading, quiz evenings with topics ranging from social behaviour of children and who is responsible for teaching them good standards, to supervision of homework and the right time for children to go to bed. Films were shown and it is noted that interesting speakers have spoken on a range of topics from drugs to marriage guidance and overseas travel experiences.

Very soon the committee moved into fundraising as a way to help buy extra equipment and this resulted in a bank account being opened at the Waikato Savings Bank in July 1968, with a donation of \$20.00 from the School Committee.

October 1968 saw the first fundraising activity, a Bring and Buy stall on calf club day which raised \$23.23 and this continues to be a successful event. Money raised in the earlier years was passed on to the School Committee to spend. Other interesting projects organised include providing cocoa for the children during the winter, a rock garden was planted, work in the library which consisted of mending and cataloguing of books, the sewing of sports uniforms are but a few.

In recent years we have seen the PTA raise funds by a garage sale to help finance a new swimming pool filter. A tremendous amount of work and money has always gone throughout to the library. Between 1980 and 1983 the library was modernised with new furniture, shelving, carpet and curtains and in April 1983 a successful "Lapathon" was held and \$1153.51 was raised towards books for the library (196 books).

The present committee have become experts in the catering business having catered for social functions in the district and local clearing sales and the proceeds have gone towards equipment for the school.

In general the PTA still functions very actively, raising money, organising social activities and parent teacher discussions where a need is felt so that parents receive understanding of what is now taught to children.

BELOW: Calf Club Day in 1958



### HEAD TEACHERS

1909-13 Mr H. Nuttall	1955-59 Mr R. B. M. Miller
1913-15 Mr E. Keyes	1959-62 Mr J. E. Mason
1915-20 Mr C. Walker	1963-67 Mr H.D. Keningston
1920-24 Mr T. Fogerty	1967 Mr P. Heath (relieving)
1925-29 Mr L. Cheeseman	1968-70 Mr B. G. Whiting
1930-36 Mr B. E. Arnold	1970-79 Mr G. B. Summers
1937-40 Mrs M. Morgan	1980 Mr R. M. Gray
1941-42 Mr G. C. Haare	1980 Mr R. H. Kilpatrick (relieving)
1943-50 Mr T. C. C. Wilson	1980- Mr R. Yates
1951-54 Mr M. P. H. Davies	

### ASSISTANTS

Miss E. Corbett	Miss P. Frost
Miss Davies	Miss J. H. Moore
Miss A. Grant	Miss S. Holmes
Miss V. Radford	Mr W. S. Chalmers
Miss M. Deverell	Mr G. J. Gardner
Miss M. C. Casey	Mrs J. B. Bell
Miss D. M. Morgan	Miss Irwin
Miss F. L. Black	Miss J. Francis
Miss N. F. Shepherd	Miss D. Gummer
Miss E. Galbally	Miss Pullinger
Miss O. Parker	Miss Pryce
Miss N. Dare	Miss H. Simmonds
Miss Edie	Mrs G. Whiting
Miss A. Bates	Mr R. J. Salmons
Miss N. Trebilcock	Miss H. Edmeades
Miss E. Mills	Mrs A. Chamberlain
Miss A. Clifford	Mrs C. A. King
Mrs Brightwell	Mr T. J. Richards
Miss F. Hammond	Mrs M. Walker
Miss V. Scanlon	Mr P. Gilbert
Mrs V. Brown	Mrs G. Gilbert
Mrs N. Tyler (formerly Miss Trebilcock)	Mr R. J. Marlow
Miss D. Riddell	Miss S. Thomson
Miss S. Donaldson	Miss L. McCorquindale
Mr P. Cawley	Mrs L. Norton (formerly Miss L. McCorquindale)
Mr B. R. Smith	Miss M. Wilson
Mr D. P. Welsh	Mrs M. Herbert
Mr N. Boon	
Mr R.W. Thompson	



Committee and teachers (\*) at the Golden Jubilee, 1959

Back row: B. Nicholas, I. Harris, \*N. Boon, J. Glass, G. Jack.

Middle row: R. Hight, H. Gibson, \*M. Davies, H. Annis, D. Campbell, \*D. Welsh, K. Campbell.

Front row: B. O'Neill, \*Mrs Tyler, \*Miss Grant, \*Mrs Brightwell, I. Harris Snr, E. Tyler, N. Brown, W. Tavener, \*R. Miller and P. Cawley.



Committee and teachers, Diamond Jubilee, 1969

L to R, standing: G. Bowman, \*R. Salmons, K. Wooderson, G. Hopa, C. Freegard, G. Jack, J. Van Hellemond, I. Harris,

I. Harris Snr, G. Harris, K. Rowling, H. Gibson, K. Campbell, D. Brightwell, \*J. Mason, \*R. Miller.

Seated: \*P. Cawley, G. Gee, \*J. Salmons, \*V. Scanlon, \*L. Cheeseman, \*N. Tyler, \*G. Whiting, \*B. Whiting, B. Noble.





The school's present day equipment includes a multi-used climbing tower and flying fox.

BELOW: The Gymnastic Club in action circa 1965: Left, Suzanne Wilson helps Margaret Tesselaa; right, Frances Van Hellemond supported by Adrienne Spice; pyramid, Jan Woolly relies on Neil Van Hellemond and Tamatu Pene, Bruce Freegard, Michael Curlett and Richard glass (on the ground) while Christine Williams demonstrates her suppleness in front.



- Cochrane, Lorraine  
Palmer, Edgar  
O'Neill, Margaret  
Fretwell, Eric  
Fretwell, Alfred  
Findlay, David  
Benton, Trevor  
Fish, Ian  
Edwards, Joan  
Jones, Beryl  
Brightwell, Malcolm  
Crosby, Terence  
Salisbury, Ronald  
Salisbury, Clarence  
Salisbury, Shirley  
Salisbury, Jack  
Salisbury, Joan  
Salisbury, Marie  
Stokes, Briar  
Wallace, Robert  
Wallace, Joyce
- 1948  
Crow, Gavan  
Noble, Mary  
Riley, John  
Pompey, Raymond  
Thomas, James  
Thomas, George  
Thomas, Rena  
Thomas, Fay  
Street, Victor  
Reid, Peter  
Robb, Russell  
Stevens, Barry  
Stevens, Gay  
Adams, Gordon  
Morgan, John  
Morgan, Patricia  
Morgan, Brian  
Sharp, Kevin  
Hopa, Eva
- 1949  
Pene, Anita  
Johns, Harry  
Whakaari, Blossom  
Smith, Graham  
Bates, Kevin  
Ansley, Graham  
Crosby, Joan  
Frost, Dale  
Heke, Jack  
Jackson, Barbara  
McPhee, Joan  
McPhee, Paddy  
Reid, Keith  
Reid, Alan  
Pyne, Janice  
Hutcheson, Peter  
Eveleigh, Brian  
Eveleigh, Keith  
Bethell, Margaret  
Bethell, Maureen  
Sutton, Jocelyn  
Reid, Kenneth  
Williams, Mareece  
Te Amo, Paiana  
Whyte, Christine  
Hopa, Evelyn  
Dillon, Fay  
Eveleigh, Kathleen  
Crosby, Noel  
Taverner, Brian  
Taverner, Jean
- 1950  
Bremner, Peter  
Bremner, Thomas  
Brown, Kevin  
Sklenars, Eileen  
Wooderson, Judith  
Hopa, Doreen  
Fox, Christina  
Crosby, John
- Johns, Maurice  
Bowie, Dorothy  
Street, Patricia  
Bunting, Vivienne  
Heibner, Allan  
Dinnan, Margaret  
Browne, Christopher  
Hopa, Marie  
Smith, Colin  
Guy, Junne  
Guy, Maurice  
Strachan, Peter  
Strachan, Kay  
Richards, Dennis  
Dobbs, Ngaire  
Dobbs, Glenise  
Edwards, Kevin  
Smith, Russell  
Smith, Keith  
Smith, Beverley  
Noble, Christine  
Golledge, Trevor  
Autridge, Charles  
Dibble, Eric  
Ket, David  
O'Ned, Joan  
Riley, Leslie  
Davies, Bryan  
Davies, Alan  
Wilson, Eddie  
Wilson, Marjorie  
McPhee, Margaret  
Whakaari, John  
Pene, Ratau
- 1951  
Bates, Jeanette  
Jackson, Murray  
Windlebom, Peter  
Savill, David  
Te Amo, Hoani  
Waruhia, Bosen  
Browne, Anne  
Morgan, Dennis  
Mackie, Neff  
Caie, Colin  
Caie, Dennis  
Redshaw, Kevin  
Morresey, Paddy  
Morresey, Pam  
Hancock, Barry  
Hancock, Janet  
Hancock, Lorraine  
Prouting, Paul  
Prouting, Margaret  
Prouting, Owen  
Eagles, Ken  
Eagles, Kay  
Wotherspoon, Gay  
Wotherspoon, Malcol  
Nicholas, Lynette  
Nicholas, Leonie  
Bothwell, Ian  
Coster, John  
Gausel, John  
Gausel, Ralf  
Gausel, Marjorie  
Crosby, Paul  
Crosby, Colleen  
Whyte, Kathryn  
Coster, Robert  
Autridge, Terence  
Gee, Carol  
Garaway, Jim  
Wilson, Matthew  
Wotherspoon, Bernice  
Paflett, Robert  
Paflett, Carroll  
Pallett, Mary  
Morresey, Lco  
Redshaw, Leslie  
Jack, Lynette  
Campbell, Max  
Smith, Alan
- 1952  
Hancock, Annette  
Martin, Leslie  
Harris, Dianne  
Follas, Norman  
Johns, Brian  
Whakaari, Joe  
Windleborn, Gary  
Street, Graham  
Brightwell, Dianne  
Hollis, Nancy  
Hollis, Yvonne  
Hollis, Richard  
Clist, Trevor  
Clist, Raewyn  
Clist, Roger  
Nicholson, Graham  
Forlong, David  
Thomas, Rena  
Nicholson, Margaret  
Noble, John  
Wellington, Lola  
Potter, Jean  
Bayer, Lewis  
Thomas, Gail  
Golledge, Kathleen  
Griffin, Brian  
Redshaw, Stanley  
Dinnan, John  
Nicholson, Alan  
Gee, Graham  
Williams, William  
Dibble, Ian  
Spencer, Noel
- 1953  
Daniels, Terence  
Frost, Wayne  
O'Ned, John  
Crosby, Jean  
Crosby, Doreen  
Rota, Tani  
Foriung, Jeanette  
Hughes, Brian  
Hughes, Beverley  
Abraham, Anthea  
Scott, Warren  
Morresey, Sheryl  
Redshaw, Sheryl  
Stanley, Trevor  
Stanley, Thelma  
Stanley, Phillip  
Stanley, Mary  
Morgan, Sheryl  
Morgan, Judith  
Spratt, Cynthia  
Chalmers, Hillary  
Chalmers, Lex  
Crosby, Theresa  
George, Jennifer  
Rota, Lillian  
Poihipi, Moana  
Wooderson, Keith  
Autridge, Michael  
Dingle, Murray  
Windleborn, Diane  
Whakaari, Walter  
Te Amo, Rang
- 1954  
Versey, Robert  
Versey, Judith  
Drabble, Alison  
Drabble, Lorraine  
Campbell, David  
Rota, Dawn  
Rota, Horo  
Crosby, Barbara  
Scott, Maurice  
Annis, John  
Annis, Jim  
Maloney, Beverley  
Maloney, Graeme  
Maloney, Denis  
Ansley, Noel
- 1955  
Hall, Wilfred  
Hall, Sheila  
Dibble, James  
Nicholson, Colin  
Bates, Shirley  
Dinnan, Rosalie  
Miller, Judith  
Morresey, Erin  
Glass, Jennifer  
Rota, Tangiwai  
Wehi, Te Aronga  
Covich, Marlane  
Covich, Paul  
Leech, Janice  
Leech, David  
Ralph, Janet  
Windlebom, Pam  
Harris, Colin  
Te Amo, Taha  
Davey, Pauline  
Linn, Jeanette  
George, Gary  
Frost, Elaine  
George, Ben  
Golledge, David  
McLaughlin, Lexie  
Jack, Gloria  
Crosby, Ruth  
Crosby, Diane  
Crosby, Cushia  
Ralph, Margaret  
Ansley, Marilyn
- 1956  
Nicholas, Wyndham  
Rota, Beverley  
Jackson, Roger  
Nicholas, Rowena  
Rowling, Neil  
Christian, Janene  
Brightwell, Brian  
Jacobs, Joey  
Bates, Joan  
Duncan, Susan  
Curran, Elizabeth  
Hermes, Patricia  
Hermes, Jennifer  
Hermes, Joan  
Zeuren, Leo  
Zeuren, Dora  
Zeuren, Maria  
Pekin, Kelvin  
Gee, Marilyn  
Autridge, Jennifer  
Harris, Adelle  
Te Amo, Lewewa  
Vague, Lewis  
Rota, Sonny  
Annis, Donald
- 1957  
Johns, Rex  
Daley, Raywyn  
Daley, Max
- Ansley, Lionel  
Ansley, Carol  
McLaughlin, Jillian  
McLaughlin, Mark  
Lupo, Frank  
Adams, Mervyn  
Adams, Noeline  
Adams, Len  
Adams, Jill  
Nicholson, June  
Hopa, Ella  
Harris, Barry  
Harris, Cheryl  
George, Kawa  
George, Kathleen  
Brown, Andrew  
George, Polly  
O'Neil, Bruce  
Daniels, Phillip
- 1958  
Harris, Andrea  
Burton, Suzanne  
Heke, Tania  
Taylor, Roger  
Taylor, Yvonne  
Taylor, Noel  
Powell, Gaylene  
Powell, Collene  
Greenfield, Ken  
Greenfield, Shirley  
Greenfield, Collen  
Greenfield, Toni  
Waugh, Brian  
Waugh, Dorene  
Waugh, Joan  
Curran, Michael  
Hatley, David  
Henderson, Mervyn  
Jenkins, Bruce  
Taylor, Alison  
Campbell, Ross  
Toka, Harry
- 1959  
Johnson, Robert  
Layne, Kenneth  
Layne, Michael  
Layne, Carol  
Heke, Rangiwatea  
Te Amo, Mary  
Johnson, Harry  
A. Anniss, Bruce  
Suter, Daniel  
Suter, Philip  
Suter, Shirley  
Leith, Isabel  
Leith, Maijorie  
Mason, Viven  
Mason, Jennifer  
Powell, Margaret  
Haigh, Christine  
Freegard, Bruce  
Hopa, Melvin  
Atwood, David  
Hynes, Aroha  
Johnson, Ben  
Meikle, Bruce  
Judd, Roger  
Hayes, Patricia  
Hayes, Colleen  
Hayes, Bruce  
Gee, Roger
- Golledge, Carolyn  
Ralph, Gregory  
Campbell, Heather  
Daniels, Barbara  
Daniels, Judith  
Daniels, Thelma  
Daniels, Bernice  
Daniels, Dorothy  
Daniels, Marie  
Daniels, John  
Wallis, Lee  
Wallis, Ross  
Rota, Barney  
Ulrich, Karl  
Ulrich, Josie  
Judd, Kyra  
Judd, Rex  
Duncan, Dianne  
Heke, Charlie  
Clements, Terence  
Clements, Rodney  
Campbell, Malcolm  
Glass, William  
Jones, Margaret  
Jones, Morton  
Jones, Dennis  
Jones, Gregory  
Rowling, Dene  
Llewellyn, Sylvia  
Llewellyn, Valerie
- 1960  
Crow, David  
Judd, Penelope  
Whakaari, Polly  
Homewood, Terence  
Wilkinson, Valerie  
Wilkinson, Terence  
Williams, Nicola  
Ralph, Heather  
McPherson, David  
Crosby, Jill  
Mason, James  
Christian, Jeffrey  
Curlett, Michael  
Poihipi, Robert  
Rota, Linda  
Johanson, Karen  
Rota, Lillian  
Hamilton, Gloria  
Hamilton, Ross  
Daniels, Joanne  
Burney, Yvonne  
Burney, Allan  
Warren, David  
Keith, Allen  
Keith, Maree  
Keith, Joy  
Walton, Stephen  
Ogle, Dianne  
Glass, Stuart  
Smith, Ken  
Duncan, Douglas  
Johanson, Bronwyn  
Hamilton, Murray  
Ward, Kevin  
Layne, Peter
- 1961  
Campbell, Pamela  
Campbell, Robert  
Pene, Wynell  
Lodge, Mervyn  
Lodge, Charles  
Harris, Craig  
Hilford, Kevin  
Humphrey, Donna  
Humphrey, Heather  
Humphrey, Karen  
Heke, Rex  
Petersen, Gavin  
Petersen, Annette  
Tesselaa, Jackie  
Tesselaa, Ann  
Crow, Bronwyn  
Ogle, Linda  
Baggott, Michael  
Campbell, Ned  
Freegard, Diane  
Whakaari, Maria  
Rota, Joseph  
Curlett, Susan  
Nicholson, Heather  
Morgan, Gloria  
Campbell, Raewyn  
Walton, Diane
- 1962  
Mehaliski, Maurice  
Te Amo, Peter  
Tesselaa, Gerard  
Poihipi, Rangiamoa  
Moana, Christopher  
Williams, Debra  
Layne, John  
Ward, Bruce  
Kingma, Janet  
Roxburgh, Timothy  
Hunt, Christine  
Wallace, Paul  
Garland, Kathryn  
Garland, Mark  
Farmilo, Glennis  
Covich, Grant  
Mathieson, Lyall  
Mathieson, Susan

Hoeta, Ernest Glass, Richard O'Brien, Colleen Farmilo, Howard	Adlam, Bruce Hunter, Margaret Hunter, David Van Hellemond, John Van Hellemond, Adrienne Van Hellemond, Margaret Van Hellemond, Lucy Van Hellemond, Chris Van Hellemond, Anne-Marie Van Hellemond, Neil Van Hellemond, Frances Woolly, Kay Woolly, Glenis Moffett, John Le Comu, Frances Chandler, Barbara Chandler, Margaret Chandler, David Chandler, Michael Wiggins, Ross Johansen, Ian Morrison, Julie Morrison, Gary Morrison, Carolyne Harwood, Linda Nelson, Murray Nelson, Ross Reid, Lynne Smith, Faith Smith, Suzanne Te Amo, Barry Heke, David Crow, Wendy Anslay, Lynda Bowden, Paulette Curiett, Julie	Wilson, Mark Warmerdam, Mariar Warmerdam, Chris Warmerdam, Joseph Kyte, William Spice, Elaine Spice, Adrienne Spice, John Barrowclough, Peter Curllett, David Bowman, Bryce Tyler, Martin Jeffrey, Sandra Hampton, Linder Hampton, Janet Browne, Steven Heke, Elvis	Kingi, Elizabeth Sherry, Diane Gillanders, Kennedy Gillanders, Donald Gillanders, Frederick Gillanders, Ian Hopa, Steven Binns, Sheryl	Karaitiana, Reg Heke, Logan West, Norman West, Eunice O'Brien, Corina O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Steven Robinson, Shelly Robinson, Trudie Thomasen, Michael	Dinnan, Lynne De Wit, Wouter Seffinga, Timothy Seffinga, Stephen Seffinga, Adrienne Ferguson, Melanie Elder, Craig Signal, Catherine Signal, Todd Marlow, Debora De Wit, Arie Leng, Carol Hall, Steven Hall, Carina Goodwin, Leo Stark, Nicholas Garside, Louise	Hancock, Lisa Awarez, Tania Begg, Simon Russell, Michelle Russell, Donna-Marie Thompson, James Thompson, Raewyn Stephenson, Glenn Close, Patricia Sim, Gregory Amos, Jason Stewart, Michael Schnuriger, Janine Jackson, Melissa Wayne, Paul Wayne, Benedict Pene, Carmen Laurie, David Prouting, Shona Clark, Sheree Hunt, Cheryl Bourne, Adele Petersen, Tania	1980 Gray, Jeremy Moore, Shane Moore, Brendon Saunders, Renee Farmilo, Suzanne Callagher, Angela Simpson, Kirsty Amos, Shane Harris, Lance Portegys, Peter Portegys, Sandra Karl, Clinton Karl, Alicia Cranson, Bryce Cranson, Darrin Hick, Barry Hick, Sonya Houia, Leonie McKinstry, John Fransen, Tina Noble, Reuben Yates, Sherry Yates, Paul Spencer, Amanda	1981 Shroff, Rupert Singh-Birik, Bal-jeet Autridge, Stephanie Jeffrey, Andrew Jeffrey, Mathew Lundy, Andrea Jackson, Rachel Rowling, Kylie Gibson, Benjamin Mellish, Lisa Picknell, Nicole O'Neill, Catherine Bourne, Darren Carroll, Bronwyn	1982 Lundy, Richard Fransen, Ivan van Zuilen, Jolanda van Zuilen, Meriam Roberts, Allen Roberts, Donelle Sinclair, Wayne Schnuriger, Steven Quinn, Jason Quinn, Debra Allnatt, Theresa Allnatt, Julie Allnatt, Geoffrey Weir, Dallas Weir, Stephanie Laurie, Stephen Weir, Blaine Jackson, Bernadette Manhire, Sharon Tuhakaraina, Terry Shirley, Grant Prouting, Lyle	1983 Williams, Keily Rowling, Blair Rye, Purdey Schofield, Sheryl Herbert, Ryan Aitchison, Richard Aitchison, Kerry Gibson, Timothy Masey, Gavin Sayer, Michael Gourlay, Richard Carter, Annelise O'Neill, Joanne Spencer, Nicola Spencer, Jo-anna Wayne, Philippa Govorko, Thea McLean, Anisa	1984 Harris, Brent Kivits, Megan de Hoop, Sebastian Clark, Jason																																							
1963 Humphrey, Judith Gregory, Russell Gregory, Robin Abercrombie, Susan Stark, Christopher Kennington, Nigel Bowden, Beverly Bowden, Gaylene Bowden, Margaret Bowden, Darcy Whakaari, Anne Zuppicich, Ian Zuppicich, Ann Zuppicich, Vicki Van Bohemen, Joanne Mathieson, Richard Mathieson, Wayne Mathieson, Michael Nelson, David Nelson, Murray Nelson, Ross Reid, Lynne Smith, Faith Smith, Suzanne Te Amo, Barry Heke, David Crow, Wendy Anslay, Lynda Bowden, Paulette Curiett, Julie	1964 Cawley, David Morgan, Bryan Bowman, Wendy Rowling, Stuart Adams, Neil Heke, Doreen Heke, Te Waina Back, Donald Back, Mark Johansen, Helen Dawson, Jocelyn Dawson, Clifford Graham, Jeanne Graham, Fay Graham, Barbara Graham, Kathrine Plasmeyer, Jack Plasmeyer, Hans Plasmeyer, Martin Plasmeyer, Maria McCowatt, Ian McCowatt, Rex Pene, Tamatu Matetaka, Michael Nelson, Bruce Valler, Suzanne Valler, Peter Plasmeyer, Karel Hopa, Parani Tesselaar, Margaret Williams, Lynette Barrowclough, Susan Crow, Susan Abercrombie, Lynette Stark, Debra Williams, Christine	1965 Ogle, Roy Hayes, Phillip Williams, Keith Gardner, John Gardner, James Gardner, Peter Curllett, Edward Heke, Gloria Graham, Trevor	1966 Abercrombie, Brenda Van Hellemond, Antony Jenkins, Donna Pene, Raewyn Te Anio, Margaret Mason, Carl Mason, Kenneth Heke, David Chittenden, Kevin Chittenden, Raymond Warren, Andrew Williams, Gareth Swann, Annette Swann, Ivan Swann, Daphne Brook, Paulette Brook, Gregory Farrant, Peter Adlam, Suzanne Chittenden, Russell Hawkes, Wayne Nicholson, Warren Morgan, Bronwyn Prouting, Kenneth Brook, Shelley Steeghs, Jack	1967 Whakaari, George Stolzenberg, Keith Pene, Ruiha Jordan, Simon Abercrombie, Stuart Hastings, Michael Jenkins, Kevin Young, Sharyn Foidl, Gary Foidl, Gunther Zyp, John Zyp, Trudy Zyp, Frank Zyp, Caroline Jordan, Nicola Warmerdam, France Bowman, Dean Wilson, Suzanne	1968 Whiting, Heather Warmerdam, Catherine Warren, Julia Wiggins, Trudy Donaldson, Diane Donaldson, Robert Donaldson, Leonie Donaldson, Judith Donaldson, Barbara Donaldson, Gayle Humphrey, Karina MacPherson, Kennet Adlam, Karen Lane, Leonie Mauriri, Ellen Waide, Timothy Bates, Grant Hawkes, Steven Steeghs, Robert West, Michelle West, David Voyles, Kathryn Clark, Pauline Clark, Raymond Clark, Garry Clark, Paul Clark, Colin Prouting, Maree Keeley, Patricia Keeley, Jo-Anne Smith, Karen Smith, Megan Smith, Russell Rowling, Helen Cawley, Donna Stark, Karen	1969 Reed, Kim Keremeta, Shirley Abercrombie, Marga Pene, Janine McIsaac, William McIsaac, Gloria Evans, Helen Evans, Noel Evans, Mark Gibson, Tony Geerts, Annetta Geerts, Henricus MacDonald, Deborah MacDonald, Sharon MacDonald, Rhonda Leuthard, Paul Young, Kevin Young, Sharyn Foidl, Gary Foidl, Gunther Zyp, John Zyp, Trudy Zyp, Frank Zyp, Caroline Jordan, Nicola Warmerdam, France Bowman, Dean Wilson, Suzanne	1970 Cottier, Freda Gardner, Stephen Harvey, Tony Petch, Michael Bates, Leanne Gooch, Richie Watkins, Josef Mortimore, Jeffrey Mortimore, Kenneth Prouting, Ngaire Murray, Brian Annette, Michael Prouting, Margaret Kingi, Martha Heke, Justin Wilson, Richard Smith, Jolene Bailey, Diane	1971 Muller, Mia Muller, David Muller, Stephen Donaldson, Terence Humphrey, Ngaire Pene, Bobby Balme, Craig Watkins, Doris Singh, Peter Hollister, Brett Sawyer, Kelly Reinsfield, Kristine Reinsfield, John Reinsfield, David Van Den Bos, Miria Cooper, Pricilla Bosch, Claudia Smith, Sally Stet, Barbara Stet, Peter Binns, Rowena Glass, Rosalind Cooper, Russell Zyp, Sandra Pene, Delwyn Reed, Wayne Abercrombie, Donald Ward, Darcy Ward, Reubina Ward, Marama	1972 Bosch, Daniel Reinsfield, Peter O'Thollo, Gretel O'Thollo, Sarah O'Thollo, John Singh, Robbie Johns, Stephen Green, Rebecca Green, Anthony Lammas, Albin Lammas, Helen Smith, Ian Kingi, Tiraungi Kingi, Paula Franklyn, Brendon Stark, Ivan King, Andrew Leuthard, Fiona Williams, Harry Williams, Julie Sawyer, Tracey Summers, Conal Karaitiana, Charles Karaitiana, Taru Karaitiana, Andrew	1973 Carr, Charles Thom, Nancy Hollister, Gregory Lundy, Suzanne Mills, Deborah Dean, Julie Dean, Annette Boer, Johannes Bruhin, Ruth Prouting, Anne Prouting, Margaret Kingi, Martha Heke, Justin Wilson, Richard Smith, Jolene Bailey, Diane	1974 Stet, Sandra Abercrombie, Harvey Karaitiana, Christopher Wisniewski, Kerry Warmerdam, Nicola Johns, Wayne Greenfield, Karen McKay, Brenda Sharp, Michael Webster, Margaret Bell, Bryce Wilson, Mary Bell, Karan Finlay, Paul Summers, Craig Elder, Phillip Hewlett, Michael Hewlett, Deborah Sim, Catherine Sim, Derek Sharp, David Back, Robert Webster, Catherine	1975 Karaitiana, Kim Dinnan, Michael Prouting, Fiona Taylor, Robert Taylor, Colin Whyte, Jennifer West, Heather West, Karen West, Darlene Whyte, Sandra Bailey, Steven Jeffries, Therese Jeffries, Martin Paris, Robbie Paris, Sally Leng, Tania Mills, Jeffrey Goodwin, Malcolm Goodwin, Jason Prouting, Graeme Kingi, Leo Silby, Glenn	1976 Smith, Kelly Powell, Raymond Humphrey, Craig Humphrey, Stuart	1977 McKay, Jeanette Shirley, Stephen Lundy, Nicola Douglas, Rodney Greenfield, Kevin Hall, Lloyd Johns, Brenda Stimpson, Bruce Stephenson, Nadene Stephenson, Maree Starke, Cheree Starke, Jason Janes, Robert Sharp, Linda Riki, Wesley Hart, Fiona Hart, Leeanne Hart, Steven Stimpson, Roydon Roberts, Julian Prouting, Shiralee Humphrey, Nicola Gate, Jacqueline Blake, Tracey Picknell, Margaret Farmilo, Bryce Fleming, Michelle Fleming, Ann Marie Fleming, Susan	1978 Harris, Israel Blake, Angela Blake, Gregory McLean, Paul Fleming, Christine Stephenson, Kathy Bremner, Debra Bremner, Raymond Bremner, Malita Autridge, Glen Roberts, Rebecca Lanyon, Shona Lanyon, Tracy Singh, Jug-jeet Hannah, Donna Hannah, Shane Schnuriger, Murray Laurie, Megan Laurie, Stacey Shaw, Kara Bennett, Brendon Marlow, Richard Houlthani, Frazer McKinstry, Paul Dinnan, Jacqui Anderson, Patricia Poi, Kere	1979 Simpson, Jeannie Saunders, Tracey Saunders, Paul Riki, Paul Gate, Louis	1980 A. Lawrence, P. Palmer, J. Findlay, A. Watson, I. B. Harris.	1981 A. Watson, I. B. Harris, H. Greentree, J. Findlay, E. Tyler.	1982 A. Watson, H. Greentree, Silvester, J. Maxwell, S. Beagley.	1983 A. Watson, H. Greentree, J. Maxwell, R. Haycock, J. Collett.	1984 I. B. Harris, R. Haycock, J. Findlay, C. Taylor, J. Maxwell.	1985 I. B. Harris, C. Ward, C. Taylor, J. Smith, L. Brightwell.	1986 A. Bates, L. Brightwell.	1987 I. B. Harris, A. Bates, J. Timms, N. Brown, L. Brightwell, W. Drabble.	1988 N. Brown, V. Brunt, A. Bates, R. Noble, R. Hight.	1989 R. Noble, W. Taverner, F. Jack, R. Hight, V. Brunt.	1990 W. Taverner, F. Jack, F. Crosby, R. Hight, R. Noble.	1991 W. Taverner, F. Jack, H. Gibson, F. Crosby, R. Hight.	1992 W. Taverner, F. Jack, H. Gibson, R. Hight, F. Crosby.	1993 J. Noble, S. Brown, H. Gibson, R. Hight, K. Campbell.	1994 K. Wooderson, G. Jack, K. Campbell, L. Jones, F. Garroway.	1995 W. Golledge, H. Street, K. Wooderson, K. Campbell, C. Bremner, R. Jackson.	1996 R. Jackson, A. Nicholson, K. Campbell, K. Wooderson, Mrs A. Nicholson.	1997 B. O'Neill, I. W. Harris, J. Nicholson, D. Campbell, R. Dibble, H. Anniss, Mrs D. Campbell.	1998 J. Glass joined the committee.	1999 B. O'Neill, I. W. Harris, J. Glass, H. Nicholas, R. Dibble, H. Anniss, J. Nicholson.	2000 K. Rowling, H. Nicholas, G. Harris, G. Gee, D. Brightwell, A. Covich, W. Christian.	2001 K. Rowling, H. Nicholas, W. Christian, G. Gee, G. Harris, D. Brightwell, D. Johanson.	2002 K. Rowling, H. Nicholas, G. Gee, G. Harris, D. Brightwell, D. Johanson, C. Freegard.	2003 K. Rowling, J. Crow, G. Harris, D. Johanson, C. Freegard, H. Keith, C. Williams.	2004 K. Morgan, A. van Hellemond joined the committee.	2005 K. Rowling, K. Morgan, C. Williams, G. Harris, C. Freegard, G. Bowman, A. van Hellemond.	2006 K. Rowling, K. Morgan, C. Williams, G. Hopa, I. Reed, G. Bowman, A. van Hellemond.	2007 C. Williams, I. Reed, A. van Hellemond, M. Warren, G. Bowman, G. Hopa, D. Gibson.	2008 C. Williams, I. Reed, M. Warren, R. Stark, G. Hopa, G. Bowman, D. Gibson.	2009 D. Gibson, I. Reed, B. Webster, J. Lundy, C. Williams, R. Stark, N. Prouting.	2010 I. Reed, B. Webster, R. Stark, N. Prouting, J. Lundy, K. Sharp, Mrs H. Abercrombie.	2011 R. Stark, B. Webster, N. Prouting, P. Prouting, J. Lundy, K. Sharp, O. Farmilo.	2012 R. Stark, P. Prouting, P. Schnuriger, J. Dinnan, J. Lundy, J. Wayne, Mrs P. Portegys.	2013 J. Wayne, Mrs P. Portegys, J. Lundy, P. Schnuriger, J. Fransen, P. Prouting, B. Harris.

### TAUHEI SCHOOL COMMITTEES

- 1920 A. Lawrence, P. Palmer, J. Findlay, A. Watson, I. B. Harris.
- 1921 A. Watson, I. B. Harris, H. Greentree, J. Findlay, E. Tyler.
- 1923 A. Watson, H. Greentree, Silvester, J. Maxwell, S. Beagley.
- 1924 A. Watson, H. Greentree, J. Maxwell, R. Haycock, J. Collett.
- 1925 I. B. Harris, R. Haycock, J. Findlay, C. Taylor, J. Maxwell.
- 1930 I. B. Harris, C. Ward, C. Taylor, J. Smith, L. Brightwell.
- 1933 A. Bates, L. Brightwell.
- 1934 I. B. Harris, A. Bates, J. Timms, N. Brown, L. Brightwell, W. Drabble.
- 1936 N. Brown, V. Brunt, A. Bates, R. Noble, R. Hight.
- 1938 R. Noble, W. Taverner, F. Jack, R. Hight, V. Brunt.
- 1940 W. Taverner, F. Jack, F. Crosby, R. Hight, R. Noble.
- 1942 W. Taverner, F. Jack, H. Gibson, F. Crosby, R. Hight.
- 1944 W. Taverner, F. Jack, H. Gibson, R. Hight, F. Crosby.
- 1946 J. Noble, S. Brown, H. Gibson, R. Hight, K. Campbell.
- 1948 K. Wooderson, G. Jack, K. Campbell, L. Jones, F. Garroway.
- 1950 W. Golledge, H. Street, K. Wooderson, K. Campbell, C. Bremner, R. Jackson.
- 1953 R. Jackson, A. Nicholson, K. Campbell, K. Wooderson, Mrs A. Nicholson.
- 1955 B. O'Neill, I. W. Harris, J. Nicholson, D. Campbell, R. Dibble, H. Anniss, Mrs D. Campbell.
- 1956 J. Glass joined the committee.
- 1957 B. O'Neill, I. W. Harris, J. Glass, H. Nicholas, R. Dibble, H. Anniss, J. Nicholson.
- 1959 K. Rowling, H. Nicholas, G. Harris, G. Gee, D. Brightwell, A. Covich, W. Christian.
- 1961 K. Rowling, H. Nicholas, W. Christian, G. Gee, G. Harris, D. Brightwell, D. Johanson.
- 1963 K. Rowling, H. Nicholas, G. Gee, G. Harris, D. Brightwell, D. Johanson, C. Freegard.
- 1965 K. Rowling, J. Crow, G. Harris, D. Johanson, C. Freegard, H. Keith, C. Williams.
- 1966 K. Morgan, A. van Hellemond joined the committee.
- 1967 K. Rowling, K. Morgan, C. Williams, G. Harris, C. Freegard, G. Bowman, A. van Hellemond.
- 1969 K. Rowling, K. Morgan, C. Williams, G. Hopa, I. Reed, G. Bowman, A. van Hellemond.
- 1971 C. Williams, I. Reed, A. van Hellemond, M. Warren, G. Bowman, G. Hopa, D. Gibson.
- 1973 C. Williams, I. Reed, M. Warren, R. Stark, G. Hopa, G. Bowman, D. Gibson.
- 1975 D. Gibson, I. Reed, B. Webster, J. Lundy, C. Williams, R. Stark, N. Prouting.
- 1977 I. Reed, B. Webster, R. Stark, N. Prouting, J. Lundy, K. Sharp, Mrs H. Abercrombie.
- 1979 R. Stark, B. Webster, N. Prouting, P. Prouting, J. Lundy, K. Sharp, O. Farmilo.
- 1981 R. Stark, P. Prouting, P. Schnuriger, J. Dinnan, J. Lundy, J. Wayne, Mrs P. Portegys.
- 1983 J. Wayne, Mrs P. Portegys, J. Lundy, P. Schnuriger, J. Fransen, P. Prouting, B. Harris.



LEFT: The school baths, 1983.

BELOW: Diane Fregard (13), Caroline Reed (8) and Kim Reed (5) at the Morrinsville Group Calf Club Day held on October 15, 1969. They gained second place for a group of three calves most alike.



BELOW: Dianne Ogle, Bronwyn Johansen and Nicki Williams with their pets of yesteryear.



Messrs J. Pene, W. Keremata and G. Hopa preparing to lift the hangi on an educational day held at the Tauhei School in July 1972.

BELOW: Melissa Jackson, first recipient of the AFC Cup with her Champion lamb, Mary in 1980.



PART II  
**THE MARCH OF PROGRESS**  
**THE BIRTH AND**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF**  
**TAUHEI**  
 through twelve memorable decades  
 1865 - 1984



## GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Geographically Tauhei is often referred to as the centre of the Waikato being almost equidistant from both East and West coasts of the North Island. One important feature in the geological formation was the Waikato River which originally flowed through the Hinuera Valley to the Hauraki Gulf. About 12,000 years ago it broke into the Hamilton basin and at that time very active erosion of the central plateau was loading the river with large quantities of debris, sand and gravel, and in the process of filling the Hamilton basin the river kept blocking itself up and changing course. One of these courses was from Cambridge, passing close to Morrinsville, Tauhei, Orini, then to Taupiri.

During these periods of changing course, large lakes were left behind and over the centuries these gradually turned into deep peat bogs. These swamps later became known as the 'Komakorau Swamp', 'Woodlands Swamp' or 'The Great Piako Swamp', the latter being referred to in Parliament in 1875 as having a total area of 200,000 acres. The edges of this vast swamp covered most of Tauhei on the southern side of the main road and through the perseverance of early settlers in draining the swamp they have left behind rich and valuable farmland, described officially as 'organic soils of Concave Basin peat' known as 'Kaipaki soil'.

The land to the north of these swamps is described as gently rolling to steep hills with two predominant features being Pukemokemoke (166m ASL) in the west and the Hangawera Hills (302m ASL) in the north-east. Two streams known as the Tauhei and Mangatea, origins of both being the Hangawera hills, flow through Tauhei in a westerly direction, joining the Waikato River at Taupiri.

Two distinct soil types are to be found with the first being an area which starts near the junction of the Mangatea and Tauhei streams and runs up the Mangatea valley to the end of Manuels Road and is described as 'brown granular loam and clay' known as 'Hamilton Soils'. The balance of the hills of 'yellow-brown earth' are known as 'Hangawera Soil' or 'Tauhei Soil'. When the early settlers arrived they found most of the hills were covered with manuka (tea-tree), the only exceptions being kahikatea stands along the foot of Pukemokemoke.

Centuries ago Tauhei was part of a kauri forest and as early records show it was a well known area for the digging of kauri gum. Remains of kauri trees, which can only be described as gigantic, are still being found along the edge of Cryers Swamp (Tainui Road) as the land settles with drainage. Another residue of early formation are the outcrops of andesite boulders to be found in the northern part of Tauhei and the origin of these were from a now extinct volcano near Hoe-0-Tainui.

## EARLY FORMATION OF TAUHEI

In compiling the history of Tauhei it has been necessary to record two different stories on its development and settlement. In 1876 Sir Julius Vogel introduced the Counties Act and on November 1, 1876, both the Waikato and Piako Counties were formed. In Tauhei the boundaries of these two counties were drawn along the 'Confiscation Line' effectively dividing the district in half. This line also separates the Waikato and Thames Valley Electric Power Boards and, with some exceptions over the years, it has been a Parliamentary Electoral Boundary. On the Waikato County side its history dates back to the Land Wars of 1863-64. Although not affected by these wars, the after-effects played a major role in the settlement of Tauhei, west of the Confiscation Line. On the Piako County side, the land was originally purchased by the Morrin Brothers in the late 1870s with its settlement and development following a more orderly fashion.

ABOVE: Stump removers J. Browne, B. O'Keefe and A. Hickey earned 2/6 per stump removing them by hand operated Treewalla winch.

BELOW: Andesite boulders, Tainui Road.

BELOW RIGHT: Artesian bore, Seifert's Road, 1930.



## FIRST EUROPEAN

Throughout the Waikato, the early Maori traveller made great use of rivers and streams for navigation by canoe but occasionally he had to resort to travelling overland by walking, so forming a network of tracks. Tauhei, settled by the Ngati Wairere and named long before the European arrived, was situated on one of these tracks. It was along these waterways and tracks that the first European missionaries and traders ventured into the Waikato in the late 1820s.



## LAND WARS AND CONFISCATION

By 1861 land struggles and unrest were coming to a head and the following year, Sir George Grey, resorting to force, sent troops under General Cameron into the Waikato, starting the Waikato Land Wars which dragged on for nearly two years before ending with the battle at Orakau in 1864. Not only did the Maoris suffer defeat in battle: they also suffered further humiliation when much of their Waikato land was confiscated after the war. This vast area is shown as being all the land within the area bounded by a line drawn on maps starting at the Waikato River mouth and following the river to Mangatawhiri River, then to Paparata, Surrey Redoubt (Maramarua), Pokorokoro (Miranda), Hapuakohe, Pukemoremore, Mangakawa, Pukekura Pa, Orakau, Puniu River, Mt Pirongia, Waitetuna River to Raglan Harbour.

