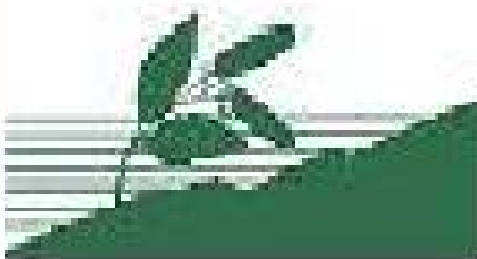




# 40 YEARS of KAMAHI SCHOOL





# Forty Years of Kamahi School

Compiled by Catherine Ravenhall

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## Acknowledgements

On a sunny winter morning, Heather Isaac (then acting principal) led me to a dark corner of Room 7 (the resource room) and introduced me to a box full of photograph albums and school diaries - a treasure chest of Kamahi School archives. This history has been compiled from those resources.

I am most grateful for the excellent diaries kept by the head teachers and principals of our school. These diaries were written from 1964 until 1992. Some principals were more meticulous than others, while some years had more events to record than others. Thank you to Helen Galloway who helped me gain access to the years of school newsletters (1997-2004) kept on computer. Thank you to those who took photographs of school activities over the years, and especially to those who remembered to name them. What a help!

Thank you to Leigh Sutton and Yvonne Airey from The Stokes Valley Times and the staff from Hutt News for allowing quotes from their publications to be included, and Photolife for the class photos.

Thank you to those who have been my fact-checkers, proof-readers, editors and formatters. Most importantly Nicky Owers who has been my sounding-board and advisor, who spent many hours checking my work, and helping me make the facts more readable. And a huge thank you to Rod and my four children for being so patient and letting me get on with compiling this history for us all to share.

Hope you enjoy it!

## Notes

- Please note that quotes contained in the main text have been taken directly from the school diaries (1964-1992) or school newsletters (1997-2004). Other quotes have their sources in brackets;
- Abbreviations:
  - D.P. deputy principal
  - A.P. assistant principal
  - S.T.J.C. senior teacher, junior classes
  - H&S Association Home and School Association
  - P.T.F.A. Parents, Teachers, and Friends' Association
  - B.O.T. Board of Trustees
  - S.T. senior teacher
  - P.A. probationary assistant
  - T.A. teacher aide
- Class photos for each year are those of the standard 4/year 6 class or classes. As some years had two or three classes there, are two or three photos;
- No doubt many details have been missed, it is impossible to include everything. Some class trips, for example, are mentioned, but many are not; most staff changes have been omitted; and only a few of the numerous photos have made it in. I apologise for any mistakes, especially in the spelling of names. In some cases more than one spelling was given, e.g. Mrs Lister/Lester, Mr Fergusson/Ferguson, Miss Diver/Driver.

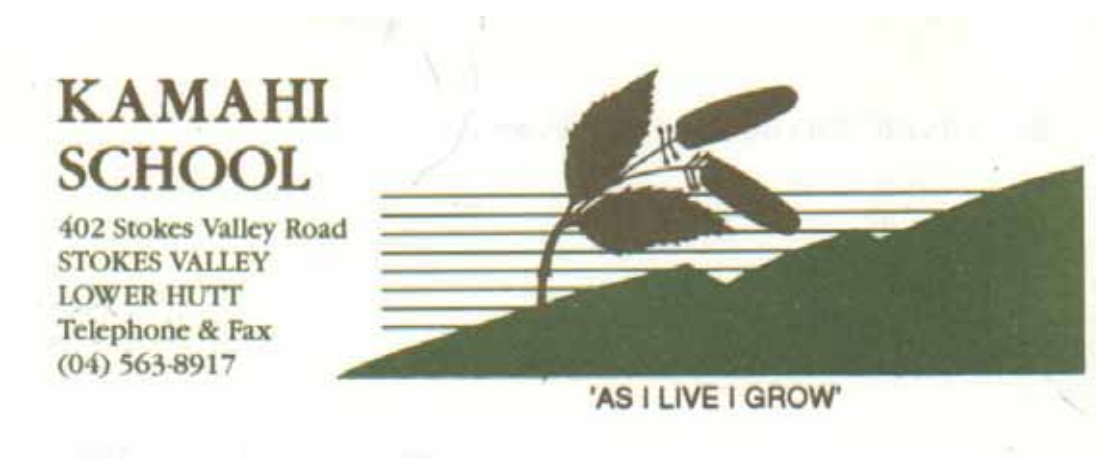
## Introduction

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2004 Kamahi School, as we know it, will cease to exist. The buildings and most of the staff and pupils will remain, but as the new school year begins, so does a new school in Stokes Valley - Koraunui School. The school communities of Kamahi and Stokes Valley Schools will join to form the new school on the Kamahi site. Barbara Hay, the current principal of Stokes Valley School, will be the new school's principal. The current buildings will be upgraded and joined by further classrooms, a new library and computer suite.

It is timely, before we celebrate the beginning of this new school, to first reflect on Kamahi's past and the people who have contributed so much to making it the great school it is. This brief record is about some of these people and some of the events, which have shaped the character of this school.

Kamahi School has been fortunate in the enthusiastic principals and dedicated staff it has had over the years. These highly skilled professionals have helped our children grow and learn. The pupils who have been through (and still attend) our school have enjoyed being part of a "community" of caring young people. Over the years Kamahi has been lucky with its generous parent group readily volunteering its time. These are the "behind-the-scenes" workers, busy fundraising, attending committee meetings, taking classes on trips, and helping with reading, or working bees.

We thank you all.



## Before Kamahi School Opened

In 1957 consideration was first given to providing another school in Stokes Valley. This was to be the third school for the valley after Stokes Valley and Tui Glen Schools.

One early resident recalls that the land the school is built on had been set aside for a road to connect Stokes Valley Road to the nearby hills. However, the Ministry of Works in 1961 then informed some of the residents of Raukawa Street that part of their properties would be needed for a school. Most Raukawa Street neighbours had a quarter of an acre acquired from their properties for the school, but half an acre was taken from the Deer property (at number 22 Raukawa). They were compensated with the rebuilding of their fowlhouse, erecting of a boundary fence and approximately £1000. [Mrs Deer].

In 1961 the main part of the school site was purchased, with a further piece of land bought in 1962. The area is four acres, three roods and 20 perches (or 2.2 hectares) and at the time cost £8,200. In the September 1962 issue of *The Stokes Valley Times* it was recorded that: - "Work on Stokes Valley's third school will start this year. Tenders close later this month for preliminaries involving 13,000 yards of earthmoving, stream piping, and levelling and sowing. The site is between Korau Street and Raukawa Street, roughly behind Valley Motors. Building of the four-room school is expected to start next year with the school in use toward the end of the year. It will, like Stokes Valley and Tui Glen cater for pupils to standard four and be a contributing school to Taita Intermediate." [Stokes Valley Times Sept. 1962]



The stream that runs through the property was diverted and earthworks began late in 1962. On 27th October 1962 tenders were advertised for the building work and the successful builders, McConnell and Slacke, commenced the building in March 1963. The four-classroom block, dental clinic, and administration section cost £33,708. By the 3rd of February 1964 the school was ready to take its first pupils.

Kamahi's connection with its neighbouring school has been there from even before the school opened in 1964. One of Kamahi's founding staff members, Maurice Morgan, recalls that "As the majority of children enrolled (at the new school) were to come from Stokes Valley School, the Wellington Education Board allowed Miss Ganaway, the headteacher of that school, to name the new one." It was at one stage to be called 'Stokes Valley South School'. However, Miss Ganaway selected 'Kamahi' because this native tree had grown profusely in the area before the bush was cleared.

"On the first day that the school opened Miss Ganaway made a goodwill visit to wish the teaching staff 'every success' and provided a beautiful morning tea – a generous gesture from a much respected colleague." [Maurice Morgan]

## 1964

Kamahi School opened on the 3rd February 1964 with a staff only day. From the school diary, the head teacher wrote: "As I commence this report of the commencement of a new school, I am conscious of the fact that a little bit of history is in the making. The teachers present today are myself, Alan W. Scott, head teacher; Mr M. Morgan, first assistant; Mrs E. Boyle, infant mistress; and Miss P. Smithson, probationary assistant. The children are to come tomorrow, allowing us this first day to commence organisation, discussion, and the sorting of furniture and equipment. Enrolments started last Friday but no accurate idea of numbers is possible today.

To record the number of people coming and going would occupy plenty of space, but sufficient to say here that many people are involved in our opening and we are a source of great interest to Valley residents." [School diary written by Alan Scott]



When the school opened in 1964 it began with a roll of 122, "with equal numbers of boys and girls". Over the year the roll grew to 176, necessitating the addition of staff: Mr A. Jones (standard 2) and Mrs S. Edwards.

In the first year, the building and equipping of the school continued. The school was lucky to have been given many new items from the Education Board, including a duplicator, communication system, record player and speaker, filing cabinets, sewing machine, polisher, and vacuum cleaner. This free equipment was valued at £797.10.3d. Later a lawnmower, typewriter, piano (valued at £220), a filmstrip projector, curtains, and workbenches were received.