Although no battles were fought here, Tauhei became involved with the western half of the district being included in the confiscated lands, and to this day the section of the Confiscation Line which divided Tauhei is that line on maps from Hapuakohe in the north to Pukemoremore in the south.

On an early map dated 1885, reference is made to an area in Tauhei which was 'reserved for Native purposes'. This block of land, known as the 'Tauhei Block', will be explained in later chapters. In 1946, after 82 years of negotiation, Prime Minister Peter Fraser offered compensation. This was accepted and today the Tainui Trust Board administers these annual payments.

It is of interest to note that if the reader stops at the northern end of Valentines Road and looks southward to the distant hills, he is actually looking along the Confiscation Line to the bushclad peak of Pukemoremore.

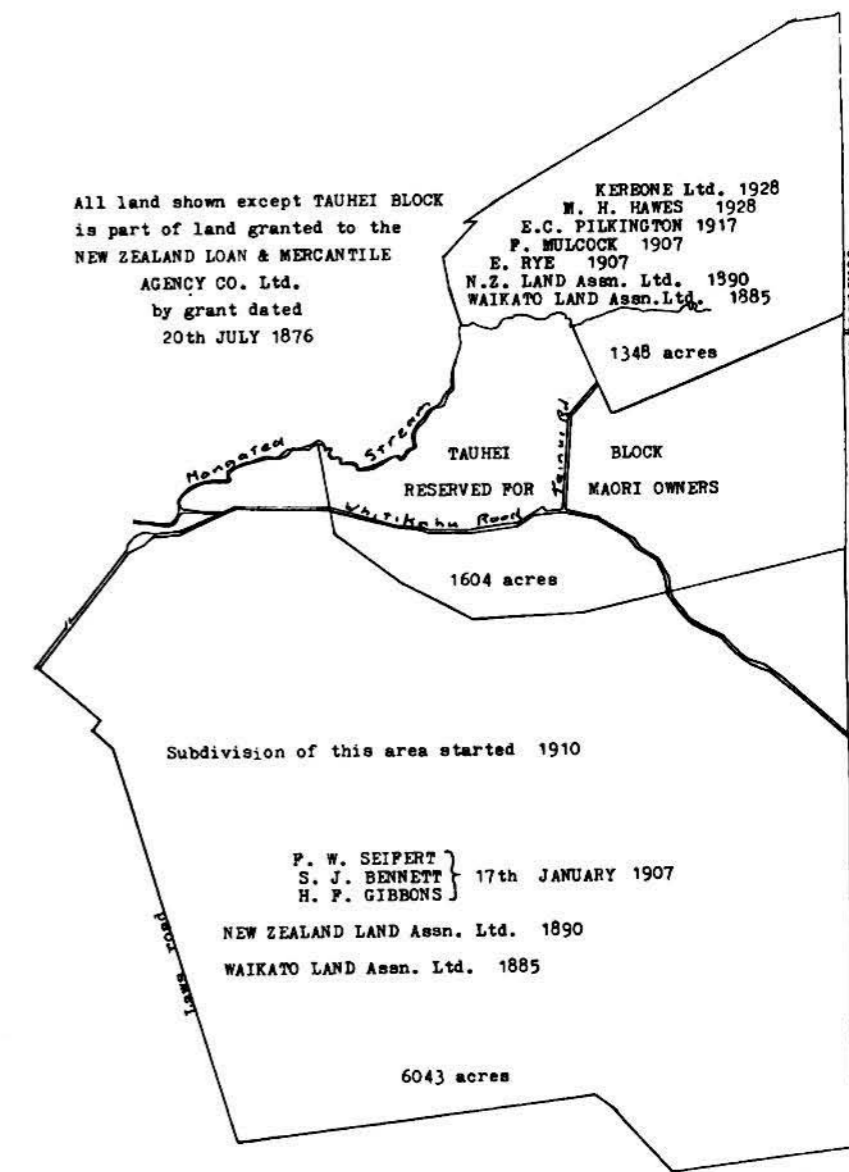
## LAND SETTLEMENT WAIKATO COUNTY

These aforementioned questionable events of New Zealand history mark the beginning of the European landowner throughout the Waikato. With the Government holding vast areas of land it set about to dispose of these holdings.

In 1865 the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co. Ltd., was formed with one of its purposes to buy and sell land, also giving financial

assistance to purchasers of its lands. In 1873, one of the principals of the company, Mr Thomas Russell (also founder of the New Zealand Insurance Co. and the Bank of New Zealand), together with a close business associate, Mr Fredrick Whitaker, started negotiations with the Government to purchase an area in the Waikato known as the Great Piako Swamp. Mr Donald McLean, Native Affairs Minister, agreed that the land could be sold for five shillings an acre on the condition that a road was to be built from the

western side to the headwaters of navigation on the Piako River. Finally on July 20, 1876, the *New Zealand Gazette* published a proclamation about the sale and grant of the Piako Swamp and the Government issued a map showing a road running eastward from Taupiri to the other side of the swamp. This was later to become the main road running through Tauhei as it is the only road in this area marked on maps of that period. July 20, 1876, also marks the date of the first European land ownership in Tauhei. The sale of



Map shows development of Tauhei West of the Confiscation Line and owners from 1876.



this land caused a Parliamentary row with Sir George Grey accusing the Government of selling land cheaply. "Here we have 80,000 acres sold at five shillings an acre to the rich man to the friends of Ministers," he said. "Is that your equal justice?" He argued that the poor man had to pay 17/3d an acre for unimproved land. Whitaker became the scapegoat and during October, 1877, a Parliamentary select committee appointed to enquire into his actions over the Piako Swamp purchase found that although the price of 5/- an acre was correct the final figure was 2/6 per acre cash and the balance was to be used in forming roads. The committee refuted Sir George Grey's allegation of corruption and found no irregularities in this deal.

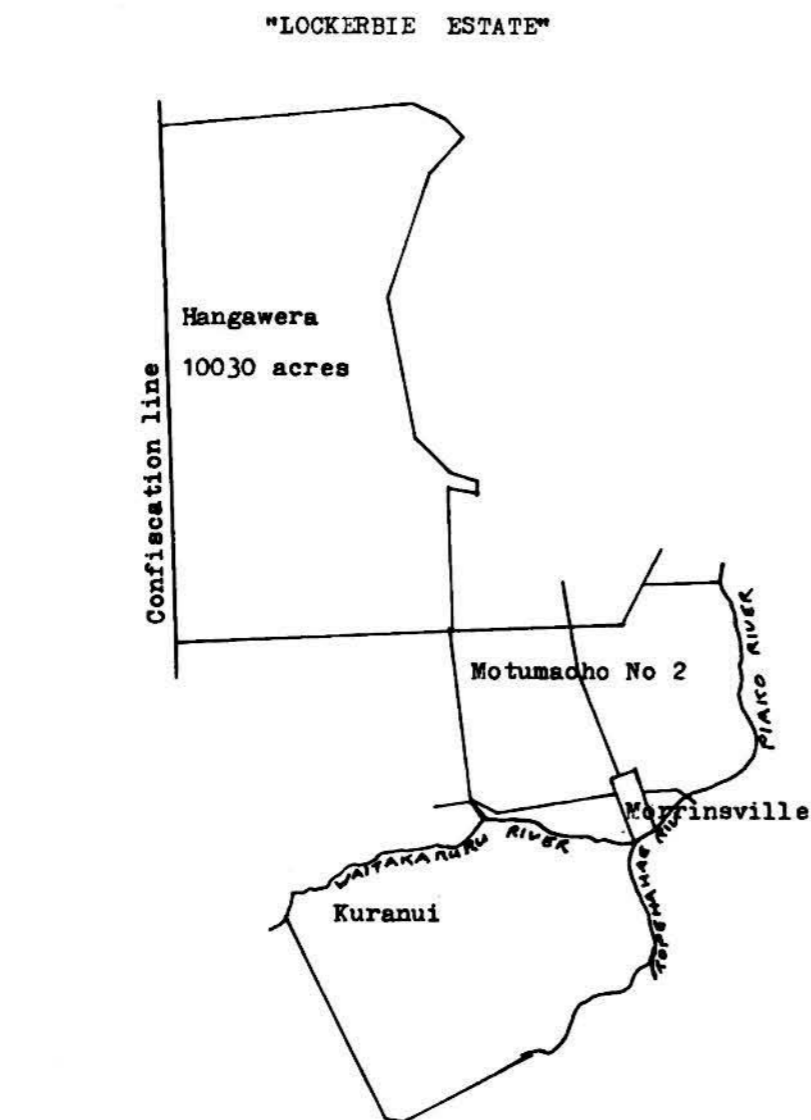
In 1885 the Waikato Land Association Limited took over from the NZ Loan and Mercantile Agency Co. Ltd 74,397 acres which was all that land lying between the Mangawara River in the north to the Hamilton-Morrinsville road in the south and from the Hamilton-Taupiri road in the west to the Confiscation Line in the east.

About 1889 when farming conditions were at a low ebb and harsh times arrived, there being little demand for farm produce, the companies and owners of the estates who had drawn on their own resources and on the banks, found that their capital and credit had vanished. In 1890 the Waikato Land Association Limited changed its name to the NZ Land Association Limited and although parts of the original holdings had been sold, Tauhei was still part of what was to become known as the Woodlands Block, consisting of about 22,000 acres. To farm this holding several out stations were built and one of these was situated in Tauhei near the Waikato County Council quarry on the small hill where Mr I. Reed's employee's house now stands.

*Morrinsville Star, August 1919.*

One of the most remarkable districts in the Waikato is that of Tauhei. The story respecting its development is most interesting. Tauhei, 20 years ago, formed part of the Woodlands Estate. The greater part of Tauhei was then inundated with water and clothed with a thick covering of peat. The whole of the flat country was several feet higher than it is now, "a number of hillocks which now form a prominent part of the landscape were then invisible". The land at Tauhei could then be purchased for 10/- per acre.

Mr J. Layne of Morrinsville is familiar with Tauhei. Twenty years ago he was shepherd on the estate. At that time there was an area of 3000 acres which for eight



*The Lockerbie Estate: 20,400 acres purchased by Thomas and Samuel Morrin circa 1881.*

months of the year was under water. Sometimes there were summers when the place was fairly dry for five and a half months. The mortality amongst the sheep in winter was very heavy, the death rate averaging 60 sheep a month. Flood gates were erected and on one occasion 300 sheep were taken from the gates. The shepherd kept a death book in which he noted the number of carcasses found. If the animal had been dead only a short time the body was skinned and the pelt taken away. The best of sheep at that time were worth 10/each. Horses could not be used owing to the sodden nature of the country. As the years passed, burning and surface sowing and draining showed beneficial results. The scrub and rushes gave place to grass, the land subsided and became solid. Each year 3000 hoggets were pastured on the land and after a time yearlings and 18 months old cattle were raised there. From grazing country, concluded Mr Layne, Tauhei became the important dairying land it is today.

By about 1900 the estate was in serious economic difficulties and the

NZ Land Association which owned 'Woodlands' was forced to sell. The property was put on the market for one pound per acre but no one came forward to buy so eventually it was subdivided and offered in smaller lots.

On January 17, 1907, a partnership of Mr E. W. Seifert (Flax Manager), Mr S. J. Bennett (Farm Manager) and Mr H. F. Gibbons (Bank Manager) purchased a block of 6043 acres on the southern side of the Tauhei Block and this was closely followed in August, 1907, by Mr E. Rye purchasing 1348 acres on the northern side of the Tauhei Block.

In 1910 the partnership of Seifert, Bennett and Gibbons was dissolved and this started the rapid subdivision of this area. Mr E. Rye's block had several owners until 1928 when it was subdivided into eight farms and sold.

LAND SETTLEMENT  
PIAKO COUNTY

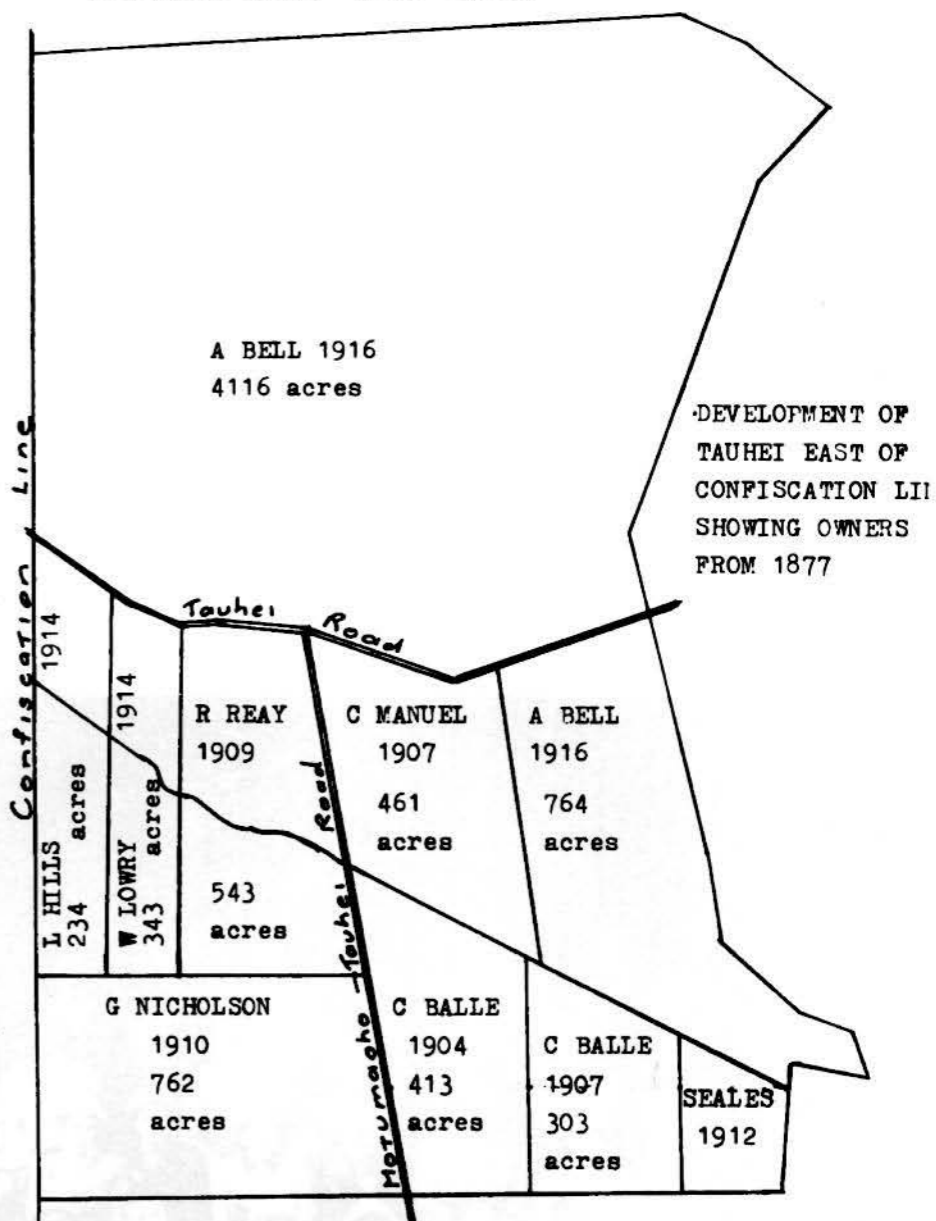
The history of Tauhei east of the Confiscation Line can be traced back to the Morrin Brothers, Thomas and Samuel, who in the late 1870s purchased 20,400 acres of land consisting of the Hangawera, Motumaocho No. 2 and Kuranui Blocks (see map). There are several different prices mentioned, the lowest being 165 pounds and the highest 1096 pounds. Both Thomas and Samuel Morrin were born in Canada but the family from which they sprang belonged originally to Lockerbie in Scotland. This was the reason for calling the station 'Lockerbie' and from its centre grew the present town of Morrinsville.

Tauhei developed from the Hangawera block, 10,030 acres, which is not to be confused with the Department of Maori Affairs block on Manuels Road. The Hangawera Block lay between the Confiscation Line in the west and the junction of the Tauhei and Cameron Roads in the east. The northern boundary was Manuels Road extension where it enters the Department of Maori Affairs Block and the southern boundary approximately 3.3 miles (5.4 km) down Matuku Road.

In 1881 Mr J. Studholme purchased Mr Samuel Morrin's half share of the estate and Messrs T. Morrin and J. Studholme remained partners for the next six years. The depression of the eighties hit the partners hard and by 1886 they were both heavily in debt to the NZ Loan and Mercantile Agency Co Ltd and the Bank of New Zealand. An advance of 20,000 pounds from the Government Life Insurance Association helped for the time being and in 1887 Morrin transferred his interest in the estate to the NZ Loan and Mercantile Agency Co Ltd and Studholme transferred his interest to the Bank of New Zealand. After the bankruptcy proceeding in 1891 the entire area, now reduced to 18,386 acres, was taken over by the Bank of New Zealand Estates Co. During the depression of the late eighties many holders of estates became insolvent and the NZ Loan and Mercantile Agency Co Ltd, which had lent large sums of money, was in serious financial difficulty. Big areas of land came into the hands of the Bank of New Zealand and to enable the bank to deal with these properties, the Assets Realisation Board, a subsidiary corporation of the bank, was formed to farm the land and dispose of it as soon as it could.

In January, 1897, by operation of

HANGAWERA BLOCK 10030 acres



- Owners of Hangawera Block until subdivision 1904
- T & S MORRIN 1877
  - T MORRIN & J STUDHOLME 1881
  - N Z LOAN & MERCANTILE AGENCY CO. LTD & BANK OF NEW ZEALAND 1887
  - BANK OF NEW ZEALAND ESTATES CO. LTD 1891
  - ASSETS REALIZATION BOARD 1897
  - BANK OF NEW ZEALAND 1907

the Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act 1895 the above land became vested in the Assets Realisation Board. Advertisements were placed in New Zealand and overseas newspapers for these sales and the part affecting Tauhei read as Lockerbie Estate, Waikato. Some of the buyers who purchased land in Tauhei were: Charles

Balle 1904 and 1907, Charles Manuel 1907, and once again in 1907, by operation of Section 23 of the Bank of New Zealand Act 1903, the remaining land became vested in the Bank of New Zealand. From 1907-1916 further sales were made in Tauhei and R. Reay, G. A. Nicholson, W. R. Lowry, L. M. Hills and A. Bell purchased land.

Some of the old Certificates of Titles are illegible but it is presumed that in 1908 Bell either leased or negotiated the right of purchase of all that land north of the main road, consisting of 4116 acres, finally getting ownership in January, 1916.

Bell set about subdividing the holding into smaller lots of about 200 acres, selling two small and one large sections and in June, 1916, the Tauhei Land Co Ltd took over the balance of 1925 acres. The Tauhei Land Co Ltd, (May 1911-26) was formed with the

sole purpose of purchasing for investment or resale sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Hangawera Block. The capital of the Company was 10,000 pounds divided into forty shares of 250 pounds each and the allotment list shows that 39 people from all parts of New Zealand took up shares. One of the shareholders was Mr L. H. McAlpine who features regularly in early Tauhei. An advertisement showing this land for sale describes Mr K. Rowling's (present owner) farm as ... "A splendid section partly fenced, two-thirds ploughable, half laid down in good

pasture, gently undulating to rich flats. Splendidly adapted for either sheep, cattle or dairying ..." with another block described as ... "easy 2 sheep country when improved..."

This district was not always as we know it today. Scrub-covered hills and undrained peat swamp have only given way to green pasture-land through the labour, courage and determination of the early settlers of Tauhei and to them we give thanks for their efforts, so often hardly acknowledged during their lifetime.



PHOTO taken at the Fiftieth Jubilee of Tauhei shows former pupils of the Second Decade 1919-1928.  
 BACK ROW: L. Sylvester, E. Palmer, B. Ashby, E. Tyler, J. Dempsey, A. Palmer, J. Findlay, F. Smith.  
 THIRD ROW: B. Findlay, J. Norquay, I. Harris, G. Harris, S. Greentree, J. Smith, G. Gee, A. Brightwell, M. Reay, R. Batten, L. Maxwell, J. Brown. SECOND ROW: J. Charlton, V. Ensor, P. Middleton, P. Harris, M. Greentree, M. Norquay, A. Inglis. FRONT ROW: M. Gibbings, J. Beag, D. Brightwell, G. Brightwell, I. Brightwell, E. Brightwell, Miss Grant, J. Findlay, B. Gee, W. Middleton, Z. Williams and L. Greentree.

## A HISTORY OF THE MAORI PEOPLE OF TAUHEI

### The Ngati Wairere

#### PRE-EUROPEAN TAUHEI

TAUHEI was first settled by the Ngati Wairere people: from whence did they come? After many hours of reading and researching through books, particularly the book *Tainui* written by Leslie G. Kelly, it was found that the Great Chief Wairere was a direct descendant of Toroa from the Mataatua Canoe and Hoturoa from the Tainui Canoe.

If you study the Whakapapa (or family tree) below, you will see that Wairere's father, Tama-inu-po, was the son of Kokako. Wairere's mother (Tukotuku) was the daughter of Mahanga and Paratai. Mahanga was one of the first great chiefs of the Waikato in his time.

Although there is no precise date of Wairere's birth, after reading about Kokako and his son Tama-inu-po, I would estimate the birth to be towards the end of the 1570s or in the early 1580s.

When Wairere became a young chief he married Tukapua and Hinemoa. From the marriage to Tukapua were born Maramatutahi, a son; Te Kahurere and Tumataura, two daughters, both of whom married Koroki, and also three more children: two sons - Te Rei and Kairoro and another daughter, Waipare, who married Tangaroakino.

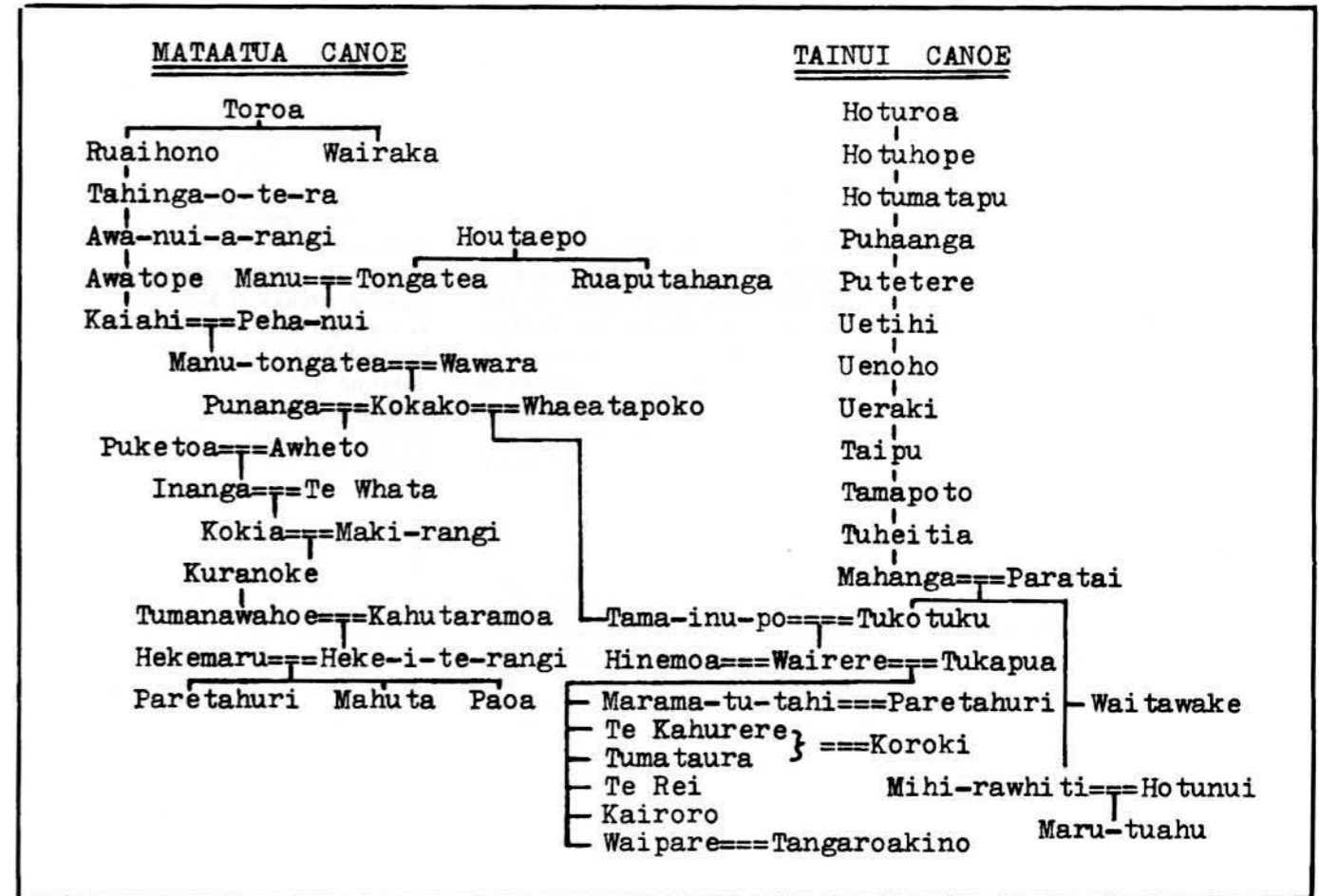
The marriage between Koroki and Tumataura was of great significance because they had two sons, Hape and Haua, who in time became great chiefs.

The first Maori King, Potatau Te Wherowhero, was a direct descendant of Koroki and Te Kahurere (Te Kahurere being Wairere's daughter). Potatau Te Wherowhero was made king in the year 1858. Wiremu Tamehana Tarapipipi performed the coronation ceremony, using a bible which has been used for every similar ceremony up to the present day. At this great Hui (meeting) Te Heuheu as

high chief, iti company with Tarapipipi said, "Potatau, this day I create you King of the Maori people. You and Queen Victoria shall be bound together to be one. The religion of Christ shall be the mantle of your protection; the law shall be the Whariki (mat) for your feet, for ever and ever onward."

To this Potatau, turning to his people, replied: "Yes, I agree, for ever and ever onward. Kotahi to kohao o te ngira e kuhuna ai te miro ma, te miro pango, te miro where. There is but one eye of the needle through which the white, black and red threads must pass. I muri, kia mau ki te aroha, ki te ture, me te whakaponu. After I am gone, hold fast to love, to the law and to the religion of Christ."

The declaration was succeeded by the anointing after the scriptural manner. Wiremu Tamehana Tarapipipi poured the oil on Potatau's head and all the people bowed their heads three times in obeisance at the call, "Whakahonare ki te Kingi!" (Do honour to the





*RIGHT: The renowned Waikato chief and first Māori King, Potatau Te Wherowhero.*

King!) It is interesting to note that the Tōhinga (or coronation ceremony) has been performed by Wiremu Tamehana Tarapipipi's family ever since. The ceremony was performed over Potatau and his son Tawhiao, the second king, by Tarapipipi himself. When Mahuta and Te Rata were duly made kings, Tarapipipi's son Tupu Taingakawa officiated, and lastly, when Koroki was made king on October 8, 1933, the ceremony was performed by Tupu's son Tarapipipi II. Old Potatau died in the winter of 1860 and his place was taken by his son Tawhiao. Then in 1863 came the disastrous Waikato War which continued until April, 1864, and saw the passing of the ancient lands of Waikato into the hands of the Pakeha.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT OF NGATI WAIRERE

The site where the city of Hamilton stands today was first settled by the people of Ngati Wairere around the year 1700. They called it Kirikiriroa. It lay on the western side of the river where the people had cleared away much fern, scrub and bush and had

built on the river terraces and flats, the artificial soil that nourished kumara plantations.

A plaque high up on the front wall of the Public Trust Office in Victoria Street marks the northern boundary of the Pa, which stretched from there to what is known today as the Ferrybank. Other Pās were the Miropiko, which earned its name from a Miro tree with a crooked trunk which grew on the hilltop above the Pa, and the Te Rapa Pa. Miropiko Pa was on the east side of the river in the Thames Street area of River Road and Te Rapa was sited between the water works and the Hocking wing of the Waikato Hospital.

The middle Waikato basin had long been subject to political changes with power of tribes such as the Ngati Haua, Ngati Koroki and Ngati Wairere waxing and waning throughout the 18th Century. The arrival of Europeans accelerated this change. The Ngati Wairere people had no direct contact with Europeans until about 1830 but well before that date European ideas and artifacts had begun filtering through to the inhabitants of Kirikiriroa. During the 1830s the

European traders started arriving. In the 1840s the first missionaries arrived, and official agents of the European Government followed in the 1850s.

The Ngati Wairere people embraced Christianity with considerable enthusiasm. In January 1849 a visiting missionary baptised 40 adults and administered the sacrament to 80 more. Eventually there were morning and evening services at Kirikiriroa as well as reading classes, morning school and Sunday School.

During the 1850s there was an economic and technological transformation of the middle Waikato basin. Missionaries established new agricultural settlements and there was a great demand in Auckland for Māori produce. This was even exported to the Australian goldfields. The Ngati Wairere people of Kirikiriroa were keen to have agricultural change and took part in this revolution. They planted fruit trees, especially peach trees. They collected funds for the establishment of a flourmill and grew wheat in small quantities although the mill was never a success. Then came the recession and Kirikiriroa suffered with other Waikato villages.

About the same time a movement began in the area to establish a common Māori policy on modernisation and to protect the area against European exploitation. The Ngati Wairere people sent Hoera (Joel) Taonui to the meeting of Māori leaders in May 1857.

Although Taonui himself was a moderate, the Ngati Wairere people were disenchanted with the Europeans. They talked constantly of their new political movement and the need for a Māori king. As the King Movement gathered strength the Ngati Wairere continued their support. In the early 1860s Hoera Taonui attended the King's Rununga at Ngaruawahia. However, the efforts of the Waikato Māoris to organise their own affairs, together with the European desire for the rich lands of the area, brought war to the Waikato. War was declared in July 1863 but there was never any fighting at Kirikiriroa. It was settled as part of the Government policy of protecting the lands confiscated from the Māoris with bands of 'armed settlers'.

After the war was over the Ngati Wairere were left homeless and starving, their land confiscated. Eventually they were given some land at Hukanui, now known as Gordonton, where the Hukanui Marae was established. Some of their descendants still live there today. But, like a lot of Tainui tribes, they have moved around the country and intermarried with other tribes.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT OF TAUHEI

It was in the early 1860s that some of the Wairere tribes started to settle the western end of Tauhei. While the Māoris were still living at Kirikiriroa one of the chiefs of that time, Pirihi Tomonui, used to travel to the Mangatea stream to his Rauwiri (or fishing place) where he used to fish for eels and fresh water crayfish. When the Māoris first saw the waters of the Mangatea they noticed how clear the water was and so named it Mangatea, meaning clear waters.

According to the first minutes of claims for land settlement, which were recorded at Mercer on March 19, 1896, Tauhei was just beginning to be settled in 1865.

When the Māori people came to Tauhei they brought with them potatoes, maize, wheat, peach trees, horses and pigs. They farmed these and became subsistence farmers, as in many other civilisations.

Many of the men and women used to go gum digging in the Hangawera hills and also at a place called Ngaputea. It was in the year 1871 that Pirihi Tomonui had Tauhei surveyed into blocks for each of the three existing Hapus (tribes). The three Hapus were Ngati Koura, Ngati Wairere and Waikai. The people who were living at Tauhei were all descendants of these three Hapus. Koura who was the daughter of Paoa, married Waenganui who had a son Mataumocawa who in turn married Waihongee and this woman was the daughter of Maramatutahi who was the son of Wairere.

A few years after the marriage between Mataumocawa and Waihongee, Waihongee died. Mataumocawa then married Waikai, a sister of his late wife. Many of our people who are living today are the direct descendants from this marriage. Although Pirihi Tomonui used to come to Tauhei from Kirikiriroa it was not until 1867 that he actually established himself at Tauhei.

There were many heated arguments over the Tauhei Block with the Government when it came to having it surveyed, because the Government had confiscated most of the Māori land in 1869.

Because Pirihi was settled before the land was confiscated he felt the Government should give back the land that they took from his people. It was not, however, until 1873 that the Government sent a representative by the name of MacKay who met with the people and he was recorded to have

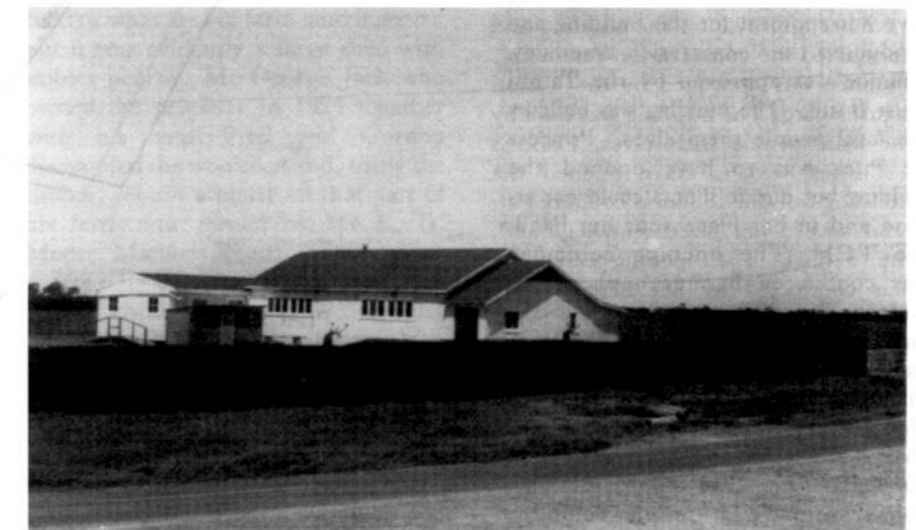
said, "I come here to give you some land. You, the people who are living here. The Government will give you 3000 acres and I will send you a lawyer and surveyor to get the names of the Hapu living here."

The Chief of the people at that time, Pirihi Tomonui, who had great influence over his people stood and said, "There are three tribes here: Wairere, Waikai and Koura". It was through this great chief that the Tauhei Block of 1604 acres was returned to the Hapus.

The land was supposed to be 1000 acres for each of the three Hapus. When Tauhei was finally surveyed by the Government, instead of getting the 3000 acres promised by MacKay, Pirihi and his people only got 1604 acres. Naturally this upset Pirihi and the people very much. But despite the disappointment in the Government he accepted the gift from the Crown for at last his people could settle on this land and farm it. This they did with great enthusiasm whereby they grew wheat, maize, potatoes and farmed pigs. They also ran many horses.

The first Wharepuni (meeting house) to be built in Tauhei was called Wairere, named after the great chief. No one knows when this house was erected, but I estimate in the early 1870s because when MacKay came to visit Pirihi and the people he supposedly slept in this meeting house. Then some years later another Wharepuni was built and this was called Peho named after one of the great Hapus.

In the year 1884 another Wharepuni was built and this was called Maramatutahi, named after the son of



*The Huimai Hall today.*

Wairere. The Wharepuni was built just before King Tawhiao went to England. The year 1896 saw the first court sitting at Mercer where the descendants started to make claims for titles to their lands. There were 89 names that were given titles to the Tauhei Block originally. The map shows how the land was divided.

During the period from 1900 to the 1930s many of the owners of these small blocks of land had tried to farm their property but found it difficult and so left them or leased them or even sold their interests. They went and worked for companies who had contracts to dig the Tauhei drain and the Tenfoot drain. Some of the men worked in the sawmill which was situated on Mr Pene's farm and this would have been between 1908 and 1918. Some also worked in the flax mills which were situated on the flats next to the Tauhei quarry, in the years 1908 and 1918.

When the quarry was opened in 1917 some of the men worked there and this has provided a source of employment ever since.

In the early 1930s Princess Te Puea and Sir Apirana Ngata were the driving force in forming the Department of Maori Affairs. The principal aim of this Department was to assist Maori people with advice and financial help. This assistance was used by Tauhei Maori farmers enabling them to build homes and cowsheds and to develop their farms.

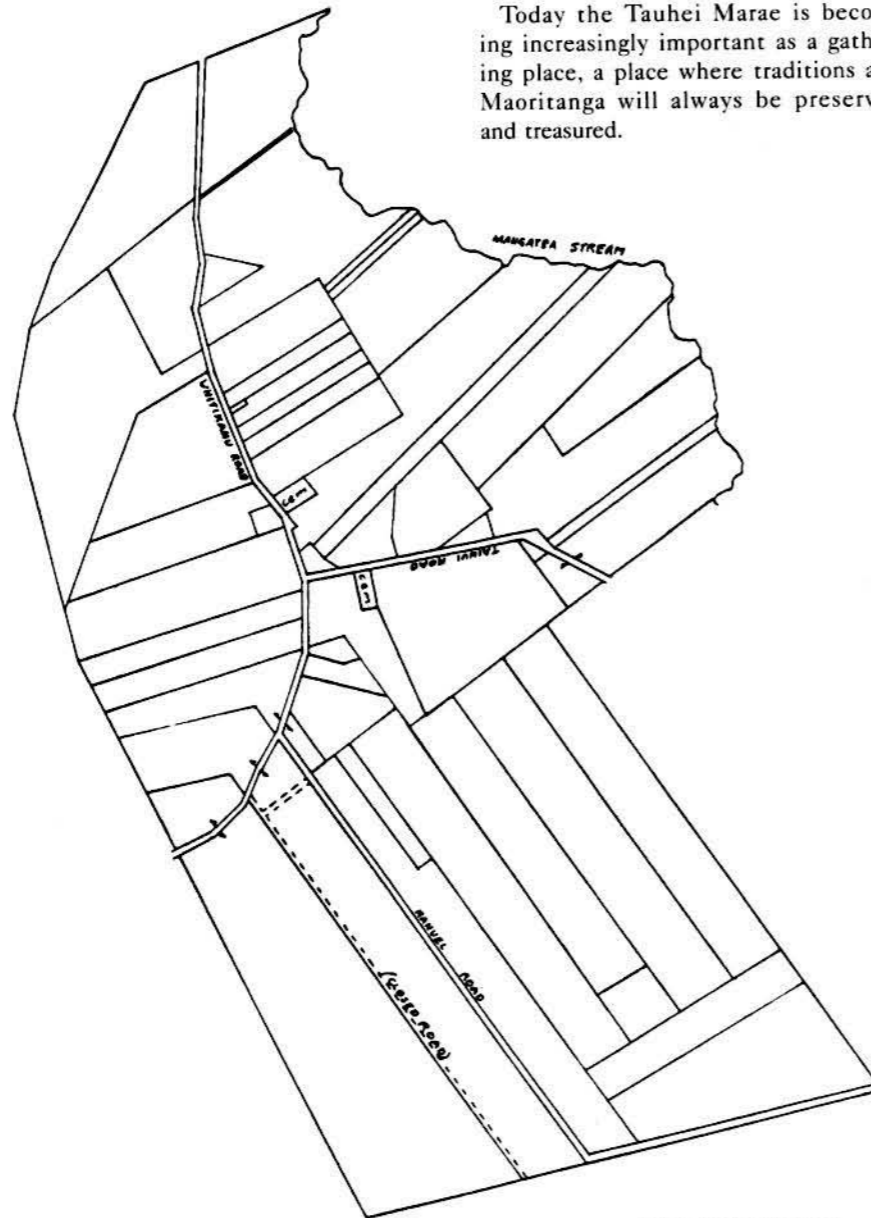
In 1950 Mr Kakenga Tomonui donated two acres of land for the establishment of a local Marae. The elders of that time wanted to build a hall for their people. Princess Te Puea gave her approval for the building and conducted the consecration ceremony. Finance was approved by the Tainui Trust Board. The building was built by the local people themselves. Princess Te Puea was to have opened the building but due to illness could not attend and in her place sent her band, the T.P.M. The opening ceremony was conducted by her nephew, Mr Nelson Herangi, who was a playing member of the band. The building was named Huimai, a meeting place for all the tribes from whence the four winds blow. In 1975 a dining hall was purchased from Seton Construction in Turangi and joined to the existing hall. Today we have a unique complex, probably one of the most modern catering facilities for any Marae in the Waikato. A new ablution block has almost been completed.

In 1969 the Wairere Sports Club was formed, which is a subsidiary of the Tauhei Marae.

At the present time a major beautification project has been commenced, the first stage being the erec-

tion of a ponga fence surrounding the complex. The Marae is to be extensively planted in native trees and shrubs and to get these plants established a nursery has been built and the people are most fortunate that most of the ponga and - native plants are available locally.

Today the Tauhei Marae is becoming increasingly important as a gathering place, a place where traditions and Maoritanga will always be preserved and treasured.



TAUHEI BLOCK (circa 1910)

#### PLACE NAMES

The question is often asked, "What is the meaning or translation of the name Tauhei?" Tauhei was named long before the arrival of the European and no matter how much research has been undertaken the true meaning has been lost with the passing of time. The Maori language is very complex and Tauhei is one of those strange words that cannot be translated freely.

According to the 'Dictionary of the Maori Language' by H. W. Williams TAUHEI means "The ceremony of joining the component parts of a net". HANGAWERA also falls into the same category as Tauhei (i.e. Not freely translated) and is not found in the 'Dictionary of the Maori Language'. Loosely translated it could mean "hot people, to make hot or hot work". PUKEMOKEMOKE means "solitar or lonel hill".

## LIFE IN TAUHEI DISTRICT

TAUHEI has always been well catered for in its spiritual, civic and cultural organisations and in researching information for this book we have discovered mention of many organisations that have served Tauhei in the past. For the orators there was a debating society and the singers had a choir under the baton of Mr L. H. McAlpine.

1913 Tauhei Advancement Committee, quoted as "These are the sort of men for a growing district and if they work together, the talked of hall, school and telephone services will not be long in coming..."

1910-21 Amusement Committee, "to organise dances, picnic, gala days..."

1922 Tauhei Farmers Union.

1923 Ratepayers Association, "to improve the roads..."

1926 Tauhei Public Library. The library which was in the hall opened every Tuesday night from 7.30 to 8.30 pm and at every public function. Two hundred books were donated from various sources and with the aid of a Government subsidy of seven pounds five shillings the number of books on opening day totalled three hundred. The subscription was 10/- per year and members were entitled to take out two books at a time for a period of one month and any overdue books were levied a fine of one penny per day. Members of the committee took turns at being librarian and the roster for June 1927 read: Messrs Cheeseman, Brunt, Valentine, Haycock and Noble.

1937 Pioneer Birthday Parties. These were annual functions held in the hall in the form of a dinner and dance or concert to honour settlers who had resided in Tauhei 21 years or more. Fifteen early settlers attended the first party and that started a popular celebration which was held annually until 1943.

1939 Red Cross. Under the leadership of Mrs Coker a team of Tauhei ladies spent many hours knitting balaclavas, mittens, gloves, socks and other small comforts for dispatch overseas mainly to prisoners of war.

1941 Tauhei Patriotic Committee. A committee responsible for raising funds during World War II for the Patriotic Central Fund. The local school children were encouraged to grow home gardens and sell vegetables as a fund raising activity for the Patriotic Committee.

1942 E.P.S. Committee. Little is known about the Emergency Precautions Services Committee but it is believed to have been a forerunner of what is now called Civil Defence. Mr W. Taverner and Mr E. Tyler Jr. are the only names that can be found that served on this committee.

#### EARLY SOCIAL LIFE

Prior to the school being built in 1914 the centre point of district activities was the woolshed which was situated near the present woolshed on Mr J. H. Gibson's property. No information can be found as to who built the shed or what area of farm land it served but it was evidently a large shed with stables nearby. Mr George Jack who owned the property in 1924 together with his sons Fred and Gordon dismantled the woolshed and, using the timber, rebuilt a house on that part of his farm now owned by Mr R. D. Moore, Manuels Road.

Not only did the woolshed serve as a school, church and a public meeting place; it is evident from early *Morrinsville Star* reports that many dances and balls were held and one event reported in July 1913 reads:

#### TAUHEI BACHELORS' BALL

Some time back the bachelors of Tauhei decided to hold a Ball, which fixture duly eventuated on Tuesday evening last, when McLennan's woolshed was the scene of festivities. About 25 couples were present, including a number of visitors, and, despite limited room, everyone made the most of the occasion and had a good time. The

committee, with Mr Keyes as secretary, had everything in order, their efforts in connection with the preparing of the floor being specially commendable. Mr Smith played first-rate music for the dances, and extras were contributed by Messrs Hunter and Reay. Mr N. G. Brown filled the position as M.C. giving general satisfaction. A good and plentiful supper was provided, the ladies coming to the assistance of the bachelors in attending to this important item. Songs were given during the evening by Messrs Pilkington and Leyes and were subject to encores. There is a rumour that the Tauhei ladies intend holding a dance later on. It is sure to be a success if it eventuates.

Another popular venue for dances and meetings was the 'Quarry Bunkhouse' situated just inside the main entrance to the Tauhei quarry.



H. Greentree as Father Christmas en route to school picnic in C. Pryor's car. Boy in front is D. Smith.

One of the highlights of the year was the Tauhei School and District Annual Picnic held on Boxing Day with every child who attended the school receiving a book. These picnics were held in the bush on the farm now owned by Mr J. T. Pene just behind the site of his cowshed. Records in 1917 show that picnics had been held previously and continued there until about 1923, then moved to Mr Pilkington's property (now Mr R. O. Self's), the site being adjacent to Tainui Road where the golf club was situated. A horse gymkhana was also held there in 1949.

About 1930, school picnics were held on Mr W. Best's farm, described as a lovely spot under totara trees near Mr Selwyn Hopa's boundary. Money and books for prizes, soft drinks and fruit were luxuries that were always appreciated.

For several years in the 1940s District Picnic and Sports were held on Mr F. Jack's farm now owned by Mr P. Prouting.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### 1914 GREAT WAR 1918

#### *Killed in Action*

PTE. G. F. Harding  
PTE. A. J. Law  
PTE. H. Lennox

PTE. A. Noble  
PTE. E. Reay  
PTE. W. Lang

PTE. A. W. Law  
PTE. J. Mckinnon  
PTE. H. Paul

#### *Served their Country*

SGT. R. Lennox  
SGT. S. Jones  
L.CPL. N. C. Brown M.M.  
PTE. H. Burkitt  
PTE. D. Farrant  
PTE. R. Farrant

PTE. E. Kirkland  
PTE. A. Lang  
PTE. J. O. Law  
PTE. W. J. Law  
PTE. A. Mckinnon  
PTE. A. McMillan

PTE. R. W. Noble  
PTE. A. Pilcher  
PTE. J. Shepherd  
PTE. C. F. Walker

### 1939 WORLD WAR 1945

#### *Killed in Action*

W.O. H. K. Williams  
SGT. L.J.D. Brown

F.O. A. Greentree

L.A. T. Osborne

#### *Served their Country*

Sister K. E. Noble  
P.O.TEL. R. Greentree  
L.TEL. N. Greentree  
SGT. B. Rota  
CPL. G. H. M. Green  
CPL. D. R. F. Campbell  
L.CPL. S. Greentree

L.CPL. H. Heke  
L.CPL. E. C. Allison  
DVR. E. J. Leeson  
DVR. L. Walker  
GNR. A. Q. Hebditch  
GNR. S. Rogers  
STKR. G. Harris

PTE. C. P. Morgan  
PTE. G. M. Morgan  
PTE. G. N. Hastings  
PTE. I. Younger  
PTE. A. Anderson  
PTE. N. Manuel

## THE MEMORIAL HALL

It must not be supposed that the opening of the Memorial Hall signalled the beginning of social life in Tauhei. For many years prior to this notable event there had been several committees which organised all manner of events, such as picnics in the bush, gala days and dances in a woolshed or any other building where dancing could be held.

On July 9, 1921 a General Meeting of residents was held with the purpose of forming an incorporated society and to proceed with the raising of funds for the erection of a public hall and at a further meeting a month later it was decided to raise a loan of three hundred pounds from the Bank of Australasia by means of a joint and Several Guarantee. At this stage the Amusement Committee disbanded and handed over the sum of fifty-one pounds five shillings and fourpence towards the building fund.

Under the guidance of the first committee of the Hall Society - President J. Brown, Vice President H. Valentine, Secretary J. Noble and Messrs I. Harris, A. Watson, J. Findlay and A. Gee - work was started, and a substantial building 60 feet by 28 feet built of corrugated iron and timber stood as a striking testimony to their efforts. The hall had two dressing rooms at the front and at the back there was a stage and accommodation for preparing supper with the floor space in the centre being 40 feet by 28 feet. Built at a cost of three hundred and seventy pounds and leaving a bank overdraft of one hundred and ninety pounds, it was finished and used for the first time in March 1922. An unusual circumstance must here be recorded - that the Hall Society built the hall on land that it did not own! As far back as 1916 settlers of the district - Messrs L. H. McAlpine, R. Darke and W. F. Seifert - bought from the Tauhei Land Co for five pounds the 1 1/2 acres on which the hall was built and it was not until 1924 that the Title was acquired by the Hall Society for the sum of ten shillings.

The official opening was held on Anzac Day, April 25, 1922. The hall was well filled by residents of the district and after a moving service, conducted by Pastor Chant, the Roll of Honour was unveiled and the hall declared open by Lieutenant-Colonel S. S. Allen, D.S.O., C.M.G.

In 1927 the hall became debt free owing to the efforts of residents with bazaars, sales of work and dances. This

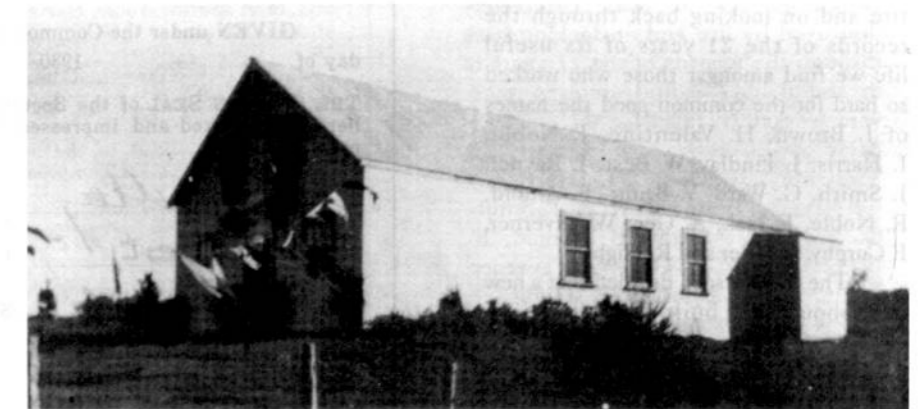
# OFFICIAL OPENING of Tauhei Memorial Hall and Unveiling of Roll of Honor



**ANZAC DAY**

**APRIL 25th, 1922**

Morrinsville Star Print 3423



*Tauhei Memorial Hall, Anzac Day, April 25, 1922.*

happy financial state did not last long for in April 1929 a curt letter was received from the bank manager asking that the overdraft of nine pounds four shillings and ninepence be put into credit by April 15.

At a General Meeting in March 1930 it was decided to carry out some improvement to the hall including the "installation of a septic tank with a 'silent' flush toilet" at a total cost of approximately one hundred pounds. Raising this sum of money from the bank was not possible, so it was decided to issue fifty debentures of three pounds at 5 1/2 per cent interest, with six debentures to be repaid annually. At the close of the meeting twentythree debentures had been taken. By the following year the financial situation had worsened and the committee wrote to the debenture holders asking that repayment be written-off owing to the economic depression. Of the fortythree debentures issued only ten of the holders plus the committee members agreed to forego repayment.

In 1934 enough money had been saved to buy a new piano, costing thirty five pounds, the old piano being donated to the Whitikahu Hall. In 1935 it was announced that the last of the debentures had been paid off and that the hall was once more free of debt. Those who handed back their debentures without payment were publicly thanked by the hall chairman.

In 1939, nine years after they were first mentioned in minutes, flush toilets and a sanitary system were installed, thus sending the committee into a bank overdraft again, though this was paid off three years later. In 1940 the Young Farmers Club planted native trees at the rear of the hall as a gesture towards New Zealand's Centennial celebrations.

The year 1943 saw the end of the saga of the Tauhei Hall, for on December 27 it was completely destroyed by fire and on looking back through the records of the 21 years of its useful life we find amongst those who worked so hard for the common good the names of J. Brown, H. Valentine, J. Noble, I. Harris, J. Findlay, W. Best, J. Raynel, J. Smith, C. Ward, V. Brunt, B. Arnold, R. Noble, F. Jack, A. Gee, W. Taverner, F. Curphy, E. Tyler and R. Hight.

The district soon decided that a new hall should be built and donations came in freely to add to the five hundred pounds fire insurance paid out by Lloyds. Mr H. Herbert offered his services as a builder and his estimated

Order of Ceremony.	
<p>Official Opening of Hall by Lieut.-Colonel R. S. Allen</p> <p>"God Save the King" Our Verse</p> <p>Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"</p> <p>Address, Piv. Hall Society James Brown, Esq.</p> <p>Sole Mr. M. Ross</p> <p>Invitation E. C. Pilkington, Esq.</p> <p>Address E. C. Pilkington, Esq.</p> <p>Hymn "Lead, Kindly Light"</p> <p>Leaving of Roll of Honour Lieut.-Colonel R. S. Allen</p> <p>Address Lieut.-Colonel R. S. Allen</p> <p>Sole Mr. Frank Curphy</p> <p>Hymn "Kipling's 'Reverence'"</p>	<p>"O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"</p> <p>Tune "St. Ann."</p> <p>O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast And our eternal home.</p> <p>I under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwell'd secure, Sufficient is Thy arm above And our defence is sure.</p> <p>Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.</p> <p>A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gown, Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.</p> <p>Time, like an ever-falling stream, Runs all the way away, They fly forgotten, as a dream, Thou art at the opening day.</p> <p>O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.</p> <p>"LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT."</p> <p>Lead, kindly light, amid the winter's snow, I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou should'st lead me on; Lead, kindly light, amid the winter's snow, I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou should'st lead me on; Lead, kindly light, amid the winter's snow, I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou should'st lead me on;</p> <p>No long thy power hath blessed me, more it still Will lead me on O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and tarn, till The night is gone, And with the morn'ning sun Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.</p>

ABOVE: Some well-known people took part in the service held on Anzac Day, 1922. They included Lieut.-Colonel S. S. Allen, James Brown, Esq., Miss M. Ross, E. C. Pilkington, Esq., and Mr Frank Curphy.

BELOW: One of the debentures made out in the name of A. E. Gee.

**The Tauhei Hall Incorporated.**  
(Incorporated under "The Incorporated Societies Act 1908.")

**ISSUE OF DEBENTURES FOR £156.**  
Bearing Compound Interest at £5 10s per centum per annum.

No 29 **DEBENTURE £3.**

THE TAUHEI HALL INCORPORATED (hereinafter called "the Society") will on the 31st day of May 1935 or on such earlier day as the principal moneys hereby secured become payable in accordance with the conditions hereinafter referred to pay to

*A. E. Gee* of *Tauhei*

or other the registered holder for the time being hereof the sum of **THREE POUNDS (£3)** together with compound interest thereon at the rate of £5 10s per centum per annum capitalised annually on the 31st day of May in each year such payment to be made free of exchange at the registered office of the Society Tauhei or at the Bank of New Zealand Morrinsville.


THIS Debenture is issued subject to and with the benefit of the Conditions (which are to be deemed part of it) contained in a Trust Deed of even date herewith made between the Society of the one part and John Munro Noble, Herbert John Valentine and Constantine Ward of the other part.

GIVEN under the Common Seal of the Society this day of 1930.

THE COMMON SEAL of the Society was hereto set affixed and impressed in the presence of

*J. Findlay* } Members  
*W. H. Best* }

*J. L. Raynel* Secretary



costs of materials was one thousand three hundred and seventy pounds. He was asked to proceed with the work assisted by Messrs F. Jack and A. Gee as overseers and residents' voluntary labour. Work on the building proceeded steadily and some 18 months later was completed and ready for use. After a service of dedication by the Rev A. Armstrong, Sir Stephen Allen D. S. O., C. M. G. once again performed the opening ceremony and unveiled the Roll of Honour. Cost of the new hall was approximately two thousand pounds leaving the committee with four hundred pounds bank overdraft.

The decade of the 1950s saw the new hall in constant use. Those were the years when dancing was popular and it seemed to be no trouble to run several dances every year with each being a huge success. Gala days to raise money for hall funds were held about every two years.

The committee leased a small section to Mr K. Rowling for the erection of the district's first general store and in 1953 a portion of the hall land was taken by the Public Works Department for use by the Education Board in preparing an enlarged playing field. It is also noted that for the past 30 years wordy warfare had been conducted with the Australian Performing Right Association over payment to them of an annual fee.

In an endeavour to form a scheme to give the hall an assured annual income, spread fairly over the district, it was found that other counties 'raised funds by special rates for country halls, so in 1961 the committee approached the Piako County Council and discussed the possibility of rating for halls in this county. This started several years of frustration and delay - the idea was new to the Piako County Council and to the residents of Tauhei and at times it seemed impossible to reconcile all the differences of opinion.

It was not until early 1967 that the hall was vested in the County and the committee received an annual income of \$550 from rating areas defined by the Waikato and Piako councils.

During those years the conditions of the hall deteriorated badly and in 1965 the committee decided to use six hundred pounds in its bank account to repaint and generally uplift the standard of the hall's amenities. Within 12 months painting was completed inside and out, new power points were installed and, for the first time ever, heating could be turned on through blow-type heaters. The upper room was glassed

in and carpeted, a new sink bench appeared in the supper room, linoleum laid and the men's toilet was upgraded. All this work left the hall in top class condition, but six hundred pounds credit at the bank changed to six hundred pounds debit to the county. 1968 saw the parking area sealed and a chainfence erected and two years later the church site was vested in the county under the care of the hall committee.

In 1974 plans were drawn up for enlargements to the hall at an estimated cost of \$20,000. This scheme was submitted to a special meeting of ratepayers and was turned down, the voting being 13 for and 40 against. In March 1976 it was decided to build an extended supper room costing \$2000 using voluntary labour.

The parking area was extended in 1981 and in the same year a dinner was held to celebrate the hall's Diamond

Jubilee.

A search through the records of the Hall Society since 1943 shows the names of many who have served on the committee from time to time. Space does not permit the publication of what would be a long list but the thanks of the district should go to those who have given time and effort to assure the smooth running of hall affairs through the years.

The building itself, though, is feeling the strain of 38 years of use and abuse.

The weight of the heavy roof is forcing the side walls to bulge and the committee is of one definite opinion "that something must be done". But what? Will those attending the jubilee see a new hall or the present building strengthened and face-lifted or will the old building still be there in its present shape, blessed with the hope that it will serve the district as it is for just a while longer?

**Official Opening**  
of  
**Tauhei Memorial Hall.**



Unveiling of Roll of Honour.

**Sunday, December 16th, 1945,**  
1.30 p.m.

This shall not grow old as we who were left grow old  
As the years drop down like leaves from the trees  
As the young drop out of the way  
We will remember them

Printed and Published by the Tauhei Hall Society, Morrinsville, N.Z.

RIGHT: Cover of the programme to mark the ceremony at the hall in 1945.

BELOW: The hall as it is today.



## CHURCH SERVICES

Church services in Tauhei were first held in 1908 once a month in Mr Trapski's house where Peter Schnuriger now lives and when the Trapskis left the district they were held in Mr Noble's house. A minister from one of the Morrinsville churches came out, sometimes on a bicycle, to take the service. Later still, services were held in Mr Maxwell's woolshed and when the school was built it was used until the hall was built, when three services a month were held. Miss May Law from Whitikahu used to ride on horseback to play the organ for the services for many years.

In 1914, one of New Zealand's early ordained Maori clergymen, Mr Hori Raiti, conducted services in the homes of local Maori residents. These services were later conducted by Canon Wi Huata until the Huimai Hall was built in 1953 and regular services were conducted there for several years.

These services were vital to the spiritual life of the district and Tauhei was the poorer when they were discontinued.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the early years of the district a Sunday class for children was held in Mr Hill's house and when the school was built in 1913 for a time there. Later in 1921 an inter-denominational Sunday School was started using the school and then the hall. John Noble was superintendent until 1930. The roll number varied - reaching to 150 - and the children entered, with success, in annual Scripture examinations conducted by the Auckland Sunday

School Union. In succeeding years Joe Saville, Wilf GoRedge and Ken Wooderson each sought to instruct the young life in Tauhei on the Bible. Our gratitude is extended to all who assisted and took part. Today after school, on Tuesdays, Vero Farmillo and other willing helpers are carrying on and parents are grateful for their efforts.

Miss Mautter from Huntly, representing the Maori Diocese, taught Sunday School for many years. After the opening of the Huimai Hall, Mr and Mrs C. Harrison gave many years of service as Sunday School teachers to the local community.

## TAUHEI CHURCH SITE

In 1949 Messrs F. J. and W. E. Brunskill very generously donated a half acre of their property adjacent to the Tauhei Hall property, to be used for the erection of an Inter-denominational Church. A meeting of residents in February 1949 appointed a Board of Trustees: Messrs K. Wooderson, W. Gofledge, J. Noble, H. Gibson, J. Saville and A. Goldsack. It was hoped that one day Tauhei would have its own church with perhaps a "Sky Pilot" officiating. As the years went by and with Church Union mooted, it was found that church-minded residents preferred to attend their respective churches in Morrinsville and that the erection of a church in the district was not favoured. Accordingly, in 1972, the Trustees decided - with the donors Brunskill Bros agreement - that the half acre property be put to other use by the district. In July 1972 at a meeting of residents the property was formally transferred to Piako County for use as additional tennis courts.

## WOMEN'S DIVISION

In 1935 Mrs J. McRae convened a meeting of Tauhei ladies to discuss the formation of a branch of either Country Women's Institute or Women's Division of Farmers Union. Although some supported the C.W.I. most were in favour of the Women's Division of Farmers Union and it was decided to form a branch.

At the inaugural meeting in the Tauhei Hall Miss Marshall, organiser for W. D. F. U. and Mrs Ryburn, President of South Auckland Provincial addressed the gathering on the aims and objects of W.D.F.U. Mrs McRae was elected first President and Mrs N. Brown, Secretary. Amongst the foundation members was Mrs D. E. Freegard who was made a Life Member in 1972 and is the only foundation member still attending branch meetings. She missed only two meetings in the first twenty-one years. In 1944 the Tauhei branch was proud to be responsible for the formation of another branch at Netherby. The first year's subscriptions amounted to two pounds nine shillings and sixpence in total, compared with the sum of \$297.00 in 1983, all of which is paid to headquarters.

During the war years members did outstanding work in sending parcels of food and comforts to local boys serving overseas and during the food shortage after the war, parcels were sent to civilians in Britain. In 1940 Tauhei Branch did its part in raising money for the Dominion appeal to give a Spitfire to Britain. This plane was named W.D.N.Z.F.U., and had a long and interesting career.

After the disastrous fire in 1943 meetings were held in members' homes and this continued for nearly two years until the first meeting in the new hall in February 1946.

One of the main objectives of W.D.F.F. is the Housekeeping Emergency Scheme. Housekeepers employed by Women's Division are available to take charge of households when the family is unable to cope owing to sickness in the home. Applicants are expected to pay full wages but those unable to do so receive a subsidy from the central fund at Dominion Headquarters. Non-members also may apply for help under this scheme.

The Women's Division has at all times combined with other local committees in projects for the betterment of Tauhei. It has helped the Hall Society run gala days and baby shows, arranged Christmas parties complete with Santa Claus for local children, cooked for innumerable dances to raise funds and donated money towards the building of the school swimming pool.

Over the years the branch has supported the Sunshine League of the Waikato Hospital, CORSO, The Nest, Mission to Lepers, Cancer Society, leptospirosis and cot death appeals, sale of health stamps and members have given of their time for annual collections for Braille, Crippled Children and I.H.C. 'Birthright' children were given a country holiday in Tauhei homes and more recently contributions of homemade biscuits have been made for the Morrinsville Red Cross which have been greatly appreciated by the elderly folk. As well the branch had paid dues and levies in full to Dominion Headquarters. There is a constant call for financial help and over recent years the main source of income for our charitable purposes has been the catering for N.Z. Co-op Dairy Co. Ltd. meetings.

Looking back over all the activities in which members of the branch have joined through the years it is very evident that they have learned much from talks and demonstrations, have given of their best efforts on competition days and have had fun in producing mimes, plays and musical shows. Talks and demonstrations have covered a multitude of subjects and one, on mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, is to be remembered, for shortly afterwards a mother used this method on her baby until medical help arrived, thus probably saving the life of the child.

Members' entries for Piako Provincial Social competitions have been of a

very high standard. Display tables have gained the honour of winning first placing on three occasions and floral work is always highly commended, usually gaining full marks and having the honour once to win a cup. Mention must be made of the very fine hand-work done from time to time, particularly in the first branch banner made in the early days and more recently in a new banner presented by a member. Garden parties have been held in our own district as well as those run by Provincial. Our birthdays have proved friendly gatherings for members and visitors alike and year after year the celebration cake was made by Mrs I. B. Harris and iced by Mrs S. Gubb.

Mimes and plays presented by the branch were always well received, the musical "Yellow Ribbon" gaining a cup. For the 40th birthday guests were entertained by an excellent programme of music and song.

## FEDERATED FARMERS

The Tauhei Branch, formed in 1945, has always been active in the welfare of the local farming community ensuring the improvement of local services such as school bus runs, roading and drainage. Each year Drainage Board and County Riding members have attended branch meetings to report and discuss future improvements.

Tauhei Branch was instrumental in forming the Farm Labour Scheme in 1952 and gave help in starting the Farm Agriculture course at Morrinsville College in 1955, also the Waikato Farm Cadet Scheme formed in 1962. There are now 10 farm cadets being employed in the Tauhei area. Tauhei Branch helped with the donation and collection of hay bales for farmers hit by flooding at Paeroa during the late 1970s.

Tauhei Federated Farmers have always played an active role in Morrinsville Sub-Province affairs and members who have served on Provincial Executive are E. H. Gibson, 1952-53; C. D. Williams, 1964-66; D. Barrowclough, 1972-76.

Tauhei Branch awards presented for service have been made to E. H. Gibson, 1969; A. Palmer, 1969 and C. D. Williams, 1977.

## YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Tauhei Young Farmers Club was first formed in June 1939. After a recess during the war years the club was reformed in 1954 with 22 members.

Y.F.C. has served a great educational, social and recreational need for the youth of Tauhei and surrounding area for a number of years with the Gee, Harris, Gibson and Freegard families being some of those which have had two generations as members.



*The Noble homestead, 1925.*



*Tauhei Y. F. C. 1937*

*Back Row: T. Rowling, G. Smith, G. Gee, A. Armstrong, B. Findlay, I. Harris.  
Front Row: K. Rowling, K. Williams, C. Osborne, T. Osborne, G. Harris.*

During 1963 the club divided and the Hoe-O-Tainui Y.F.C. was formed leaving Tauhei with 10 members. At the National Annual General Meeting of Y. F. C. in Nelson in 1973 a dramatic change took place with the amalgamation of the Young Farmers Club and the Country Girls Club to make one strong organisation. The amalgamation has been of tremendous value to the organisation, especially Tauhei, helping it to achieve a mixed membership peaking at 70 in 1981. This has also brought about several marriages of club members.

Y.F.C. these days caters for members of various occupations, in fact many members work in off-farm jobs. The club during these years has been lucky to have had careful direction and advice from active advisory members. It is noted that in 1977 Mr Colin Freegard was made a presentation for 20 years' service as an advisory member.

The club has given help to many organisations during its years, including firewood for Morrinsville pensioners, shelter shed for Tauhei school, fencing and railing for the new Whitikahu fire station and various activities for Telethon.

To finance its running, the club has participated in many fundraising activities. These have included growing potatoes and pumpkins, cutting firewood, rearing steers and picking up hay.

During the late 1950s a series of talent quests was held, with a grand final in the Strand Theatre, Morrinsville. The money raised was used for a farming educational fund by which means many members have been able to further their farming education by attending Massey College short courses or Technical Institutes.

Members have had success in public speaking, debating, tractor driving competitions, stock judging and rifle shooting.

Laurie Blue was successful in winning an exchange trip to Tasmania in 1962 and Bruce Freegard won the Mathieson Trophy which is an award presented to young farmers for Rural Farm Safety.

The club has had numerous educational and social trips: 1957, five days North Auckland with Mr H. Woodyear-Smith; 1958, five days Poverty Bay-Hawkes Bay with Department of Agriculture; 1970s, trips of four days to Pakatoa, Kawau and Waiheke Islands as well as a 10-day tour of the South Island.

#### TAUHEI DRAINAGE BOARD

As mentioned earlier, much of the Tauhei land lying to the south side of the main road was wet swamp extending in the Piako County to Motumaoho and in Waikato County to the Woodlands swamp and Orini. The main waterway was the Tauhei Stream which rose in the hills at Tauhei and Mangateparu and meandered through vast areas of swamp land, to empty into the Mangawara River beyond Orini in the west. The south-east part of the upper Tauhei swamp drained into the Maungahaumai Stream, flowing east into the Piako River. Some of the land was clay swamp with high rushes and heavy matai and kahikatea timber, indicating that at one time big trees must have grown until the land became too wet for them to survive. The Woodlands swamp was mainly deep peat and very wet. In order to de-water some of this vast swamp the Tauhei Drainage Board was formed in 1910 with James Brown (chairman) and Messrs James Clulow, John Lesson, Archibald Noble and John McLeay the first members. The secretary to the board was Charlie Cheyne. The new board's jurisdiction over the Tauhei stream extended from the foot-hills at Tauhei to one mile down-stream of the Tauhei quarry. The board started work by sinking a drain two feet wide. In the course of nine years, four thousand five hundred pounds was spent. The drains were extended for eight miles and some of them had bottoms 20 feet wide. Quite effective drainage of the land was carried out enabling big areas to be grassed and stocked and to produce. But with the felling of the trees and extensive grassing of the hills, the run-off during heavy rain was greatly accelerated and the drainage system on the flat country was unable to cope with consequent flooding.

#### Taupiri Drainage and River Board

In 1928 the members of the board approached the Government for assistance to up-grade the whole drainage system. Government's answer was that no assistance would be forthcoming unless the comprehensive drainage of the whole Mangawara Watershed was undertaken. This would take care of the stretch of no-man's land between Tauhei quarry and the junction of Tauhei Stream with the Mangawara at Orini and vastly improve the run-off from Tauhei land. A merger of seven drainage

boards and the Mangawara River Board was effected and the Taupiri Drainage and River Board was formed in 1932. It was formed under a Special Act of Parliament with three main provisions:

- (1) The whole Mangawara River Watershed of 23.4 square miles, comprising 146 square miles of flat land and 88 square miles of hill country was brought under one rating authority.
- (2) The board had power to rate on a classified acreage basis with seven classes (A to G) and power to rate to the sky-line.
- (3) Eight Wards were constituted - each a separate sub-catchment with one representative.

The Tauhei Ward was the largest ward and the last chairman of the Tauhei Drainage Board, John Noble, was elected the first member of Tauhei Ward on the Taupiri Board - a position he held until the end of 1968. Mr Noble later became chairman of the Taupiri Drainage and River Board and served as a member of the Waikato Valley Authority for 12 years.

With large Government assistance the new Taupiri Drainage and River Board carried out big improvements, clearing and widening existing waterways and constructing several new drains. The main new drain, as far as Tauhei was concerned, was the eight miles of the Eastern Outlet from the Tauhei Stream to Piako Road. This outlet was constructed by hand, during the Depression, under Number 13 Scheme with men using shovels and wheelbarrows to bring out the wet peat, a heart breaking job! In 1934, to provide living quarters for the men employed on the No. 13 Scheme, the then Government Public Works Department set up several camps throughout Tauhei, known as P.W.D. Relief Camps. Although the No. 13 Scheme was the main source of employment several other board drains were enlarged or straightened. There were camps spread throughout Tauhei on farms owned at present by R. Stark, Dibble Bros, J. Singh, G. Hopa and K. Bates.

In the early 1960s flooding in the Tauhei Ward was causing problems, so Andrew Murray and Partners were commissioned to carry out surveys upstream of the quarry bridge on both the Tauhei Stream and its tributary, the South Mangatea Stream, investigating the possibility of channel enlargement and stopbanking of the Tauhei Stream and detention dams for the South Mangatea Stream.

At that point it was becoming apparent that ratepayers were not favourably disposed towards stopbanking schemes because of the ponding likely to occur when flood gates at drain outfalls closed and that, in any case, occasional flooding was tolerable because no dwellings or farm buildings were situated on the flood prone areas. Furthermore there was a growing awareness that major enlargement of the main channel could accentuate difficulties being experienced on the shallow peat soil due to low groundwater level adjoining the channel causing serious over-drying of the soil.

The board then decided to investigate the possibility of using flood detention dams and various sites were studied.

The catchment area of the Tauhei Stream at the Quarry bridge comprises nearly 15,000 acres consisting of about 4000 acres of steep impervious clay hill country rising to 1000 feet, 4500 acres of Woodlands swamp deep peat and the remaining 6500 acres of rolling clay hills and shallow peat.

It is from the steep clay hills that the sudden flash floods originate and this is the country where flood run-off can be diminished by detention dams.

#### Detention Dams

Detention dams were constructed at suitable sites in tributary valleys of the Tauhei and Mangatea Streams (figures denote year built and area of catchment): (1) Jordons Dam, 1973-74, 565 acres; (2) Cawleys Dam, 1974-75, 290 acres; (3) Trubshaws Dam, 1974-75, 255 acres; (4) Maori Affairs No. 1, 1975-76, 780 acres.

Each flood detention dam consists of an earth fill embankment across the valley with a culvert under it to pass the normal flow of the stream which drains the valley. The size of this culvert is chosen so that it will be much too small to take flood flows and consequently the flood water has to accumulate in the storage area behind the dam. Once the dam storage is full any excess run-off passes over a grassed spillway and back into the natural channel.

#### Water Level Control

In the mid 1970s the board was becoming increasingly aware of a problem being experienced by some farmers in regard to the drying out of some soil types adjacent to major drainage channels. Kaipaki peat occurs on both sides of the Tauhei Stream and this soil type is particularly vulnerable to drought conditions if the groundwater level falls. The board decided to begin experimental trials using control structures to artificially raise the water level in drains in this soil type and monitor the resulting effects on the surrounding pasture. The results achieved from this study are currently being used to assess areas which will receive benefit from this type of water level control method.

The Tauhei Ward of the Taupiri Drainage and River Board has always been well represented, with Mr J. M. Noble giving 36 years' service, Mr I. W. S. Harris, elected in 1968, serving for 12 years followed by Mr R. O. Farnillo in 1980.



50th JUBILEE - 3rd DECADE 1929-1938

BACK ROW: D. Brightwell, M. Radford, K. Rowling, K. Campbell, Bill Brunt, G. McQueen, Bob Brunt, P. Curphy.

SECOND ROW: M. Radford, E. Radford, C. Drabble, G. Ansonbe, N. Inglis, I. Inglis, G. Freegard, C. Williams, M. Gee.

FRONT ROW: L. Scott, T. Frost, A. Crosby, M. Berg, S. Frost, N. Wilson, N. Griffiths, A. Gee, A. Greentree, T. Harris, N. Gee.



## HOME GUARD

The Tauhei Company of the Home Guard was formed early in 1940 in a burst of patriotic fervour. Evening meetings in the Tauhei Hall saw enthusiastic Guardsmen-to-be doing their best to master the art of standing to attention, marching in approved style and coming to halt smartly. The Regular Army Sergeant-Major in Morrinsville offered to give extra training to willing volunteers in the Drill Hall in Lome Street and those who attended were rewarded by promotion to the rank of Corporal or Sergeant.

The Company was under the command of Captain H. D. Williams, M.C., an officer of the Royal Air Force in World War I, at that time a resident and landowner in the district. It was on his property 'Parahiwi' that the Guardsmen spent much of their time at a later date.

Lieutenant F. Jack was second in command and I. B. Harris, Adjutant. Amongst the 'Other Ranks' were Messrs G. Jack, R. Dibble, R. Hight, 'Bunty' Alexander, R. Harding, H. Gibson, P. Jones, A. Palmer, J. Meikle, G. Smith, F. Curphy, K. Campbell, G. Osborne, I. W. Harris, G. Gee, M. Gee, J. Smith, C. Smith, T. Hopa.

All the early months were spent in drilling on the school playground and digging trenches on the plot of land lying between the Hall and the Schoolhouse. These trenches, the result of months of work with pick and shovel, were constructed with the idea that they would be a safe shelter for wounded of all ranks in case of fighting or fer casualties from enemy air raids. It so happened that they were condemned by higher authority because it was found impossible to carry a loaded stretcher from the entrance through to the casualty clearing room - it had been overlooked by the planners that stretchers do not bend when turning round corners of trenches. It was just as well that the need to use the trenches for sick and wounded did not arise for they became full of water with winter rains and any occupants would have been well and truly drowned in several feet of water.

In those early months men came on parade in working clothes, for the issue of uniforms was many months away, and as the greater part of their years of service saw the men wielding pick and shovel, rather than rifle and bayonet, working clothes were very much in order.

Probably to give the men a welcome break from digging and drilling it was arranged by the 'Top Brass' that the Tauhei Company should defend the heights of 'Parahiwi' against an attack by the Mangateparu Company. Our men were told off in parties to defend various patches of scrub on the way to what is now the airstrip. After hours had passed, with our men enjoying a peaceful laze in the autumn sunshine, the enemy was observed walking up the roadway and no resistance was offered until they reached our last stronghold where they were greeted with a bombardment of flour bags. No one learned anything of the art of warfare, but like so many other days spent with the Homeguard, the men looked on it as a pleasant social outing.

A further exercise of a similar nature took place during the following summer, when Tauhei Company was ordered to attack and capture Schollum's Hill on the Morrinsville-Hamilton Road, it being defended by the Motumaoho Company. The main body of Tauhei men were taken to a spot on the main road about one mile on the Morrinsville side of the hill and there were told to creep along the large gully running westward and to take by assault the group of trees standing

some 400 yards from the final objective. The capture of this outpost was easily accomplished, the few defenders being taken completely by surprise. Then, at a signal, the Tauhei Reserve Force of officers in motor cars came at speed along the main road and the entire company charged up the hill and, against little resistance, claimed a resounding victory.

Another idea probably to revive flagging morale was to hold a Smoke Concert in the Tauhei Hall. This proposal caused a considerable amount of worry to some members of the Hall Society, for surely the consumption of spiritous liquor in the precincts of the hall was just 'not on'. However, a thorough search of the rules of the Hall Society failed to find any prohibition of liquor consumption and so the Smoke Concert was held.

The entry of Japan into the war against us in December 1941 acted like a tonic to the flagging morale of the Guardsmen and attendance at the parades shot up to a full muster for many weeks. Some of the powers-that-be must have had a shake-up too, for before long the Company was fitted out with uniforms, and as the weeks went by rifles appeared, the final tally being one rifle to every sixth Guardsman. A mortar platoon was formed and eventually equipped with live mortar shells, the power of which was demonstrated to the rest of the footsloggers on special occasions. Driving bayonets into straw-filled sacks was well drilled into the men and they were taught the correct way to hurl a hand grenade (dummy) - it was a great day when we were issued with live grenades and we hurled them from the top of a steep cliff to hear a resounding 'crump' a few seconds later. On fine nights strange twinkling lights might have been observed on the Motumaoho hills - these were part of an exercise, signals being read and replied to by a Signals platoon positioned high in the Tauhei hills.

The main task for the Company was the making of a full scale rifle range in the 'Parahiwi' hills. Previously the only shooting practice the men had was on a range set in a disused quarry not far from the main road, but only small-bore rifles had been used and the new range was to be the 'real thing'. The making of this entailed excavating a deep trench for the butts. The ground was stony, with large rocks appearing at all stages of digging and the work went on for week after week for all the autumn of 1942, digging, blasting,

shovelling, scraping and at times scooping, with a two-horse team. At last the range was finished and the men enjoyed many days of shooting, which seemed a just reward for their many months of hard labour.

## TAUHEI FARM LABOUR SCHEME

The early 1950s saw the advent of Farm Labour Schemes throughout the Waikato. The economics of the farming industry was such that the employment of full time labour was not possible but for emergency or extra labour an employee was desirable for part time. A group of farmers led by Messrs H. R. Hight, C. A. Freegard, J. M. Noble, R. P. Curran and E. H. Gibson got together for the purpose of employing one man on a fortnightly basis. The scheme, which had been operating since March 1952, rented a house from Mr J. Meikle. Application was made for State housing and after years of negotiation, on February 23, 1955 the scheme took over a new State House on a section opposite the store.

Because of different circumstances on farms from year to year, membership of the scheme had many changes. Employees had to be experienced enough to be able to take full control of a farm as well as being a general labourer. This left a very limited field for selection. Both the farmer and the employees were required to be patient and diplomatic. One worker reported after working on so many farms that he had not realised that there were 20 different ways to put a post in the ground.

In 1952 the hourly rate of pay received was four shillings and three pence and by 1962 it had advanced to six shillings. State House rental had been about two pounds seventeen shillings and six pence per week. The years 1962 to 1966 were fraught with labour problems and 1966 saw the scheme being wound up and the house returned to the control of the State Advances Corporation.

## TAUHEI FARM DISCUSSION GROUP

In November 1956 a group of Tauhei farmers, Messrs G. B. McPherson, I. W. Harris, W. A. Cawley, A. Palmer and C. A. Freegard (convenor) formed themselves into the Tauhei Farm Discussion Group for the purpose of sharing up-to-date information and experiences on dairy farming. The Dairy Board Officer for the area was the well known Mr E. P. Neilson and under his

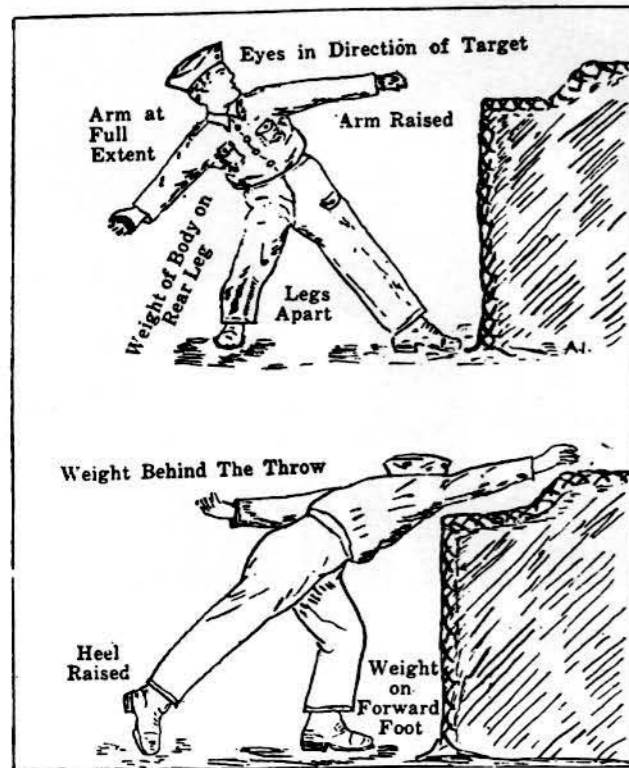
guidance this group and many others throughout the Waikato area began to flourish. The profitability of farming was being undermined by all other sections of the New Zealand population continually taking price and wage rises from an export earning commodity which was competing on world markets that were rising at a slower rate. The advisory services in New Zealand were, therefore, working to a principle of profit per acre rather than profit per animal and Mr Neilson was using discussion groups as a means of getting up-to-the-minute information to a greater number of farmers. The group's enthusiasm was soon being rewarded with increases in production and within three years other farmers were joining in. With these per acre productions, Tauhei farmers were able to stand comparison with neighbouring districts. Even the local bankers and accountants were beginning to take notice and, as time advanced, many of them spent a day or two with this group. Over the years membership grew and at present there are two groups, totalling about 30 farms, making use of the available service. During the 1960s we saw the greatest rise in production. This was also the time when several winter time trips to Taranaki, Manawatu and the Wairarapa were taken with return visits being hosted by similar groups.