Alan Scott's drive and commitment to the children, and his high standards, stamped their mark on Kamahi from day one. In a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 1964, Alan Scott addressed the parents: "Very often when people think of a school, they tend to think of the buildings, and facilities, rather than the children. To us, the teachers, the first interest always is the children that you have sent us. I believe that a child schooled and skilled in arithmetic, for example, without proper aids in character development is of far less value to himself or herself and to the community when education is complete. To this end, therefore, the building of character in line with similar activities in the home is very important.

We are paying special attention to all aspects of your child's development. The day's assembly is an opportunity of getting the children to feel they are part of the school. It is our wish to honour God, the Queen, and our Country. We hope that you will approve of the saying of the Lord's Prayer each day as the children have been taught, and other activities, such as the singing of the national anthem and flag ceremonies from time to time."

Maurice Morgan recalls that each day the school gathered outside the administration block for assembly. This was led by Alan Scott and often included "a brief homily extolling various virtues." When the practice of reciting the Lord's prayer first started, a young boy "could not say the word 'temptation' so in an audible voice would say 'and lead us not into Thames Station.' As a result there were often muffled noises of suppressed laughter!"

Some of the activities that were commenced this year included:

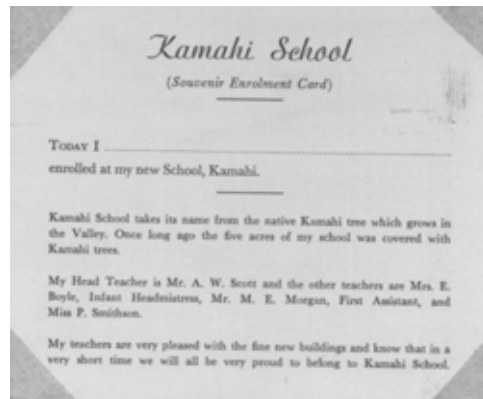
- swimming – subsidised bus took the pupils to the Naenae pool;
- School banking. "A parent comes to fill in the books and the money is collected at 1 o'clock by a P.O. official. A most satisfactory arrangement."
- Bible studies instructed by Rev. A. Quigley, Father Faherty, Father Madder, Mrs Frew, and Mrs Agar.
- first class trip to the museum for Standard one to four pupils (80 in all). "Well worthwhile. Birds, Volcanoes, Maoris."
- The children used the main grass area for the first time on 23rd September. "Regretted that no movie camera available."
- Seven silver birches were planted along the drive – each class being responsible for one, with the teachers putting in the others. "Chairman Mr Mills, Mr Wallis and self (Mr Scott) planted two Kamahi trees by car light – being the most convenient time for Mr Wallis who provided the trees."
- Kamahi's first working bee was held on 13th October, and was attended by Mr Mills, Mr Wallis, Mr Honore and Alan Scott. "Erected a basketball set of four poles."
- school softball teams played their first games.

*Seven Silver Birch Trees still growing along the driveway*





"All children who enrol this year are to receive a gilt edged souvenir card indicating that they were foundation pupils. It will be interesting to see how many survive 50 years."



The strong community involvement in Kamahi School was evident from early this first year: A "feature of the school has been the assistance given to banking, sewing, and typing by the parents. All told, four parents assist with sewing, four with banking, and one with typing. The latter lady has put in over 50 hours free so that I may be freed from tasks which fall to a head teacher who has no clerical assistance. I have made every endeavour to see that this type of inroad into class room hours have been eliminated. Phone calls and visits in class room hours have been discouraged, but this has not prevented parental contacts both individually and during the two open days."

At the inaugural meeting of the Home and School Association in March, 85 people were present – representing 65 families, and there were even some apologies!



Over the year Mrs Boyle's class numbers grew, but despite applying for teacher aides, the school was turned down. Once again it was parents who rallied to the cause and came to the assistance of Mrs Boyle.

On 21st July the first two rooms of the infant block were commenced: "Staff and I raised a protest at new block, which on being commenced today is to face away from the main area. Feel that there will be a lack of sense of unity. Time will indicate whether this is correct. Hope we are open to correction. Had new block faced onto a large area, the added sense of being blocked in by adjacent fence line would not be felt. Chairman made these points to architects. Said it was too late to alter set out." [Note: 40 years later this is still a concern.]

Despite the fact the classrooms were brand new there were still problems with them. They were found to be lacking in adequate ventilation and lighting, and these were rectified during the year. The rooms had lino flooring, which was not easy to keep clean and very cold despite the heating. Space was limited and Mr Scott used the staff room as a classroom for his standard three and four pupils "and although this is not ideal, is comfortable and reasonably spacious." The medical room thus became the staff room.

On the 13th March an open day was held for valley residents and parents. "Despite a very wet day, and the fact that there was no water on until 1pm, 85 per cent of our parents took the opportunity of coming to see the children and the school. One parent was so interested that she stayed all day. It seems that this is the first time many of them have been inside a school during regular hours for observation."

School milk was introduced, but there was "little desire" for it and only introduced for the sake of a few that asked for it. As with many schools, there were unsatisfactory storage facilities after the milk was delivered to the gate and no refrigerator was available.



Over the year some of the visitors to the school included a senior school inspector, a psychologist, a welfare officer, a traffic inspector, a physical education specialist, a visiting lecturer on Maori work, and a speech therapist. It is interesting to compare these with visitors in 2001; their titles may have changed but their concerns are the same.

The school year finished with a picnic at Akatarawa on the 15th December, and carols singing on the 17th.



Mr Jones's class: Standard 2

Alan Scott's summing up of Kamahi's first year included these words: "A successful year with opportunities to establish routines that are standing the test of daily use. Problems have been solved as they have arisen, but we can never be satisfied with the status quo. The future is a challenge."



Mr Morgan's class: Standard 1

Note: There was no Standard 3-4 class photo (Mr Scott's class) available.

## 1965

Staff:	Mr Scott	Room 1: Standard 4
	Mr Morgan	Room 2
	Miss Burns	Room 3
	Miss Bisdee	Standard 2
	Miss Hamilton	Room 4
	Mrs Boyle	Room 5: Primer 1
	Miss Thompson	Room 6



1965 proved to be a busy year for the staff of Kamahi school and its parents. The opening roll was 191 and an additional teacher, Miss Lorraine Burns, was appointed in March. The two new classrooms were not quite ready when the school reopened in 1965 and it was necessary to double up classes for the first week. Later this year two further classrooms were built giving a total of eight.

The community goodwill continued. Alan Scott commented: "Interesting to note that as a typical week, there have been associated with the school on an unpaid basis: four sewing ladies, three banking ladies, five teacher aides, one typist(e), one nurse to give lectures to class, one student (paid), and one observing ex P.A. Missing a dental nurse. This is indicative of the goodwill enjoyed."

In October the school held a horticulture day with a wonderful effort by the children, with 240 entries of flowers, fruits, and vegetables, and a strong attendance by parents (despite being held on a Tuesday). In November, Kamahi held its first school gala to raise funds for the school baths.

## Kamahi School's First Gala Day (1965)

One of the highlights of 1965 was the school's first gala held on November 20th. "No helicopter flight as conditions too turbulent at Wellington." £370 was raised for the school baths fund.



*Teachers Maurice Morgan and Claire Bisdee*



*The local fire brigade putting on a display.*

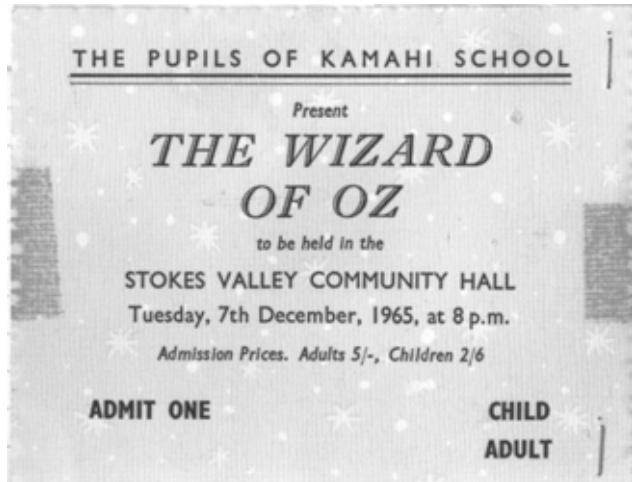


*Mr Scott's class:  
Std 4*

# The Wizard of Oz (1965)

Another highlight of the year was the school production in November of The Wizard of Oz, under the guidance of Mr Morgan. The two sell-out performances were held at the Stokes Valley Community Hall.

The school was the first organisation in Australasia to receive the performing rights to use the original songs and music from the M.G.M. film "Wizard of Oz". Mr Morgan recalls that the singing practices were held during school time, but the drama rehearsals had to take place after school or on Saturdays. They were unable to use the Community Hall for the practices so the stage dimensions were painted on the school's playground.