During the early years of the group, when numbers were small, the study of individual farmers profit and loss accounts was undertaken. When numbers started to grow a change to a comparison of production was made and with those figures in hand, quite a few members made successful calls on the Rural Bank.

1967 saw the Ahuwhenua Trophy (Bledisloe Cup) being awarded to Mr G. C. Hopa who had been a member for several years. This trophy is awarded annually to the top Maori farmer in New Zealand with entrants being put forward by all branches of New Zealand Farm Advisory services. His per acre production was the highest of any winners at that point in time.

Consulting officers changed a few times. Mr E. P. Neilson helped for eight years, Mrj. B. Murray for about six years, Mr K. R. Bartlett for six years and others for short times. Mr C. A. Freegard remained as convenor for 25 years. During the earlier years some of the more experienced farmers were partnered with the younger, less experienced ones to help and advise them and this extra assistance proved bene-

### THROWING A HAND GRENADE.



**Ready Position:** Pick up a grenade. Hold it in the right hand, base downwards, the lever under the base of the fingers, the thumb just below the filling screw gripping it firmly. Place the first or second finger of the left hand through the ring of the safety pin—the hands with the knuckles uppermost and close to the waist. Face the target, turn to the right and balance the body by carrying off the left foot towards the target.

**Prepare to Throw:** Keeping the left arm still and close to the body, withdraw the pin (during practice go through the action of withdrawing the pin) by thrusting the right hand downwards and backwards. Glance at the shoulders of the grenade to see that the hole pin has been drawn out. Keep the pin until the grenade has been thrown.

**Throw:** Fix the eyes on, or in the direction of the target, keeping the left shoulder pointing at the target. Slightly bend the knees. Swing back as far as possible, allowing the left arm (and foot if necessary) to come up naturally. Without a pause swing quickly forward, keeping the right arm upright and deliver the grenade.

### 27. Defence Against Aeroplanes.

When anti-aircraft guns are not available to give protection against fire and bombing from aeroplanes the only protection left is concealment and in the case of open fields, dispersion, and finally, small arms fire.

**Concealment,** and the effectiveness of it depends on the nature of the locality.

**Dispersion** means the adoption of irregular formations in such small groups that the target if observed from the air, does not appear worth attacking.

RIGHT: Mr and Mrs G. C. Hopa, 1967 winners of the Ahuwhenua Trophy (Bledisloe Cup).



ficial to those concerned.

Whilst total production from the Tauhei area has doubled in the last 25 years, the main advantage of discussion groups is that members have the chance of getting details of research findings complete with explanations from a qualified advisor. Group discussions are intended to be comments, not criticism - with members being left to make their own decisions. This group's popularity and success is due to its friendly spirit and full participation by all members.

General farming has benefited from the fact that a group of one's neighbours would be making a tour of inspection periodically. This has the incentive to improve one's farming practices.

#### BOBBY CALF POOL

With the introduction of the Guaranteed Price, dairy herd numbers grew rapidly and in 1937 several Bobby Calf Pools were formed in the Morrinsville area under the name of the Thames Valley Calf Pools.

Tauhei Bobby Calf Pool separated from this body in 1938 and has been associated with the N.Z. Pig Marketing Association ever since.

The following table gives some idea of the value and size of the operation of the Tauhei Bobby Calf Pool as the years have progressed:

1938, 4185 calves, 7/- per head;  
1940, 5744 calves, 10/4d per head;  
1950, 7124 calves, 1.10.6d per head;  
1960, 6799 calves, 2.12.6d per head;

1970, 8683 calves, \$9.70 per head;  
1980, 7857 calves, \$16.77 per head.

The year 1975 saw the largest number of calves collected at 10,061 and 1979 had the highest payout at \$34.70 per calf.

Calves are collected from approximately 120 farmers and the pool has been administered by a small band of dedicated farmers, many of whom have given long service as committee members to this branch of the dairy industry.

#### PIG CLUB

At a meeting convened by Mr H. J. Valentine and attended by a very representative selection of 22 settlers the Tauhei Pig Club was formed in October 1937. Both Mr H. M. Pierson, Department of Agriculture Ad-

visor in pig husbandry and Mr C. P. Harrington, Supervisor, Waikato Pig Council gave valued service to the club during its existence. Apart from discussions and demonstrations the aims of the club were to improve pig breeding and to achieve this a Tamworth sow, (Mountly Charles Hope 1st) and litter were purchased and kept by Mr James Smith, who was the club's first custodian. At the age of nine weeks each litter was put up for ballot, with every member eventually getting a chance to purchase a weaner pig. The club later purchased a Berkshire sow (Daminien Adelines Valma 2nd) and Mr Malcolm Gee was appointed custodian.

The club was finally wound up in September, 1941.



Members of the Tauhei Pig Club

L to R: Unknown, C. P. Harrington, H. Pierson, A. Gee, T. Freegard, W. Hanton, P. Clark, I. Harris, E. Valentine, J. Crosby, W. Best, T. Scott, J. Cato, F. Crosby, W. Taverner, E. Hebditch, J. Smith, F. Curphy, A. Hebditch.

#### HUIMAI PLAYCENTRE

The beginnings of Huimai Playcentre were inspired by the visit of Mr Lex Grey, a pre-school lecturer and advisor of the Playcentre movement who addressed a group of interested people at Whitikahu school in the early 1960s.

Mrs Ida Chittenden and the late Mr Sid Lane, members of the Beeville Community, were inspired by the whole concept and approached the Beeville Community Trust Board for use of a building on the present site. This had been originally moved from Beeville in Orini and it was agreed that the building was suitable for a playcentre.

The next step was to visit another playcentre and several people visited the Walton one to gain an insight into the Organisation and running of a well established group. At a meeting held on July 7, 1966 those attending were unanimous in proceeding with the project and Huimai Playcentre (gathering of people) was founded.

The first committee was: president, Ida Chittenden; secretary, Sid Lane; treasurer, Pani Hopa; roster mother, Yvonne Hawkes; librarian, Joyce Hansen and financial convenor, Dolly Pene.

The first session of the playcentre commenced on Wednesday, July 13 from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm. Foundation members who gave a donation of one pound were not required to pay further fees but others joining were asked to pay 10/- per term or 1/- a session. These fees have gradually increased and in 1983 a charge of \$7 for one session for one child per term was made.

As soon as the public became aware of the advantages of playcentre there was considerable interest and the group soon flourished. It was necessary to have trained supervisors and assistants in charge so Joyce Hansen and Ida Lane attended training courses. Training at Huimai has always been encouraged and this has resulted in many members training at all levels. In 1966 Mrs Noeline Kennedy became a trained supervisor and capably filled this role and in November, 1975 Mrs Nan Thorrold received her National Supervisor's Certificate, the only Huimai member to achieve this standard. It wasn't until the third term of 1967 that the first payment of one pound was made to the supervisor. Supervisors are now paid depending on the training they have obtained.



The Huimai Playcentre now.

In February 1969 two sessions were made available, introducing a morning session from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. At the present time (August 1983) the centre is running three sessions which includes a session for 4-year-olds only.

As there was no Government grant, fundraising in the early years was of great importance until full recognition of the playcentre was given. In the 1960s 'diminishing and multiplying' tea parties, sales tables and raffles, recipe books compiled by members and farmers donating cull cows were some of the fundraising activities. In 1972 the first cabaret was held to raise funds and provided an enjoyable evening's entertainment. Stalls were conducted at local schools on Calf Club Day and in 1976 Huimai Playcentre turned into a hairdressing salon to raise funds. In 1977 mothers made 70 wombles which when sold realised \$247, and a donation of \$100 from the Tahuna and Districts Lions Club was used to buy equipment. Later, parents preferred an increase in fees rather than constant money raising efforts.

There is a standard equipment list which has to be maintained to receive the Government grant. Mrs Noeline Kennedy made the first jigsaws for the centre and later made others which she hired to playcentre for 6d each per week. The library, boosted by the National Library Service, is always popular and a good range of books is available. A donation of a book by a child turning five has been a practice which has helped to keep an up-to-date library. On the completion of the new

building the library shifted into a room of its own and children now look at books in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere.

Trips for Playcentre children are of educational value and provide wider interest and new experiences. One of the first trips was a train trip at Huntly and a variety of others has proved popular over the years. In latter years a Pets Day has been successful, the children bringing along a variety of pets to add excitement and fun to the daily routine.

The social gathering which the children all enjoy is the annual Christmas barbecue and the arrival of Father Christmas. This first started in December 1966 and has continued to be a happy occasion every year since.

To encourage fathers to participate the first Father's Day was held in 1968 and has also become an annual event. Even grandparents are remembered and in 1977 the first Grandparents' Day was held.

The Parent Education programme is an area of importance to any playcentre. The monthly meetings of the playcentre in the earlier years were held in the homes of parents, but later the playcentre building became the permanent meeting place. These meetings have, over the years, given an opportunity to enjoy speakers on various subjects, a place where playcentre education could be discussed or equipment made or repaired.

The 10th anniversary dinner held in the Orini Hall in 1976 no doubt was the highlight of all the social activities. It was certainly gratifying to see both

past and present families come together to celebrate the Playcentre's first decade.

The centre was very fortunate that the building was given to them rent free by the Beeville Trust Board, playcentre paying for the power and later the maintenance of the building. In the early years the playcentre was also painted by the Beeville Trust Board. Improvements are always being made: the purchase of a carpentry shed for \$239 in 1971 and, under the direction of Francis Hansen, the erection of a new climbing complex in 1972. The interior was repainted in 1975 and the redecoration of the family room in bright colours, in 1980, made it very attractive. In late 1981 the playcentre was offered an old two-bedroomed building from the Page Trust, Orini. This budding was moved with the help of a forklift from the Sen-ton Sawmill. The joining of the old building was very tricky due to the lack of room, but with the help of a forklift and winch it was finally lined up and joined onto the existing building. This work was carried out by the fathers under the guidance of Messrs John Lundy and Jim Anniss. Redecoration has now made this an attractive addi-

tion with plenty of room for activities.

Playcentre has continued to be a valued asset to the Tauhei and surrounding districts and many parents and children have benefited in some respect over the last 17 years.

#### GARDEN CIRCLE

The inaugural meeting of the Tauhei Garden Circle was held on July 15, 1980, and was attended by 18 interested women.

Monthly meetings are held at the homes of members in turn on the third Wednesday of each month. A speaker usually demonstrates some aspect of interest to gardeners, e.g. floral art, pruning etc.

Outings are sometimes arranged to nurseries and public gardens instead of normal meetings and these are always most enjoyable.

In October 1981 the Tauhei Garden Circle planted a tree in the Tauhei school grounds. In August 1982 the suggestion was made that we should use some of our Garden Circle funds on planting shrubs in front of the district hall and in October 1982 seven of our members planted shrubs there.

In March 1983 the Tauhei Garden

Circle staged a flower show in conjunction with the Tauhei Women's Division of Federated Farmers in the Tauhei Hall, which was a great success.

#### TAUHEI TREE CLUB

The Tauhei Tree Club, a new club to our district, was initiated by Mr John Simpson of Seiferts Road in June 1982.

The basic aims of the group are to seek advice and practical knowledge and develop and beautify areas of Tauhei, thus developing a greater awareness in the community and the effect trees have on us.

The club has had the area adjacent to the Tauhei Hall and tennis courts professionally landscaped and undertook the task of planting the trees in September 1983.

Members have also been motivated to plant trees on their home properties for shelter, beautification or to combat erosion problems.

Visits to farms, nurseries, orchards, a river walk and varying speakers have all been beneficial in increasing our knowledge.



50th JUBILEE - 4th DECADE 1939-1948

BACK ROW: M. Brightwell, D. Gibson, R. Hight, G. Hopa, H. Palmer. SECOND ROW: T. Crosby, A. Crosby, D. Brunt, E. Savill, J. Gibson, J. Brunt, P. Hopa, G. Crow, J. Crosby, M. Crosby. FRONT ROW: M. Smith, P. Frost, A. Sievers, M. Carswell, T. Mellor, M. O'Neill, Mrs Brightwell, L. Jack, G. Riddell, J. Riddell, C. Raynell, N. Freegard.

## FARMING

From its beginning of swamp and tea-tree covered hills, Tauhei has been traditionally a farming district, the first pasture having been laid down by the Bank of New Zealand about 1889. Over the last ninety years many changes in styles of farming have occurred, starting with large blocks of grazing land being subdivided into small, intensively farmed units. Many changes have taken place since, according to the fashion of the period and financial returns. Although Tauhei is now a predominantly dairy farming district, sheep farming, cattle grazing and cropping have also played their part. As the land was broken in, large areas of turnips and rape were grown before being sown down in permanent pasture and over the years crops of oats, barley, wheat and maize have all made an appearance. In 1888 it was reported that Lockerbie Estate grew 600 acres of wheat producing 40 bushels to the acre and in 1908 oats could produce 75 bushels per acre.

Early livestock farming was confined to sheep and cattle grazing with sheep farming playing a major role until the mid 1960s when falling prices of meat and wool caused many farms to convert to dairy farming. At that time nearly every farm north of the main road carried sheep with some units milking a small dairy herd and during that time 14 woolsheds could be counted in the district. Evidence of these sheds has rapidly disappeared, the oldest now left being that on Mr O. R. Self's property. Another shed which saw many thousands of sheep shorn was on the property of the Williams family now owned by Mr J. van der Velden. When the Public Works Camps were vacated Mr H. D. Williams purchased the camp which consisted of eight huts on Mr R. Stark's property for five pounds a piece. It was from these huts that the shed was built and at one stage it was used by six neighbouring farmers. In 1983 a modern shed with covered yards was erected on the site of the original one.

The type of sheep farming practised in Tauhei was referred to as fattening units producing 'fat lambs' for the export market. Tauhei sheepfarmers demonstrated they could equal the best in the Waikato when in 1955 the Estate of E. Christain and Son won the Waikato District section of the Meat

Board's AFFCO Class fat lamb competition for a pen of three lambs judged on the hoof, and in 1963 H. & M. Gibson received first prize for a pen of three dressed lambs, judged at Smithfield, England.

Farmers who produce lambs for the export market buy in replacement ewes from sheep breeders in the central North Island with Taihape, Mangaweka, Raetihi and Taumarunui being favoured purchasing areas in the past. Getting your sheep home in those early days was totally different from using the modern road transport that we see today, with purchases arriving home on the same day as the sale. Up until the 1950s any farmer purchasing ewes had his stock railed to Morrinsville railway station by sheep trains arriving the day after the sale. Farmers assisted each other and drove their sheep home, generally in one large mob with each farmer drafting off his purchases as the mob passed his property. It seems hard to conceive in modern times that 'fat lambs' for export were trucked or driven on foot to Morrinsville and travelled by train overnight for the next day's kill at Auckland. In 1920 Mr Pilkington purchased the old creamery section of three acres to be used as a holding paddock for stock driven from his property in Tainui Road to Morrinsville sale yards or Motumaoho railway station and it served this purpose for many years.

Aerial topdressing has often been claimed to be a major contributor to increased production on hill country and the hills of Tauhei have shown the benefit of this modern aid to farming. In 1951 Mr H. D. Williams built the first airstrip in Tauhei, situated near the road where Mr J. van der Velden has his stables. In those brainstorming days up to three Tiger Moths carrying 5 cwt of fertiliser each created much interest with their daredevil flying, struggling off a primitive airstrip, low flying as they spread their loads and finally racing back to have their hoppers refilled from bags of super. Disaster struck in 1951 when Mr 'Happy' Neville 'pranged' his plane on Mr E. H. Gibson's property with the pilot suffering a bruised dignity and the plane minor damage. With the arrival of the Fletcher aircraft in the early 1960s a new strip was built on a high point of Mr Williams' farm. This strip served neighbouring farmers, and at that time

seven other operational airstrips were located around the district.

One of the largest farms in Tauhei is the Hangawera Development Scheme at the end of Manuels Road - administered by the Department of Maori Affairs. Development commenced in 1952 of 488 ha of Crown and Maori land and by the time of the Tauhei School's Golden Jubilee (1959), 334 ha were grassed. A further 334 ha of Crown land were added to the scheme in 1961. The Crown has since purchased the interest of all the Maori owners and today (1983), the Hangawera Development Scheme consists of 822 ha with 713 ha being in grass, carrying 7500 sheep and 536 cattle. For several years in the early 1960s the first lamb fairs for the Waikato season were conducted at the Hangawera Scheme yards.

#### Dairying

There was very little interest in dairying prior to 1900 when the Assets Realisation Board began to sell the vast estates which it had acquired during the depression of the late eighties. The Assets Realisation Board was assisted in selling of smaller farms by the rise in prices from 1900 onwards and particularly by the expansion of the dairy industry. The decade from 1900 to 1910 saw a change as farmers turned to dairying and dairy factories were built. The farmers harrowed and spread droppings, although aeration of pastures was still considered inadvisable, and hay was saved for winter. Home separation, the increased use of machinery, modern milking sheds and the growth of the creamery co-operatives combined to stimulate progress and, together with the use of topdressing, dairying changed into a sound business venture. Land where the owners and tenants had previously struggled to make ends meet became economic and the steady payment of milk cheques enabled farmers to plan ahead to such an extent that dairying in the district became predominant. *Te Aroha News*: August 28, 1909:

Morrinsville.

The Tauhei portion of this district is going ahead at a very fast rate and will eventually become the cream dairying district, the land being of first class quality. A creamery is being erected and a guarantee of 600 cows is forthcoming.

In July 1909 the N.Z. Dairy Association purchased three acres of land, the object being to build a creamery whose existence is recorded in the Dairy Division Factory Register for the years 1913-15. The creamery was situated on Mr C. Autridge's property and its remains can be observed just inside Mr Autridge's farm entrance. The depression beside the ruins is all that remains of a water well 80 feet deep.

The milk delivered daily by the settlers was separated and - to give some idea of the small beginnings - one small can of cream was taken to Morrinsville daily in the flush of the season with Mr J. Ormsby driving a one-horse cart for the purpose. The cream was then railed to the Ngaruawahia butter factory, one of the original butter factories operated by the N.Z. Dairy Association and at one time claimed to be the largest butter factory in the world. Two managers gave service (the first being Mr G. Runciman followed by Mr J. Orr), but the life of the creamery was shortlived as home separation forced its closure and the section was sold to Mr Pilkington in 1920 by the N. Z. Co-op Dairy Co Ltd.

Home separation was more convenient than carting wholemilk by horse and cart to a creamery and then carting milk back home again, and so the creameries closed down. From the time that the dairy farmer started home separation no dairy farm was complete unless it had a piggery attached. After the farmer separated his milk and the cream was sent to a butter factory, the residue, called skim-milk, was fed to the pigs. With the coming of the milktanker and wholemilk collection in the early 1950s, the necessity to farm pigs was no longer required and they rapidly disappeared from Tauhei.

In 1919 the N.Z. Co-op Dairy Co Ltd was formed by the amalgamation of the N.Z. Dairy Association, the Waikato Co-op Dairy Co and the Waikato Cheese Co-op joined by the Te Aroha Thames Valley Dairying Co in 1921. Up until 1922 the cream from Tauhei was taken to Morrinsville, then railed to Frankton or Ngaruawahia for processing, although records show that N.Z. Dairy Association operated a butter factory at Eureka. From 1902 a small creamery operated in Morrinsville until it was realised that the amount of cream being railed away was sufficient to warrant the building of a butter factory. Protracted negotiations with the company controlling the processing of dairy produce were to no



TOP TO BOTTOM: Howard Gibson cutting hay; Jim Smith raking hay; Tyler gang 1920; The hay stacker.



avail in the establishment of a factory at Morrinsville. It was this fact which prompted a group of enterprising and far-sighted farmers to set about the task of establishing a locally owned and managed co-operative dairy company to be known as the Morrinsville Co-op Dairy Co Ltd. October 1922 saw the manufacture of butter commenced and in its first season's operation it had 90 suppliers and manufactured 247 tons of butter.

It was not always easy to take cream to the place which farmers were accustomed to. The Piako County Council asked the N. Z. Co-op Dairy Co Ltd to divert part of the cream collected at Tauhei to Taupiri instead of Morrinsville to relieve the roads and it is known that a cream wagon was doing that route in 1923. It was not until 1927 that the N.Z. Co-op Dairy Co Ltd finally established a butter factory at Morrinsville. The company's Tauhei dairy farmers sent their cream to its Morrinsville factory until 1952 when, for one year, wholemilk was collected in cans and taken to the Waitoa milk powder factory. The following year tanker collection was introduced.

At the present time some of the N.Z.C.D.C. suppliers' milk goes to the Waitoa complex and some to the Te Rapa complex although, with present day tankers and trailers, milk can be - and sometimes is - sent to any of the company's 19 factories sited at nine complexes.

From the *Waikato Times*, 1923:

#### N.Z. Co-operative Dairy Co.

Messrs Harris, Valentine and Best, who acted as Tauhei suppliers' delegates at a meeting held in Morrinsville on November 29, gave a resume of the proceedings, and an interesting discussion ensued. The meeting was unanimous that the proposed butter factory in Morrinsville would not benefit Tauhei and it was decided to canvass for a cheese factory later on, all those present being very favourable towards Tauhei having a factory. A committee was elected to canvass the district and to make all enquiries as regards cost etc. Messrs I. Harris, H. Williams and H. J. Valentine were the committee chosen.

#### Co-operative Cheese Factory

A few years ago some enterprising settlers thought it would be a good idea if Tauhei had its own cheese factory. Their efforts to establish one met with a certain amount of success and practically 1000 cows were guaranteed. Something happened once again and the project was allowed to drop for a while. There is some evidence that the whole matter is to be opened up again. It is confidently anticipated that a guarantee of at least 1500 cows could be obtained and it is hoped that this time the scheme will be allowed to be brought to a successful issue. An excellent site for the budding is suggested at the corner of Valen-

tine's Road and Sand Road. This spot would be within easy distance of practically every settler in the district. It would be a central spot when the new road is completed. Seeing the enormous amount of cream which has to be carried out to Morrinsville daily it appears that there is a good argument for erecting some sort of factory at Tauhei.

The article continues to tell some of the problems as explained by settlers. At this time the N.Z. Co-op Dairy Co Ltd was planning to build a butter factory in Morrinsville and the only requirement made of a supplier was a commitment of the number of cows to be milked. If a cheese factory was to be built at Tauhei the farmers themselves would have to become financially liable to sign a joint and several agreement. Other arguments evolved, two being that factories did a better job of separating cream than did home separation, and farmers were wasting time in carting milk to a cheese factory whereas the cream wagons collected the cream from the farmer's gate.

Last week 30 settlers were engaged in cultivating the land, 20 of whom this season are milking between 975 and 1000 cows. Three cream wagons make daily visits to the Tauhei district to collect the enormous quantity of cream produced and to cart it into Morrinsville. When some of the present farmers took up their sections they found them ploughed and grassed, whilst on the other hand, settlers went onto the 'rough' country. A few farmers go in for grazing and fattening but the opinion is expressed that the land already brought in is not carrying enough stock. There is plenty of room for closer settlement which, it is contended, must assuredly come. Jersey cows are favourites in this particular part of Tauhei district, but all sorts and conditions of herds are milked. In some of the latter, however, Shorthorns are on top of the test. The average farm hereabouts carries approximately a beast to two acres, whilst one particular holding of 49 acres has 25 cows milking this season. Today the whole countryside is dotted with prosperous farms and homesteads. When speaking of 'Tauhei in the 'old days', it was commonly known as swamp, but now it is developed country. There is a large tract of hilly land on one side of the road which would average in the vicinity of Five Pounds per acre. Some of it brought as much as Ten Pounds per acre in the 'boom time'. A much different tale is told, however, on the 'swamp side', where as much as Forty to Fifty Pounds per acre would not buy some of the farms. The opinion has been expressed that the hills could easily be adapted to growing pinus insignis, that is, provided a man could afford to wait for a return from his money invested for a number of years.

#### Returned Soldiers Make Good

There are two returned soldiers at least on Tauhei land, and they are making good. One man has 120 acres for which he paid Twenty-Five Pounds ten shillings per acre. It has cost him Ten Pounds per acre to bring his land in, and he has a long way to

go yet. The swamp land varies considerably, the soldier who has taken up a section nearer to the road from Morrinsville is always striking 'hard timber', whereas in certain places the timber in the swamp areas further out is comparatively easy to work on account of its softness. His is peat land, whilst the other has been more consolidated and consists of soil of a clay nature. Certain areas which a year ago were under water, today are green paddocks. Cattle do exceptionally well on this class of country and could be made to do much better. The two returned men mentioned are working hard to bring in new country and their efforts are bearing fruit. It is the general opinion of those competent to judge that 'the boys' are on the right track and it is a case of perseverance conquers difficulties with them.

To give some idea of what had been done with land in the immediate vicinity, there is a farm of 120 acres carrying 60 cows. It consists of splendid grazing and milking land, and originally was sold for Eight Pounds per acre. During the past few years it has changed hands several times at increased prices, the present occupier having paid nearly Fifty Pounds per acre for possession.

(*Waikato Times* 1923)

In conclusion: the dairy farmer has played his part in building up our district of Tauhei to its present high state of production, but recognition must go to the district's stud breeders. These men built up a reputation for top quality stock such as that bred by Messrs R. Dibble (Shorthorn), G. Jack (Friesian), T. Johansen (Ayrshire), J. Crosby (Jersey) and R. Waide (Polled Jersey) to name but a few.

#### PEAT FIRES

The railway line which served the Rotorua and Tauranga areas had to go through virgin swamp lands in the Eureka district. This extended from the Ruakura Research Station to where the line crosses the main road near Morrinsville. Scrub or tea-tree and tussock grew on both sides of the railway line and this became tinder dry in the hot summers. All train engines were coal fired for steam and it was a yearly struggle to keep fires contained. There were virtually no settlers between Piako Road and Whitikahu Road. Main roads were settled with hard working farmers whose farms backed onto 'No Man's Land' or had a portion of unusable peat as their back boundary. At Whitikahu the Law Brothers property through to those of Clark, Cato, Hansen, Dibble, Williams, Greentree, Valentine, Gee Bates, Browne and Smith are just a few of the farms that skirted the peat swamp area.

Tauhei was situated with peat swamps around two sides of it. If one area wasn't on fire, the other was. Tauhei became notorious for heavy peat smoke fogs during the autumn and early winters. On many summer days the sun was above a heavy pall of smoke which turned to smelly smog at darkness. It certainly wasn't pleasant. Many of the settlers' wives had come from clean cities either in New Zealand or overseas and it was a trying time coping with the acrid conditions. Many times they never saw their husbands all night as they battled to keep the fires off the land they had just won from the better swamp area. Wet sacks and shovels were the only deterrents they had to try and contain the fire, nobody was safe. It would jump the railway line or go under roads and appear on the other side.

Many farmers had cleared areas of

rushes and stumps and took advantage of the dry conditions to clean up their heaps with a match. Being new to the area and coming from the homeland they did not understand that the swamp land of Tauhei would burn as easily as the stumps or rush heaps. The temptation to strike a match was tremendous - most times with disastrous results. This folly often endangered a neighbour's land and he wasn't pleased to have it on fire, so relations became strained which was especially serious as neighbours depended so much on one another for help and companionship.

A small cottage opposite to where Arnold Brightwell lives was virtually surrounded by fire. In 1933 an elderly couple, Mr and Mrs Robinson, and their daughter Emily were the occupants of the farm. The fire could no longer be controlled. The destruction

of the house was imminent as the fire had gone down below and was burning underneath the building. All available manpower was fighting fires in all directions. All those who could were helping the Robinsons. At 5 pm it was decided that the furniture and possessions would be taken out and put on the road for safety. Before darkness it was taken to safer ground. The next day the fire had run its course and burnt itself out and the house stayed untouched. The Robinsons returned the next day and carried on living there. The next occupants were the Hewisons who lived in the same house for many years.

The end of the steam train and the tremendous advances in the know-how of farming peat land ended the stinking peat fires, not only for Tauhei but for the whole Waikato and Thames Valley Region.



Mr F.W. SEIFERT

Landowner and settler 1907. Flax miller, land developer and road builder. He was the owner of the first car in Tauhei; Seifert's Road was named after him. He was a co-purchaser of the hall and tennis court sites and served on the board of the Morrinsville Co-operative Dairy Co. for 25 years, the last five as chairman.

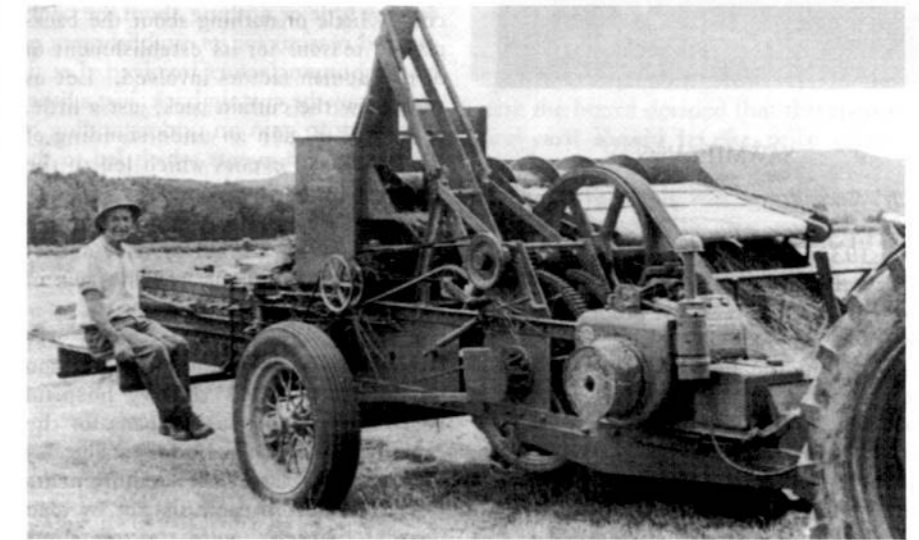


ABOVE: 'Case' wire-tie stationary baler owned by R. Hight, F. Jack and H. Gibson.



ABOVE: Jim Smith sweeping hay with the pride and joy of Messrs Dodge Bros., U.S.A.

BELOW: Ted Tyler on his baler, 1949.



**SEND YOUR CREAM TO HAMILTON.**

**ONE SHILLING AND ONE PENNY PER LB. BUTTER FAT.**

DELIVERY CAN BE MADE TWICE WEEKLY.

**FREIGHT NEXT TO NOTHING.**

**BUTTER FACTORY RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE WINTER.**

Write for Particulars. Write for Patents.

**Waikato Co-operative Dairy Company**  
GOODEFELLOW LIMITED

This poster appeared in the Morrinsville Star on July 14, 1911 (See page 50).

**FLAX MILLS**

The growing of flax and its manufacture into ropes, woolpacks and other articles formed not only New Zealand's but one of Tauhei's early industries.

With the western end of Tauhei being swamp and ideal for growing flax, the first flaxmill was erected and operated by Mr S. Parlour about 1890 near the Waikato County Council's Tauhei quarry.

In 1907 the partnership of Gibbons, Seifert and Bennett purchased 6000 acres (see section on land settlement of Waikato County) and, although there were some areas of grass, its chief value was the extensive area of flax.

Mr Fred Seifert started operating a flax mill near the present quarry site on the banks of the Mangatea Stream. It is interesting to note that Mr Seifert, a flax manager by trade who came from the Manawatu, employed his brother-in-law, Mr James Brown, as a storeman and book-keeper for the mill. Both men were later to become landowners and played a major part in the district's early farming development.

In the autumn of 1908 a disastrous fire, started near the railway at Ruakura, raged across the swamp until all the land from Ruakura to Motumaoho and from Gordonton to Tauhei was completely burnt out. The owners of the mill and land known as the Tauhei Estate lost hundreds of acres of standing flax and as a consequence the mill was forced to close. Owing to their great loss the partner-

ship had to be dissolved and the Estate's land was divided amongst the three partners.

(N.B. The preceding details have been taken in good faith from other publications and are believed to be correct. The balance of this article has had to be pieced together on hearsay from several sources and, whilst written in good faith and believed to be accurate, there may be errors or misunderstanding.)

During World War One, the wartime requirement for rope resulted in renewed demand and high prices for flax, so in 1918 the Waikato Flax Milling Co Ltd was formed, purchased land and started harvesting flax. The centre of this company's operation was what is now Mr I. Reed's farm next to the Waikato County Council's Tauhei quarry. The original house (replaced by Pervans) was the boarding house for staff of the flax company. The mill, which was driven by a large water wheel, was sited on the banks of the Mangatea Stream just in front of the eastern face of the County quarry. Several years later the mill buildings were moved to Mr J. Singh-Birik's farm to a site just behind his present house and were still standing in 1936. Extensive areas of both farms were used for hanging out and drying the flax fibre.

A second flaxmill was also operating at the same time and it was situated on the Awahine Stream on what is now Mr M. Jackson's farm.

Flax was grown in the swamp be-

between Seiferts Road, Gordonton and Whitikahu with the main growing area being centered about the junction of Law's Road and Woodland's Road.

The narrow strip of land between Dibble's and Simpson's farms, known as the mill race or water race, is believed to be what was the eastern end of a water race that stretched across the swamp to the Woodlands Estate homestead providing water to drive a water wheel. The mill race which passed through the flax growing area was also used in later years to transport cut flax by punts to Seiferts Road, then by wagon to the mill.

Like any agricultural product, prices rose and fell and flax did not escape bad times. The trade which had collapsed with the depression of the thirties saw the end of the flaxmilling era in Tauhei.

**FOOTNOTE** - The Waikato Flaxmilling Company Limited was incorporated in 1919 as a subsidiary of The Foxton Cordage and Flaxmilling Company Limited. Share capital 6,500 pounds. Shareholders: L. Griffiths (Tauranga) 1500; K. Kennedy (Foxton) 1000; A. Pearson (Foxton) 750; A. Ross (Foxton) 750; F. W. Seifert (Tauhucui) 1500; Foxton Cordage & Flaxmilling Co Ltd 1000.

The Waikato Flaxmilling Co Ltd went into voluntary liquidation in 1922.



LEFT: A kauri tree taken from top bush on Parahiwi in September, 1952.

## THE TAUHEI QUARRY

### *Kirikiriroa Road Board*

A simple recording of statistical data about the life of any project would convey little or nothing about the background reasons for its establishment or of the human factors involved. Let us then draw the curtain back, just a little, as we try to gain an understanding of the times and events which led to the development of a quarry at Tauhei.

From the beginning of farming settlement in the Tauhei district one of the greatest problems was the lack of all-weather access.

Although the Waikato County was constituted in 1876, the main function of the council was to levy hospital board rating and to raise loans for the construction of major bridges. The day to day roading and other requirements were provided in each district by road boards, which were autonomous bodies within their respective gazetted districts.

In Tauhei and surrounding districts, the Kirikiriroa Road Board exercised its jurisdiction and the minutes of that board contain many brief and interesting references to the problems besetting the settlers. However, in trying to understand these references in context, one must realise that the rating struck by the board returned a very meagre amount of ready cash for the oversight and development of works in such demand. The only other sources of funds were those received from Government sources, generally in the form of road grants, occasional small grants from the Waikato County Council and, last but not least, the extra funds received by way of direct contribution from the settlers themselves. These contributions were over and above the struck rates and were made to subsidise the limited board funds for particular works in a district.

Over the years the board received many petitions from groups of ratepayers, each claiming that their areas were being starved of funds, which were being recklessly expended elsewhere - each group looking enviously over the fence, as it were, at the greener grass of its neighbours. The settlers were themselves really struggling financially to meet their own commitments and this is evidenced by the minutes where references are made to rate collection falling behind. The board decided that something must be done about overdue rates and on one occasion decided to prosecute using a ballot system - names out of a hat! -

and on another on the basis of every fifth person whose rates were overdue. As rates ran from amounts of perhaps fifteen shillings to several pounds, it will be appreciated that there was not a great deal of money about.

We move on from matters of finance to the practical needs of the people. Early roading efforts were directed to the main to ploughing and shaping up road beds to shed water, with perhaps laying of fascines across swampy sections. As funds permitted, a running surface of sand was applied. Sand pits were excavated, sometimes within the confines of the road reserves but more generally from small areas of from one to five acres acquired from suitable deposits on adjoining farmland. These excavated areas are still in evidence today. Sand resources varied greatly in quality and, in the Tauhei district, generally tended to be devoid of the coarser gravel material. Consequently most roads, while providing a reasonable surface during the drier months, soon became saturated, softened and impassable during winter. In any case, sanding was not over generously applied and did not provide a pavement of sufficient depth to carry the high pressure wheel loads of horse drawn vehicles. At a meeting of the board held on August 7, 1916, a letter was received from Mr J. J. Riddell, secretary of N.Z. Farmers Union, Gordonton Branch, Flating that his branch was in favour of the board adopting a comprehensive metalling scheme for the roads instead of the endless sanding year after year. The board, in reply, concurred but said that sufficient funds were just not available.

However, the Kirikiriroa Road Board was addressing itself to the problem and records show that as well as some metal resources being obtained from a quarry at Taupiri, metal was also being railed through from Tirohia Quarry (between Te Aroha and Paeroa).

### *The Beginnings of the Tauhei Quarry*

Attempts to locate a suitable source of metal at Tauhei commenced in 1915. It was reported to a board meeting on June 7 that Brown Bros had carried out some prospecting for metal on the property of Mr Lowes, adjoining the Mangatea Stream. The land owned by Mr Lowes was located north of the Mangatea Stream, and was later owned by Ellingham and Peacock, and became known as Orini Downs. There was no access from this

land to the main Tauhei-Morrinsville Road at that time.

Following an inspection, the Board resolved at the meeting of July 5, 1915, to purchase 10 acres of land from Lowes at a price of ten pounds per acre, in terms of Mr Lowes' letter. Further, it was agreed to accept an offer from Mr Alfred Seifert and his brother for a strip of land to provide an access road to the proposed metal pit, the board to pay all fencing, legal and survey costs. On reflection, Mr J. P. Lowes had second thoughts and increased the price of his land to fifteen pounds per acre for the 10 acres. The board responded by agreeing to lay off a road, continued across the stream to provide a one chain legal access to his property, providing the price was kept at ten pounds per acre. Mr Lowes agreed, subject to the road frontage being located at a suitable position. A deposit of ten pounds was paid to Mr Lowes in July 1916, but it was not until mid 1917 that the survey plan was presented for approval.

In August 1916, Mr Seifert wrote saying that if a quarry could be provided, the settlers were prepared to raise a loan of two thousand pounds to metal the Tauhei-Morrinsville Road. In March 1917, in response to the board's agreement to the idea of the loan and willingness to add funds from the general rates for the purpose, Mr Jas Brown of Tauhei wrote advising that the settlers felt unable to raise a loan at that time.

Also at the meeting in August the board instructed the supervisor to keep his eye open for some secondhand rails for a tram line from Lowes' Quarry to Gordonton. Progressive thinking?

The chairman, Jno McGregor and member Mr Thompson inspected the proposed quarry access road and bridge site and reported to the board on February 5, 1917 that they considered an expenditure of from two hundred to three hundred pounds would be needed for this work.

At the meeting held on March 5, 1917, the board gave instructions for the access road to be constructed and for an estimate for a bridge to cross the stream to be prepared. Using stringers from the adjoining bush, the supervisor's estimate for the bridge was twenty pounds. A contract was let on May 5, 1917 for the bridge, at a price of twenty two pounds. The access road was completed during May, and an offer by Mr Seifert to erect fences either side for one pound per chain was accepted.

In January 1918, Foreman Grant was instructed to move a shed from Taupiri to Lowes' Quarry to provide quarters for the men. The shed, used for storage, was purchased for the sum of forty pounds. However it was not until later in the year that it was shifted by a Mr Vincent, and located on other land being purchased from Mr Seifert.

The records show that the board had arranged with Mr I. H. Doleman to open up the quarry and payments to him for this work started from July 1917. In early February 1918, the board arranged a contract with Mr Doleman to quarry 1000 cubic yards of metal at 6/- per yard for first quality and 2/6d per yard second quality. As there was no crushing machinery installed at that stage, the metal would have been won by drilling and the use of explosives, followed by knapping to size. This contract represented the first formal order for metal to be won from the quarry, and this is reinforced by the minutes of May 6, 1918 when the chairman commented, in answer to complaints from the area, that a quarry had been purchased and the board was expending money on its development. He expressed the view that he did not think the Tauhei settlers would have cause for concern once the quarry was in working order.

On May 6, 1918, the board authorised payment to Mr J. P. Lowes for the sum of five pounds, seven shillings and sixpence, for the area of just over a half an acre. This was the price of land just over the stream to be dedicated as road, in order to keep faith with the agreement to provide Lowes with a legal frontage of one chain. The balance area of nine and a half acres required for quarry purposes was to be purchased at the agreed rate of ten pounds per acre. On this land were small patches of native bush, but with the bulk of the hill being in manuka.

At the same meeting in May, Mr Seifert offered to sell the board one acre of land on the southern side of the stream, on either side of the access road, at a price of twenty pounds. The offer was accepted and at the same time the board signed the dedication document to legalise that access road.

In 1947/48, the Waikato County added a further area of half an acre, purchased from Mr W. H. Best for the sum of twenty-five pounds and nine pence.

In October 1918, as metal was still not freely available from the quarry, Mr Seifert wrote requesting authority for purchase of 1200 cubic yards of

sand at a payment of tuppence a yard in the pit. Mr Seifert had been involved in the setting aside and construction of a considerable length of Seifert Road and had donated and set aside sand pits for the purpose - all with the agreement of the board which had taken over the road under a cash deposit against completion. However, in this case the board decided that threepence per yard should be the price of the material!

As an aside, it was noted that the board purchased its first truck (solid tyres) in 1918 from Pomeroy's for nearly one thousand three hundred pounds, to be paid for by four equal promissory notes. The truck was primarily for metalling the roads. At the July 1918 meeting of the board, a letter was received from the Post and Telegraph Engineer, E. S. Cowles, claiming repairs, to the Department's trap, damaged when the horse took fright at the truck and overturned the trap. Responsibility was indignantly denied.