As well as producing the show, Mr Morgan wrote the libretto for it and Miss Burns, who had recently graduated as a Bachelor of Music, adapted the musical score for the piano. Miss Bisdee, with parent help, created the scenery and lighting effects, Mrs Boyle was the wardrobe mistress, Mrs Morgan did the extensive make-up required, and Mr Scott organised the programme, tickets, and "front of house."

"A wonderful event in the life of this school. Tremendous assistance by parents in many different capacities. Nothing was too much trouble to them. Has done a lot to cement relationships, which are already outstanding."

*The Wizard of Oz  
Kevin Seerup*

*Tin Man: Stuart Owers  
Scarecrow: Adrian Brown  
Dorothy: Sandra Scott  
Lion: John Hughes*

*Wicked Witch of the West:  
Michelle Scullion*



## 1966

Staff: Mr Scott (Headteacher)  
Mrs Boyle  
Mr Morgan  
Miss Thompson  
Mr Walker  
Mrs Templer  
Miss McGavin  
Mr Rowatt



Staff Photo 1966  
Back row. Miss Thomson, Mr Walker, Mrs Templer, and Student J. Turner.  
Fr. R. Miss McGavin, Mr Morgan, Mr Scott, Mrs Boyle, Mr Rowatt.

By 1966, this progressive school was debating such things as children's social and leisure needs at the Home and School Association meetings. The school inspectors visited for the first time in July. They commented: "It is pleasing to note the progress that has been made in establishing the school and the very fine tone that has been built up in a very short period. The well-kept grounds and buildings reflect the pride of the pupils, teachers, and district in this new asset to the community."

The daily bus trips to Naenae pool for swimming lessons continued in February and proved well worthwhile when in March, 37 children were able to swim across the pool.

Miss Thomson and Mr Morgan, both Kamahi teachers at the time, were married, with some of their pupils in attendance.

A 10-year-old Michelle Scullion, pupil of Kamahi School, took this photo, on a Box Brownie, soon after



Another successful gala was held in October. Santa had planned to parachute into the grounds, and although the wind conditions on the ground were not too bad, one of the two markers dropped by the plane ended up near Manuka Street. The parachute drop was called off, much to the disappointment of children and organisers. Despite this, the gala made a healthy profit of £530.

As well as catering to the children's needs, the Home and School Association held several talks and debated such issues as:

"What is a child's greatest need? How do we see that he gets it?"

Children's leisure - should it be organised?

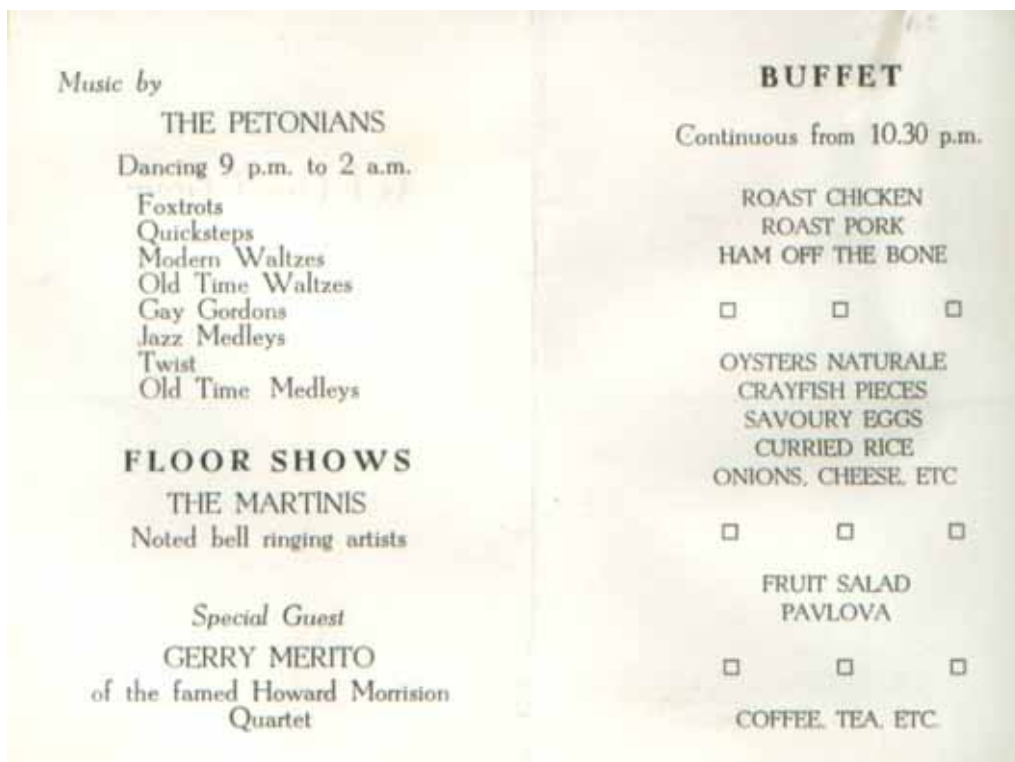
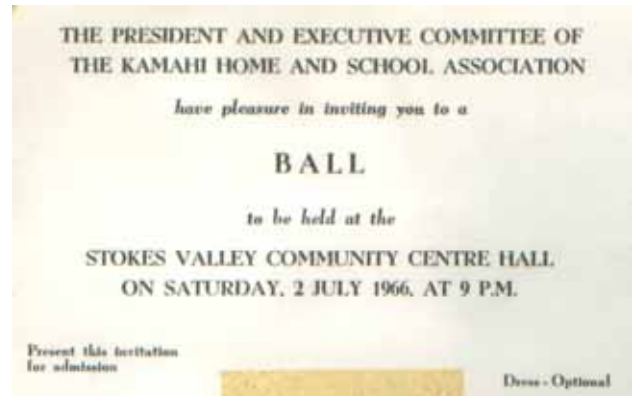
Social promotion – what do you understand by this term?

"All [topics] were vigorously pursued."

"New Maths" was introduced into the Standard two, three and four curriculum. Several teachers took part in "a series of workshops showing parents what their children were learning under the new system of mathematics, which was vastly different to the content of the old arithmetic syllabus." [Maurice Morgan]

The Home and School Association certainly put on some impressive functions.

As a major social event for the year, they held a ball.







On the 2nd December " Father Xmas arrived before thousands of people – by parachute (his 192nd jump). He was then taken by fire engine to Scott Court, where four parents dressed as clowns distributed- or tried to – 1000 bags of sweets. No one killed."! For those of you that have since worked out that the real Father Christmas could not possibly have parachuted to school, the truth was that when the parachutist landed he was rushed to a classroom, where the real Father Christmas was already dressed in his gear!

Another successful horticulture day was held, this time with 325 entries. Two women from the Horticultural Society carried out judging. Parents were invited to come and see not only the exhibits, but also a potter's wheel in action, a weaver's loom being used, and several examples of other parents' crafts.

The head teacher at the close of the year remarked, "A busy, worthwhile year in pleasant surroundings and with pleasant people." School closed with a roll of 315 and staff of 10.

*Room 2: Mr Morgan's Class*



## 1967

Roll 314	Staff: Mr Scott
	Mr Morgan Standard 3-4
	Mrs Couch Primer 4-Standard 1
	Mrs Morgan Primers
	Mrs McKernan Primers
	Mrs Boyle Infants



Staff and helpers 1967.  
Fr row: Mrs Y.Battersby, Mrs F.Morgan, Mr M.Morgan(1st A  
Mr A.Scott (H/T) Mrs E.Boyle(SJC) Nurse B.Steere  
Mrs D.Couch.  
Back row: Mrs A.Frickleton(T/A,) Mrs M.Cook(EPA)  
Mr K.Walker, Mrs P.Smith(Sec. to H/T) Mrs J.McKernan(PA)  
Mrs S.Edwards(Rel.)

1967 was another busy year for this growing school, with more plans also developed for its future.

Again in 1967 the progressive nature of the Home and School Association came to the fore, with such topics at its discussion groups as: is the school taking over the role of parents? Sex education – where does it start? And, what was your biggest problem as a teenager?

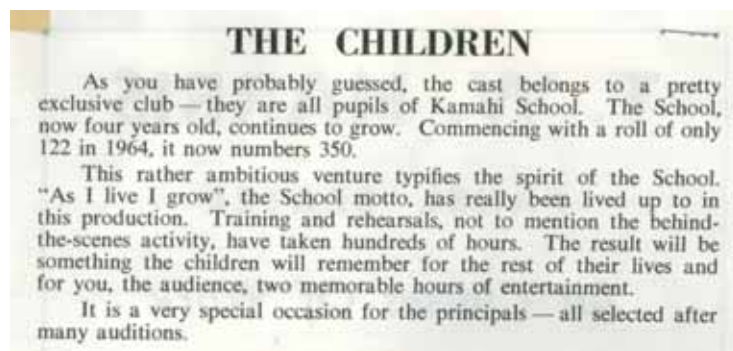
The right-of-way into Korau St was completed in July this year and the school closed with a roll of 357. 1967 is rightly noted in the headmaster's end of year remarks as "a full and vigorous year."

## "The Parker Plan" (1967)

1967 saw another excellent school production, this time of the operetta "The Parker Plan". Produced by Mr Morgan, in co-operation with staff and parents, the performances were held at the Stokes Valley community hall in November and were deemed: "A highly polished performance involving 60 children and two pianists."



The lead parts were played by Michelle Scullion, Stuart Owers, Jennifer Robinson, Nicholas Bengree, Laurie Carroll, Stewart Frater, Neil Gorham, Stephen Foster, Jeremy Begg, Geoffrey Jonassen, Gary Pistor, John Lyttle, Gloria Cornehl, Mark Jones, Paul McCarthy, John Logan, and Jeffery McKenzie.



## The School Swimming Pool (1967)

The School Committee and Home and School Association had first decided that school swimming baths would be their fundraising priority in February 1965. It was the first 'concrete block' school pool approved by the Education Board, the committee negotiating for this type on the basis of cost saving. Over the next 15 months the school fundraised over £1500 toward the cost, with the Education Board subsidising the rest. The school inspectors the previous year had commented, "The raising of a large sum of money in a very short time for the installation of a swimming pool is an outstanding effort and a measure of the interest of the community." The tender was let to Mr.J.Gilligan for £1826-10, plus filtration costs.



The swimming pool (baths) was first used on 28th November 1967, with pupils William Tekira and Jennifer Robinson "breaking the surface". A few weeks later Mrs McKernan had to dive into the pool fully clothed to help a child out, and amusingly her class complained to her that she should not have gone in with her shoes on!

The school planned to prolong the valley's short swimming season by heating the pool. This was thought to be the first primary school in the country with a heated pool, and was heated and ready for use by March 1969.



*The pool in use  
in 1986*

In 1970 the school baths remained open and heated during the holidays for the first time. In 1971 Tawhai School used the pool during the lunch hour. In 1984 the pool was hired to the Assembly of God Church for a mass baptism. ("N.B. No drownings resulted.")! Also that year the Swim School hired the baths for swimming lessons, with Robyn Fraser as instructor.



*Room 2: Mr Morgan's class,  
standard 3-4*

## 1968

Roll: 338	Staff: A.W.Scott (Head Teacher)
	Mrs E. Boyle (S.J.C.) who went overseas in March and was relieved by Mrs Duffin
	Mr. Morgan (1st Assistant)                      Standard 3-4
	Mrs D. Couch (Senior Woman)                  Standard 1
	Mr K. Walker    Standard 2
	Miss K. Upton (P.A)                                Infants
	Mrs. S. Edwards                                    Standard 2-3
	Mrs F. Morgan                                      Infants
	Miss C. Harford                                    Primer 4
	Miss D. Wilson
	Miss I. Porter
	Miss L. Randell
	Mrs P. Ault    School secretary



School

started with a larger than expected intake of pupils. (Fourteen were expected and thirty-one turned up). In line with the growing roll, two new classrooms were officially opened on the 18th November. They were built by Ferro Construction of Upper Hutt and cost \$23,255.

As with current times, fundraising was always on a school's agenda and Kamahi found some interesting and profitable ways of raising money. In April a sponsored walk for Kamahi children was held from Lower Hutt to the school. One hundred and eighty- five entrants started from various checkpoints. They walked eight miles and were sponsored on average five cents per mile making a total profit of \$500. The Home and School Association held a car rally in June. Fifty-three cars took part, involving 200 people, on a 30-mile course around Lower Hutt and it was followed by a social in the Community Centre.

The 10th April was one of New Zealand's worst disasters, with hurricane force winds and the foundering of the ship the 'Wahine', with the loss of 51 lives in Wellington Harbour. Mrs Edwards records, "The full extent of the storm...did not strike me until my son and I walked to the bus stop...I had to hold on to Robert with one hand and the power pole with the other to prevent us from being blown down the road." Mr Morgan recalls: "For the teaching staff it was a horrific experience...From 9.00am the storm raging outside our classrooms seemed to be growing in severity. The windows and school roofs shook and shuddered to such an extent that we moved the children and their desks into the centre of each room for fear that the windows would shatter. The children were terrified, watching people's poultry and domestic animals flying past the windows, with corrugated sheets of iron sailing like sheets of paper." A series of huge explosive sounds turned out to be seven pine trees snapping at their bases at the end of the school field. Kevin Walker, one of the teachers, who was usually the most unruffled of men, looked shaken when he could start to see daylight around the blackboard in his 'pre-fab' classroom. His class was evacuated for fear the building may collapse. "We tried to keep the children occupied, but flashes from falling power lines and the crashing of flying debris made for an interesting time." [Edwards]

The Wellington Education Board decided to close the schools in the region and parents soon arrived to collect their children. "We took several children at a time to the cars and they held tightly onto their teachers for fear of being whipped away by the hurricane force winds." [Morgan] By 11:30am the school was empty of pupils and the power had been lost to the school. The staff retreated to the staffroom where the sombre mood was broken by laughter "when the shopkeeper who prepared the children's 'bought lunches' arrived with masses of hot pies". (He had his own generator) The pies were not wasted however, as the staff got to eat them!



*On a lighter note:  
"Our P.A. Miss Upton crowned  
Queen of Stokes Valley School  
Jubilee. Our share (of fundraising)  
\$900". The Jubilee was their 75<sup>th</sup>.*

19th December: school closed Roll 385.



*Room 2: Mr Morgan's class Standard 3-4*

# 1969

Roll: 249

Staff: 12.

Class Roll

		(November)
Alan Scott	Headteacher	
Mrs Sheila Harkness	Standard 3-4	43
Mrs Stella Edwards	Standard 3	43
Miss Brenda Duncanson (First year)	Standard 2	31
Miss Mary Anderson	Standard 2	31
Mrs Diane Ross	Standard 1	39
Mrs Doris Couch (Senior Woman)	Standard 1	40
Mrs Christine Bank	Primer 4	40
Miss Bronwyn Scarf	Primer3-4	36
Miss Marilyn Puddick (First year)	Primer 2	32
Mrs Shirley Cross	Primer 1	27
Mrs Evelyn Boyle (S.J.C.)	New Entrant	24



Mrs P.Parkes Mrs D.Ross, Student T. Mrs C.Baaks, Mr K.Walker  
 Miss B Scarf, Student T. Mrs F.Morgan  
 Mrs S Edwards, Mrs E.Boyle, Mr M Morgan, Mr A.Scott, Mrs D.Couch,  
 Miss B.Duncanson, Miss M.Puddick.

In 1969, Kamahi continued to draw praise for the quality of the school. When school inspectors visited for the second time, they commented: "It is a pleasure to visit this school, not only because the grounds and general layout of the facilities has been done with care and taste, but also because of the pleasant tone and atmosphere which is engendered by the head teacher and staff."



And it was another good year for fundraising events; each one raising a good sum, thanks again to the enthusiasm of pupils and parents. In April, 100 children undertook a sponsored walk from Woburn to the school; and the gala went ahead as usual in October.

Sporting-wise, the children did well, winning the Jaycees inter-school sports tournament. Plus, 48 swimming certificates and 232 seals were presented, and later, 21 children gained their iron badge in gymnastics.

Not only were pupils achieving in sports, but they also acquitted themselves well in the performing arts. The school's choir "performed beautifully" at Silverstream Hospital and Wesleyhaven.

When school closed for the year on 18th December, pupil numbers were at their peak, with 407 enrolled.



## 1970

Roll: 368	Staff: A.W.Scott (Headteacher)	
	Mrs E.Boyle (S.T.J.C.)	
	Mrs D. Couch (Senior Women)	Standard 1
	Mr E. Diamond (First Assistant)	Standard 4
	Mrs S. Edwards	Standard 3-4
	Mrs B Campbell	Standard 2-3
	Mrs S. Cross	Primer 2-3
	Mrs M. White	Primer 1
	Mrs C. Banks	Primer 4
	Miss M. Anderson	Standard 2
	Miss A. Anderson	New Entrants
	Miss J. Dodgson	Standard 2
	Miss M. Puddick	Primer 4-Standard 1



Unfortunately, there are few entries in the school diary to indicate how Kamahi School fared in 1970. Fundraisers included an art auction, Home and School Association members manning the gates at the National Dog Show, and the school gala. The latter achieved a record crowd and netted \$1,000. The beautiful weather helped, but the effort by organisers was enormous.

## “The Royal Tour” (1970)



A personal highlight for head teacher Alan Scott must surely have been the opportunity to escort Queen Elizabeth. He had played a large part in organising the event, which was to give the Queen, Prince Phillip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne a display from school children as part of a 'walk-about' during their tour of New Zealand. On 13th March the school was closed and the pupils and staff were part of the crowd that gathered at the Hutt Recreational Grounds to see the Royal Family. The railways, as well as some forty buses were asked to transport children to the event. Naenae and Taitā Schools provided gymnastic teams to put on displays, Fergusson Intermediate provided a Maori culture group, and there was an inter-secondary school relay race to finish. On the day about 11,000 children and about 4,000 adults were present for the occasion, which was telecast live to the rest of New

Zealand.