Again, in early 1921, there is reference to the difficulties still being experienced by the travelling public, for permanent metalling surfaces were long in coming. On January 14, 1921 the board resolved to charge a Mr C. M. Brown the sum of 12/-, being the cost of burying his horse that died in the middle of the road. You will have noticed soft spots and potholes appearing in road surfaces from time to time. Now you know where all those horses disappeared to - just as well it was easy digging!

On November 4, 1918 the chairman was authorised to inspect the quality of rock produced by Mr Doleman and to arrange for Mr P. Ryan to cart the stone on to the main road, as far as Pilkington's turn off. While there were probably small amounts of stone taken from the quarry for roading purposes, this would appear to be the first organised contract for carting and spreading.

On March 4, 1918 the chairman, Mr J. McGregor, reported that he and Mr John Clarkin had inspected a No 3 Gate-Stone Crusher at Waikino, the property of the Waihi Goldmining Co., who had agreed to put the machine in proper working order, for an all-up price of one hundred and sixty pounds. The board left Mr Clarkin to complete the deal and the sum of five pounds was paid on account. It was not until towards the end of 1919 that delivery by rail was effected. In September 1918 the chairman advised that, following a meeting at Tauhei, it

## SAWMILLING

### *Kelly's Sawmill*

In 1933 Mr Kelly operated a saw mill, originally started by Mr E. C. Pilkington, on part of his property now owned by Mr D. N. Gibson. The mill was sited at the foot of the bush clad slopes directly behind Mr J. T. Pene's cowshed and it was from this area and the adjoining flat land that the mill obtained its logs. A network of tram tracks which serviced the mill covered the flats now owned by Messrs J. T. Pene, K. C. McDonald and D. N. Gibson. Today all that remains of the mill is a large concrete block on which the engine was mounted. The stand of timber which contained rimu, totara, matai and kahikatea was not large and was quickly cut out. Tauhei residents availed themselves of this source of building material with rimu being worth 12/6d per 100 superfet and some of the buildings erected are still standing today, one example being the carshed adjacent to Mr W. A. Cawley's employee's house. For many years an old traction engine, a relic from very early milling operations, lay rusting on Mr J. T. Pene's farm until it was finally broken up by gelignite and removed by scrap metal merchants.

### *Roose Shipping Company*

In 1947 the Roose Shipping Company felled all the millable trees from the slopes of Pukemokemoke and the adjacent flat land. To retrieve the fallen logs from the former a steam driven log hauler using the endless rope system was used. Access to the hauler site was through Mr and Mrs Hopa's (Snr) farm and their son George recalls being paid the huge sum of seven pounds per week for opening and shutting gates as the log lorries travelled through his father's farm. Many fine trees of kauri, totara, rimu, matai and kahikatea were felled and Mr G. C. Hopa remembers one large kahikatea with a base diameter of over six feet having to be cut into three sections for transportation to the mill at Mercer.

had been decided to transfer the crusher, when ready, to Taupiri, and not to instal it at Tauhei as originally intended. Tauhei missed again!

At a meeting of the board's ratepayers in mid 1918, a Tauhei settler was very critical of the board's efforts, pointing out that the road to Hamilton was shocking until one reached a certain gateway, and from there into Hamilton, it was magnificent! (That certain gateway belonged to a member of the board.) Another Tauhei ratepayer asked: "What district has roads as bad as Tauhei's?" The chairman responded by saying that three hundred pounds had been spent in the Tauhei district and that the board had also opened a quarry there.

In early 1919 the board showed an interest in the possible purchase of heavy timbers from one of the batteries at Waihi, to provide a hopper at Tauhei. Consideration was given, too, to the possibility of erecting a tramline and trestles to convey the rock across the stream to a hopper. It was estimated that some 13,000 super feet of timber would be needed for both purposes.

On February 3, 1919 it was agreed that tenders for quarrying and knapping of 1500 cubic yards of rocks be called. Later in the year arrangements were made with a Mr Kennedy to take over and cart the balance of the broken stone from the quarry on to the worst sections of the hills on the main road towards the Confiscation Line.

On April 1, 1920 the board accepted a price of 8/6d per cubic yard from Messrs Hyde and Son (Taupiri) for the quarrying of metal at Tauhei. Mr Doleman evidently severed his connection with the board at the end of 1919, as payments from then on for a period were made to Hyde and Son.

Because this story of the quarry is but part of the history of the Tauhei district, there is a need to confine it. For that reason, the formative years of the quarry have been dealt with in some detail. What has happened since has built on those beginnings and can only be referred to in summarised form for now. Perhaps the County will expand on this at some later date.

Some crushing plant was installed by the Road Board during the 1920s and later added to when taken over by the Waikato County when it assumed all of the responsibilities of the several road boards in 1928. Immediately after the Second World War the county installed additional crushers, screens and hoppers to provide for the greatly in-

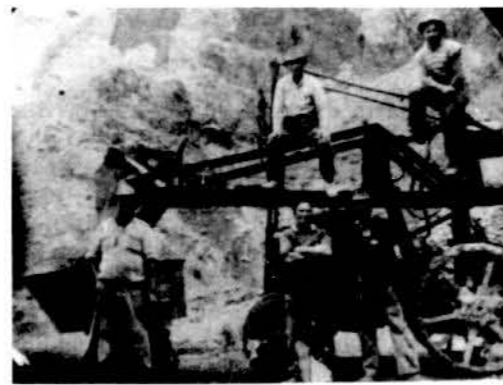
creased demands for crushed road metal.

The modern bulldozer did not effectively appear on the scene until the mid 1930s and then only rarely and small in size. All of the development work in preparing and stripping the quarry continued into the 1940s and was carried out by the old faithful wheelbarrow, handled by the more faithful navy. Material was wheeled along narrow tracks, high above the quarry face floor. It was backbreaking work as, too, was the manual spalling to size the rock to fit the then smaller crushers generally in use. No wonder then that quarry faces often ranged from 150 to 200 feet in height. Changes in the Quarries Act, pressure rightly brought to bear from quarry inspectors and the availability of modern earthmoving machinery reduced the faces to a maximum of 100 feet and then to 50 feet or less. As well as for sound safety reasons, the end result made better selection of rock possible. Imagine hanging on ropes on those high faces while trying to use the poppa (jack-hammers) or to bar down that reluctant rock, for that was what the men did.

Following the advent of the new system of subsidies introduced by the National Roads Board in 1952, as well as the demand for high quality rock, additional new crushing and screening plant with additional hoppers was installed in the mid 1950s. The greatly increased programme of works placed tremendous demands on the quarry for increased output to meet demands.

Frank Bethel, who followed Hine Davis as quarry manager, was faced with an almost impossible task. Frank could perhaps lay claim to a name such as The Big Bang! For certainly complaints there were, thick and fast, when major shooting was necessary. Mr Ivan Pervan had a good deal to say on the matter! At this time, due to the heavy demands made for good quality rock and the large amounts of stripping to be faced in the existing quarry, a new face was opened some 40 chains to the east. Royalty was paid on won metal to Mr Dean Ellingham who subsequently sold an area of 128 1/2 acres, including and surrounding both faces, for the sum of seven thousand pounds. This purchase enabled the forward planning for the future major development.

Frank Bethel was followed by Tex Wallbank, who in turn was succeeded by his son Pat Wallbank, the present incumbent. During 1982/83 a major



reconstruction and renewal of plant was carried out. Because of the likely large financial commitment involved, intensive research into quantity and quality of rock resources was a prerequisite, followed by investigation into and acquisition of heavy plant. The quarry, which started off in such a humble way in 1917/18, has probably an anticipated life of about 100 years yet to run. Long term planning will excavate the quarry floor eventually to below sea level and hopefully when that happens a name for a new lake will be necessary as will provision for beautification.

There are perhaps two things left to say. The first is that up to the mid 1950s, when Riding accounts were abolished and absorbed into County accounts, profits made from the quarry were fed back into roading improvements rather than being credited for quarry purposes for maintenance and renewal of plant. Losses, which were not often, had to be absorbed by the General Account. However, changes in the requirements of the Audit Department have ensured that the quarry must stand on its own feet.

The second matter, and one which must be given due place and emphasis, is the contribution made by the Maori community in providing a workforce of both highly skilled and unskilled labour for the Tauhei Quarry - from its inception to the present day. They were good workmen, cheerful by nature, who have made a tremendous contribution to the success of the quarry which itself proved to be a centre of interest for them and their families too. A tribute to them - "Waiho ma nga tangata e mihi" (Let someone else sing your praises).

In conclusion, the story of the quarry may be said to be closed for the present, but it is not finished. Let us pay a tribute to the farsightedness of the representatives of the ratepayers, both past and present, whose efforts have made available a resource which has had an inestimable effect on the quality of life in the community of Tauhei.



TAUHEI TRADING POST  
Keith Rowling, Grocer Tauhei,  
later to become  
TAUHEI STORES LTD

Wallace Supplies of Morrinsville were the general providers of the Tauhei district for many years. I well remember the large loads that Wallace Supplies delivered on the Tauhei circuit. The van or truck, depending on the load, would often arrive at Brunt's gate just as school finished for the day. It was sometimes possible to cadge a ride home with friendly drivers such as Ces Wills, Eddie Clark or Tommy Donovan. Tommy said 'No!' to a ride one day, so I hung onto the rear door handle and perched on the bumper. All went fine until we hit a bump near Valentines Road. The doors flew open and I went for a sixer on the metal road and got a broken arm as a souvenir, so I well remember!

War years - petrol rationing, manpower and staffing problems saw the termination of the delivery service by Wallace Supplies. I was then working at Tatuani for the local carrier and serviced the Tatuani Store from rail to store with the truck I was driving. The owner operator, Mrs Hillary, gave me lots of good advice. A small insurance policy, which my parents had kept paid up in difficult years, matured. This enabled me to get going. The money available to stock the small store was two hundred pounds, so we opened the doors. It was soon sold, but on a docket book which meant it would be paid for next month. I had bought and sold but not paid. The manager of Burgess Fraser, Hamilton, was the kindly gentleman who understood the situation, so more stock was available on a monthly account from the warehouse.

In this way the whole district and commercial world existed on monthly credit. The profits from the sale of goods were adequate to replace the stock and to carry the ones who hadn't paid on the customary monthly terms. From the July 1945 opening stock of two hundred pounds the balance sheet at March 31 revealed a turnover of nine thousand pounds.

Rationing of butter, sugar, meat, petrol, clothes and tea was still in vogue with coupons. I had to appear before a board to justify my application to have quotas made available to me in this new venture. I had to take a petition around my prospective customers to signify their support. We were granted, on a monthly basis, an allocation of two rolls of bacon, five gallons of ice cream and 10 lbs of tobacco, four boxes of soft drinks from C. A. Innes, one small box of biscuits from Bycrofts, flour from the Wheat Committee, one box of jellies from Tucker Sunshine, one box of candy from Heards, two cases of Oak jam, and it had to be assorted. Invariably we were stuck with the quince.

In those days there were no vans on the roads delivering the commodities. All our goods were railed to Morrinsville. Imagine trying to be sure to coincide with a timeless railway system, with our half monthly allocation of ice cream. Tip Top was not born. Our bacon in bags in the railway office. A box of sausages with a chip off the lid and the flies in - oh boy! The jellies would stock pile through the winter months and disappear during the summer. From Heards, the candy people, our allocation was liquorice allsorts, barley sugar and bars of malt toffee (almost unbreakable). It was a quota - you couldn't stop it. We had to feed some to the pigs - no one wanted it. Gradually some of these quotas were relaxed.

Mr Wattie made his debut into the canning business and some left-over army supplies came out as Apple and Blackcurrant jam (off quota). What terrible stuff it was. It ate itself through the tins before we could sell it. In fact it never was saleable.

But tea, sugar and butter coupons went on for much longer. A monthly return had to be furnished to the Post Office. Did they ever count them? We could never balance the coupons and stock.

Just prior to opening, my small car was changed for a beat-up old Chev 4 car. With most of the seats out, it was a real workhorse and did a grand job. But the delivery service developed into a real winner and it was really a shocking service and Wednesdays were exhausting. The other most important part of our early days storekeeping was the telephone. The system was already overloaded with 10 plus on a party line. Those poor people had to suffer a busy store coming in on their line, and we were allocated 130Z. This became intolerable for everyone, so we acquired an additional line on another full party line and were allocated 702 M. About this time the Chevy just could not fit in the growing trade.

With some help we purchased a new Bedford truck and chassis. We had to set to and make a delivery vehicle out of it with timber and canvas. This was another mighty work horse which never stopped and saw us out until our retirement from storekeeping. Our delivery service was started within the first month of trading. Tui Harris, fresh from school, was our first help. Kath Smith hiked up everyday from way down the main road and later Margaret White. One of our first boys from school was Bill Brunt.

Within the first year of trading I knew I had a lot to learn, and wanted to learn, and quickly. I joined the Master Grocers Association domiciled in Auckland. Their weekly bulletin of pricing recommendations and assistance in management were very valuable. It was soon found that all the grocers and storekeepers around me were keen enthusiasts of the Association in Hamilton. I was a regular attendee at these monthly meetings and held office as secretary, and later president.

Some of our Hamilton Executive, including myself, were elected to the Auckland Executive and we journeyed monthly to meetings in Auckland.

The store we timidly started in was not doing justice to the situation. The

*The original store was replaced with this one with living quarters in 1953.*

only section available when we began was a rental piece of hall ground and I was never really concerned that the lease would ever be terminated. If the store didn't succeed the piece of ground would revert to blackberry and long grass. The Hall Committee of the day decided that the lease was not to be renewed but this problem was eventually sorted out. It was then very obvious that a now-proven successful business could not be at the whim of a Hall Committee of the day. A change of heart by Mr Brunskill, who previously would not sell a section, saw us again on the drawing boards.

Our small shop was now holding us back. Our family had grown to two small boys so the temporary house was no longer adequate. We needed a new house and new shop so the logical step was to build them together. Our business was viable, our track record was good enough, and a friendly insurance company said okay, so we planned a house and shop each within around 1600 square feet. It was a great working situation for both living and working.

Our vehicle was soon doing much more than delivery work. Our range of requirements was not always easy to obtain in Hamilton and then they had to come from Auckland. Through dealing with Auckland merchants we were able to keep our shop fully stocked. We were soon doing a monthly, and sometimes a fortnightly, trip to Auckland. The vehicle was fitted with tyres made of a mixture of synthetic and recycled rubber and not very good. On the first trip back from Auckland with a good load aboard, coming down the Bombay Hill nicely until - bang! Two tyres gone. Sixty four pounds worth of two new tyres left on the roadside was a poor profit trip in 1947.

The big strike of 1951 tied up supplies dramatically and we did weekly trips to Auckland. It also dried up supplies way down country. The Maraetai Dam was being constructed and the workers in the township of Mangakino had not been given adequate shopping facilities. We got a call on the grapevine to take a load of groceries through so I loaded up Friday and took off early Saturday morning. I pulled up in the street and was besieged - selling off the back of the truck. By midday it was all gone and home with a pocketful of money. It was tough to handle and Bill Brunt volunteered to come and help me. The trips lasted about three

months until more shopping facilities were available there.

Our ability to secure adequate supplies of the things people wanted saw our business grow and grow. In the early days tobacco was number one. We had a tobacco list with weekly allocations to all smokers. This our customers could rely on and it was over and above what the shops in town could do. Golden syrup was always good to get a new customer. Tinned fruit at Christmas was a real circus. We had a scallywag of a traveller who was always good for short lines. The story went - "We've landed a shipment of matches. Remember, 'Sky-rider'. They are stored in our wool store and we've got to get them out to make way for wool. For every case of matches you buy we will allocate you 10 cases of Australian tinned fruit S.Y.C. and I.X.L. peaches, pears, apricots and so on." Tinned fruit for Christmas was tough. Okay, we ordered three cases of matches and got 30 cases of tinned fruit. When the matches arrived, oh boy. The cases were huge, three feet square. What the hell were we going to do with all those matches? The fruit was no problem: we reckoned if it was good enough for us it was good enough for our customers. With every six tins of fruit, 'one carton of matches, which was 12 packets. Well we got some abuse, we got some laughs, and we got some matches back.

Our delivery service continued to grow and strain our resources. The east side delivery on Tuesday saw us going through to the Hangawera Road into Morrinsville town and back home the Main Road via Cross Road and to the Mangateparu centre (this was before the Mangateparu Store got going) and back home. On Wednesday it became even larger. The Tainui Road residents had virtually a nil service, so we were asked to commence a trip through there. We secured another lot of solid customers and so around Seiferts Road and home. Our two ton delivery vehicles on many occasions could not cope, so we pulled a two ton trailer behind. Everything would be chock-a-block. We were then selling large amounts of bagged coal, concrete posts and strainers, concrete pipes, wire, stock meal, 44 gallon drums of molasses, petrol and so on. This stretched staff and physical capabilities to the utmost. The phones just kept ringing continuously and many times we couldn't get away from the shop before 5 o'clock and a whopping load



to deliver. Farmers' tracks were not good, it was all home separation and pigs. How our customers put up with it I'll never know. Weekly orders were so big they were packed in cartons, and would be just about as much as I could lift and carry. With this load on there was no way we could leave the roadside so this great lot of groceries, plus 70 lb sugar and 25 lb flour bags would be left on the cream stand, with a pretty tatty old bag over it to shelter it from the rain. After finishing milking in the dark, customers would have to horse and sledge in the groceries or hump them in. Summer wasn't so bad, we could get into places, but the advent of milk tankers saw the end of dirt tracks and pigs and a far better life for the delivery operator.

Through our excursions into Hoe-0-Tainui, we dropped onto the Pike family and Trevor and Pat spent 15 years with us. The store at Hoe-0-Tainui had been allowed to run down and it seemed logical that we may as well keep growing in that direction. Once again our staff member, Pat Pike, took over the operation of that store with Dawn Isaacs helping. Tauhei was fully stocked with everything conceivable at this time (and some things not conceivable). It was a simple matter to do weekly stock transfer to Hoe-0-Tainui.

Cyril Bremner, another of our stalwarts, joined us. Cyril was a farmer for many years and on retiring from farming, and at a loose end, I suggested he come and do some casual hours in the bulk store side. Everything came in boxes and had to be packed. Wheat and mash had to be broken down to bushels to suit. Main crop potatoes were packed into 28 lbs. Flour was often only obtainable in 160 lb sacks so that had to be packed into 6 lb. Sugar was only in 70 lb bags. The worst deal was packing dates - dates came from Turkey in 70 lb boxes, pressed into five slabs, mainly inseparable. No matter how you packed dates, it was a messy job. Cases of sultanas were 60 lb and a case would be gone in a week. Peanuts in 200 lb bags, cornflour 200 lb bags, icing sugar 28 lb tins, budgie seed 200 lb bags, pearl barley 56 lb, split peas 56 lb bags, blue



*The trusty Bedford truck and Vauxhall car.*

peas 56 lb - it was endless. My old friend Mrs Hillary had moved to Tauhei with her widowed daughter, Molly Chalmers, and Molly moved in to assist Cyril. These two later moved into counter work and stayed on and on.

We were still stuck with a poor line of biscuits left over from the early days of quotas. Bycrofts were still the only suppliers. Once again all biscuits were packed in tins of 6 lbs or 10 lbs. Griffin Brothers of Wellington were up and coming biscuit makers with far better variety, but restrictions that said they could not be sent past Taumarunui. Once again we wanted a better deal in biscuits so we went to Taumarunui and picked up a load of Griffins biscuits per favour of a friendly grocer. By our efforts, we virtually busted the deal of Griffins biscuits only for south of Taumarunui. Our butter sales were good because of quality 'Anchor'. A syndicate of do-gooders decided that 'Anchor' would be withdrawn south of Mercer and replaced with 'Crown'. Retailers were incensed and demanded Anchor be reinstated. No! came the firm reply. Our association fought on our behalf and we took turns in making random raids to Auckland and bringing back Anchor butter. Anchor butter - its home is Waikato - only available to the Auckland shopper? No way. We won the day. Sadly, the do-gooders have let it happen again.

Grocers generally were in an expanding mood. Buying groups were being formed for better buying and better merchandising. This saw the advent of Four Square and, later to compete, I.G.A. These organisations were instrumental in sponsoring groups of grocers on world tours to study the advent of the supermarket, especially then in the leading country - U.S.A. Back they came full of enthusiasm and so the supermarket was born in New Zealand. Better roads, better cars and housewives who had wheels and time

began the era of supermarket shopping.

I was already a member of a super duper buying group in Wellington called Wellington Federated Buyers. We were able to get factory door prices for a service fee of 2 1/2 percent. This enabled us to compete for a while but the growth of one-stop shopping gradually took over, and no matter how hard we tried, the stampede continued into the supermarket.

In the country areas the biggest factor in the slowing down of business was the loss of customers through farm amalgamations.

We were under such pressure in the early days that time to recover the debts was not available and we also didn't realise at the time that profits were good enough to write off and start again. The keener pricing in later years did not allow margins for bad debts. With a family of three boys and one girl and some indication that perhaps we could diversify into it, farming became a reality. Mr Annis was keen to change his property. It was ideal for us as we could maintain the store and keep an eye on the farm. We combined the store and farming for 10 years with the aid of valuable part timers such as Cyril, Molly, Pam Ogle, Marie Zuppicich, Heather Autridge.

After 28 years in the store business, I was becoming stale and began to hate it. It was sold and when it happened I began to wonder if I had done the right thing. Looking back now I still wish I had kept it. I know I would have barely covered expenses but it would have kept alive a focal point where people met each other and this does not happen at the supermarket.

#### TAUHEI SUPERETTE

In 1972 Peter and Glenys Mills purchased the business from Mr K. Rowling and traded under the name of Tauhei Superette which finally closed its doors in 1979.

#### QUARRY HILL ORCHARD

The Quarry Hill orchard property was, until July 1982, known as Beeville Orchard. The property is owned by the original charitable Trust Board and, in fact, over the years legal ownership has not changed although individual trustees have come and gone. The property was first purchased by Waldemar Hansen in 1929 and consisted of 242 acres. Over the years parts of the original holding have been sold off and in 1959 Ray and Dan Hansen on behalf of the Beeville Community, which was then located between Dragt's Store and Owen Hansen's homestead on the Orini Road, purchased the remaining 50 acres with the Beeville Community Trust Board taking possession in 1962. The plan was to build on and develop the property and eventually transfer all activities to the Tauhei farm. This process was initially financed by the Beeville Honey business run by Ray, and the engineering and welding workshop run by Dan.

At Tauhei a significant development was begun by Lucien and Francis Hansen (sons of Ray and Olive) when they established the Beeville concrete works. For over 15 years the works manufactured and supplied concrete fence materials to the local farming districts. The concrete works largely provided the financial and technical means for the various concrete based buildings on the property. These include two residences, two sheds and a large twelve-sided swimming pool/reservoir.

The earliest commercial orchard planting was begun in the late 1950s with a mixture of apples, pears and stonefruit, with smaller plantings of grapes, feijoas, Chinese gooseberries and walnuts. In the early sixties about 10 acres of orchard had been planted. The years between 1963 and 1975 saw the new plantings grow to maturity with Red Delicious apples in particular producing huge crops of excellent fruit. However, those same years could be described as the 'years of exodus' for the community itself. Upheavals in it were caused by many factors but none more than the coming of new families and the introduction of new attitudes and expectations, such as that members should each be entitled to an 'award wage' for their services. Unhappily, this coincided with the winding down of the concrete works and the engineering workshop at Orini, leaving insufficient income to support community growth and ac-



tivities. Dan and Edith Hansen were the first founding members to leave and their practical skills and leadership were sorely missed, as were those of Lucien Hansen, who left soon afterwards. At around that time 20 acres were subdivided off the property and sold to Mr T. C. Henderson, leaving the orchard with 30 acres to develop on. The late Sid Lane, originally from England, will be remembered for his successful management of the orchard during this difficult time.

By 1974 the sole remaining founder member of the original Beeville Community was Mrs Anne Sanders. The late Mr Maurice Wilsie, an American, was also a trustee at this time and under his direction the orchard was

run by recruited 'managers'. In 1974, after the failure of two such arrangements, Mr Ernest Sanders (author) returned from teaching at Horotiu to manage the orchard. At that time the business was sadly run down, with many of the orchard trees being infected with terminal diseases such as canker and silver leaf.

The first major clearing and replanting began in winter 1979 with old apple and peach trees being bulldozed out and 600 kiwifruit vines planted in their place. Since then the clearing and replanting has continued. Late spring frosts are the greatest growing hazard for growing kiwifruit on this property. In response to this problem the Frostrocket has been invented and

developed on this property by the author and two brothers Nigel and Lawrence Sanders. This has proved to be an effective and economical method of frost control and at the time of writing a second, more powerful machine is being built, with the financial backing of the Development Finance Corporation.

A footnote is deserved here for the men and women who planned and planted the many shelter and ornamental trees on this property. One remembers the efforts of Lucein and Francis Hansen, Dan and Edith Hansen and Anne Sanders for their inspiration and patience. Many of these trees are now in their prime and are surely enjoyed by many.



50th JUBILEE - 5th DECADE 1949-1958

BACK ROW: B. Davies, A. Davies, G. Nicholson, --, M. Dimman, J. O'Neil, J. Bates, L. Nicholas, B. Hughes, L. Nicholas, --. THIRD ROW: R. Miller, T. Greenfield, --, --, --, M. Gee, A. Greenfield, Crosby, C. Bates, C. Powell, R. Dimman, E. Frost. SECOND ROW: T. Autridge, M. McLaughlin, D. Campbell, K. Greenfield, W. Nicholson, B. Tazerner, J. Annis, A. Smith, M. Campbell, C. Autridge, C. Smith, D. Brightwell, C. Gee, --, C. Crosby, J. McLaughlin, G. Powell, M. Nicholson, D. Harris, L. Jack, --, Mrs N. Tyler. FIRST ROW: P. Crosby, W. Whakaari, J. Glass, T. Crosby, G. Jack, Crosby, A. Harris, G. Gee, Crosby, Wallis, Crosby, J. Morgan, M. Covich, E. Curran, --, C. Harris, --, S. Greenfield, J. Autridge, B. Harris, P. Covich, --, J. Annis, B. O'Neil, --, Wallis. FRONT ROW: J. O'Neil, N. Rowling, B. Johns, M. Curran, B. Glass, B. Annis, D. Annis, R. Johns, --, B. Campbell, --, D. Rowling, Crosby, --, Nicholson, Brightwell.

## SPORT AND RECREATION

### RUGBY FOOTBALL

Memories of the Tauhei football team go back to 1920 and three players of that era whose names are remembered were M. R. Stewart, R. Haycock and M. Tahua.

The year 1925 saw the amalgamation with Mangateparu and the Tauhei-Mangateparu United Football Club was formed. The club which adopted the name 'United', and played in black and gold jerseys, supported two teams, the seniors being coached by Mr C. MacDavitt and juniors by Mr F. Cowan.

In 1925 the United junior team won the Jones Cup in the Morrinsville Rugby Union competition. Local

members of the team were J. Brown, D. Campbell, J. Findlay, A. Palmer, J. Park, F. Raynel, J. Raynel and H. Charlton.

In 1930, the United teams were at their best with the United A team winning the first junior Championship in the Morrinsville Rugby Union. The team played and won 10 games, scored 135 points with 28 points against and was captained by A. Palmer with B. Findlay and N. Redshaw being the other local players.

During the 1930s and the early 1940s Tauhei provided many players for United. Amongst those remembered are J. Annear, R. Findlay, I. Harris, W. Drabble, G. Drabble, M.

Frost, W. Reoshaw, W. Webby, A. Rae, G. Gee, K. Rowling, G. Harris and W. Gregan.

In the late 1920s a player from Tauhei, T. Roach, was selected as half-back for the Morrinsville representative team and was later a Waikato trailist. In 1940 G. Harris, G. Gee, K. Williams and W. Gregan were selected to play in the Morrinsville Rugby Union Junior Representative team which won the Waikato junior Championship and the Boyce Cup.

About 1946-47 United combined with Old Boys of Morrinsville and the name United Old Boys is well known to all rugby followers.



UNITED RUGBY FOOTBALL TEAM 1925

BACK ROW (L to R): Alex Cameron, Jack Raynel, Fred Cowan, Fred Raynel, Bill Bunting, Len Marshall. SECOND ROW: H. Charlton, Alan Scott, Graham Marshall, Len Reed, Ross Innis, Don Campbell. FRONT ROW: Jack Brown, John Park, Arthur Shallard, Arthur Palmer, Jack Findlay.

## TAUHEI INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

On March 1, 1947, a public meeting was held in the Tauhei Hall. Mr W. McLean and Mr W. Johnstone from the Mangateparu Indoor Bowling Club came to this meeting to demonstrate the game of indoor bowls. Those present were impressed with the game and on a motion put by Mr I. B. Harris, seconded by Mr E. G. Burling, the Tauhei Indoor Bowling Club was formed. The committee elected were: president, Mr I. B. Harris; secretary, Mr J. Meikle; club captain, Mr F. Jack; vice-captain, Mr E. G. Burling; committee, Messrs A. Palmer, W. Christian, F. Garroway, C. Bremner, F. Curphy.

Club night was to be held on Saturday night. Subscriptions - men, one pound; ladies, fifteen shillings. Each committee member guaranteed five pounds towards the purchase of a second mat and bowls. A penny to a pound art union was run to raise money to buy a third mat and bowls. Mr D. Miller from Morrinsville donated the Miller Trophy for competition between Mangateparu and Tauhei and this is now played for annually. In July of that year Tauhei joined the Morrinsville Sub Centre which had just been formed and was affiliated to the Waikato Centre. Some of the children were also keen to play bowls so a junior subscription was introduced for 15-18 year-olds in 1949.

With more bowling clubs being formed in the Morrinsville area, tournaments became popular and these were run over 3-5 nights. Mr and Mrs H. Gibson donated two cups for an annual drawn pairs competition in 1952. In 1953 another mat and bowls were purchased. Club night was changed to Thursday, but this was not a success and the next year it was changed to Tuesday and has remained so ever since. The sixth mat and bowls were purchased in 1955 to cope with further increased membership.

After playing bowls at Tauhei for a number of years Mr and Mrs T. Adams moved to Motumaoho in 1956 and donated the Adams Cup for competition between Motumaoho and Tauhei. At the beginning of the season Tauhei club travels to Motumaoho and later in the season Motumaoho club pays a return visit. Mrs R. Dibble donated a prize for the player scoring the most points over the 1957 season.

When Mr G. Robb shifted from Tauhei he donated a cup for the winner of the open singles championship. Mr and Mrs E. Strawbridge, members of the Tauhei club in 1959, donated the Strawbridge Cup for competition between the Tauhei and Hoe-0-Tainui clubs.

Mr E. Robb was made a life member in 1969 and the following year Mr and Mrs E. Robb donated a cup for the married couples handicap competition. As long as one of the couple is a member they can play. For some husbands or wives this is the only time they play bowls, but it is surprising how quickly they pick up the game.

After 25 years bowling, the wooden bowls were in need of repainting again so it was decided to replace them with Hensilite bowls instead.

Twenty-five years of indoor bowling was celebrated at the Tauhei Hall on September 23, 1972. Almost one hundred members, past and present, attended the function which took the form of a buffet dinner and cabaret preceded by a champagne hour where members renewed old acquaintance. Foundation members present were Mr and Mrs H. Gibson, Mr and Mrs A. Palmer, Mr and Mrs W. Thomas, Mr and Mrs I. Harris, Mr and Mrs G. Jack, Mr E. Edwards, Mr K. Rowling, Mr C. Freegard, Mrs O. Johansen, Mr J. Meikle. After-dinner speeches were made by the president Mr G. Robb and Mr H. Gibson, a past president. Mr G. Hopa, the vice president, presented Mr G. Robb with his life membership badge as he had been a member for 23 years and of these he had been president for 11 years.

Mr and Mrs G. Robb donated a cup for annual competition between the Wairere Sports Club and the Tauhei Bowling Club in 1976. This was played as bowls only at Tauhei for the first few years but in the last two years it has taken place at the Wairere Sports Club where both bowls and pool have been played. These have been great nights and a lot of fun.

As there were no cups for the ladies and mens singles championships, Mr G. Hopa donated a cup for the ladies singles and Mr G. Gee donated a cup for the mens singles in 1979. This same year Mr L. Becker donated a shield for an annual triples competition.

Over the years the presidents have been (the number of years served in brackets):

Messrs I. B. Harris (1); F. Jack (1); A. Palmer (3); M. Davies (1); E. Ed-

wards (2); H. Gibson (1); G. Robb (12); E. Burling (1); F. Campbell (2); G. Gee (1); C. Elliott (2); G. Hopa (10).

The secretaries have been:

Mr J. Meikle (5); Mr H. Gibson (1); Mr T. Guy (3); Mrs M. Gubb (1); Mr E. Edwards (4); Mr R. Richardson (3); Mr F. Campbell (1); Mr B. Abercrombie (1); Mrs G. Wiggins (5); Mrs C. Martin (5); Mr B. Franklyn (2); Mrs L. Blue (10).

Membership started at 37 in 1947 and rose steadily to peak at 63 in 1958. With the arrival of television membership fell to 26 in 1963 and since then has fluctuated with the membership being 37 in 1983.

Foundation members still active in the club are Mr and Mrs H. Gibson, Mr C. Freegard, Mrs A. Palmer and, last year, Mr A. Palmer. These players have missed a few years but have joined in again.

Perhaps in three years' time members past and present might get together to celebrate the 40th Jubilee of Tauhei Bowling Club.

## TAUHEI SCOUTS

In June 1940 the Tauhei Scout Troop was formed with the supporters' committee consisting of Mr J. M. Noble, chairman; Mr G. Bell, secretary; Mesdames Williams, McQueen, Greentree, Miss Williams, Messrs Williams, Hight, McQueen, Brunt, Gee, Taverner, Valentine and Greentree. Mr Harre was the Scoutmaster with Mr G. Bell being his assistant until 1941 when Mr Hight took over this position.

From the brief records available, a Cub Pack operated with Miss Williams and Messrs R. W. Noble and L. Brown acting as Cubmasters.

Mr J. M. Noble donated to the troop its own flag. During World War II the troop went into recess and the flag and monies were donated to the Mangateparu Scout Troop. Since that time the youth of Tauhei have travelled to Mangateparu for Cubs, Scouts and Brownie activities. Tauhei has supported the Mangateparu groups with many parents helping over the years on various committees and fundraising activities. We have also supplied our share of leaders: Mr D. Gibson, Assistant Scout Leader; Mrs H. Autridge, Assistant Cub Leader; Mesdames B. Gibson, J. Dinnan and L. Williams as Assistant Brownie Leaders.

## TAUHEI TENNIS CLUB

It could be said that tennis has played a greater role in Tauhei than any other sport and it must go down on record as being the longest serving sports body to be associated with Tauhei. Before World War I it had its followers and it is thought that a club was active in those early days but no records of its existence are available.

Like many community organisations, membership rises and falls and two periods of short recess are noted, one in 1920 and the second in 1943-45 owing to World War II.

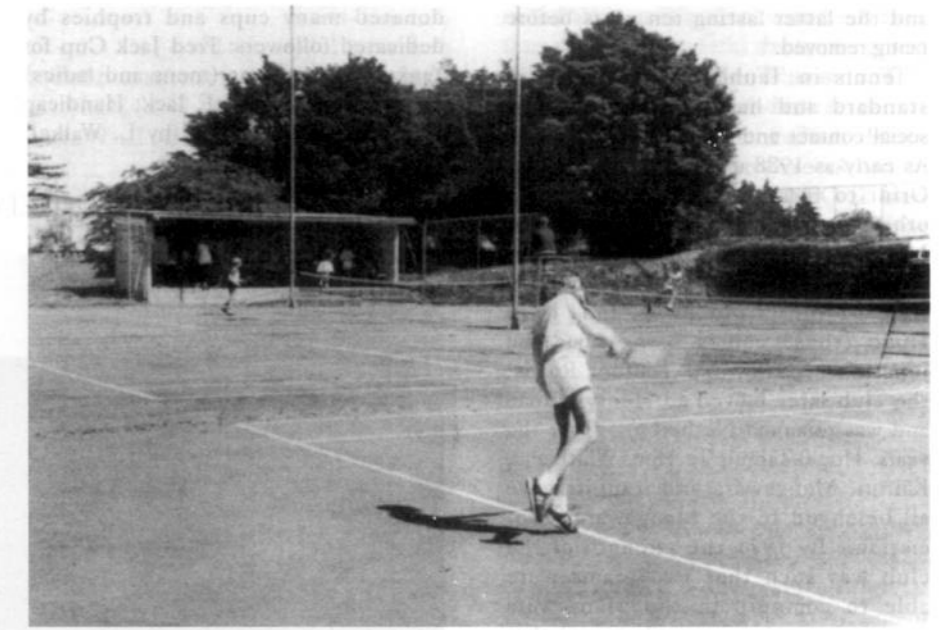
Before the public courts were built in 1915 there existed grass courts at the Brown, Findlay, Noble, Harris and Williams homesteads bringing together friends and neighbours for a social game of tennis.

The present site of the courts has been used since 1915 on land owned by the Tauhei Land Company Ltd, who in 1916 sold one-and-a-half acres of land to Messrs L. H. McAlpine, R. Darke and F. W. Seifert for a hall site and recreational use by the general public, with the land finally being sold to the 'Tauhei Hall Inc.' in 1924.

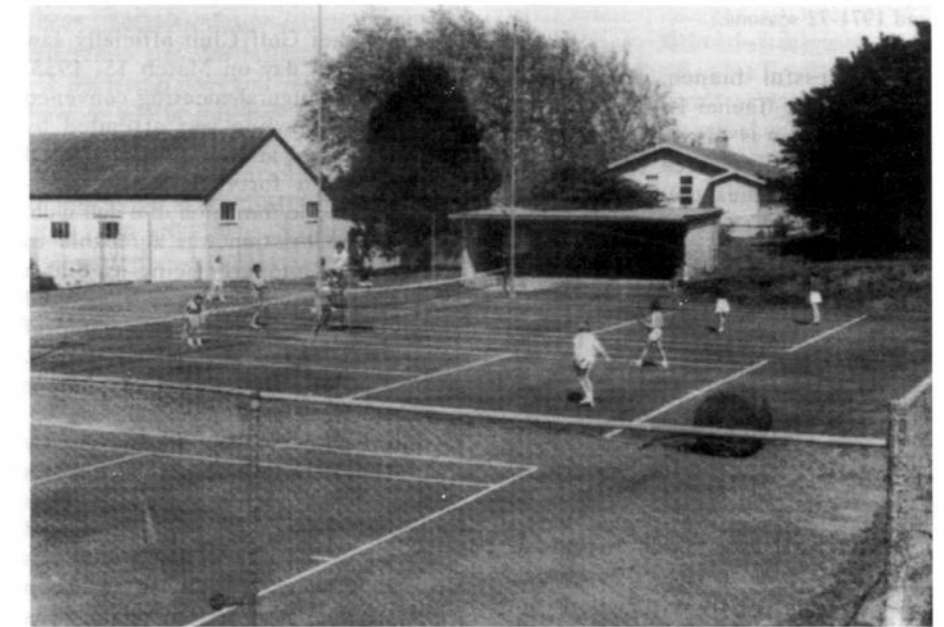
The Tauhei Tennis Club as we know it today was formed in October 1925 with Mr I. B. Harris, president of the Hall Society, presiding at a meeting of interested players. The first committee consisted of Mr R. Haycock, president, with Miss H. J. (Nell) Noble acting as secretary and treasurer, committee members being Misses V. Davis, J. Findlay, F. Smith and Messrs V. Brunt, L. Cheeseman, A. Palmer and R. Findlay. Vice-presidents were considered important, probably for the donation that always followed such appointments, so five vice-presidents were elected, namely Messrs I. B. Harris, H. J. Valentine, J. Findlay, H. D. Williams and C. Lambie.

The Tauhei Tennis Club has, since its beginning, made steady improvements to its grounds and assets. Originally, there were two courts consisting of clay surfaces with the lines being defined by galvanised strips. These gave many years of service until 1951, when two sealed courts with painted lines were finally laid. These were not the first sealed courts because at one stage the club had four courts at its disposal, two clay and two sealed.

Arrangements were made in 1928 to discuss the formation and sharing of expenses with the School Committee to build two asphalt courts and a good ex-



*Tauhei Tennis Club's Junior Opening, 1983*



*The Tauhei tennis courts.*

ample of district co-operation was given in 1931 when large district working bees provided two sealed courts 'up top', which were used by the club as well as the school. The site 'up top' refers to the area where the school has its football grounds, adjacent to the existing Tauhei tennis courts. These courts lasted for about 10 years and by 1945 had disappeared.

With membership growing steadily and congestion on the courts, a decision was made in 1972 to add a third court to the complex. After many working bees, fundraising activities and a Government grant, sufficient

funds were raised to enable the third court to be built, plus the installation of floodlights, enabling tennis to be played at night. These improvements were in service for the club's Golden Jubilee in 1975.

The year 1926 saw the erection of the first pavilion when a 'shelter 20' x 8'6" with a locker' was built, lasting forty years, an in 1965 more fundraising was undertaken and the present pavilion was built and netting surrounding the courts was replaced.

No tennis court was complete without volleyboards, the first appearing in 1932 and being replaced in 1957

and the latter lasting ten years before being removed.

Tennis in Tauhei has improved in standard and has been enriched by social contact and play with other clubs. As early as 1928 a meeting was held at Orini to form a friendly union with other clubs. This later became the Mangawara Association. As well as Tauhei other clubs joining the Association were Orini, Gordonton and Burn Hope (these courts being near the junction of Orini and Tenfoot Roads; the club later moved to Henry's Road and was renamed Netherby). Over the years, Hoe-0-Tainui, Te Hoe, Whitikahu, Kainui, Mangawara and Taupiri have all belonged to the Mangawara Association. By 1971 the strength of the club was such that two teams were able to compete in the Mangawara Association, whose records reveal that Tauhei was runnerup to Gordonton for two years in succession, the 1970-71 and 1971-72 seasons.