An Art Auction was held at the Lower Hutt Town Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. The Parent Teachers and Friends' Association of Kamahi School persuaded Bebe, a teenage chimpanzee from Wellington Zoo, to come out of "retirement" and paint a picture to be auctioned. Others to give paintings were well-known personalities Nev MacEwan, Rowena Jackson, Selwyn Toogood, Keith Quinn and the Rev. Bob Lowe. Volunteer auctioneer Mr Dunbar Sloane, senior, who was assisted by stage personality and volunteer, Jim McNaught, auctioned a total of 80 donated paintings. The school shared the \$400 proceeds with the Intellectually Handicapped Children's workshop.



*Mrs Edwards class: Standard 3-4*



*Mr Diamond's class: Standard 4*

## 1971

Roll 368 Staff: Mr Scott	Headteacher
Mrs Boyle	Senior Teacher Junior Classes
Miss Reddish (First Year)	Standard 2-3
Mrs Diamond	Standard 1
Mrs White	Primers
Mrs Lumsden (relieving)	Primers
Miss King	Standard 1
Mrs Campbell	Standard 3
Mr Diamond	Standard 4
Mrs McKenzie	Standard 3-4
Mrs Norma Burr	Teacher aide



*Back row: Mrs Burr; Miss Reddish; Mrs Dunning; Mrs Sawyer; Mrs Diamond; Mrs White; Mrs Lumsden; Miss King; ?  
Front row: Mrs Campbell; Mr Diamond; Mrs McKenzie; Mr Scott; Mrs Boyle; Mrs Parkes; Nurse?*

In a move to involve parents more in their children's schooling, Mrs Boyle gave a series of monthly talks in April on "Play Way". The idea was to keep infant parents informed of educational trends. One of her talks was about "Cuisenaire". Similarly, the Home and School Association held meetings to discuss topics, such as intermediate schooling, leisure, and educational television. The association also held a very successful social in July, which was attended by over 120 people.

For the children, it was another interesting year full of varied events, performances, and activities. In August, parents were treated to a folk dancing display (unfortunately interrupted by the weather). In September, the standard two children took a day trip to Picton, and this was followed in November by a similar trip for the standard three and four pupils.

The Kamahi School choir participated in the opening night of the Hutt Valley Primary School Music Festival in October. Choirs from eight schools performed various songs, as well as percussion and instrumental numbers. Then the children sang in the massed choir. It was noted that: "All the children performed enthusiastically, but Kamahi, Tui Glen, and Pōmare were schools outstanding in their singing." [newspaper, source unknown] No doubt some of that choir made up the 50 carollers who, with lighted candles, and Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. McKenzie, sang at Scott Court in December. "An excellent performance."

The Floral Festival again attracted an excellent response. There were ten sections involving over 500 entries, with six judges.

15th December: roll 400



*Mr Diamond's class standard 4*



*Mrs McKenzie's class, standard 3-4*

## 1972

Roll 346 Staff: Mr.Scott	Headteacher
Mrs Boyle	S.T. J.C.
Mr Diamond (1st Assistant)	Room 2
Mrs McKenzie (Senior Women)	Room 1
Mr. Johnson (First year teacher)	Room 8
Miss McKubre	Room 3
Miss Kershaw	Room 11
Mrs Gregory ( nee Reddish)	Room 4
Mrs Clothier	Room 10
Miss King	Room 9
Miss Wensvoort	Room 7
Mrs Lumsden	Room 6
Mrs Norma Burr	Teacher aide



*Back row: Mrs Parkes; Mrs Burr; Nurse?; Mrs Clothier; Mr Johnson; Miss Kershaw; Miss Wensvoort.  
Front row: Mrs McKenzie; Mr Diamond; Mr Scott; Mrs Boyle; Mrs Lumsden; Miss King.*

Alan Scott described 1972 as "An extremely busy and exciting year". This year saw some innovative fundraising, firstly with a sponsored climb. Children and parents (356 in all) climbed 1,000 ft up the Green Track in Stokes Valley. The sponsorship resulted in \$500 being raised for the Hall fund. The Home and School organised a Bottle Drive, collecting used glass bottles for recycling. They had a good response and raised \$80. They were also responsible for painting two N.Z.T.V. rooms. "A massive effort resulting in \$350 profit." As usual the gala was a great success, with takings of \$1300.

If you thought adventure playgrounds were a recent invention, in 1972 the School Committee and H&S Association first mooted the idea of installing one at the school. However, it was to take until 1987 before the adventure playground was operational.



*Mr Diamond's class:  
Room 2*

## 1973

Roll 359 Staff: Alan Scott

Mr Sawyer

Mr Diamond

Miss Callon

Mrs Wood

Mrs Sawyer

Mrs Gunn

Miss Wenswoort

Mrs Cross

Mrs Sturmev

Mrs Lumsden

Mrs Boyle

Mrs Burr

Mrs Parkes

Principal

Room 1: Standard 3-4

Room 2: Standard 4

Room 11: Standard 2

Room 4: Standard 1-2

Room 3: Standard 2-3

Room 8: Primers

Room 7: Primers

Room 9: Standard 1- Junior 3

Room 10: Standard 1

Room 6: Primers

Room 5: New Entrants

Teacher Aide

Secretary



*Back row: Mrs Parkes; Mrs Burr; Mr Sawyer; Miss Callon; Miss Carter; Mrs Lumsden; Mrs Cross; Mrs Gunn.  
Front row: Mrs Sawyer; Mrs Sturmev; Mr Diamond; Mr Scott; Mrs Boyle; Mrs Wood; Miss Wenswoort.*



*Mr Sawyer's class: S3-4*



For the second year in a row, Kamahi came first in the inter-school swimming sports. This was in part due to the enthusiasm that Alan Scott had for the children swimming as much as possible during the season.

As well as the annual gala in October, the school held a mini carnival in April, part of which involved a hangi. It was "an extremely well run event", but darkness fell too soon on the 550 people attending.

Again this year the children put on a folk dancing display. About 150 adults attended – an impressive number for a week day, perhaps helped by the pleasant weather. The choir festival involved three performances and received an excellent response, as did the annual Spring Fair.

20th December: School roll 388

In November the school held its first pet day: "Over 100 dogs, cats, birds, worms, etc." Eight-year-old Michael Veenswyck checks where his pet snail is!  
[newspaper source unknown]



## 1974

Roll 337

Staff 14

Mr Scott	Head teacher
Mrs Boyle	S.T.J.C.
Miss Dunning	Room 1: Standard 3-4
Mr Diamond	Room 2: Standard 4
Mrs Sawyer	Room 3: Standard 3
Mrs Wood	Room 4: Standard 2-3
Mrs Nunns	Room 11: Standard 2
Mr Moses	Room 10: Standard 1-2
Mrs Stechman	Room 9: Standard 1
Miss Airey	Room 8: Junior 2
Mrs Marr	Room 7: Junior 2
Mrs Lumsden	Room 6: Junior 1
Miss Turnham	Room 5: New Entrants



*Back row: Miss Dudding; Mrs Stechman; Mrs Marr; Mrs Nunns; Miss Turnham; ?  
Middle row: Mrs Parkes; ?; Mrs Lumsden; Student teacher?; Mrs Wood; ? Miss Airu.  
Front row: Nurse ?; Mr Diamond; Mr Scott; Mrs Boyle; Mr Moses; Mrs Sawyer.*

With the roll remaining high, building began on two more rooms and a library. The hall was also commenced this year.

In March another most successful hangi was held for more than 300 people. The gala was again a huge success with a profit \$1,107 made. Again the flower show and pet show were held and the choir performed again, this time at Taitā College.

Keys to the school swimming baths were sold to 64 parents for their use over the summer holidays. This practice continued for some years, as a way of getting maximum use from the pool and to ensure the school grounds were visited regularly and monitored. In later years the number of keys given out was reduced to 10 and a

fee of \$30 (and later \$40) was charged, to cover the costs of running the pool. This ceased in 2002.

In June the Home and School Association hosted the first "Living 74". This was a series of talks given by various experts, over six weeks, for the parent community. They were held at the Stokes Valley Motor Lodge and topics included:

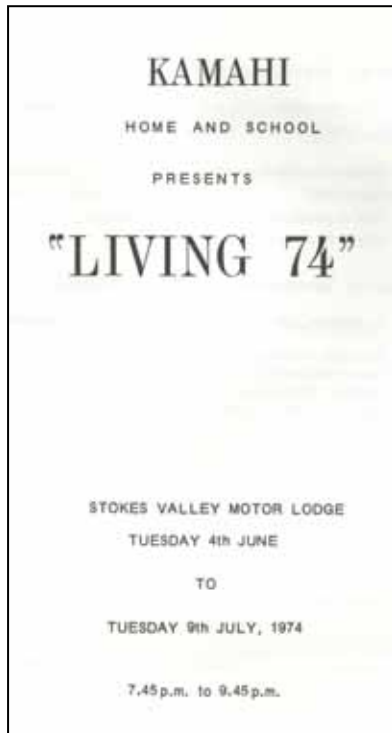
- Pressure in Modern Society
- Developing a Social Conscience
- Place of Money in Society
- Development of Community Interests
- Education for the Eighties
- Leisure for the Future

Seventy people attended the first talk.

As was usual, Arbour Day, in Conservation Week, was observed by planting six trees "with due ceremony." Volunteers again helped the school, this time with organising the library. Ten typists helped to catalogue the books ready for their new premises.

The end of the year saw the farewell for Mrs Boyle, the Senior Teacher Junior School. Mrs Boyle had been teaching at Kamahi for 11 years and was one of its founding staff.

20<sup>th</sup> December: Roll 391.



*Mr Diamond's class*



## 1975

Staff: 14	Alan Scott	Headteacher
	Mr Newson	Room 5: Standard 3
	Mrs Marr	Room 8: J2-Standard 1
	Mrs Burr.	
	Mrs Lumsden	Room 11: J1
	Mrs Wise	Room 9: J2
	Mrs Carter	Room 4: Standard 3
	Miss Dunning	Room 1: Standard 4
	Mrs Wood	
	Mr Moses	Room 12: Standard 1-2
	Mr Diamond	Room 2: Standard 4
	Mrs Bengree	
	Mrs Sawyer	Room 3: Standard 3



*Back row: ? ; Mr Newson; ? ; Mrs Marr; Mrs Burr.  
 Middle row: Mrs Lumsden; Mrs Wise; Mrs Carter; Miss Dunning; Mrs Wood.  
 Front row: Mr Moses; Mr Diamond; Mr Scott; Mrs Bengree; Mrs Sawyer.*

"Living 75" was held this year in the newly opened school hall. Various experts came and gave talks in a series over six weeks. Topics included:

- "What does Stokes Valley mean to us?"
- "The effect of Community on children"
- "The changing role of the school"
- "The teenager and the Community"
- "The advantages of the Multi-cultural Society."

In June of 1975 the Library, Rooms 5 and 6 and the Hall were all complete and ready for occupancy. The librarian of Stokes Valley Library, Mrs M. Mills, officially opened the library.

### Kamahi School Hall

In 1964 when the school first opened, it was acknowledged that a hall was needed. "It is hoped to consider finance for an assembly hall in the belief that we need it now, not when the school has been going for years." It was to be another eleven years before this dream became reality.

In September 1967 the "School Committee discussed with Mr Henderson (architect and parent) the future assembly hall - its amenities and size." By 1972 the hall fund stood at \$8,400. A year later \$12,000 had been raised, with the promise of a \$10,000 subsidy from the Education Board. In May 1974 G. Walker was contracted to build the Hall for \$28,652 and work began in the June.

The hall floor was ready to be sealed by willing parents in May 1975 and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, Kamahi's hall was opened with due pomp and ceremony by Hon. H. May, M.P. Well over 200 people were present at the ceremony, which was followed later with an evening function.

Over the years the Kamahi School hall has been used for various activities:

- 4<sup>th</sup> May 1976 the Badminton Club began, with 45 people interested. They met twice weekly with a junior group on Fridays;
- 1983 the Indoor Bowling Club used the hall one night each week;
- Also in 1983 The Assembly of God Church were given permission to use the hall morning and evening (presumably on Sundays) or if the hall was not available, to use Room 8;
- 1990 during the winter term, Mrs Isabel Cleland and Mr Ron Menchi from the Empire Table Tennis Club held lunch-time coaching sessions for the senior children;
- In 1995, housie was run at school every Monday evening, as a fundraiser.
- Recently a Tae Kwon Do club used the hall.
- Currently G.K.R. Karate uses the hall in the evenings and occasionally it is hired for private functions.

On the same day as the hall opening, 50 trees were planted on the ground's perimeter. 25 parents came and as a family planted either an acacia, gum or willow. Later in the year 160 shrubs were planted to beautify the hall area.





The hall was quickly put to good use with an Art Show, the annual folk dancing display and the Spring Fair. The School Committee started planning for Stage two and three of the Hall: - Kitchen, Toilet, Storage, and Shelter. The builder, Mr G. Thomson, started on this in August 1976.

Two school trips were worth mentioning for this year. One the juniors had to Avalon Park, where one boy spent a record 3 hours on the slide. Another was a day trip to Picton, taken by 120 children and 27 adults.



*Mr Diamond's class: S 4*

Tragically on the 4th August Marilyn Greta Carter, died from a brain haemorrhage, aged 23 years. She had been associated with Kamahi for three years, mainly as a standard three teacher.



*Miss Dunnings Class: S4*

The Choir Festival was again held at Taita College. The annual gala made a record profit this year of \$1460. (A record by \$350)

19th December school closed with roll of 392.

## 1976

Staff: Mr Scott	Headteacher
Mrs Lumsden	Room 11: Junior 1 Room 10: Junior 1-2
Mrs Hardacre	Room 9: Junior 1-2
Mrs Driver	Room 8: Junior 2
Mrs Marr	Room 7: Standard 1
Mr Moses	Room 6: Standard 1-2
Mrs Patchett	Room 5: Standard 2
Mrs Harrison	Room 4: Standard 2-3
Mr Fergusson	Room 3: Standard 3
Mr Diamond	Room 2: Standard 4
Mr Newson	Room 1: Standard 3-4



*Back row: Mrs Harrison; Mrs Feary; Mr Fergusson; Mr Newson; Mrs Marr; Mrs Hardacre.  
Middle row: Mrs Patchett; Mrs Burr; Nurse?; Mrs Parkes ; Mrs Cross.  
Front row: Mrs Lumsden; Miss Driver; Mr Diamond; Mr Scott; Mrs Bengree; Mr Moses.*

School opened this year with a total intake of 32 new pupils and a record-commencing roll of 344.

In April, the New Zealand Ballet Company performed in the school hall for Kamahi, Tawhai, and Stokes Valley School pupils. An item, amongst others, included excerpts from "Carnival of the Animals". In May, the school held a fun day in the Plateau area for 150 people. "We explored a derelict rail tunnel." In June, the first of a series of parent/child evenings were held. The first was for standard four girls and their fathers. The next talk was for mothers and sons.

This was Alan Scott's last year at Kamahi School. In July, he was appointed to a position at Fraser Crescent School from term three. In August the community farewelled a much respected principal.

Alan Scott's final words in the school diary were: "Well the record of the first 38 terms is complete. I hope that when [note for] the first 25 years, and indeed latter years, are written there will be seen elements of honesty, loyalty, and education in depth. I leave with a deep sense of loss, but believing that the foundations of this, the Kamahi School, are secure. The pupils and staff are fine people – there is dedication and respect and all the attributes that make for a fit society. Education must move outwards, "As I live, I Grow" is no idle matter. It has meaning for all of us. I trust that my successors will value, as I have done, the relationships and indeed the experience of being part of a grand school. If they achieve the same feelings of elation and satisfaction that I have, then they will have received a rich reward."



From August there were no further records of events for this year. It is assumed that Mr Diamond took over as acting principal until a new principal was appointed for the new year.

One event that Mr Diamond would have had to deal with was the flooding that occurred in December. In February the following year, carpets were re-laid after being cleaned, as a consequence of this flooding.





## 1977

Staff:	Mr J. H. Walker	Principal
	Mr E. Diamond (D.P.)	Room 2: Standard 4
	Mr G. Moses (S.T.)	Room 6: Standard 1-2
	Mrs K Bengree (S.T.J.C.)	
	Mr. R. Newson	Room 1: Standard 3-4
	Mr J. Fergusson	Room 3: Standard 3
	Mrs L. Marr	Room 4: Standard 2-3
	Miss D. Futter	Room 5: Standard 2
	Mrs B. Patchett	Room 7: Standard 1
	Miss J. Driver	Room 8: Junior 2- Standard 1
	Mrs E. Hardacre	Room 9: Junior 2
	Miss D. Roderick	Room 10: Junior 1
	Mrs G. Lumsden	Room 11: Junior 1
	Mrs E. Goodwin	Room 12: Junior 2
	Mrs N Burr	Teacher Aide
	Mrs P Parkes	Secretary



*Back row: Mrs Burr; Miss Roderick; Mrs Marr; Mr Ferguson; Mr Newson; Miss Futter  
Middle row: Mrs Hardacre; Nurse Walker; Mrs Parkes; Mrs Goodwin; Miss Diver; Mrs Patchett.  
Front row: Mr Moses; Mrs Bengree; Mr Walker; Mr Diamond; Mrs Lumsden*

A new school year and a new principal for Kamahi School — Mr J.H.Walker. Later in the year the school also gained a new deputy principal, Mrs Lester, when Mr Diamond moved on to Tui Glen School.