A successful branch of the club known as the Tauhei Ladies Midweek Tennis Club was formed in 1965. It was to cater for ladies who did not take tennis seriously, enjoyed playing and appreciated the company of others. No matter how experienced, young and old are encouraged to play. The T. L. M. T. C. has bought three trophies from their own funds - a Singles Cup, a Doubles Plate and an Improvers Cup. Friendly matches against other ladies clubs are played and exchange visits have taken place between Morrinsville, Mangateparu and Kereone.

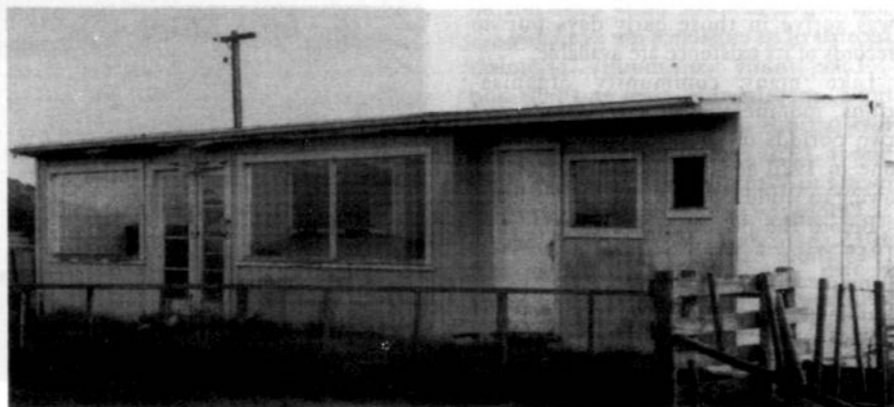
No tennis club is complete without its junior Section. Prior to 1936 children were not allowed to be members, but since then junior members have received encouragement and tuition from many prominent club players. By 1956 the strength of the juniors was such that a junior ladder for boys and girls was started. The junior Section has a fine collection of trophies: Most Improved Player, donated by Mr G. Gee; Handicap Singles for Boys and Girls, two cups donated by the Herbert Smith Trust 1930; Yankee Tournament, donated by D. C. McLeod; and a Points Cup, donated by Mr G. Gee. By 1960 it was necessary to cater for children by allowing organised Saturday play and this was arranged before the adult games at 10.00 am and in 1975 any child from nine years of age could join the club.

Over the years the club has been

donated many cups and trophies by dedicated followers: Fred Jack Cup for Yankee Tournament (mens and ladies) both donated by Mr F. Jack; Handicap Singles Ladies, donated by L. Walker;

Handicap Singles Men; Points Cups, donated by Mr K. Morgan; Sportsmanship, donated by Mr and Mrs G. Harris; and Improvers under 19, donated by Mr H. Palmer.

### TAUHEI GOLF CLUB



THE Tauhei Golf Club's clubhouse.

The Tauhei Golf Club officially saw the light of day on March 15, 1955, when an inaugural meeting convened by Mr K. Rowling was attended by twelve people, and indications showed that at least forty people were interested in the formation of a golf club. Mr W. P. Christian was agreeable to some of his property being used as a course and although the club operated there for over 21 years, ownership of the land changed from Mr W. P. Christian to Messrs Power Bros with the last landlord being Mr O. R. Self.

The course, which was laid out by Mr G. Seccombe from Wiseman's Sports Store, covered two paddocks adjacent to Tainui Road and consisted of nine holes with a par of 35. It was typical of many country courses, sheep grazing the fairways and its greens surrounded by electric fences. The first clubhouse was the back of Tauhei Store's two-ton Bedford delivery truck in which pioneer players replaced lost sweat, bemoaned their bad shots and boasted about their good ones until darkness called a halt to proceedings.

Negotiations with Mr J. M. Noble were successful and part of his old house was bought for twenty-five pounds and transported to the course for use as a clubhouse. Throughout the years many improvements were made to the buildings and its contents. To foster interest for its members, two trophies known as the Landlords Trophy and the Improvers Cup were obtained and members soon realised the benefit of competitive play, 1.9 its infant years many fine cups were

donated by loyal supporters of the club and some of the major trophies played for during the season were the McLeod Rose Bowl, Pukemoke Cup, Frothblowers Bowl, Carisbrook Cup and Vase, Parahiwi Cup, Smart and Dennis Rosebowl, Tyro Trophy, Spring Bowl, June Cup and the Ponderosa Cup.

Both the mens and ladies sections were affiliated to their respective parent bodies, namely N.Z. Golf Association and the Ladies Golf Union.

One feature was the friendly co-operation which existed between Tauhei, Waiterimu and Tahuna Golf Clubs. This involved interclub competitions, cabarets and the use of Tahuna's course when Tauhei's was closed for lambing. One evening that will always be remembered was held in October 1959, when Tauhei and Tahuna Golf Clubs combined to hold a cabaret in the Tahuna Hall. In those days, having liquor in a public hall was illegal so, inevitably, the local law enforcement officers arrived (uninvited), confiscated the liquor and the officers of both clubs appeared in court (one of the culprits later became a J. P.).

With the changes of ownership came changes in farming practices which created difficulties for the club and in the early 1970s a tremendous amount of thought, planning and talk were devoted to the idea of acquiring land for a permanent course. Suitable land and lack of finance were the everpresent problems and the club finally went into recess in July 1978.

### TAUHEI LIGHT HORSE CLUB

On September 21, 1967, a meeting was called for the purpose of forming a Light Horse Club at Tauhei. The twelve people present formed a General Committee and from that an Executive Committee was chosen: patron, J. Noble; chairman, G. Steeghs; vice-chairman, M. Morrison; secretary, I. Harris; treasurer, E. Tessaar; committee, C. Williams and Mesdames B. Taylor and N. Walker; auditor, H. Gibson.

The club started off in a very enthusiastic manner with the help and generosity of the local people. The first club day was organised in early October 1967 on the property of Mr Gordon Harris. The opening day was held on December 10 and Morrinsville, Te Aroha and Gordonton clubs were invited.

The Tauhei Light Horse Club soon became a very popular family day with adults joining the children in learning to ride. Cups were donated and keenly competed for. The first interclub competition was held at Tauhei against Morrinsville and this trophy is still keenly contested.

Day treks were held on the properties of Messrs Malcom Morrison, Bill Cawley, Mick Warren, Clive Williams, Baden Jordan and the Maori Affairs Block. In recent years these have been held on Roy Johnston's property and also at Orini Downs. The first Anniversary Weekend trek was held in January 1970. Members stayed overnight at Mr Dean Balme's woolshed, Waiti Road. The trek proved very popular and has been continued each year, sometimes as far afield as Thames, Katikati and Raglan.

From 1971 club days were held on the property of Ivo and Hazel Harris (now owned by Mr Owen Farmilo). The average attendance was forty riders. There was instruction in various aspects of horsemanship and horse care interspersed with games and ribbon days. Riding schools were held in the school holidays. Cross country events were held at Ross Henry's, Orini, and Clive Williams's. Dressage and F.E.I. competitions and also certificate days were held. Local mock hunts were held at Bill Cawley's and Colin Freegard's properties. Socially the club held teenage dances and film evenings.

The highlights of the club in 1973 were the first gymkhana, held on Ritchie Stark's farm, and the winning of the Goldfields Banner at Waihi. From



Light Horse Club Opening Day 1967: Left, M. Morrison (vice-chairman) and G. Steegh, (chairman).

there the club went on to compete very successfully at many competitions over the following years, including the winning of the Goldfields Banner several times and the Waikato-Thames Valley Shield.

In 1976 a clubhouse was purchased with the money raised from the gymkhanas. A gymkhana was held each year from 1973 to 1978.

In recent years the attendance at the club has declined but interest is still very strong. Through the club many of our young people have gained a lot of knowledge and experience and have been successful in equestrian events and above all have had a lot of fun and it is hoped that this will continue in the years to come.

### TAUHEI CRICKET CLUB

The year 1954 saw a group of enthusiastic cricket players get together and form the Tauhei Cricket Club. 'The Oval' which was situated on the lower airstrip of Mr C. D. Williams' property, now the site where Mr J. W. van der Velden has his stables, saw many enjoyable games of cricket played.

In those early days the 'eleven' consisted of Abe Nicholson and sons Kevin and Graham, Jim Nicholson, Tom Guy and sons Brian and Maurice, Ray Longdill, Howard Gibson and son David, Wes Ansley, and brothers Ian and Gavin Crow.

Tauhei Cricket Club entered into the Morrinsville Cricket Association's Saturday competitions and although

no notable performances are recalled they continued to field a team for many years. The 1963-64 season saw a decline in playing members so an amalgamation with the Nottingham Cricket Club was arranged and the Tauhei-Notts 'Cricket Club still continues today.

### TAUHEI YOUNG MENS INSTITUTE

In the mid 1920s Messrs K. & H. Atchison formed a club called the Tauhei Young Mens Institute. Patterned on the YMCA, it met in the hall and after a study period used to indulge in various sporting activities such as boxing, table tennis etc. Mr R. W. Noble was the president and Mr F. Curphy the boxing instructor.

### TAUHEI ATHLETIC CLUB

This club which operated from 1925-27 had a strong following and, as large sums of cash were paid out in prize money, competition became very keen. An Athletic Club was re-formed in the mid 1970s and lasted for about five years.

### ROAD CYCLING

With the improvement of the roads many of the local children took to bicycles. They became so efficient with them that in 1934 races round the block (Seiferts Road) were organised for Sunday afternoon entertainment. Entry fee was one shilling with the money being divided amongst the placegetters. As the bikes were not in good repair and the roads were still not race tracks, the many casualties-both mechanical and human - forced the curtailment of this recreation.

### WAIRERE SPORTS CLUB

Formed in 1970 this club provides amenities for football, netball, indoor bowls, darts and eightball.

Over the last seventy-five years Tauhei has offered many and varied sporting activities to its residents. Unfortunately some organisations appear for a short time then disappear as enthusiasm wears off, records get lost and many clubs are now just memories. Many have contributed to the welfare of the sports-minded but space prohibits a full report of every club so let us remember the Social Club, Pool Club, Cards (500), Netball, Table Tennis and four Badminton Clubs, the first being formed in 1937.

# TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

As in other farming communities, roads, communication and other services all play a major role in a district's development.

## ROADS

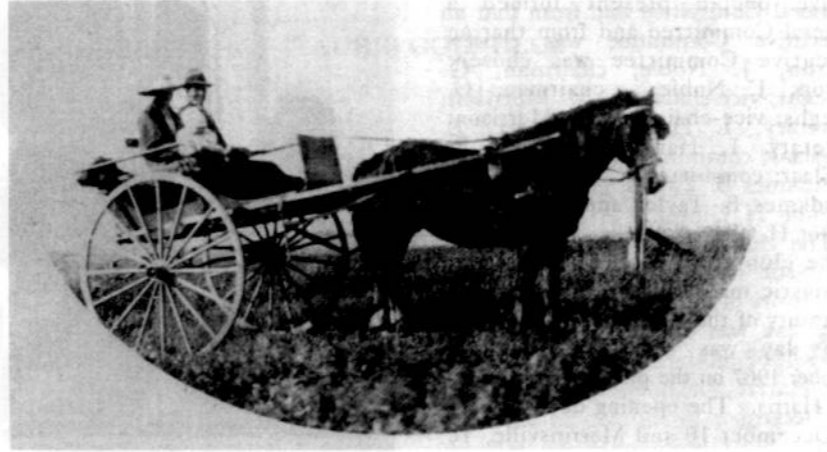
From original clay tracks, roads have slowly improved with applications of sand, gravel or metal and, in most cases, finally being tarsealed. Nearly all the roads were taken over by the Government and declared public as the land was subdivided, but some were private rights of way for many years. The creation of the main road through Tauhei goes back to 1876 when Messrs Russell and Whitaker were required to form a road from Taupiri to the Piako River as part of the deal in buying the 'Great Piako Swamp'. Before and after the First World War the main road from Morrinsville through Tauhei had been maintained by the application of pumice sand from Ross' Quarry (where Mr R. Gatenby now farms) and by broken brown metal from a quarry on what is now Mr J. van der Velden's property.

The Piako County section received its first coat of tarseal in 1940 at a cost of 449 pounds per mile. In 1934 60 vehicles per day used the road with the total rising to 155 by 1950 and 700 in 1982.

The Waikato County used a gravel pit on Mr Seifert's property (where Mr I. Reed farms), access to this pit being from both Seiferts Road (Fransen's Corner) and the main road between Mr I. Reed's and Mr J. Singh's, where the formation of the road can still be seen and for many years this was used by locals as a thoroughfare between Seiferts Road and the main road. Metal supplies came from the existing quarry. Tarsealing of the Waikato County section of the main road started in the mid 1950s with the road to Hamilton being finally sealed in 1962.

The Motumaoho-Tauhei Road, known for many years as Swamp Road, now officially called Matuku Road, was taken under Governor's Warrant in 1883, with Reay and Watson Road being declared public in 1921.

Seiferts Road, or the 'The Sand' as it was originally called, developed from both ends. The Whitikahu end to the Awahini Stream, surveyed off in 1910,



*The Barrowclough family and their transport in 1922.*

became a public road in 1916. The balance was formed as a right of way to each farm as it was subdivided from the original block, finally being declared public in 1918. Williams Road was declared public in 1944.

Valentines Road was to become one of the first metal roads in Tauhei. Hand knapped metal was put down by local settlers, two of them being Mr W. E. Seifert and Mr L. H. McAlpine, and covered the first section of Valentines Road from the main road to the Tauhei Stream bridge and was referred to as 'The Metal'.

Manuels Road was for many years a private right of way which had been negotiated in 1921 allowing access for the owners of land in the Piako County through the Tauhei Block to the main Tauhei Road, finally being declared public in 1938. On early maps (1912) a road is shown 200 metres south-east and parallel to the existing road. This probably was never used as a road and was finally declared closed.

Tainui Road, or Pilkington Road, was formed in three stages, originally stopping at Mr R. Waide's gate. In 1928, Kereone Ltd subdivided its farm and the road was extended to Mr J. Meikle's, finally joining the road from Hoe-0-Tainui in 1936.

In 1923 with the advent of the motorcar, population increase and the resultant traffic and haulage, our roads steadily deteriorated. Some of the new settlers, and especially some who had served in the War, advocated the construction of a light railway from Morrinsville to Tauhei to convey fertiliser etc. and take the heavier haulage and

so save the roads. After several meetings and the consideration of several schemes including a concrete road across the swamp, and even the use of barges on the Tauhei Stream, nothing was done. By the winter the main road was only negotiable to vehicles drawn by strong horses or by saddle horse.

A Ratepayers Association was formed and negotiations started with the two counties, Piako and Waikato, and in due time, with loans guaranteed by the ratepayers, good road communication was restored and maintained.

## *Waikato Times* 1923 TAUHEI'S BIG ROADING PROBLEM (Condensed)

Tauhei's position today, as far as roads are concerned is a most unsatisfactory one from every point of view. And what is more, it, has become one of the most contentious subjects in the district.

When a cart breaks a spring on a road in the middle of summer, what must that road be like in winter? That's the position as far as Tauhei roads are concerned at present. For some considerable time a controversy has been going concerning the advisability of certain settlers in the Waikato County being brought into the Piako County, thus participating in rates which would be levied in connection with metalling three roads in the Tauhei district. Folk in the Piako County hereabouts maintain that settlers at Tauhei end of Waikato County use the roads to Morrinsville and pay nothing towards upkeep. It is contended that the latter make Morrinsville their outlet and it is reasonably suggested that with an improved road across Motumaoho swamp Motumaoho station would be made accessible to them at all times. From that part of the district under discussion it is about 25 miles by road to Hamilton.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF CHANGE

After a great deal of talk and much discussion a petition was circulated amongst the settlers concerned and the majority of names attached thereto were in favour of the change over. All looked well. It was thought that the whole matter was one of easy adjustment when certain people got busy with a certain petition, which in the end, upset the original proposal. From that day to this the controversial subject has never been allowed to be settled. The argument in favour of the change put forward by the affirmatives is, if the settlers at the Waikato end would come in the Piako County Council would raise a loan on which it was reasonable to suppose the Government would grant a subsidy. There is a splendid quarry near the boundary, but it is said Waikato County can keep it Piako want the ratepayers. Tauhei people in the Piako County say they are not going to raise a loan to make roads for the Tauhei settlers in the Waikato County to travel over.

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS TO PROPOSAL

An added attraction to the proposal is the contemplated formation of a road about 70 chains in length which, by linking up two present roads would save at least three miles or more on the journey to Morrinsville. In addition, it is contended that the Tauhei settlers in the Waikato County would be able to make two trips a day to Motumaoho, etc instead of one as at present. Further argument in favour of the merger is that the road in question, together with the one to Morrinsville, would be made so that it could be used during winter months. At present settlers coming from Waikato end to Motumaoho or Morrinsville (the nearest railway station) have to make a very wide detour or use the main Tauhei-Morrinsville road past the Mangateparu soldiers' estate.

## FINAL SHOT FIRED

The Hangawera road from Morrinsville to Taupiri and Hamilton links up with the swamp road from Motumaoho. A short distance from that point there is a dedicated road going in to Messrs Reay and Watson's property. It is from the end of this particular road to the Waikato boundary road - the Confiscation Line, or Valentine's as it is called - that the proposed 70 chain road would, it is said, be made if the merger could take place. A proposal has also been made to metal this road right through from the Waikato end to Motumaoho station; the other two roads to be made permanent as well.

Finally, the Tauhei settlers in the Piako County say that provided the Waikatoites come in they would not be asked to shoulder any responsibility for existing loans. All they would be liable for would be rates on the particular loan which would be raised in order to accomplish the work outlined.

## ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

Now we come to the argument on the other side of the fence. Some years ago the Tauhei settlers then living in the Waikato County suggested that they should join up with Piako; and they also made a proposition to bring a 2000 pound loan with them

for the same purpose as that proposed now. 'Something happened', however, and nothing came of it. So things went on and nothing definite was accomplished till the time of the petition-signing business arrived. Now these particular settlers who admit they have the use of the roads, assert that they are not willing to pay rates on all the roads proposed by the Piako people when one road will do them quite well. Favourable comment was indulged in regarding the proposed new road to Motumaoho, or Morrinsville for that matter. It was pointed out to the writer that the new outlet would be of immediate benefit to at least 18 settlers, while 15 other settlers who at present use the Tauhei-Morrinsville and Hangawera-Morrinsville roads would also use it because of its greater convenience. It was further remarked that the Waikato settlers even though they joined up with Piako would still be liable for rates to the Waikato County Council previously incurred by them. These rates have been expended in forming and metalling roads from Hamilton and Taupiri to the Piako boundary. Of course it is quite natural that the Waikato County Council do not want to lose their ratepayers. As far as the two county councils are concerned, however, it is understood that the matter has been allowed to drop, for the time being anyway. But the settlers are still 'having a go for it'.

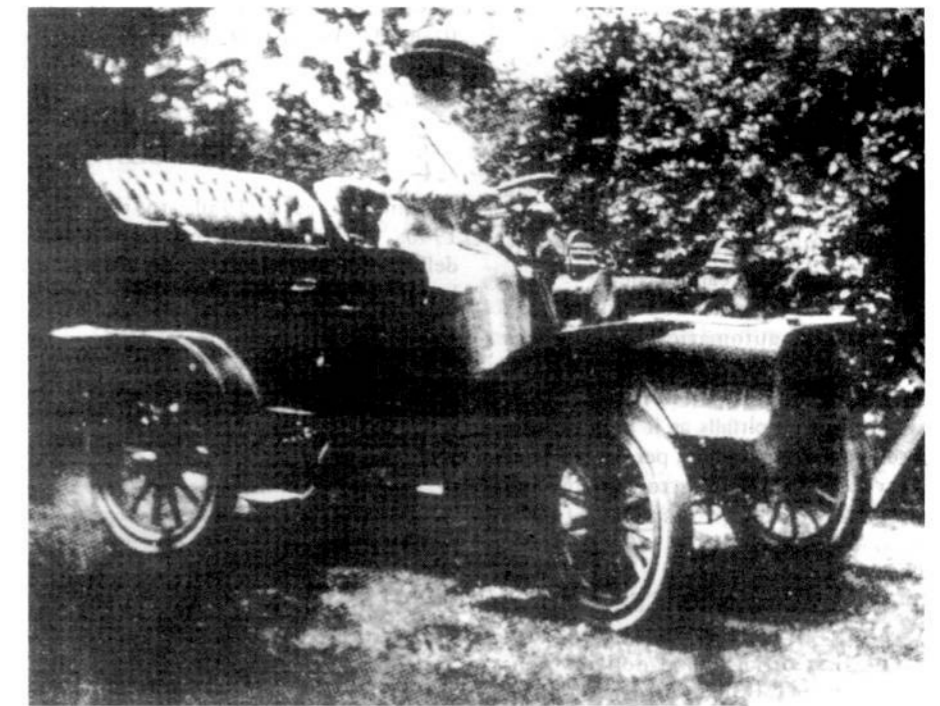
## BOGGED IN MID-SUMMER

To be bogged on a road in mid-summer is an experience which luckily befalls few. It happened to a Tauhei farmer last Monday on the Motumaoho-Tauhei road. As a matter of fact it could hardly be called a road, although it has the appearance of having been formed many years ago. "This is the second time a waggon has been bogged here

lately," said a drainage hand who was watching the operation of digging the waggon out. "It could hardly be credited that a cart could get stuck at this time of the year, but it is a fact, as you can see for yourself. That's the Piako County Council roads for you."

A settler had been to Motumaoho railway station to pick up a load of 30 cwt of manure. He had two horses attached to a four-wheeled waggon. Half-way across the swamp, where the Hangawera road from Morrinsville joins the Motumaoho-Tauhei road, he was bowling along when suddenly the left-hand or near side wheels sank into soft mud right up to the axles. The load was dumped on the roadside. A spade was requisitioned from the drain-cleaner and digging operations commenced. A tree was then laid in the hollow and all hands got on to the wheels in order to assist the horses. With laughter and jest the job was accomplished, the waggon reloaded and sent on its way. "Is this supposed to be a road?" asked the writer. "Yes, supposed is right mister," said a wag who was standing by. "This is the kind of thing we have to put up with out this way. We cannot use it at all in winter and Motumaoho is our nearest station."

There is a scheme for improvement 'in the wind' so to speak which, if carried into effect, would enable the settlers to make two trips a day to Motumaoho station for manures and other commodities. Talking to another settler about the general condition of the roads in Tauhei district, he said, "I brought my bicycle out thinking I would be able to ride into Morrinsville occasionally, but I have only been able to be on it six times in four years".



*Tauhei's first car: Mrs Seifert in the Cadillac 1907-08*

## TELEPHONE SERVICE

Before the arrival of official telephone and postal services, Tauhei residents relied on a Morrinsville grocer, Mr Hewitt, who collected the mail from the Morrinsville Post Office and brought letters or telegrams to the settlers as he delivered the groceries once a week. The daily newspaper only came when someone drove into town for supplies. The Auckland *Weekly News* was popular as it covered the news of the week.

It is claimed that telephone service started in 1912, and this may be correct, but they would have been private lines to a telephone bureau only. Post Office services started in September 1916 with 10 Tauhei subscribers being listed on the Morrinsville Telephone Exchange. In those days, subscribers were on party lines with up to 10 people sharing one line, with separate code rings for each settler (e.g. 72S - three short rings). The first settlers to receive telephones, but not before they had erected and paid for the lines themselves, were:

Brown J.	39S
Farrant J.	39R
Harris I. B.	39K
Mellsop H. C.	39W
Pilkington E. C.	39M
Seifert F. W.	39D
Latimer J. C.	72K
McAlpine L. H.	72R
Noble A.	72S
Rasmussen R. F.	72M

The arrival of the telephone made farmers and their wives feel less isolated and, in emergencies, a telephone call to the only doctor in Morrinsville, Dr Seville, certainly made life easier for early settlers.

Party lines continued until 1957 when a new automatic exchange was established with individual lines and automatic dialling of numbers. This system had its pitfalls as it then became a toll call of eightpence per call to Morrinsville. Free calling to Morrinsville and surrounding districts finally became a reality in 1963.

## MAIL SERVICES

The first official mail delivery contract was let to Mr D. Farrant, in 1911, who conducted a three times weekly service to Tauhei by either gig or horse.

In 1913 Mr J. Ormsby became the contractor with the service being extended to include Whitikahu, once again delivering three times a week by

gig, this service being terminated in 1915.

With the advent of cream collection and delivery to Morrinsville local contractors became mad, bread and meat carriers as well as forming a vital link with the town's facilities and trading posts. Mr H. Greentree serviced Seiferts and Valentines Roads; W. Lindsay and L. Brightwell, Swamp Road; P. Teere and J. Ketheringham the main road. Later Mr E. Tyler collected cream exclusively for the Morrinsville Co-op Dairy Co and J. Maxwell for the N.Z. Co-op Dairy Co.

In 1923 residents voiced their complaints at the poor rural mail service. The mail was delivered three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and settlers asked if the mail cart could be held back until after the arrival of the express train from Auckland on Saturday, which would mean residents would get Saturday's paper on Saturday, not three days later.

In the early 1930s the first mail car appeared. Mrs Maxwell, who had been using a horse and gig, created a sensation when she appeared driving a Model A Ford car delivering the mail. It was also about this time that a six-day delivery started and since 1933 we have been faithfully serviced by W. Aplin, 1933; Wallace Supplies Ltd, 1934; A. Richards, 1936; H. P. Richards, 1943; J. R. Funston, 1952; D. Welch, 1963 and S. F. Hawkins, 1977.

## DELIVERY SERVICES

From the early 1930s to the mid 1940s many local firms conducted delivery services at least twice a week to householders in Tauhei.

Butchers, W. Timmins; J. H. Hopkins; G. W. Seymour; Dendy and Wilkins. Bakers, Morrice and Co; G. & G. Burmester Ltd. Groceries, Wallace Supplies Ltd. Fish, Richards. Draper, M. McGregor.



## Road Transport

From the humble can of cream which was transported from the district by horse and cart in 1909 grew the need for the horse teams and wagons of the 1920s. Motorised transport began to appear later that decade. Messrs L. Brightwell, J. Maxwell and F. Stringfield were owners of the first trucks in Tauhei, 'Internationals' being the popular make. Others followed quickly and the names of Lambie, Ensor, Woods, Wilson and Rota Puhipuhi are all remembered. One driver in his Reo Speed Wagon had the misfortune to capsize his lorry on Christmas Eve. Included in the tangle were copious quantities of fare for many Christmas tables. Tauhei has always been well served by transport operators based in Whitikahu, Morrinsville and Tahuna and the trucks and milk tankers of the 1980s are a far cry from the 1909 horse and cart.

## Bus Services

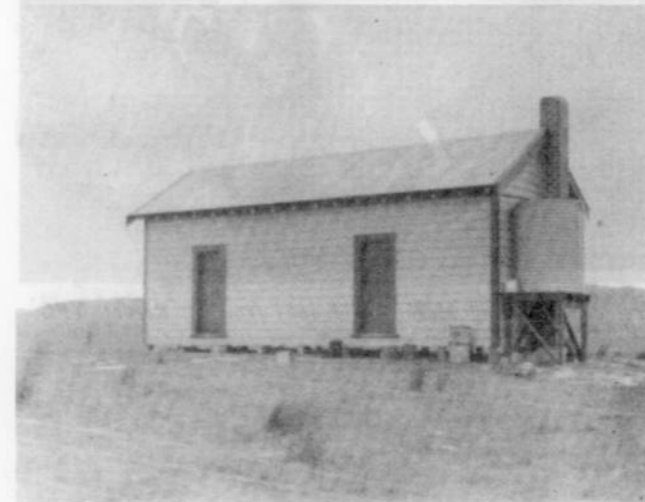
About 1940 Edwards Motors started a twice weekly return service from Morrinsville through Tauhei to Hoe-0-Tainui enabling passengers to join the bus to Auckland and return again in the evening. During World War II's shortages of petrol and tyres this service became a popular way to travel to Morrinsville. Another service provided in the 1950s was a direct service to Auckland via Orini, Te Hoe, Waeranga and Te Kauwhata. Those fortunate enough to live on the main road got the *N. Z. Herald* delivered in time for breakfast reading. Another popular bus service which lasted for many years was the Friday night bus from Hoe-0-Tainui to Morrinsville enabling passengers to do shopping, attend a cinema and return after the film show.

## Power

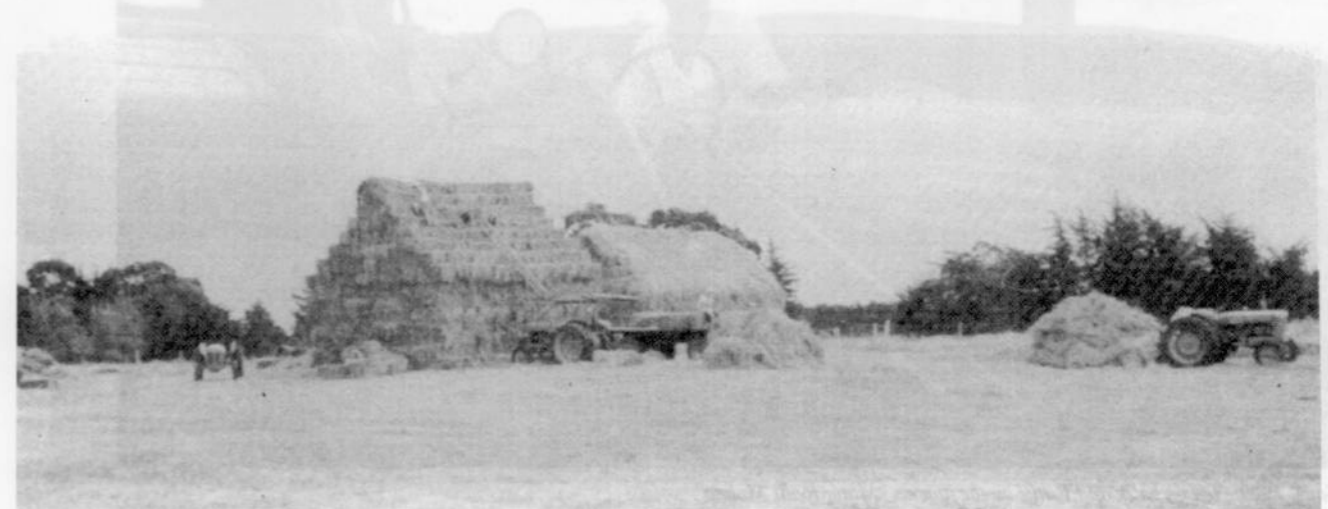
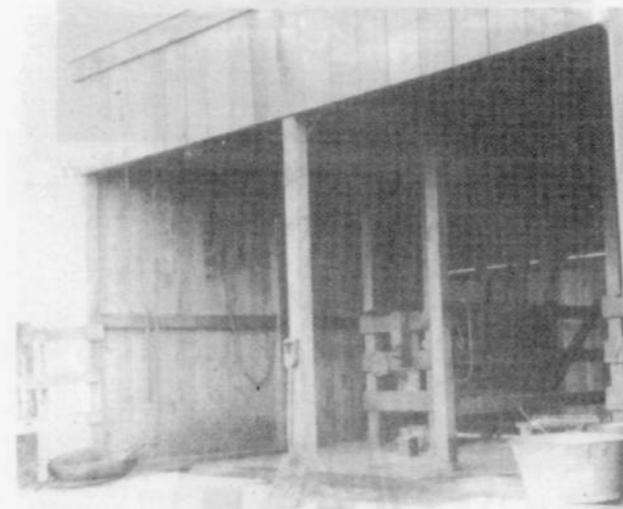
Both the Central Waikato Electric Power Board and the Thames Valley Electric Power Board were formed in 1920 with the C.W.E.P.B. supply reaching Tauhei first. Their main service line followed Seiferts Road and actually extended for about one mile into the T.V.E.P.B. area, from what was known as Gee's transformer. This supply was switched on in April 1924 with the T.V.E.P.B. supply arriving in Tauhei in September 1924.

LEFT: Butchers who delivered in Tauhei included George Seymour, left, John Hopkins, fourth from left, Bill Timmins, back right, and Walter Timmins, front right.

LEFT: One of the logs from the 80ft kauri tree which yielded 5000 super feet of millable timber. "Parahiwi", 1952.



Mr Barrowclough's new home (above) and new cowshed in 1919.



Haymaking by the Gee Gang in the 1950s.



Mr E. Tyler and his cream wagon, 1920.



J. Smith taking a wagon load of pigs to Morrinsville Sale.



Keith Rowling milking "Mandy" back in 1928.



L/Cpl Henry Heke of 28th Maori Battalion with General Freyberg when the latter visited Ravensthorpe Hospital, Auckland, during the Second World War.



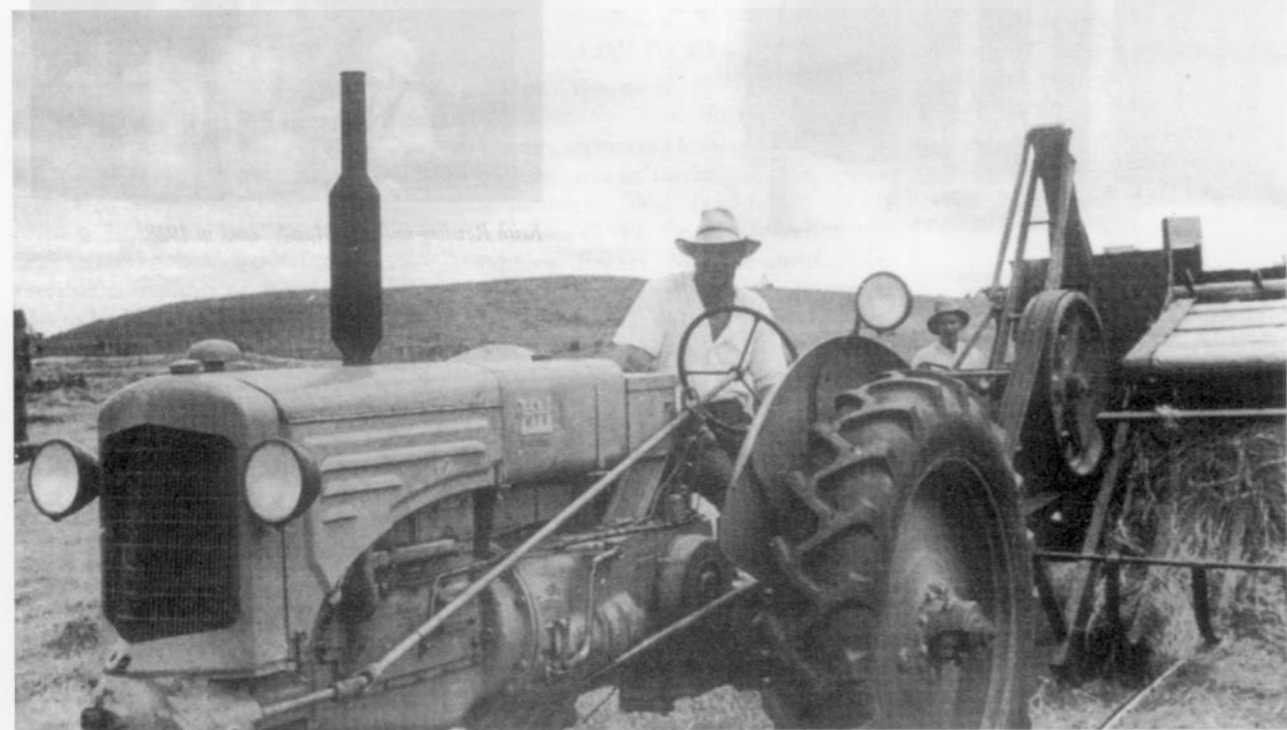
B. G. Freegard receiving Mathieson Trophy from C. Reeves, YFC national president, 1978.



Quarry Hill Orchard, 1983.



Robertson Air Service in slight difficulties on E. H. Gibson's farm, 1951.



Tyler Gang, 1949: Ted on baler and Eddie on the famous "Minneapolis Moline".



TAUHEI GOLDEN JUBILEE 1959  
Mrs A. Palmer cutting the jubilee cake watched by the headmaster, Mr R. Miller.



TAUHEI DIAMOND JUBILEE 1969  
The oldest and youngest pupils of Tauhei School cut the jubilee cake: Miss K. Noble and Helen Rowling.



TAUHEI SCHOOL GOLDEN JUBILEE - First Decade 1909-1918  
BACK ROW: E. Cochrane, C. Trapski, C. Smith, J. Milton, J. Hamilton, A. Charlton, C. Charlton, M. Neems, J. Hamilton.  
MIDDLE ROW: J. Heaslip, F. Trapski, B. Heaslip, D. Milton, N. Mellsop, G. Lawrence, C. Davies, E. Williams, E. Cochrane.  
FRONT ROW: M. Hamilton, C. Millen, H. Millen, M. Millen, E. Sewell, E. Neems, A. Pilkington, B. Hamilton.



WAR ORGANISATION  
OF THE  
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY  
AND  
ORDER OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM

Presented to

*Tauhei Sub-Centre  
New Zealand Red Cross Society*

in recognition of devoted service to  
the cause of humanity  
during the second world war  
1939-1945

*George R.I.*

Sovereign Head,  
Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

*Elizabeth R*

President,  
British Red Cross Society.

THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE expresses its appreciation to the many people who contributed items for this booklet and especially thanks to David Gibson and his family for their time and untiring effort given to the research and compiling of the History of Tauhei.

PART III

TAUHEI SCHOOL  
1984-1998



PRINCIPALS

1980-86	Mr R. Yates	1993-95	Mr P. Mulcahy
1986-92	Mr B. Harrop	1995-97	Mr B. Clarke
1 Term '92	Mrs. S. Harrop	1998-	Mr D. Cornish

TEACHERS

Ariel McCracken	Sandy Harrop
Sue McGovern	Susan Ryan
Ian Exley	Susan Dunn
Robyn Hampton	Andrea Amon
Julie Larson	Jill Flemming
Beverly Graham	Liz Hawkins
Verna Wright	Bill Fairweather
Sharon Maras	Trudy Pocock
Gaylene Brown	Anne Cooper
Lynette Jones	Shelley Gosse
Gail Arnold	

SUPPORT STAFF

Anne Abercrombie	Robyn Averill
Shirley Chaston	Hazel Shewan
Sharon Murray	Helen Rowling
Freda Leonard	Lesley Web
Glenice Goodwin	Norma and Arthur James

BUS DRIVERS

Beryl Russell	Vince Rappe
Jim Munns	George Hopa

## PHYSICAL CHANGES

### TAUHEI SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 1985 John Wayne, Mary Gibson, John O'Neill, John Fransen, Paul Prouting, Peter O'Reilly, Neil Rowling.  
 1987 John Wayne, John Fransen, Paul Prouting, John O'Neill, Peter O'Reilly, Trevor Moore, Gary Rayner

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- 1989 Peter O'Reilly, John Fransen, Trevor Moore, Gaylene Brown, Freda Leonard, Robyn Hampton (T), Brian Harrop (P).  
 Additions: 1990 Sue Ryan (T), Kerry Averill, 1991 Peter McDonald.  
 1992 John Fransen, Gaylene Brown, Peter McDonald, Alistair Barnes, Lorraine Norton, Kerry Averill, Sue Ryan (T), Brian Harrop (P).  
 Additions: 1993 Peter Mulcahy (P), 1994 Kevin Parry, Trevor Cooper.  
 1995 Kevin Parry, Gaylene Brown, Trevor Cooper, Rex Latto, Peter De Veth, Sue Ryan (T), Peter Mulcahy (P).  
 Additions: 1995 Brian Clarke (P).  
 1998 Board of Trustees: Trevor Cooper, Gaylene Brown, Rex Latto, Tony Van Hellemond, Maurice Arnold, Jill Fleming (T), David Cornish (P).