Mr Walker may not have detailed events in the school diary as prolifically as his predecessor, but school life was just as busy and varied. He introduced some new proceedings to the school. A spell-a-thon was held for the first time in April. "Socials" for the standard three and four classes were held throughout the year, and a cross-country run was held in October. Plus, the parents were invited to a parent afternoon in the junior classes. The school continued with its annual folk dancing display and gala.



*Fancy Dress Bad Hair Day Mr Walker and ?*



*Mr Newson's class, standard 3-4*



*Mr Newson's class, standard 3-4*

## 1978

Staff:	Mr J. H. Walker	Principal
	Mrs J. Lester (D.P.)	Room 2: Standard 3-4
	Mr G. Moses (S.T.)	Room 3: Standard 3-4
	Mrs K Bengree (S.T.J.C.)	
	Miss S. Jackson	Room 1: Standard 3-4
	Miss M.Futter	Room 5: Standard 2-3
	Mrs B. Patchett	Room 7: Standard 1
	Miss J. Driver	Room 8: Junior 2- Standard 1
	Mr J. Fergusson	Room 4: Standard 2
	Mrs L. Marr	Room 6: Standard 1
	Mrs S. Cross	Room 9: Junior 2
	Mrs G. Lumsden	Room 11: Junior 1
	Mrs L. Samaraweera	Room 10: Junior 1
	Mrs N Burr	Teacher Aide
	Mrs P Parkes	Secretary



*Back row: Miss Futter; Miss Jackson; Mr Fergusson; Mrs Patchett; Mrs Marr  
 Middle row: Mrs Cross; Mrs Burr; Mrs Lumsden; Mrs Parkes; Mrs Samaraweera.  
 Front Row: Nurse Walker; Mr Moses; Mrs Bengree; Mr Walker; Mrs Lester; Miss Driver.*

Mr Walker again introduced some new ways of doing things. The sale of stationery began at the school. This was partly for convenience and economy, but also to ensure that all children had the correct materials. A school picnic was held at Tunnel Gully in May, and class picnics at Day's Day in December. The Schools Music Festival was held in August at Tui Glen School this year. The pet show was also held again this year.



Miss Jackson's class: S3-4

The first Stokes Valley school-swimming tournament was held at Naenae Pool and resulted in a very convincing win to Kamahi. The school also won the first Top School competition held in Stokes

Valley. This competition was run along similar lines to that of the popular "Top Town" competitions held throughout the country and televised. Teams raced through obstacle courses, often dodging water fired from the opposition.

At some stage a pre-fabricated building must have been brought onto the school site, because its removal was mentioned this year. The site needed to be re-grassed and returned to normal. The main entrance gates were also removed to allow



Mr Lester's class, standard 3-4

the building to be taken out. This was replaced with a fence and some seating.

The kitchen and toilets in the hall were completed and a path laid in front of the hall. Vinyl was laid in the hall kitchen early the next year.



Mr Moses's class, standard 3-4

Unfortunately, by the end of 1980 there was a serious leak in the kitchen, which took some time to rectify and repair.

## 1979

Roll 273 Staff: 12

Mr Jim Walker

Principal

Mrs J. Lester (D.P.)

Room 2: Standard 3-4

Mrs Kath Bengree (S.T.J.C.)

Mrs Lorraine Samaraweera (S.T.)

Room 7: Standard 1

Mr. Dirk Winnie

Room 3: Standard 3

Miss M.Futter

Room 4: Standard 2

Mrs B. Patchett

Room 5: Standard 2

Mrs Fyfe

Room 8: Junior 2-Standard1

Miss George

Room 9: Junior2

Miss Jessie McKenzie

Room 10: Junior1

Mrs Gladys Lumsden

Room 11: New Entrants

Mrs L. Marr

Room 1: Standard 4



*Back row: Miss McKenzie; Mrs Patchett; Mr Winnie; Mrs Marr.*

*Middle row: Mrs Lumsden; Nurse Walker; Miss George; Mrs Parkes; Mrs Fyfe.*

*Front row: Miss Fulter; Mrs Lester; Mr Walker; Mrs Bengree; Mrs Samaraweera*

Kamahi's roll had begun to decline, opening with a roll of 273, compared with 344 three years previous, and classrooms stood empty. However, this did not reflect on Kamahi's achievements. At the inter-school swimming sports held at Naenae pool in March, Kamahi was once again clear winner. In May, the school came third in the inter-school cross-country run, and in November, Kamahi was second in the athletics.



*Mrs Lester's  
class: Std 3-4*

In September a phone was installed in the hall. As it could not be toll-barred until June 1980, the phone was not used! The swimming pool was repainted, and musical instruments to the value of \$285 were purchased.



*Mrs Marr's class,  
Standard 4*

## 1980

Roll 269.

Staff: Mr Jim Walker	Principal
Mrs J. Lester (D.P.)	Room 2: Standard 3-4
Mrs Lorraine Samaraweera (S.T.)	Room 4: Standard1-2
Mrs B. Patchett	Room12: Junior 2-Standard1
Miss Limpus	Room 7: Standard2-3
Mrs Anne Goodbehere	Room3: Standard3-4
Miss Kathy Tawhiwhirangi	Room 8: Standard1-2
Mrs Shona Beverstock	Room 9: Junior1-2
Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 1: Standard3-4
Mrs Gladys Lumsden(S.T.J.C.)	Room11: New Entrants
Mrs L. Marr	Room 10: Junior 1



*Back row: Miss Tawhiwhirangi; Miss Limpus; Mrs Patchett; Mrs Marr; Mrs Goodbehere; Mrs McKenzie  
Front row: Nurse Walker; Mrs Parkes; Mrs Lester; Mr Walker; Mrs Samaraweera; Mrs Lumsden;  
Mrs Beverstock.*

Although the starting roll was only four down on the 1979 roll, it was enough for Rooms 5 and 6 to no longer be used as classrooms. Room 5 was used as a music room.

One annual event started about this time was the making of Easter buns. The teachers spent much time preparing boxes with all the necessary ingredients, including some "no fail" baker's yeast supplied by one of the fathers (who was a baker). They also included some Easter activities to entertain the children while "the yeast did its thing". Small groups of children were sent off with 'mums' to bake hot cross buns.

Jessie McKenzie, teacher, recalls "spending exhausting mornings charging around visiting homes ensuring that everything was OK."

Purchases this year included shelving in the hall storeroom, a new record player, further musical instruments and records, a loud hailer for gala use and school activities, 40 new padder tennis bats and four nets, new letter-head paper, and a shed for storing the pool chemicals. The Jaycees donated six trestle tables.



*Miss McKenzie's class: S3-4*



*Mrs Goodbehere's class: S3-4*

Kamahi School won the interschool swimming sports this year.

A School Week was held in May, during which parents were invited to drop in and work with the pupils and see the work of the school.



*Mrs Lester's class: S3-4*



## 1981

### Roll 235 Staff:

Mr Jim Walker	Principal
Mrs J. Lester (D.P.)	Room 2: Standard3-4
Mrs Lorraine Samaraweera (S.T.)	Room 9: Junior2-Standard1
Miss Brown	Room 3: Standard3-4
Mrs Field	Room 7: Standard1-2
Miss Holingworth	Room3: Standard3-4
Miss Kathy Tawhiwhirangi	Room 8: Standard1-2
Mrs Jacqui Lindsay	Room 12: Junior2
Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 1: Standard3-4
Mrs Jeanette McGovern (S.T.J.C.)	Room11: New Entrants
Miss Hale	Teacher aide



*Back row: Miss Tawhiwhirangi; Mrs Field; Miss Holingworth; Jessie McKenzie; Miss Brown.  
Front row: Mrs Samaraweera; Mrs Lester; Mr Walker; Mrs McGovern; Mrs Lindsay; Mrs Parkes.*

For the fourth year in a row, Kamahi won the swimming sports. In May a parent evening was held to assist parents of slow readers. A film was shown and a guest psychologist spoke.

Purchases this year included a new radio, speakers and outside horn, a weed-eater for the areas not readily reached with a lawnmower, and a new patrol cone as the last one had been damaged too much by successive hits!

In August, the library closed for several weeks to check all the books had issue-cards, to match cards with books and to organise the card cabinet. It was also a time to lower all of the shelves and install sloping ones to better display the books. Obsolete shelves from the library were set up in Room 5 as a



*Miss McKenzie's class: S3-4*

reading resource area as well as a music room. Work on setting up the library was completed with special thanks to Jessie McKenzie (teacher) who put in many hours, along with many parents.



*Mrs Lester's class: S3-4*



*Miss Brown's class: S3-4*

## 1982

Staff:	Mr Jim Walker	Principal
	Mr Mark Adams (D.P)	Room 3
	Mrs Jeanette McGovern (S.T.J.C.)	Room 11
	Mrs Lorraine Samaraweera (S.T)	
	Mr Tim Cross	Room 1
	Mrs H. Andrews	Room 10
	Mrs Jacqui Lindsay	
	Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 9
	Miss G Gaal (first year teacher)	
	Miss J. Hay	
	Mrs Carol van Dusschoten	
	Mrs P. Parkes	Secretary
	Mrs G. Scott	Teacher aide



*Back row: Mrs Parkes; Miss Hay; Tim Cross; Carol van Dusschoten; Miss Gaal  
Front row: Mrs Andrews; Lorraine Samaraweera; Mr Adams; Jim Walker; Jeanette McGovern;  
Jessie McKenzie*

In Mr Walker's own words, 1982 was a "very successful year." Technology was entering the school with the purchase of a photocopier. Two cassette players were also purchased.