### PTA

- 1984 Lee Jackson (Chr), Jackie Jellrey (Sec), Lois Bourne (Tres).  
 1985 Lee Jackson (Chr), Graeme Gourlay (Vice), Jan O'Neill (Sec), Lois Bourne (Tres).  
 1986 Graeme Gourlay (Chr), Diane O'Reilly (Vice), Freda Leonard (Sec), Lois Bourne (Tres).  
 1987 Ian Dibble (Chr), Glenys Williams (Vice), Freda Leonard (Sec), Cheryl Noble (Tres, 6 Months), Bruce Freegard (Tres, 6 Months).  
 1988 Ian Dibble (Chr), Glenys Williams (Vice), Freda Leonard (Sec), Bruce Freegard (Tres).  
 1989 Ian Dibble (Chr), Glenys Williams (Vice), Helen Rowling (Sec), Bruce Freegard (Tres).  
 1990 Kerry Averill (Chr), Peter Williams (Vice), Helen Rowling (Sec), Ian Webber (Tres).  
 1991 Glenys Williams (Chr), Bruce Freegard (Vice), Julie Meikle (Sec), Ian Webber (Tres).  
 1992 Grant Vickers (Chr, 3 Months), Rex Latto (Chr 9 Months), Alistair Barnes (Vice), Anne Coles (Sec), Rex Latto (Tres, 3 Months), Peter De Veth (Tres, 9 Months).  
 1993 Rex Latto (Chr), Bruce Freegard (Vice), Mary Haynes (Sec), Peter De Veth (Tres).  
 1994 Sue Knauf (Chr), Bruce Freegard (Vice), Mary Haynes (Sec), Peter De Veth (Tres).  
 1995 Peter Martin (Chr), David Norton (Vice), Jan Parry (Sec), Howard Farmilo (Tres).  
 1996 Peter Martin (Chr), David Norton (Vice), Judene Tasker (Sec), Howard Farmilo (Tres).  
 1997 Peter Martin (Chr), Ian Severinson (Vice), Catherine Trezona (Sec), Graeme Bell (Tres).  
 1998 Catherine Trezona (Chr), Ian Severinson (Vice), Karen Martin (Sec), Pam Welch-Cropp (Tres)

- 1984 New swimming pool sheds erected using funds from Machinery sale.  
 1985 Planting of Native Tree Area behind pool sheds.  
 1986 First planting of Christmas Tree Plantation in horse paddock  
 "Neil's Garden" constructed at end of netball courts.  
 1987 Store shed re-roofed and repaired.  
 1988 10 000 gallon rainwater tank installed.  
 P.E. store converted into storeroom.  
 First meeting with School Committee and Hamilton Education Board Architect to discuss plans for complete remodel of the school.  
 1990 Extensive drainage of main field involving Nova Flo and sand slitting  
 Cost = \$23 000  
 Cloak bay between Rooms 1 & 2 converted into teaching space Library converted into temporary classroom because of roll growth New sewage drains installed B.O.T. investigates possibility of upgrading or replacing school house.  
 New water reticulation system installed - whole site  
 1991 Jubilee library moved to northern side of netball courts  
 Library remodeled including re-cladding and room underneath New fourth classroom installed M.O.E. officially acknowledges school ownership of Jubilee Library  
 Electric night store and booster heaters installed.  
 Adventure playground built School re-roofed in colour steel  
 Extensive letter writing, meetings and lobbying of Ministry and M.P.s to gain support for Remodel  
 Remodel of school approved and work begun in June  
 Work included:  
 New Administration Block  
 New library  
 Two new toilet blocks  
 Refurbishing of classrooms  
 New storm water and sewage  
 New car park, paving and decking  
 Gardens and outdoor teaching space  
 Shifting of storage shed  
 1993 Remodel completed and opened 29 October  
 1994 Schoolhouse rebuilt and extended  
 1995 Gardens and paving and out-door teaching space completed  
 1997 School pool resurfaced  
 Schoolhouse fence built  
 1998 Sandpit rebuilt to match gardens



*New swimming pool sheds being erected.*



*School remodel - the community had enormous input of both money and labour into this project allowing many enhancements to be made. Here the toilet block is being moved.*



## SNIPPETS FROM THE SCHOOL LOG 1984 - 1998

The following excerpts have been taken from the School Log to provide a representative sample of school life and to hopefully trigger memories for those involved.



Mr Russell Yates (Principal) addresses guests.

### 1984

**March 24** School Jubilee. The day has arrived! Fine weather and a very large crowd arrived, some 500 people. The day has begun with some of the older pupils aboard vintage cars. The official opening has involved all of those present with the official party comprising the Minister of Education, Mr M Wellington; Jubilee Committee Chairman, Mr. K Rowling and Mrs. Rowling; School Committee Chairman, Mr J Wayne and Mrs Wayne; Ward Member, Mr C Wiseley and Mrs Wiseley; Piako County Member, Mr W Scott and Mrs Scott; Waikato County Member, Mr B Des Forges; MP for Hauraki, Mr G Lee and Principal, Mr R Yates and Mrs Yates. Guests gathered on the courts. The Piako Brass Band played, speeches were made followed by the roll call and photographs. The children were well entertained by a carriage drawn by a team of Clydesdale Horses.

In the evening, dinner followed by a dance which provided a fitting close to the day.



**March 25** The Jubilee moved to the Tauhei Marae where members of the Jubilee were welcomed onto the marae and a church service and lunch followed. This part of the programme was a real highlight and provided a fitting climax to a very successful weekend.

**April 18** Annual Cross-Country at Patetonga. Our children gained a number of placings especially 9-10 yr olds where we took the first five placings.

**June 11** PTA meeting held on Marriage Guidance was well attended.

**July 18** Working Bee held to pour floor for new pool sheds. This project was made possible though proceeds of a giant machinery sale and community labour.

**July 25** Tahuna visited to play rugby and netball. Astronomical rugby scores against us but the girls did their bit to restore pride.

**December 13** Held end of year concert in form of Music Hall. Very well received and a credit to all.

### 1985

**25 February** Room 3 at Waihi Beach Camp. 28 children and 9 parents enjoyed a very successful camp.

**26 March** Began a week long Lapathon to raise money for classroom libraries. All children took part raising \$1374.18

**29 April** Wairangi Jones - Story Teller visited and entertained our children with a selection of excellent Folk Tales.

**25 July** Fancy Dress - Folk Dance evening held at Tauhei Hall. A very worthwhile evening with our children and adults performing very well.

**10 August** Std 4 children attended camp at Port Waikato along with children from Tahuna and Morrinsville Primary.

**15 October** School visited Kai-a-te-Mata Marae as part of our Social Studies unit. A large number of parents accompanied us, as we were welcomed on to the marae in the traditional manner.



### 1986

**11 March** Tauhei Young Farmers Club organised a Farm Safety Day for our children.

**17 April** Tauhei children win 10 of the 12 events they entered at Country Schools Cross Country.

**9 May** Russell Yates last day at Tauhei School. He begins a new position at Aberdeen School.

**26 May** Brian Harrop's first day at school.

**2 July** Painting of School's exterior has begun.

**9 July** Room's 2 & 3 visit the Waikato Times and Radio 1ZH as part of Communication Unit.

**16 July** PTA Meeting to view and discuss use of computers in classrooms. The meeting decided to purchase one Amstrad 128 with colour monitor and printer.

**31 July** A very successful circus was performed by our junior children in the hall. This was followed by an afternoon tea for parents and grandparents. This was well attended and enjoyed by all.

**9 August** Senior pupils organised a disco for surrounding schools. One hundred and thirty children had a great time.

**15 October** A meeting of 30 parents were introduced to the new Health Syllabus. Parents were very interested and willing to participate in the writing of our School Scheme for Health.

**23 October** Our school "Baking and Flower Show" was held. A large number of proud parents and grandparents viewed the displays.

**18 December** End of year party and concert. A well attended and very enjoyable evening of carol singing, instrumental items and dance, followed by a party tea.

**1987**

**26 February** A very large turnout of parents to our swimming sports. Highlight of the day was the parents/ staff/ pupils pyjama relay. Pupils won because some parents unfamiliar with PJs.

**18 March** Almost all of Tauhei joined us for a combined Sea Shore study and picnic at Bowentown. A beautiful fine family day enjoyed by all.

**18 March** Std 4 camp at Port Waikato. A brilliant experience and chance to mix with Morrinsville Primary and Tahuna pupils before they meet at Intermediate.

**4 April** 25 senior pupils spend the night at school to participate in 40 hr famine.

**10 April** Our school participated in the official opening of the Tauhei hall. The children entertained guests with a number of singing items. We enjoyed sharing our talents with such an appreciative audience.

**8 May** The school has been infested with cockroaches for a number of years and is being fumigated over the holidays. This has meant a major upheaval as every desk, cupboard, library shelf, resource box and wall had to be emptied to allow effective treatment. A large number of brave parents helped with this major undertaking.

**8 June** Principal visits pupil home gardens. A week of tea and cakes have changed his shape.

**2 July** Whole school goes on a train excursion through the Kaimai Tunnel to Tauranga.



**15 July** Mrs Hampton organised a coaching afternoon for surrounding schools. Coaches from Sports Foundation and Morrinsville College. A most successful day.

**27 July** Catherine O'Neill wins a prize in the Post Office Health Stamp painting competition.

**7 August** Climax to a successful book week. Highlights have included parents and grandparents sharing their favourite books. Children dressing up as their favourite book character, and a parents day to view children's work and to help children select a book to donate to our library. A total of 200 books were donated.

**20 August** Our children performed dance, maori action songs and instrumental items at the District Music Festival. We received special mention for the high standard achieved in this polished performance.

**1 October** 150 junior pupils from Ngaruawahia Primary make a country school visit. Our children act as guides on Rowling's, Warren's and Prouting's farms. A challenging experience for our children.

**12 October** Calf Club Day. Entries received for 36 calves, 10 lambs, 8 kids and 7 bulls. 17 garden projects also completed. A successful day for the whole community.

**16 November** PTA meeting. Staff present a talk on developing quality writing in children. This meeting was very well attended with excellent feedback from parents.

**25 November** Country schools Athletic Sports at Tahuna. Tauhei won the shield for the first time since 1939.

**1988**

7 February A community B.B.Q. and swim was held at school. Over 90% of the district attended this pleasant and happy summers evening. A talk about and a display of security systems was made. (Several houses were burgled this night.)

1 March Members of the Tauhei Tree Club join our pupils for a bush study at Pukemokemoke. We found a new 'Fast Track' down!

21 March Waikato Sports Foundation begins a series of coaching sessions in cricket with our pupils.

12 April Pupils visit Morrinsville Vet Clinic as part of Animal Week.

24 May A lunchtime winter sports programme has been implemented. Activities included Soccer, Rugby, Netball, Volleyball and Badminton. Parent coaches are : John Gibson, Freda Leonard, Barry Harris, Bruce O'Neill, Paul Prouting and C. Rayner

1 August A parent helper scheme has been implemented with seven keen mothers and grandparents helping with reading and other activities. Parents have attended two training sessions.

17 August All five teams are placed in the top five of their sections at the Waikato Schools Gymnastics Competition.

21 August Mr John Wayne, Chairman of School Committee, died suddenly. We have all lost a respected friend and extremely competent chairman who contributed a great deal to the school and community.

3 November Principal, School Committee and Cliff Wisely meet with Ed. Board Architect to discuss initial proposals to remodel school.

14 December Highlight of the year. Whole school performed the "Story of Christmas" with the audience joining in the singing of carols. Twenty pupils accompanied the singer on musical instruments. Every child had a costume with the final effect stunning. 230 people from the community attended. The evening concluded with farewells and presentations to our Standard Four pupils and our bus driver Mrs Russell, who had driven our bus for nine years.

15 December A very dramatic and eventful day. Our school bus with 21 pupils on board rolled down a bank while avoiding stock on Valentines Road. The children and driver sustained no serious injuries, however most received bumps and bruises.

**1989**

15 February School picnic and seashore study at Bowentown. A great day with almost 100% of families joining us in perfect weather. Great school spirit evident.

23 February Excellent parent support and high standard of swimming displayed by children at our swimming sports. Parents cheated in the one length boat race (laughing too much!!)

4 March Port Waikato Camp.

14 March 22 parents involved in working bee to chop wood, paint library and fill sandpit.

13 April Interschol Cross-country at Patetonga. Excellent level of fitness and sportsmanship shown by our children. We were placed first in every event but two and asked "What's our secret?"

26 April N.Z. Dance Co. performed Little Red Riding Hood in the Hall.

25 May

Inaugural meeting of the Tauhei School Board of Trustees. A new era in education begins. The board elected the following officers:  
*Chairperson*  
 Peter O'Reilly  
*Secretary*  
 Freda Leonard  
*Treasurer*  
 John Fransen  
 Board members displayed enthusiasm and commitment to building an efficient team for the good of our pupils.

30 June Mrs Anne Abercrombie leaves Tauhei School after 26 years loyal and competent service and involvement in the school as parent, teacher and teacher aide.

23 August Four school gymnastics teams compete at Hamilton. All teams received merit awards with one team being placed first in their section.

25 August Board of Trustees present Draft Charter at Wine and Cheese Evening. This was an extremely successful meeting with 62 people attending. Over 80 community members participated in the writing of our initial charter at 8 house meetings around the district.

26 August Our Saturday netball team played their last game of a most successful season. They were unbeaten throughout scoring 256 goals with only 132 scored against them.

5 October Paul Prouting's tractor sinks up to its axles on our football field while mowing.

6/7 December Tauhei School presents 2 performances of "The Wizard of Oz" These performances of music, dance and drama were culmination of many hours of hard work by pupils, teachers and parents. Over 300 people attended these performances which were of an exceptionally high standard.  
*Dorothy* - Adelle Williams  
*Wizard* - Sam O'Reilly  
*Scarecrow* - Shane Averill  
*Tin Woodsman* - Michael Harrop  
*Lion* - Paul Webber  
*W.W. of the West* - Joanne Spencer  
*W. of the East* - Nicola Spencer  
*G.W. of North* - Pip Wayne  
*Toto* - Wayne Moore

**1990**

14 February "Crazy Hat Day to promote covering up in the sun. Cloak bay between Rooms 1 and 2 modified by PTA to create a fourth classroom

6 March School Mini Games Day was held as a follow up to Commonwealth Games study. Programme included opening ceremony with flags, athletics and swimming. Medals were presented to the winners.

23 March Children sleep at school for 20 hour famine.

21 April Std 4 camp at Port Waikato. A week of successfully achieving many personal challenges for pupils. Most rewarding.

21 May Pupils have their first play on their newly drained field. At last a place to play in winter.

7 June PTA visit schools to research playgrounds before planning begins.

11 June

Mark Devoy coaches our pupils in squash on the mini court set up in the Hall for week.

21 June A very successful day was had by the whole school at the Hilldale Zoo to support our science topic "What's Alive".

27 June A public meeting was held to discuss the condition of the schoolhouse. The Ministry is no longer interested in retaining and maintaining houses within 20 km of any township. A proposal was put to the meeting that we buy the house from the Ministry and upgrade it ourselves. The meeting supported, in principle, moves to retain a schoolhouse and directed the Board to investigate options.

16 July An Indian meal was prepared for the whole school by Mrs B. Singh - culmination of our study of India. This was a delicious meal enjoyed by all.

2 October Whole school visits Morrinsville to practice "Safe Walking". A very nerve racking experience.

19 October PTA complete our new water reticulation system. We now have a dual system (roof and bore).

23 October Dawn Blake and Heather Autridge begin regular coaching in Golf for our pupils.

30 October School visited Clydesdale Museum as part of our Great Grandmas Day unit. This was a well organised and learning filled day that was well supported by parents.

4 November School Open Day. The community was invited to school to view our classrooms, which have been transformed into museums. The community has provided many valuable and irreplaceable exhibits to further our understandings of early Tauhei.

12 November We win a record 37 placings and four of the five relays at the Tahuna and Districts Athletics Sports. Our pupils impressed with their exceptional spirit, support for each other, commitment and discipline.

**1991**



21 January

Our new classroom has arrived after six months of frustrating delays. Decking, toilets and walkway linking this room to Room 3 will be included in the promised Remodel.

25 January

The Ministry of Education has approved funding for the establishment of Reading Recovery in our school. This programme will have a life long positive effect on our children.

20 February

School visits the native bush area on David Gibson's farm in conjunction with our science unit. David, along with many parents shared their knowledge with us. This was a happy and successful day.

2 May

Interschol Cross Country at Tahuna. Tauhei was placed first in every event except one.

3 May

Ministry of Education officially recognises the Jubilee Library as belonging to the Board of Trustees.

6 May

School is visited by ERO. The school was congratulated on its open, consultative and positive approach to the review. "The school is fortunate in the calibre of its Board of Trustees, principal and staff who have responded positively to the education reforms which commenced in 1989. Noticeable features of the school are the pleasant and supportive atmosphere, the clear directions of the board and staff, the firm routines and high expectations of the pupils."



27 May

End of an Era. The "old pot bellied" stoves have been replaced with electric night store heaters. Gone are the days of smoky classrooms, wood chopping working bees, principal's sooty sleeves, fires that refuse to light, being too hot then too cold, birds nests, singed eyebrows, pupils firewood and ashes duty (usually in the rain). Yet another slice of "Yesterdays Schools" disappears forever - so sad!!!

17 June

Adventure Playground opened by past teacher Robyn Hampton. This playground resulted from months of planning and hard work by the PTA with support from the Piako Whanau.

4 July

Tatuanui visited for Rugby, Netball and Soccer. Tauhei won both rugby and both netball games- Tatuanui won the Soccer.

11 July

Principal vents frustration in a letter written at 2 am to Ministry of Education over lack of space after a sick pupil vomits over important papers on his desk. BOT write to local MP's.

6 August

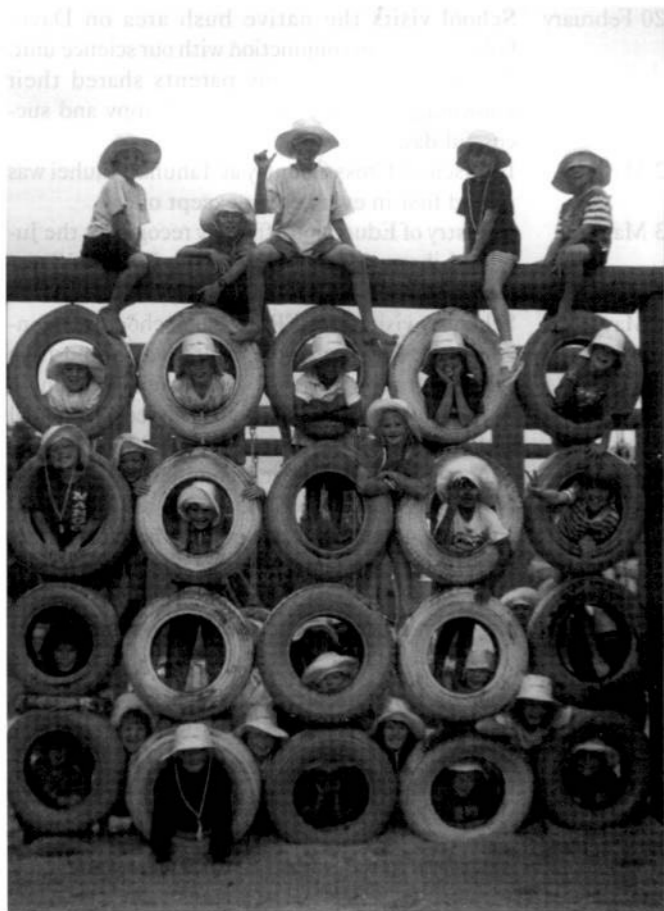
District Manager Ministry of Education met with Board to discuss property concerns -schoolhouse, car parking, toilet facilities, sick bay, administration space. Mr Hill appreciated our concerns over lack of progress and Health and Safety.

9 August

Principal and Board Chairperson met with Rob Storey (MP) to discuss lack of progress on our remodel. Room 4 pupils wrote to Mr John Luxton and Mr Lockwood Smith asking for our remodel. Principal met with NZEI building rep. to discuss urgency of situation.

30 August

The De Veth family presented over 100 quality



- picture books to our library in memory of Debbie. These will serve as a lasting reminder of a much-loved wife, mother and friend of our school.
- 1 October Bringwonder brought to life the language and magic of story telling for our children.
- 14 November School bus stolen overnight - recovered 2 weeks later in the Coromandel Ranges.
- 15 November Tahuna Athletics Sports. A very successful day winning all but one relay and gaining overall points trophy.
- 10 December Two outstanding performances of "Mouse Country" were viewed by a total audience of over 300. The children and teachers were congratulated on the high standard of performance.
- 13 December School ends with a record of 92 pupils - numbers not seen since we lost our Form 1 & 2 pupils in 1970.
- 1992**
- 28 February Whole school travelled to Bowentown for school picnic. A bright sunny day which included beach study, mountain walk, local history, swim, fishing, boat and ski biscuit rides.
- 27 March Three teams played softball against David Street. We won each game convincingly. 28 children slept at school for 20-hour famine.
- 10 June We visited Tauhei Marae. This occasion was a very moving experience for us all. After a warm powhiri we were treated to an excellent lunch. Jim Pene, George Hopa and David Gibson then took us to Pukemokemoke where some of our mountain's special secrets were shared. The learn-

- ing and understanding gained by this visit was very precious.
- 17 June After many years of writing, phoning, meeting, and foot-stamping, we are finally going to get our remodel. We have waited so long but now we find things are full speed ahead with little time for consultation. The work will begin immediately and will be completed in November!!!
- 22 June All the Board and Staff visit several remodelled schools in the Waikato to gather ideas and information for our remodel. These are exciting times.
- 17 July Last day in the old staffroom/office/sickbay/resource room - can't swing a cat - 18 parents joined us for morning tea. PTA Casino Evening.
- 25 September Caravan has been supplied by Livestock Improvement for Special Needs. The rain, mud, lack of space, saws and hammers and constant interruptions is proving disruptive to school programmes. The remodel is progressing very, very slowly. Administration block still not completed.
- 9 October Brian Harrop completes nearly seven years as principal. Sandy is acting principal.
- 10 November Whole school travels to Auckland by bus. Some children attended the Australian Ballet Company's production of Romeo and Juliet. Others visited the zoo. Children also visited Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World. A long but enjoyable day - 30 parents attended.
- 11 December Whole school visited "The Sights and Sounds of Christmas" in Paeroa. A group of Tauhei children were "School of the Day" and entertained visitors with an exhibition of creative dance.
- 18 December Room 3 children paint an outstanding mural to be unveiled at conclusion of remodel.
- 1993**
- 2 February Peter Mulcahy's first day at school. The remodel was closely monitored over the holidays with a burst of energy in the last week - yet the classrooms and library are still not ready to be occupied. Very disappointing.
- 24 February Rooms 1 and 2 move into their new classrooms.
- 9 March The school visits Norton's bush as part of our Bush Study.
- 15 May Machinery Auction was held with a great number of people attending and several hundred items of gear for auction.
- 14 June Bus run extended along Matuku Road to Piako Road and the full length of Valentine Road.
- 22/23 June "Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat." A very well presented and fun production.
- 15 August Waikato Primary School Gym Competition with Tauhei Teams gaining first, second, and third in different events.

- 29 October Remodel opening day. 5.00am. Blessing by Rev J Rauwhero. 11.30am. Opening ceremony with official guests, Hon. J Luxton MP, Mayor K Thomas, Mr J Fransen Chairperson BOT. Carving presented by Tauhei Marae unveiled. This carving has taken pride of place in the main foyer of the school. Cutting of the cake by Kathryn Amon and Kevin Campbell. Plaque unveiled by Hon J Luxton, Timothy Nasey and Megan Haynes. This ceremony was followed by an Open Lunch-con at the Hall. A Kiwi Sport Activities afternoon concluded the day.



George Hopa explaining the significance of the carving.

- 29 November We win the Tahuna and Districts Standards Shield for the third year in a row.

**1994**

- 22 February Surf Safety Day. At Waihi Beach. Excellent day with warm water and hot sun.
- 25 February PTA cricket evening with Rex Latto's team winning.
- 28 March PTA displayed Maths and Dupla equipment for parents and at night a maths curriculum evening was held to discuss the new syllabus.
- 16 June The children enjoyed a hangi at the conclusion of our Maori Study.
- 29 July Grandparents day held in Rooms 1 & 2.
- 12 September Schoolhouse Remodel completed with an Open Home for local people to inspect. A great residence for a school.
- 21 November Tahuna Athletics day. Lost the shield to KIWITAHU. 21 children received placings.

**1995**

- 2 February Cobbling and gardens by Room 4 completed.
- 16 February Std 1-4 Star gazing campout on the school field with Mr John Charteris.
- 10 March PTA BBQ with Volleyball and Sof-Crosse games attended by 15 families.
- 22 March Std 3-4 special abilities group begin Science Awards Programme.
- 26 May Cinderella performed for the community.



Cobbling and gardens by Room 4.

- Cinderella* - Emma van Hellemond  
*Widow Cranky* - Damian Brown  
*Ugly Sisters* - Daniel Gibbons, Joseph Tasker  
*Prince* - Bradley Farmilo  
 The children all sang, danced and acted beautifully.

- 23 June A successful PTA Casino Night held in Hall.
- 22 October The Principal Peter Mulcahy leaves to go up north to Te Kopuru.
- 2 October Relieving Principal Brian Clarke begins duties.
- 5 December School Hats go on sale to promote Safety in the Sun.
- 22 December Over \$1300 raised from the sale of Christmas Trees.

**1996**

- 18 February Fifteen children from Tauhei compete successfully in the Weet-Bix Triathlon.



From Left to Right. Back Row: Matthew Latto, Joe Tasker, Craig Farmilo, Ben De Veth, Allen Latto, Bradley Farmilo, Brendan Clarke, Lewis Knauf. Front Row: Abbie Martin, Susan Dibble, Laura Cawley, Diane Campbell, Emma Van Hellemond, Christine Parry, Matthew Bell.

- 26 February Beach Safety Day. Whole school enjoyed kickboard challenges, sand sculpting, duck diving and boogie board riding.
- 1 March Swimming sports held. "Watson" was the winning house.

## TAUHEI SCHOOL ROLL 1984-98

- 7 March Pupils conduct a pupil census. Results: Only 52% of people have lived in their house for more than 2 years; 96% of our pupils were born in New Zealand; Matthew is the most popular boys name in Tauhei; 16.9% of Tauhei children want to be farmers when they grow up; 70% of pupils live on a dairy farm.
- 8 April Fans installed in Resource Room and Rooms 1 & 2.
- 22 April School Logo designed.
- 15 May Room 3 children win an Environment Waikato Award for their recycling projects.
- 18 July Room 3 Camp in the Tongariro National Park. It was a pleasure to take away such a willing and energetic group. The parents posed some early behaviour problems but we soon ran them into the ground and from then on they settled down quite well.
- 8 September Five teams entered the Waikato Gymnastics competition. The two novice teams came third and the girls novice team received a Good Sports Award.
- 10 September Trip to the 'World of Whales' exhibition at the Auckland Museum. It was a pleasure to take such well-behaved and enthusiastic children.
- 1 November PTA's Man O Man Ladies night was an unbelievable success. This was a polished, classy, and entertaining show giving pleasure to both audience and participants. A real buzz.
- 1997
- 28 January Changes to the way the Government allocates staffing to schools has resulted in the loss of our full time fourth teacher. The Board of Trustees and PTA have resolved to fund part of this position for as long as possible to maintain more appropriate teacher/pupil ratios.
- 6 February School Pool resurfaced thanks to a \$5000 Trustbank grant and PTA fundraising.
- 18 March Hoe-o-Tainui visited for a Technology Challenge Day.
- 2 April Ex pupil 'Miss' Tina Fransen relieved for Mrs Ryan while she was in Ireland.
- 21 March Whole school visited Tauhei Marae to learn about our culture, heritage and protocol.
- 12 May Tahuna Cross Country. Excellent results from Tauhei.
- 14 May Room 3 Camp in Auckland. We joined Te Kopuru staying at Kelly Tarltons and the Blockhouse Bay Scout Camp. Included Zoo visit and Harbour Cruise.
- 10 June Ronald McDonald and the Police entertained our enthusiastic children on aspects of road safety.
- 19 September Unveiling of the School Sign and tribute to John Fransen. Excellent input from Mr. George Hopa and members of the Tauhei Marae. Mr. Hopa told

us about the great story behind the carved sign. This day was a fitting tribute to John and his outstanding work for the school over many years.

23 October Road Safety Day. Children made up road signs and drove around the court in battery powered cars.

30 October School Production "Earth Day" Superb performance - every child involved. Anne Cooper coordinated this fantastic achievement.

7/8 November 'Man o Man' A huge success. A group of very talented and courageous males entertained a large and noisy crowd of appreciative women from as far away as Auckland and Tauranga. This event is fast becoming a 'Must See' event on N.Z.'s social calendar.

18 December Brian Clarke's last day. He is moving to his new position at Pahoia School in Tauranga.

- 1998
- 28 January First day at school for David Cornish.
- 13 February Waihi Beach Safety Day. The whole school enjoyed learning about how to keep safe while at the beach.
- 27 February 'Break The Drought Party' became 'The Drought Has Broken Party'. Families enjoyed a great time swimming, playing games and socialising.
- 5 March School Swimming Sports. Children's enthusiasm and team support was very impressive. Best Splash Award: Mr. Cornish.



The nicely resurfaced school pool. Photo shows junior children about to do their starfish display at the School Swimming Sports. Note the attractive Native Grove behind the changing sheds.

1984  
Aldworth, Marie  
Aldworth, Julie  
de Hoop, Johannes  
Dodd, Gary  
Harris, Brent  
Kivits, Megan  
Clark, Jason  
Williams, Adelle  
Carter, Michelle  
Aldworth, David  
Noble, Munro  
Shroff, Jacob  
de Wit, Johanna  
Barlow, Grant  
Leonard, Raelene  
Steiner, Jasmine  
Steiner, Rose-Anna  
Crosby, Christopher  
Fransen, Rita  
Rye, Daniel  
Gourlay, Natasha  
McLean, Anisa  
Moore, Wayne

1985  
Jackson, Blair  
Copeland, Jason  
Copeland, Lisa  
Spencer, Daniel  
Munns, Colin  
Munns, Meryl  
Townsend, Allison  
Townsend, Michelle  
Harrison, Aaron  
Bedford, Melissa  
Perry, Wayne  
O'Reilly, Jacob  
Dibble, Nacre  
Singh, Bilkar  
Singh, Bahadur  
Singh, Ajmer  
Winter, Nicolette

1986  
Godfrey, Nicholas  
Godfrey, Rosemary  
Rayner, Natalie  
Rayner, Simon  
Williams, Kayleen  
O'Neill, Lauren  
Harrop, Michael  
Hepi, Te Kahurangi  
Schicker, Schicker  
Singh, Navlene  
Edwardson, Hannah  
Moore, Jamie  
Leonard, Kelvin  
O'Sullivan, Liam

1987  
Bedford, Candice  
Freegard, Sheree  
Boylan, Duane  
O'Neill, Simon  
Fransen, Paula  
Shewan, Sandra  
Kivits, Hayley  
Singh, Jagdeep  
Meade, Andrea  
Meade, Hayley  
Hagenson, Aaron  
Hagenson, Glenn  
Singh-Heer, Rupinder  
O'Reilly, Toby  
Hoover, Daryl  
Hoover, Christopher  
Norton, Philip  
Dibble, Phillip  
Clark, Christopher  
Williamson, Michael  
Thomas, Kelly  
Rose, Brian  
Rose, Graham  
Mangino, Lisa  
Cawley, Luke  
Amon, Katheryn  
Harrop, Mark  
Harrop, Paul

1988  
Winter, Dean  
Knight, Steven  
Williams, Bayden  
Clark, Kyle

Barnes, Gareth  
Barnes, Megan  
Magill, Adam  
Magill, Tracie  
Brownlee, Shivaun  
Cribb, Erena  
Cribb, James  
Brown, Aaron  
Oster, Daniel  
Sudano, Marcus  
Lambarth, Karl  
Rowling, Shaan  
Campbell, Kevin  
Martin, Andrew  
Martin, Benny  
Meikle, John  
O'Neill, Richard

1989  
Hitcock, Rebecca  
Freegard, Julie  
Freegard, Judy  
Amon, Michael  
Webber, Paul  
Webber, Lisa  
Webber, Amy  
Brownlee, Kendra  
Withy, Marie  
Withy, Shaun  
McDonald, Emma  
McDonald, Stephen  
Chandler, Kylie  
Chandler, Rebecca  
Averill, Gareth  
Averill, Shane  
Farmilo, Bradley  
Perry, Sarah  
Campbell, Jonathon  
Easton, Andrew  
Easton, Shane  
Fransen, Tony  
Brown, Damian  
Gourlay, Tania  
Lambarth, Gladys  
Singh, Simran

1990  
Ferguson, Callum  
Lammas, Annette  
Coles, Kyle  
Ferguson, Rory  
Knight, Russell  
Norton, Michael  
Hoskin, Luke  
Hoskin, Brittany  
Leonard, Brendon  
Cawley, Laura  
De Veth, Benjamin  
O'Neill, Rebecca  
Amon, Joanne  
Bowers, Jason  
Dibble, Susan  
Latto, Allen  
Clements, Katrina  
Clements, Matthew  
Clements, Nicholas  
Brumby, Robert  
Menzies, Jan  
Seath, Harry  
Brumby, Leslie  
Harrop, Amy  
Murray, Claire  
Donavon, Lisa  
Donavon, Timothy  
Martin, Abbie  
Campbell, Dianne  
Tasker, Joseph  
McCormick, Jared

1991  
Sefton, Brent  
Gilmour, Darren  
Sluys, Aria  
Ogle, Samatha  
McDonald, Sarah  
Pease, Sefton  
Vickers, Sam  
Mackie, Jasmine  
Mackie, Luke  
Measures, Christina  
Sweeney, Janine  
Bayliss, Anita  
Martens, Amy  
Martens, Cathi  
Martens, Trent

Latto, Matthew  
Williams, Olivia  
Scott, Malcolm  
Knauf, Lewis  
Farmilo, Craig  
Bayliss, Jenna  
Magon, Benjamin  
Magon, Jonathan  
Seath, Ani  
Maunsell, Maia  
Crowe, Vanja  
Vickers, Sarah

1992  
Land, Daniel  
Haynes, Logan  
Powell, Douglas  
Matangi, Joyinta  
Coles, Nicholas  
Wilson, Carina  
Parry, Melissa  
Parry, Christine  
Roskam, Billy  
Roskam, Joseph  
Roskam, Matthew  
De Veth, Steven  
Land, Elizabeth  
Martin, Shane  
Roskam, Lena  
Cawley, Anna

1993  
Mulcahy, Margot  
Rowling, Courtney  
Paalvast, Rebecca  
Knauf, Rhys  
Nasey, Timothy  
Amon, Daniel  
Gibbons, Daniel  
Gibbons, Joshua  
Olsen, Jenna  
Olsen, Daniel  
Olsen, Paul  
McKenzie, Katrina  
Tasker, Caleb  
Carpenter, Marcia  
Carpenter, Crystal  
Moore, David  
Martens, Nicholas  
McCormick, Amy  
Baker, Simon  
Parry, Michael  
Crowe, Marshall  
Rowling, Thomas  
Haynes, Megan  
Paterson, Ryan  
Bayliss, Stephan

1994  
Mohring, Shane  
Matangi, Rorrie  
Measures, Nicole  
Cooper, Hamish  
Eldridge, Shayne  
Norton, Sarah  
Withy, Aaron  
Dibble, Andrea  
Hamilton, Angeliq  
Sinclair, Crystal  
van Der Velde, Rosemary  
van Der Velde, Christina  
Salmon, Bradley  
Salmon, Krystal  
Hobbs, Rocky  
Paalvast, Monica  
Pease, Mason  
Marrin, Regan  
Tasker, Cindy  
Fletcher, Brooke  
Davies, Angus  
Proctor, Daniel  
Proctor, Jasmin

1995  
Hill, David  
Hill, Andrea  
Hill, Leanne  
Levy, Kayne  
Brown, Caleb  
Cudby, Samuel  
Kaata, Sonny  
Van Hellemond, Emma  
James, Chad  
Moore, Steven

Gibbons, Katherine  
Latto, Daren  
Mulcahy, Sylvia  
Moore, Geoffrey  
Trezona-Le Comte, Mitchell  
Persen, Tamihana  
Rowling, Alexandra  
Newsen, Monique  
Bell, Nicholas  
Bell, Matthew  
Heperi, Sierra  
Hunter, Jodie  
Hunter, Andrew  
McCoach, Liam  
Rota, Esther  
Rota, Amiria  
Knauf, Carl  
Gosse, Thompson  
Brown, Naomi  
Van Hellemond, Nicki  
Kelly, Nicole  
Van Houtte, Yolanda  
Eves, Oliver  
Nasey, Jeremy  
Van Brecht, Joseph  
Cooper, Briar  
Trezona-Le Comte, Kieran

1996  
Clarke, Liam  
Clarke, Brendan  
Tesselaar, Hayden  
Tasker, Toby  
Neeson, Paula  
Arnold, Jamie  
Gwilliam, Ayla  
Eldridge, Liam  
Heiford, Saskia  
Calnan, Charlotte  
Calnan, Whitney  
Calnan, Joel  
Ruland, Aidan  
Ruland, Liana  
Kuwilsky, Melissa  
Brown, Sarah  
Baker, Rikki  
Severinsen, Laura-May  
Hunter, Marc  
Hunter, Taryn  
Melville, Karl  
Saussey, Jasmine  
McCoach, Matthew

1997  
Kimura, Whitney  
Jeffrey, Jessica  
Jeffrey, Karl  
Bryant, Daniel  
Bryant, Marshall  
Kuwilsky, Tamara  
Steiner, Jason  
Flavell, Joshua  
Pulman, Gina  
Blackford, Jesse  
Singh, Vekaasdeep  
Hendriks, Vicky  
Hendriks, Stacey  
Pinny, Logan  
Pinny, Sarah  
Pinny, Emma  
Donnelly, Jessica  
Donnelly, Andrew  
Smith, Russell  
Morton, Amy  
Pulman, Sophie  
Wolfe, Gavin  
Hazelhurst, Leah  
Tesselaar, Nathan  
Baillie, Kristie  
Gough, Daphne  
Gough, Francis  
Jackson, Kerrileigh  
Hobbs, Deena  
Jans, Morgan  
Ludwig, Nicole

1998  
Eves, Amy  
Davey, Benjamin  
Jenkins, Ayla  
McCutcheon, Tiffany  
Welch-Cropp, Charlotte  
Wills, Joshua  
Wills, Jenna  
Eruera, Dylan

## PART IV

# The Early People - A Reminiscence

### THE HARRIS FAMILY

by Berniece Matchett (nee Harris)

Dad and Mum married and settled in Tauhei in 1913. They purchased 120 acres of Tauhei land which was very rough, with lots of rushes and wood over most of the 'broken in' part of the farm. Most of the farm was very wet in the winter until the Tauhei Drain was put through followed by the 'Special Area' drain.

Their cows got bogged down in the thick mud during the wet months and we often lost our gumboots while driving cows to the shed for milking. A lot of time was spent cleaning the cows as the total shed area was at times a sea of mud. Metal races eventually helped this problem but created foot problems for many cows.

There were five children from Mum and Dad's marriage. Phoebe, Berniece, Beanie (Devena) Ivo and Gordon. They also brought up Tui Harris, their niece, as their daughter.

By 1918 Tauhei had a small 2 teacher school which we all attended till Standard Six. Most of the time we walked to school, along muddy roads through 6' tall ti-tree along both sides of the road. Pot holes on the road had to be filled with fascines (Ti-tree tied in bundles) and often wagons, gigs and later cars had to be pulled out of the mess.

There were very few houses in Tauhei for many years and people tended to make their own social life by visiting each others homes. I can remember my mother riding a horse side saddle, and as the family grew we rode in a big gig or wagon when we went to the local woolshed for a social evening. We were put to bed in amongst the hay with rugs while the locals danced the night away.

The Noble family organised the Sunday School for many years and they always had an end of year picnic, a highlight for all involved.

Our Mum and Dad worked very hard. Mum always helped in the shed, and with

no washing machines always had to light up a fire under the old copper. She would spend all day at this job, and later when we employed staff, there were a lot of dungarees splattered with greasy milk. The clothes line was a long line in the paddock and when that was full they had to go on a fence, and often after all that work animals would break in and the clothes would end up in the mud. However there were many happy days, relatives and friends came and went, lots of card evenings etc., and people always could find time to visit.

I attended Morrinsville D.H.S and this was only possible by the efforts of the Greentree family. They organised and ran a daily return school bus to Morrinsville. The Greentree's keenness enabled many Tauhei children to get some secondary education. When Beanie was old enough to attend High School it was decided she would attend Hamilton Technical High School. This entailed a 7 mile horse ride to the Motumaoho Railway Station, leaving the horse in a paddock nearby and catching the train to Hamilton, returning each day to catch a very difficult horse and riding home.

Phoebe the oldest was very musical, played the piano and sang at district functions. Young Ivo (boy) after leaving school had a great reputation as a stockman and drover often driving large mobs of stock for various farms to the Morrinsville Saleyards. Gordon the youngest of our family entered the Navy and saw service mainly in submarines during World War II. At the end of active service he came back to the home farm.

During war time many of the men running the farms were involved in the Home Guard. The Women's Division worked very hard in all fields not only during the war but in the years following. This organisation was a great outlet for all country women. My mother, sister Beanie and myself were foundation members of the Tauhei branch. We all enjoyed the varied activities but especially the fellowship gained from being part of it all, and realising that life held more than just being a housekeeper and loving wife.

There was quite a thrill when the phone was put in, though ten people on one line could be annoying when you wanted to make a business call and had to wait up to an hour. I remember one lady who liked to 'listen in' to other people's conversation, and everyone knew who she was. Dad sensed her listening one night and told her to put the phone down immediately. She did.

My Dad served on lots of committees, including many as Chairman. His work and the commitment of many others laid the foundation of what is the Tauhei District today.

Compared with today those were harder times, but there were also a lot of great times, and memories. The values gathered in those days have stood us in great stead throughout our lives.

### THE GREENTREE FAMILY

by Keith Rowling

Early recorded roll entries at Tauhei School (about 1917) list the first of the Greentree family on the roll. This was to be followed over the years by nine more Greentree children. In those years it was a struggle to maintain a large family and although they were not always the best dressed or presented family in the district, they took their education very seriously.

The year 1926 arrived and the older Greentree's had taken their schooling at Tauhei to Standard VI. What was the norm at that time, was for the children to end their schooling there and begin working on farms. The Greentree parents decided that their poor education standards were not good enough for their children. So it was that they were sent to the Morrinsville District High School, a distance of 12 miles, for the next step in their education.

Athol and May, the two eldest children, were the first to do this (in the days of horse and gig). Stuart became the third child at Morrinsville D.H.S. followed by Loma. By then it was 1927 and the

Greentree's pioneered the first means of school transport in (and for) the district. A Ford van with canvas sides was the first means of transport. The era of 1929 saw Chevrolet produce the first of the 6-cylinder sedans. A new cab and chassis were acquired and a bus body was built on the chassis. Entry was by two front doors and the rest were packed in through rear double doors. Three in the front, four down each side, and a back to back seat down the centre took another eight. Depending on the size of the pupils, it could arrive at school with 19 or 20 jammed in pretty tight! Not bad for an original 5-seater car. Athol was the No. 1 driver and when he left M.D.H.S., Stuart took over.

Others that used this service were Ron and Joy Brown, Zetta Williams and Edgar Palmer. The route was via Mangateparu. Others that joined them were Fred Carter and the Swayn sisters. Some of the funding of the service was by parent contributions. As well as the bus service it was the Greentree family that started the first cream run in the district. They would collect the cream cans and take them through to the Morrinsville Dairy Company.

This pioneer 'Chevy' service to Morrinsville ended about 1937. The Chevy bus by then was worn out. Roads, as yet, had not improved much; tarseal was far from complete. But other transport was emerging and Robson's were doing a run to Tahuna. So it was then that the next crop of pupils made their way by parents' cars to Mangateparu. But it was the family of Harry Greentree and his wife that assured a better education for a lot of Tauhei and Mangateparu young people in the 1920s and 1930s.

### THE CROSBY FAMILY

by Barbara Morton (nee Crosby)

My time at Tauhei began when I was born in Morrinsville on 24 February 1949. I was the fifth child in a family of eight to parents John (Jack) and Leila Crosby and we lived on Manuel's Road.

Dad and Uncle Frank were breaking in the farm they were on when Mum came along as a herd tester and they (Mum & Dad) were married on 5th February 1944 in Hamilton. (Dad was almost 43 years old and Mum almost 29.) Children born in the family were:

1945 John (Jack)  
1946 Paul  
1947 Jean and Doreen (twins)  
1949 myself - Barbara  
1950 Diane and Ruth (twins) and lastly  
1955 Jill.

When Dad married, the farm was split into two. We had the top farm of 120 acres of rolling clay country and Uncle Frank and Aunty Lydia the bottom farm. We had a small herd of pedigree Jersey cows that went under our stud name "Claybanks". When the power failed we all had to troop over to the walk-through cow shed and milk the cows by hand. We girls were never allowed to watch the bull mating (hand mating) but being kids, if you weren't allowed to do something, you did it. I don't know if we understood what was going on, but when reasoning came there were no problems, we just took it in our stride. You will have to ask Jack if he has still got the scars on his posterior where the bull tossed him out of what we called the triangle paddock.

We had a good but hard life at Tauhei, especially in the winter time with mud up to our knees. Feeding out hay with our horse "Dolly", part Clydesdale, was an experience. The sledge used to go sideways across the hill while we were going forward. We used to have the odd floods and I can remember once when it took out the bridge, which was the access track to the back of the farm. We didn't have much but we always had plenty of food on the table, what with preserving, killing our own beef, mutton, pork, bacon, chooks. Also having a big fruit and vegetable garden, growing potatoes for winter storage and when Dad went fishing, we had fish, flounders, cockles and pipis. At duck shooting time we also had ducks, pukeko, swan, and pheasants. We had rabbits and eels thrown in plus geese and the odd turkey. Our eggs were also preserved for winter use. I used to hate going into the coal shed, under the water tank stand, and putting my hand into the crock pot which was all slimy with this preserving gel to get the eggs. (Used for baking.) The potatoes were also kept here and that was another 'ughy' job, as there was no light and you used to put your hand into a rotten one, UGH! - I never knew what else I was going to touch!

We used to make our own entertainment as kids, mainly climbing the lawsoniana trees and eeling in the duck pond - I used

to drag mine home still on the line. They were hung up on a nail in the cow shed and cleaned and then Mum would salt them overnight and fry them the next day. We had wooden clothes pegs for guns (single and double barrel) and we used to swim in the long cow shed trough with the goldfish.

Now and again we went home from school across country (when the bus had broken down). How we found our way home I'll never know. Going across the swampy bits was scary - the ground was like jelly and it was an ordeal when firearms were presented to keep people off some properties. I also used to walk the three miles to the courts behind the hall to play tennis.

The most memorable times would be: going mushrooming with my cousin Theresa, having fresh barracuda bread - where we would break it open and eat the fluffy top inside, or having a thick crust cut with marmite on it, Hmm. Keith Rowling used to deliver the groceries in his truck (a Wednesday, I think). Bread came with the mail.

I believe we had one of the first two mini bus vans in NZ. The only time that we used to go to see the pictures in Morrinsville was when there was a good (according to Dad) cowboy film on. I had to ask Dad (actually I conned him) when I went to my first dance, in Te Aroha, with my brother Paul. Another time that stands out in my memory is when Jack (on a motorbike) was pulled up by a traffic cop - by the Quarry. He was towing Paul who was on his bicycle. I was behind them on my one pedal bike and went past them, making out that I didn't know them. I thought that I was also going to get pulled up because I had an unsafe bike!

I found life a bit of a breeze and looking back I believe that it was because I skipped Primer 4 (which was a full year) and went through all my schooling with my two elder sisters, Jean and Doreen. Therefore I had no responsibility, and today, I am still basically shy. I can remember teaching myself the time when I was quite old, about Form 1 or 2.

We left Tauhei in 1964 when the cows were in full flush. We swapped farms with a Mr McKay? and moved to Tuapiro Road in Katikati, Tauranga. Jack is still on the

farm, now a large orchard. A few of the implements went by train and there was some problem in getting the round hay bailer on it. We had a farewell in the hall with someone else, if I remember correctly, (had some time off from boarding school), and was presented with a chair. Thirty five years later that chair was still used by the family.

### THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

by Keith Rowling

An important era in the history of land development in and around Tauhei, requires some documentation. From Taranaki, a partnership of H and G Williams took ownership of considerable acres on the left hand (south) side of Seifert Road. The operations that formed horse teams breaking in virgin land, became the responsibility of what was known as H.D. (short for Harry D Williams).

Large areas of lease land and Maori land were cultivated to grow crops like wheat, oats and barley, and indeed these were grown in Tauhei on: Hopa land (where the Marae now is), Orini Downs, and further afield to Mangateparu and Kereone. These crops were processed on the spot for a ready market and also a means of 'hard feeding' the teams of horses. Many of the teamsters were local Maori men and a trusty Keith Blue who leaves behind a choice story or two (one of these is recounted below). This life was certainly eventful with one teamster losing his life by disturbing a nest of angry bees.

As farms on Seifert Road became sustainable dairy farms, they were sold off to other occupiers. The partnership changed in 1944 with, G Williams and H Williams taking control of some areas individually. In 1937 the breaking in of land assumed another dimension, moving from predominantly peat land to hill country. Some of the most intensive clearing and developing occurred at Parahiwi (now Vercoe's) and to a lesser degree, next door at Jordan's. In 1957 son Clive took over the further development of Parahiwi.

From a pilot in the First World War H.D took up a challenge of extraordinary tiller of the soil, regular employer of labour, raised a family, not without some sad times, and a director of the Home Guard. He certainly left us a better place to live.

An excerpt out of the life of Keith Blue One day, as part of his job while employed as a teamster by H.D, Blue had to take a 4 wheel wagon and 6 horses loaded with oats and chaff from Morrinsville to Orini Downs. As it travelled along Hangawera Road and Tauhei Road (or tracks as they more aptly should have been called) it continuously got stuck in the mud. What they would have to do each time this happened was unhook the horses, hitch them to the rear of the wagon, and pull it out backwards. Then they would have to cut roadside ti-tree, tie it in bundles with flax, and lay them across the muddy part to reach firm ground again. This happened four times on this trip. It was well dark when Blue arrived at Orini Downs. Not knowing where to unload he parked the wagon near the first building and walked to the managers house. It was 9 pm and the manager was out on the lawn having his last pee for the night. The occasion prompted him to burst into raucous song - "There will be peace in the valley." His first few words were abruptly ended when Blue speaks out of the darkness with "Yes there will be when we get the bloody wagon unloaded!" The manager got such a fright he high tailed it back into the darkened cottage and wasn't seen again for the rest of the night.

### THE BROWN FAMILY

by Joy Brown

In 1910 Fred Seifert, whose wife was Isabella Brown (sister of James and Norman) asked my father James to come to Tauhei to manage the flaxmill situated towards Whitikahu. This he did and so became involved in the settlement of Tauhei as well as Whitikahu and Orini.

Dad and Norman first bought land together in 1914 and then Dad added to it in 1917 (land that is now owned by the Cawley's and Latto's). This partnership existed until after Norman returned from the 1st World War in 1920 (he spent two years following Armistice in the occupation army in Germany). My earliest recollection is of him coming home. I was 3. Norman married Vera Pilkington and the brothers farmed separately from then on (1921).

My father had married Catherine Durrien on July 15th 1914. She had come to Whitikahu with the Braithwaite family who bought land there. Life was very

primitive - "The only concession to civilisation" my mother would say, "Is the telephone." During the winter months the roads were so muddy and impassable that there would be a period of at least 3 months when a family visit to Morrinsville was impossible. Dad would ride in on horseback. The treat he would bring home was sausages!

My mother being city born and bred was not much help on the farm. I remember the children teasing us because our mother couldn't milk and wouldn't drive a buggy. Though when in 1926-27 my parents bought a Morris Cawley car - mother drove that without any hesitation.

We mostly walked to school, getting a ride in the cream cart once in a while if we were lucky. Later we had a horse and finally I had a bike which I bought with money earned sweeping out the school (each family had to take a turn). It was an early start to high school as we had to meet Greentree's bus, a small Ford truck with a green canvas cover and seats at the back, at Harris's corner at 7-30 am. In winter time it would be dark on the homeward journey. The day I left high school I arrived home without my bike. Mother asked where it was, "Oh," I said, "I've given it to Keith Rowling," and you could see him riding it around his front paddock.

My father was Chairman of The Tauhei Drainage Board for many years and a Director of the Morrinsville Co-operative Dairy Company. He remained an active farmer till he was over 60 and my brother Lou was killed in the Second World War at the Battle of Cassino. Consequently the farm passed on to me and I farmed it with sharemilkers till I remarried and went to live in the Bay of Islands. I sold it in 1980 to the Latto family whom I think still own it.

## PART V CHANGES OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS

Tauhei area has always been and still is part of two different local authorities. Piako County Council on the north east and Waikato County Council on the south west was divided at Valintines Road. Both councils have merged into larger neighbouring councils, however Valintines Road boundary still remains. The new enlarged council names are: Matamata Piako District Council and Waikato District Council.

### Roading

- Seifert Road has had two wooden one way bridges replaced with culverts. The road has been widened, corners have been rounded, and it has had progressive sections of sealing over the years. 1997 saw the final stretch at the Valintine Road end sealed.
- Valintine Road has had two kilometres sealed and one wooden one way bridge replaced with a culvert. It has also had the spelling of it's name changed due to it's sign being stolen

regularly every 14th February.

- Tainui Road has been widened and raised a metre in places. Corners have been reshaped and the road has been resealed.
- Manuel Road has been widened and metalled from a one lane road to one where now a school bus and tanker can pass each other.
- Matuku Road has had more ongoing upgrading. This road is on a peat base and as heavy vehicles use it regularly, and it slowly sinks away, the road has needed a new base and new sealing.
- Reay & Watson Road has also been raised by a metre to create a stop bank for flooding. A road base was formed and now this road has been sealed as well.

### Telephone

All overhead wires have been pulled down around Seifert and Valintine Road and replaced with underground cables. Tauhei

has also been upgraded from manual tolls to direct dialling despite the fact that we have only a very small free calling area.

### Electricity

As part of the major upgrade in the Central Waikato area, Tauhei's power has had a major upgrade with: new poles, rewiring with heavier cables, and bigger transformers. Power Boards have now been abandoned and become public share holding companies, called Power NZ in the Matamata Piako area, and WEL Energy in the Waikato area.

### Dairy Farming

Tauhei being predominantly dairy farming, the two co-operative dairy companies who picked up the milk in this area merged in 1991. Waikato Valley Co-operative Dairies Ltd and the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company Ltd joined to become the New Zealand Dairy Group of Companies.

## HUIMAI PLAYCENTRE

Huimai Playcentre and it's dedicated band of parents and caregivers has gone from strength to strength over the past 14 years. This has ensured the continuation of the high standards of pre-school education begun in it's early years.

The major highlight of this time was the complete remodel and upgrade of the old building to an attractive, spacious, and functional new building. The new building was the result of two years of active fund-raising when \$25,000 was raised. This, added to the governments contribution, lots of parent support, and a hefty loan (which has now been fully paid off), saw the project become a reality and give

us the building we have today. The new building was officially opened on the 12th December 1992.

During this time Huimai also faced the challenge of becoming a fully licensed Centre and having to adhere to Ministry of Education requirements (and all the red tape and administration this entails). After 1½ years of discussion, planning, and organising, Huimai became a fully licensed Pre-School Education Centre. With the introduction of 'Tomorrow's Schools,' Huimai began the process of community consultation in order to write a Charter. This document was duly accepted by the Ministry of Education and

is now an integral document for planning, evaluation, and assessment procedures, which must be undertaken regularly.

With the recent introduction of Te Whariki (the Early Childhood Education Curriculum), Huimai now has an additional document to consult to ensure that our pre-schoolers are gaining a quality education in a safe and secure environment. Huimai has had two educational reviews and both have highlighted Huimai's beautiful rural setting, pleasant grounds, excellent building facilities, committed caregivers, and the high standards of caring pre-school education for our local youngsters.

The past five years have seen the introduction of a new adventure playground (with additions to be added later this year), a new carpentry shed, and a garden with walking trails. All of these have added to the excitement and challenges that Huimai has to offer. The commitment of parents combined with the adult education requirements and the continued support of our local communities is a positive sign for the future of the youngest members of our community.

*Huimai Playcentre 1998*



## PUKEMOMEMOKE BUSH RESERVE

Mr David Johnstone who owned Orini Downs had for many years wished to preserve 40 ha of Native Bush on the south eastern corner of his property (adjacent to the Tauhei Quarry). Unfortunately he died before his wish could be carried out. In 1991 the executors of his estate, "The David Johnstone Charitable Trust" called a public meeting seeking the Tauhei district's interest in developing and administering the area. From this meeting the "Pukemokemoke Bush Trust" was formed and development commenced.

The management is made up of local residents and representatives of Ngati Wairere. The aim of the committee is to preserve and enhance the bush, and to encourage public access and the enjoyment of the reserve. Tracks were laid through the trees and a lookout was erected on the summit giving wide views of the Waikato. Access to the reserve, which is sign posted on the Tauhei/Whitikahu Road (on the western side of George Hopa's farm), allows visitors to

drive to a car park just a few metres from the track. An Information Kiosk shows all tracks and other details within the reserve. All tracks have been laid to allow close viewing of a wide range of native flora including: Kauri, Tōtara, Tanekaha, Rimu, and Beech to name a few. Over 70 varieties of native ferns have been recorded as growing in the area. Also unique to the reserve are several Karaka tree's as they are normally only found growing along coastal areas.

The Pukemokemoke Bush reserve (Pukemokemoke meaning solitary hill) was officially opened on the 21st March 1993 with Ngati Wairere conducting a special dawn blessing on the land. Later in the day members of the late David Johnstone's family joined local residents in another ceremony where a Tōtara tree was planted in his memory. Since opening the reserve a large number of school children have visited, and have been guided through the bush by members of the management committee who explain

the history of the area and help in the identification of the native flora.

As well as setting out walking tracks, an area is kept mown where the log hauler was situated during the logging of part of the area in the 1940's. This forms a very attractive picnic area. From here tracks lead to the summit and more recently a track has been formed to the east to give access to a Nikau Grove which is seen from the log hauler site. To aid identification an area in the log hauler site has been specially planted and trees named. Also as part of the development the banks of the Mangatea Stream have been planted with Kowai's and flax's to encourage the return of tui's and other native birds to the area.

A visit to The Pukemokemoke Reserve is a very memorable one and most people are surprised by the many fine specimens of native trees and flora.

## TAUHEI MARAE

### THE BUILDING OF A WHARENUI (Meeting House)

In the year 1884 a Wharenuī was built and it was called Maramatutahi, son of Wairere. The Wharenuī was built just before King Tawhiao went to England. This meeting house was opened by King Tawhiao and was used for many of Tawhiao's gatherings with his subjects. Some years later this meeting house was dismantled and the timber stored and stacked for reassembling on a new site, this never eventuated. This never eventuated.

During the 1980's the Tauhei Marae

Committee had decided to build a new Wharenuī. Plans were drawn up with great anticipation, but finance became the major stumbling block. Fundraising was started, but with limited success. It wasn't until 1995 that the Tauhei Marae was successful in getting a grant from the Maori Development Corporation.

The building project was started in August 1994 exactly 100 years from when the original Maramatutahi was built in 1884. In 1995 the committee was offered the old Whitiora bowling pavilion to de-

molish and take away. This was a great boost to the project as a lot of the materials were able to be recycled and used for the Wharenuī. A team of young men and women pulled the building down and transported all the materials back to Tauhei.

All the main structural timber for the Wharenuī was milled from native trees from the Waikato District Councils quarry area next to Pukemokemoke Reserve. The Wharenuī was built by voluntary labour with input from a number of service



Marae as it is today with completed Wharenuī to the left.



Wharenuī under construction.

## TAUHEI QUARRY

Much has already been said regarding the Quarry in the 1984 edition. Briefly the Quarry has been supplying metal since 1918 from its western face and after an expansion in the 1950's, from its eastern face. A redevelopment of the Quarry was undertaken in the early 1980's with major plant replacement and site development. This was followed by a stripping programme in 1989 to open up a new face adjacent to the original eastern quarry.

Also on the 1st November 1989, Waikato County Council amalgamated with Rag-

lan County Council and formed Waikato District Council. Due to government reform Waikato District Council had to decide whether to form a L.A.T.E. (Local Authority Trading Enterprise), or a business unit. They opted for a LATE, and today officially operate as Tanlaw Corporation.

The Quarry owns and operates some modern and up to date equipment which in 1998 includes a Volvo 150 Loader with a 4<sup>3</sup> metre capacity bucket, and a Bell Articulated 30 tonne Dump Truck. Road

transport operating from the Quarry consists of 5 Truck and Trailers and 1 Articulated Bottom Dumper Unit. A new screen has recently been purchased for manufacturing Grades 5 and 6 sealing chip, and a Triple Deck Aggregate Screen is currently being purchased (from the US).

The staff at the Quarry consists of a Quarry Manager, Foreman, Office Clerk, plant Operator, 2 Frontend Loader Operators, 1 Dump Truck Driver, 4 Road Transport Drivers, and a Sub Contractor (Bulldozer).

## DRAINAGE

During the late 1980's the idea of 'stop banking,' and 'channel enlargement' was introduced. The Tauhei Stream was again looked at and a decision was made to go ahead with stop bank and channel enlargement up to Valentine's Rd.

The first stage (Quarry to eastern outlet) was completed during 1988. After completion of this stage a decision was made to do the second stage to Valentine's Rd bridge. During the 88/89 season the northern bank and channel was completed leaving only the southern bank to do. After discussions with the rate payers it was then decided the improvement was so great, the southern bank would be left how it was.

Other problems of flooding were occurring from excess water from the Mangahumea coming back down the Tauhei Stream. After about 20 years of arguing, agreement was made to complete the stop banking of Reay & Watson Road and the stop banking and upgrading of the Mangahumea Stream. This upgrade was done in conjunction with the Piako County Council during the 1990/91 season. The results were so great that there is now very little flooding in the area. Also during 1990/91, amalgamation took place between the Taupiri Drainage Board and the Waikato Regional Council. The area of drainage is now covered by a division of the Waikato Regional Council.

One of the last continual problem areas had been the 'Special Area Drain' which runs from the Tauhei Stream, through Hazelhurst's, Latto's, and Cawley's farms, and crosses the road to the hill catchment area surrounding the Cawley retention dam. The upgrading and stop banking for this area was started in 1994 and completed in 1997. Once again that has had excellent results. This programme completed all major works programmes and leaves the Tauhei area almost a flood free area with only minor flooding occurring after very heavy continuous rain.

Over the last 2 years drainage in the Tauhei area has been represented by J. R. Dinnan.

## TAUHEI FARM DISCUSSION GROUP

The monthly Farm Discussion Group continues to be a well supported event in the Tauhei district. Farms of the active 20 or so members are visited on a rotational basis with the group looking at ways of overcoming some of the challenges or areas of concern of the host farmer. Subjects also usually revolve around what is relevant to the particular time of year.

One of the unique aspects of the Tauhei Farm Discussion Group is the diversity of farming enterprises represented. As well as the usual variations in age, background, and position in ones farming career; there is also a wide range of soil types

and contour represented, each giving it's own unique set of problems and challenges. With such variations, competition between farmers is negligible and discussion usually constructive and positive. There is also usually plenty of humour thrown around and this can make the day a good respite from the daily pressures of the job.

In 1996 the main principle of 'production per hectare' changed to 'profit per hectare' or E.F.S./ha (Economic Farm Surplus). With the physical and climatic challenges that are peculiar to Tauhei, achieving over 1000 kg/ha and 300 kg/cow can

prove quite a challenge. E.F.S. now shows the profitability of achieving these production levels and in many cases our local farmers are out performing the high producing farmers from other areas (when it comes to profit). As that is what it's all about, and given the afore mentioned challenges, Tauhei farmers certainly stand out there with the best of them.

The discussion group is still well serviced by the Dairy Board Consulting Officers and a rotation of conveners. The day is always finished with a constructive and a positive comment from each member of the group.

## FEDERATED FARMERS

Monthly meetings of Tauhei Federated Farmers continued through to 1996 discussing local issues as they arose. Things had been changing for some time though and the branch was finding it difficult to attract the support it used to enjoy. The amalgamation of the two Dairy Companies in the region meant they no longer required surveillance. Also the improved

roading services in the area meant it didn't require the amount of attention from the local branch that it used to. So with those sorts of changes and the shift of more adequate information to Morrinsville Sub Province, the need for regular meetings at Tauhei ceased.

Tauhei is still a branch with funds and

currently has a Chairman, Keith Rowling, and a Secretary, Bill Munden. The branch has a role in: promoting large district meetings when relevant issues come up, to survey and seek resolutions to a wider farmer policy requirement (such as milk or meat marketing), and to present subjects that require analysing and expounding with appropriate guest speakers.

## WOMENS DIVISION

On April 1st 1985 the Division celebrated it's Golden Jubilee. The occasion was celebrated with a luncheon attended by more than 100 people. They were made up of members, past members, representatives of other organisations, and special guests. Mrs Kathy O'Reagan M.P. for Waipa, was one of those special visitors and was the guest speaker. Current president Mrs N Bowman welcomed the guests, Foundation President Mrs McCrae lit the candles, while another foundation member Mrs D Freegard fanned the candles out. Piako Provincial president Mrs Jensen had the privilege of cutting the cake.

Mrs F Palmer was presented with Life Membership and Mrs S Clark signed the Provincial Honours Book. A resume of the branch's 50 years was read by Mrs M Warren and Mrs Bodnun spoke about the past 100 years of history - Morrinsville and Tauhei District.

Changing times along with it's associated changing lifestyles, changing commitments, and changing attitudes, did not

make it easy for Tauhei's WDFD to maintain membership. Accordingly adjustments had to be made for an ongoing future for the division. No longer are the larger events like plays and competitions held. Birthdays and Christmas gatherings for members and visitors are still held and though always prove friendly and entertaining. Regular visits by guest speakers and demonstrations on a wide range of subjects maintain the interests of members.

What was the main fund raiser for the Tauhei branch was the supply of lunches to the regular Dairy Company meetings. This ended in 1991 when the Piako Provincial Section of WDFD (which is the umbrella over 10 branches) decreed that it was time that Tauhei branch shared this money raising aspect on a rotational basis. To replace these funds the Tauhei WDFD since 1992 has had an annual Bowling Tournament. This tournament is well supported and looked forward to by many.

A commitment to support charities and

special occasions by the Tauhei WDFD embraces: the supply of shortbread biscuits for Red Cross, collections for IHC, Rural Watch, Housekeeping Services, Air Ambulance support, and Rural Woman's Day and associated activities. All these keep the branch very active. Hand knitted woollen singlets are also supplied to each new baby born in the district.

On March 27th 1995 the Division celebrated it's 60th Birthday with a luncheon attended by more than 70 people. Again they were made up of members, past members, representatives of other branches and special guests. Guest speaker, Mr George Hopa spoke about Tauhei history from it's start as an early Maori settlement to present day. Mrs M Gibson and President Mrs D Law cut the cake.

Tauhei Branch had and has five Life Members over the years - Mrs D Freegard (1972), Mrs M Gibson (1978), Mrs F Palmer (1985), Mrs M Warren (1995), and Mrs S Clark (1995).

## TAUHEI YOUNG FARMERS

Tauhei Young Farmers Club continued with it's social activities of - Casino Nights, Video Nights, Cabarets, Concert trips and Car Rally's. There were trips to: Taupo, Rotorua, Cape Reinga and Mystery bus trips. Sporting activities included: Ice Skating, Ten Pin Bowling, Indoor Cricket, Indoor Netball, Water Skiing, Clay Bird Shooting, The Ultimate Game, Night Trots, Fishing Trips, "Bunny Bang."

The club had a couple of very successful 'Tug of War' teams which competed in the NZ Tug of War Championships. The Club also had a great deal of success at district and regional level in 'The Skellerup Young Farmer of the Year' competition. They did well at: Rifle shooting, Tractor driving, Stock judging, Pas-

ture judging, Public speaking, Debating and Cooking contests.

In April 1989 a very successful 'Bavarian Beer Festival' was organised which raised \$1022 to help the Playcentre buy their own building. It was held in the covered yards of Verco's Woolshed and attended by 230 people. Unfortunately in late 1990, through lack of interest, and lack of people in the 15 to 30 age group in the District, the club went into recess.

In 1995 a group of 11 past YFC members decided it was time to have a reunion. After 12 months of preparation an action packed weekend was held in March 1996. 147 Young Farmers, some ageing a little, revisited old haunts and told tales that some later may have regretted telling!



"ET" 1983 entrant in the National Fieldays Sculpture Contest

## TAUHEI TENNIS CLUB

For a number of years prior to 1993, the number and players participating in tennis was variable and it was increasingly difficult to attract players when the courts were deteriorating to such a bad state.

The dedicated tennis players that did play became very adept at anticipating bounces out of potholes and off stones. The Committee of 1993 decided that a concerted effort was required to obtain the necessary funds to resurface the courts, otherwise the demise of tennis in Tauhei was imminent.

All 3 courts were resurfaced in concrete in

September/October 1994 with the third court having lighting installed at the same time. The total cost came to \$31,000 and thanks must go to: Matamata-Piako District Council, Waikato District Council, Lotteries Commission, Tauhei Hall Committee, members of our club, and the Tauhei community for their generous donations of materials, equipment, labour, and most importantly, financial contributions.

Tauhei now has a facility the community can be proud of and what is more, tennis is once again thriving in our community as a result. Tennis is being offered to Midgets

on a Saturday morning, Juniors on a Tuesday night, College and Seniors on a Wednesday night, and Ladies Day on Thursday mornings. These four areas of the club involve a membership of approximately 100 players.

Although the club is not affiliated to any tennis association, the main ingredients of participation and enjoyment continue to be attractive to those that play. The present committee ensures that those that need to hone their competitive edge are given games against neighbouring clubs in the Piako/Thames Valley region.



One of the family fun days the club holds each year.



## TAUHEI INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

When the Hall was rebuilt in 1985-86 Mr W Hazelhurst kindly built a new box for storing the mats, bowls and equipment in. After being President from 1974-86 Mr G Hopa did not seek re-election. Mr D Moore was elected President and has held office continuously till now.

In 1987 Tauhei Indoor Bowling Club celebrated its 40th Jubilee. It was attended by nearly 100 past and present members, who enjoyed a social hour, dinner, and dance.

The former Secretary Mrs M Gubb made and decorated the cake which was cut by foundation members: Mrs M Gibson and Mrs F Palmer. In appreciation of their long service and dedication to their respected positions, Mr G Robb, on behalf of the members, presented Mr G Hopa (President), and Mrs L Blue (Secretary), with their Life Membership Badges. Foundation members who attended were: Mr E Edwards, Mr F Greentree, Mr W Christian, Mr K Rowling, Mr & Mrs H Gibson, Mr & Mrs W Thomas, and Mr & Mrs A Palmer. The profit from the Jubilee was put towards buying a shield for the Championship Rinks.

With the decline in tournament entries in 1987 the format was changed to 4 games of seven ends or 38 minutes. The kneeling mats had worn out and a complete set of new ones were made by Mrs S Clark. Two new mats have been purchased, one in 1987 for \$415.00 and one in 1994 costing \$528.00.

The year Mrs L Blue moved to Morrinsville she was presented with a gift from the members for the years she held office as Secretary (1973-88). In 1990 when Mr & Mrs H Gibson moved to live in Morrinsville, it was Mr G Robb's privilege to present both Margaret and Howard with their Life Membership Badges (and also a gift from the members for their new house) in appreciation of their long association with the club and for their help and advice since joining as foundation members.

With the closure of Hoe-o-Tainui Indoor Bowling Club a number of years ago, the Strawbridge Cup which was played for between Hoe-o-Tainui and Tauhei, is now played for in the Tauhei Club for the Handicap Singles. When Motumaoho Club closed, the Adams Cup which was played for between Motumaoho and Tauhei Clubs, was reassigned and is now played for in the Tauhei Club for the winner of the most points over the season (one point for attendance and one point for the winner on club night). Mr & Mrs R Clark donated a cup for the winners of the Lead and Two's Pairs Championships. Mr G McQuoid, who donated a cup for competition within the Hoe-o-Tainui Club has now donated it to the Tauhei Club for the Skip and Ages Pairs Championships. The Millar Trophy is still played between Mangateparu and Tauhei.

In June 1997 Tauhei Indoor Bowling Club celebrated their 50th Jubilee. It was at-

tended by 77 past and present members, this number was disappointing but for those who did attend it was an enjoyable gathering. The Hall was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements done by Pam Portegys. President Don Moore, welcomed all those present. The first minutes were read out by Shirley Clark. The history of the club was reported by Gordon Robb who was also privileged to present George Gee with his Life Membership Badge for his long association on the match committee, he also held office as Vice President and President.

Master of Ceremony for the evening was in the capable hands of George Hopa. There was a Social Hour followed by a delicious meal supplied by Robyn Mafale'o. For those who wished to dance, music was supplied by Jeff Case. The cake was made by Mrs S Clark and iced by Mrs A Sladegully. The candles were lit by Bernice Matchett (Jack) a Foundation Member and fanned out by Margaret Gibson, also a Foundation and Life Member. Foundation Members who attended were Mrs M Gibson, Mrs B Matchett, Mr W Christian, Mr C Freegard, and Mr K Rowling. Life Members who attended were Mrs M Gibson, Mr G Hopa, and Mr G Robb.

Presidents who have held office since 1984 (number of years in brackets): G Hopa (3), and D Moore (11). Secretaries: Mrs L Blue (5), Mrs S Richardson (4), Mr D Janes (3), and Mrs S Clark (3). Membership has fluctuated between 30-40 with a high of 50 in 1987 and 45 in 1996. With the present membership the club can look forward to a long and successful future.

In 1996 Gordon Robb was the first member of the Morrinsville Sub Centre to be presented with a Life Membership Badge for his long association as a delegate from the Tauhei Club, and as a delegate to the Waikato Centre. He has been President of the Morrinsville Sub centre for 10 years and is also a qualified umpire. Also at the Sub Centre AGM in 1997 Mr D Moore was elected as Vice President.

Tauhei Indoor Bowls 50th Jubilee Committee (1997).

Top Row Left to Right: Gordon Robb, John Overdeest, Don Moore, Max Campbell, Henry Palmer, Ron Clark, Peter Topp, Peter Portegys. Bottom Row: George Gee, Fiona Fowlie, Jean Topp, Nancie Gee, Shirley Clark.



## TAUHEI LIGHT HORSE CLUB

The Tauhei Light Horse Club is now in its 31st year and has 35 riding members. Treks are still very popular with the annual Anniversary Weekend one being particularly so. The 1998 one was held at the Hangawera Station by kind permission of the Tainui Trust Manager, Tania Wills. Other years have seen treks at: Te Mata, Te Hoe, Taupo, Lime Stone Downs, Kaiaua, Oparau, Ngaroma, Mahihi, and Marokopa.

The club grounds are owned by Mr Keith Holmes who is a great supporter of the clubs activities. The club really appreciates his generosity and enthusiastic support of the club. Trees are planted each year around the grounds for a very generous rental. Also recently with Keith's kind permission the Club has been able to extend its club room facilities to store some new jumping poles and a barbecue for social gatherings.

Ribbon Days are held once a year and are very popular. Trophies are given at the end of each year for things such as improved rider, etc. Riders that have been members and have gone on to compete locally and internationally are: David Cawley, Champion Pony Hunter, Ngatea A & P Show; Karen Stark, Champion Pony Hunter, Hamilton Light Horse; Deborah

Stark, Open Pony Winner, Morrinsville A & P Show; Donna Cawley, Reserve Champion Hunter, Waikato A & P Show; Mark Henry, Champion Hunter, Whakatane A & P Show; Vicki Solly, Champion Hunter, Pukekohe A & P Show; Steegh Boys (Jack, Pete, Robert, and Philip), won numerous Open Classes at Cambridge, Morrinsville, and Te Aroha A & P Shows; Julie Rolf, Maiden Jump, Katikati A & P Show; Tracy Stobie, Maiden Hunter, Waikato A & P Show; Hockley (Richard, Peter, Andrew, and Debbie), all won Championships from Whakatane to Cleavdon A & P Shows (Waikato being one of their most successful); Karen Clarke, Champion Girl Rider, Waikato A & P Show; Natalie McDonald, Team Rider, Timberlands Pony Champs; Tania Radford, Team Rider, Waikato Pony Champs; Eilane Clarke, Champion Girl Rider, Waikato A & P Show; Glenys Upritchard, Open Jump Winner, Te Puke A & P Show; Peter Upritchard, Open Wire Winner, Rotongaro Sports; Bret Johnston, Champion Hunter, Rotorua A & P Show; Kate Henry, Youths Hunter, Waikato A & P Show; Karen Stokes, Champion Hunter, Waihi A & P Show; David Wykes, Champion Boy Rider Over Hurdles, Morrinsville A & P Show; Sara Wykes, Champion Girl Rider Over Hurdles; Jennifer Charlston, Champion Lady

Rider, Royal Waikato A & P Show; Liz Charlston, Champion Lady Rider, Royal Easter Show; Vaughn Jeffries, 1994 Three Day Eventing World Champion; Julie Eynon, Open Pony Hunter, Matamata A & P Show; Paul Prouting, Open Jump Winner, Keripehi Sports; Tania Wills, Open Jump Winner, Marokopa Sports; Sheree Elliott, Morrinsville High School Cross Country Champion; and Allison Bunning, Champion Rider, Waikato A & P Show.

Members who have taken on teaching and executive positions in the equestrian field are: Chief Instructors, Ross Henry, Allen Goodall, Norm Bleakley, Betty Cook, and Andrea McIntosh (England). A Committee Member of the Waikato Hunt is Eddie Rolf, and a Committee Member of the Maramarua Hunt is Allen Radford. Bill Cawley is Master of the Waikato Hunt, Colin Eynon Deputy Master of the Rotorua & Bay of Plenty Hunt, and Ross Henry is Deputy Master of the Maramarua Hunt.

Ross Henry has been the Club President for the last 5 years with Nancy Bowman holding that position for the preceding 6 years. The Patron of the Club is Monica Warren.



Tauhei's 1975 winning team in the Waikato Teams Event (held at the Tauhei grounds). From left to right: Glenys Upritchard, unknown rider on Dutchess, Bill Cawley, and Mark Henry.

# TAUHEI HALL RENOVATION

It was a letter from the Badminton Club in August 1981 with a proposal for better utilisation of hall floor space which prompted the Committee to agree to investigate the cost and feasibility of removing the stage and fitting alternative braces for the ceiling. Following a visit from the County Building Inspector, it was decided to write to the County Engineer seeking the services of a Structural Engineer from the County to inspect the building and to report back to the Committee.

It was hoped that the report would be in the committees hands within a few weeks, but after many phone calls and letters, the County Engineer reported in June 1983 that he would not be capable of carrying out the assessment of the building. Almost two years had passed since the visit from the Building Inspector and we were back to square one.

The County in the meantime advised the Committee that they would be engaging a private Engineer Mr Max Bosselman, who would inspect the building and furnish a report. His suggested plans were received in July 1983 and these along with other ideas the Committee had received, were being looked at closely towards the end of that year. At the start of 1984 it was evident that the Committee favoured two of the plans; one of these being for a new hall with local builders being asked to submit quotations. The other plan involved a renovated building with lean-to structures on each side. The new building would have room for 2 badminton courts.

In March 1984 a 'Special Ratepayers Meeting' was held attended by 55 ratepayers.

They listened to Committee members explaining the two concepts and the method of financing. This would be by a ten year loan from the Council with ratepayers having the option of paying a lump sum. At the end of the meeting a resolution was passed 'That ratepayers accept the concept of a new Hall for Tauhei District,' cost to be approximately \$125,000. Further consultation took place within the community to enable every ratepayer to be conversant with the 4 plans which the Committee were considering.

At another 'Special Ratepayers Meeting' an elimination ballot took place and once again the new Hall concept was the favoured option. Arrangements were then put into place for a postal vote to be taken on a loan for a new hall, and when the figures were in it showed 29 in favour and 35 against. The Council would not allow the project to proceed so once again the committee were back to the drawing board.

Over the next two months discussion centred around methods of extending the building on the western side, upgrading the toilets and front of the hall, and re-roofing, all to the value of \$100,000. Mr Bosselman was contacted again. He advised that he would be able to design steel frames to support the walls, and would make a start on the plans in February 1985.

A final ballot from the ratepayers gave the project the green light and when the plans were received and finally approved by the Committee in May, preparations were made for the purchase of materials and final arrangements for the commencement of work. Earlier in the year Mr Terry

Autridge had shown an interest in the project and he was engaged as the builder, to be assisted by voluntary labour on a daily basis from members of the community.

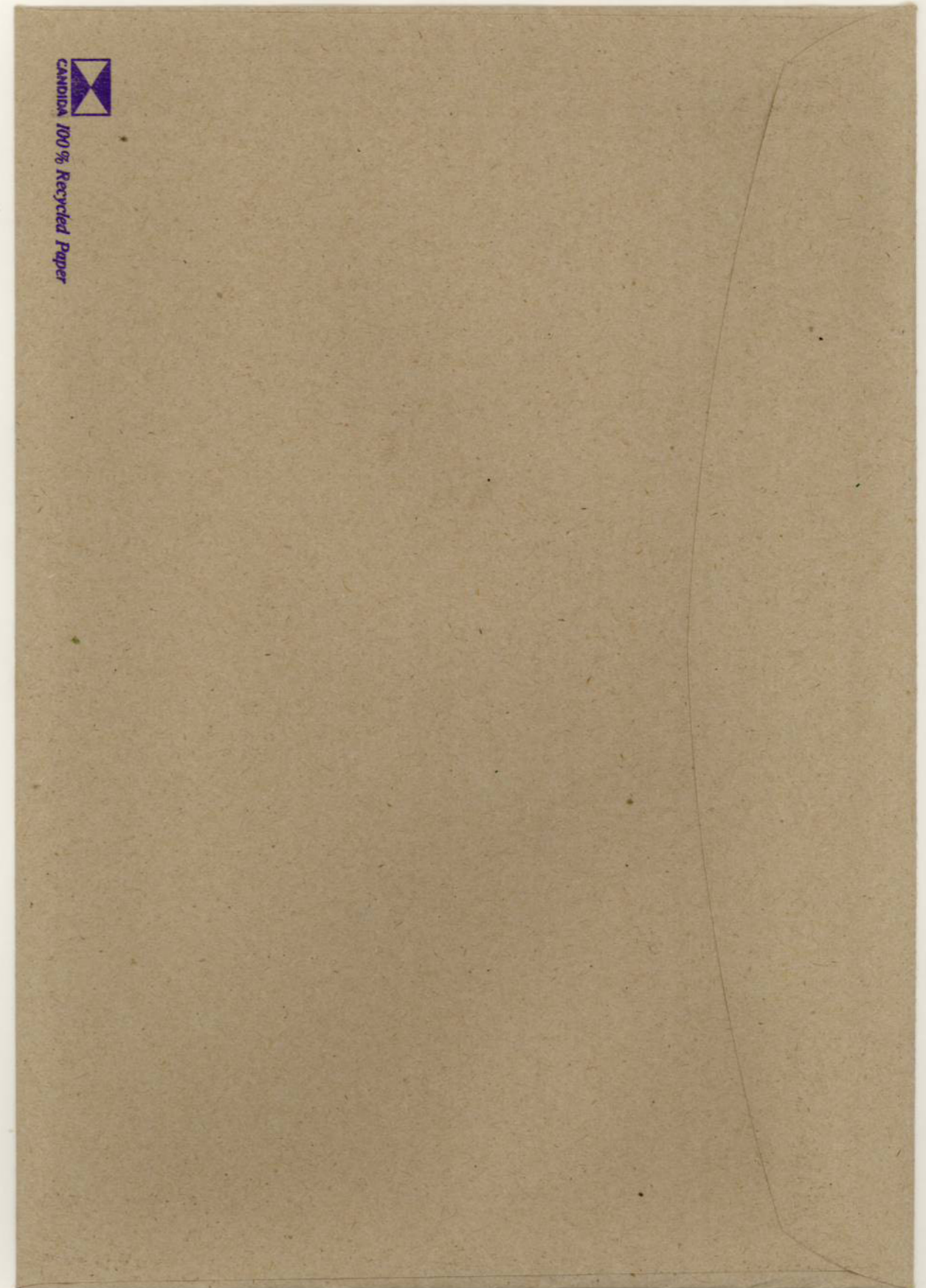
Work started on 1st October 1985. The crucial part was the erection of the steel girders on each side of the Hall. These were successfully lifted into place on the 11th November with the aid of 2 frontend loaders. By the end of May 1986 Terry had completed his part but another two months were required to carry out gib stopping, sanding, painting, wallpapering, concreting, and general tidying up. Altogether a total of over 2000 voluntary hours were contributed by the community. Pleasingly there were no accidents on site.

There were many small jobs still to be completed but finally on 10th April 1987 an official opening was held. Long time local residents Mr and Mrs Arthur Palmer were invited to declare the building open. The construction of the parking area was another major undertaking and this was completed in 1988. A further upgrading, mainly to the kitchen has since taken place. Also the power and water supply had caused problems and they too have been overcome.

The Hall is now used by many organisations and is popular for family functions including weddings and 21st's. The School also uses it for different purposes quite regularly. Visitors to the Hall are always very complimentary about the building. The community is very fortunate to have a venue which will remain a strong focal point for the Tauhei District for many years to come.



Tauhei Memorial Hall 1998.





S.R. DeVeth '98