In the previous year the parents had expressed a desire for a school fee to replace the 'free giving' system. This was introduced in 1982 with a very good response. A charge of \$5 per child was expected with the maximum of \$10 per family. In February 1983, 96 per cent of families had paid their school fees for that year, which was very pleasing.

The Spellathon this year raised \$480 and a very successful gala held in October made a profit of \$2000.

In June a start was made, in spite of the rain, on painting the exterior of the school. This was completed in July but was "a far from satisfactory job". The painters were still being brought back in August to repaint and correct their "shoddy work". Further plantings of some 49 shrubs were made in the grounds.



There is no record on how the school did in the swimming sports this year but in the cross country run, their usual performance of fourth was improved on, with the girls' team coming first and the boys, third. Overall, the school was ranked third.

In October Mr Walker recorded that the "Haytor motor mower replaced by a Masport Commodor 5hp." Unfortunately, two months later the motor and wheels of new mower were stolen. Earlier in the year some teacher's property had been taken, as well as a tape recorder and loud hailer, when the school was broken into. A sign of the times.

In December the first school camp was held at Nikau Lodge for Standard three and four pupils and a very successful and well-attended Christmas concert was held for parents. Parents apparently were "thrilled."



## 1983

Staff: Mr Jim Walker	Principal
Mr Mark Adams (D .P.)	Room 2: Standard 3-4
Tim Cross	Room 1: Standard 3-4
Mrs H. Andrews	Room 10: Junior 1
Mrs Jacqui Lindsay	Room 12: Junior 2
Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 9: Standard 1
Mrs Jackie Clarke (first year)	Room 3: Standard 2
Miss J. Hay	Room 4: Standard 2-3
Mrs P. Parkes	Secretary
Mrs G. Scott	Teacher aide
Mrs Jeanette McGovern (S.T.J.C.)	Room 11: New Entrants; later relieved (for maternity leave) by Mrs Currie



*Back row: Mrs Lindsay; Miss Hay; Mr Cross; Mrs Clarke; ?  
Front row: Mrs Currie; Mrs Andrews; Mr Walker; Miss McKenzie; Mrs Parkes.*

Combined schools swimming sports were held at the beginning of the year at Naenae Pool. Kamahi was again very clearly the winner. Cricket was popular, so a set of cricket gear was purchased this year.

1983 was the year that the sale of hot dogs began on Fridays. It continues in 2004 and is an excellent fundraiser. The gala did well again this year, despite the wet weather.



The willow trees along the school drive were cut down as they had caused repeated troubles to drains. Following this, a beautification scheme planned by a group from the Home and School Association got started in April, but the Chairman of the School Committee stopped the work, as he did not approve. This added determination to bringing a closer liaison between the two committees and to form a School Council. The School Council was elected at a Special Meeting on 18th April.



An Art and Craft Festival was held on 6th October and followed a week of art and craft activities in which many parents came and taught various crafts. The display of work brought forth many pleasing comments.



*The children made 'Good Luck' hats for Mr Walker's farewell.*

At the end of October Mr Walker retired as principal. Mark Adams took on the job of acting principal for the remainder of the year. He had been involved in a car accident while on holiday in Australia and was absent for part of the second term. He was one of the newest staff members to the school.



*Room 2: S3-4*

## 1984

Roll: 175

Staff:

Peter Jones (Principal)	Room 1
Mark Adams (Deputy Principal)	Room 2
Mrs Judy Campbell (S.T.J.C.)	Room 12
Miss Vicki Thorburn	Room 11
Mrs Jackie Clarke	Room 10
Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 9
Miss Kathy Bruin	Room 3



*Back row: Peter Jones; Stuart Cleland (caretaker)  
Middle row: Phyllis Parkes; Kathy Bruin; Judy Campbell; Jessie McKenzie; Vicki Thorburn  
Front row: Mrs Clark; Mr Adams.*

A new principal began, Peter Jones, who came from Pukekohe North School. February (in his words) was: "A quiet month. With four new teachers settling in and routines to establish, it was an important month."

Peter Jones brought new ideas to Kamahi School. The buddy system began, whereby seniors are 'buddies' with juniors and read with them. This continues today and is much valued by the school community. A rock and roll social was held in the hall, for the children in April. "A full hall and lots of fun." It was so successful they held another in September: "Another great evening."

The school held its swimming sports day at the Naenae Pool. This involved 26 cars transporting the children. At the inter-school swimming sports in March, Kamahi again won.

A weeklong course in June on self-esteem was carried out "to teach the children they are all equal, regardless of their academic standing. The grand finale, a crazy hat day, certainly tested the creativity and individuality of the pupils (and no doubt, mothers!) with children appearing wearing chamber pots, sombreros, thick clumps of vegetables, and all manner of other head gear." [newspaper, source unknown]



Later in the year the junior school had a magic day. Pupils and teachers dressed up in weird and wonderful creations. They also had a "Yellow Week", a "Japan Week" and a "Book Character Day."

*Pictured are: Back row from left: Mrs J. Clark (the teacher who thought up the hat day idea) and Matthew Noyes. Front row from left: Janet Coutts, Mandy Woods, Brenda Collier and Rebecca Hudson*

On the 31st July Kamahi School held its Olympic Games. A full day's programme was organised involving many parents. Mrs J. Noyes and Mr Sharp dressed up as the Queen and Duke. "A Great day – medals galore."



During the year several visitors came to Room 1 to observe learning centres. They were the deputy principal of Tui Glen, two teachers from Pinehaven, and seven teachers from Ohau School.



The Stokes Valley schools held their music festival in the Lower Hutt Town Hall on the 23rd July. The theme was "Animal Politics". Peter Jones described it as a "tremendous night." Mark Adams (D.P.) was pianist, Anne Fox (Tawhai Principal) the conductor, and Peter Jones (Principal) in charge of lighting and sound.

There were several other events of note this year. One was the visit by John Gallagher, the Wellington rugby representative who took a coaching session with the boys. Bible studies were re-commenced, for the standard one and four pupils only, with Reverend Bichan. The old tractor was removed from the junior area. (The year before, large concrete pipes had been added to this play area). Two working bees, were held one at the school to paint the inside of the hall, and another at John Scott's place to make the hall staging. As always, a good effort by all involved.

A school concert was performed

to a packed school hall in November. Items included the 'Christmas Jazz' and 'Music Hall'. "Principal astounded all critics and dressed up as the Arch Angel in Xmas Jazz. (Halo went a little rusty)" One of the school inspectors was invited to see this performance and wrote "Thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and was most impressed by the enthusiasm pupils, staff, and parents obviously shared. My compliments to those involved in the writing and producing of the evening. It was a fun show!"



The standard three and four pupils went to Palm Grove Christian Camp in Paraparumu for five days of fun at the end of October. "An excellent week. Very physical – very tiring – very exciting. Principal put neck out on trampoline showing pupils how to do a back drop."

In December, the school's clerical assistant, Phylis Parkes, was farewelled. She had been at the school for 17 years. The school had a picnic at Harcourt Park in Upper Hutt on the 13th December. "Rain spoiled an enjoyable day. Lost some of our bus drivers too, but eventually got back to school".

14th December:  
School closed  
with 208 pupils.



Mr Jones's class

## 1985

Staff:	Mr Peter Jones (Principal)	Room 1
	Mr Mark Adams (D.P.)	
	Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 2
	Kathy Bruin	Room 3
	Ms Broughton	Room 9
	Mrs Helen Pentecost	Room 10
	Mrs Gallagher	Room 11
	Mrs Judy Campbell (S.T.J.C.)	Room 12



*Back row: Kathy Bruin; Ms Broughton; Miss Homes; Islay Gallagher; Mrs Pollard  
Front row: Gwenyth Scott; Judy Campbell; Peter Jones; Jessie McKenzie; Helen Pentecost*

The year kicked off with a parents/ community barbeque. There was a great turn out of parents and everyone was entertained and well fed. There was also an excellent turnout for parent/teacher interviews with 96 per-cent attending.

In March the area swimming sports were again held for the last time at Naenae pool. This year no winning school was announced (a committee decision). Perhaps it was thought to no longer be politically correct to have winners! On the 14th June, Kamahi visited the new Stokes Valley Pool, and had a swim prior to its official opening on the 22nd. Over 40 cars were used for transporting the children there.

The Schools' music festival was again held at the Lower Hutt Town Hall. "A full house and excellent music. Again Deputy Principal, Mark Adams, was a most able pianist. Judy Campbell (STJC) organised the dance group again."

In June, an area winter sports day was held for all Standard two to four pupils. They attended sports at either Taita Courts (netball), Pomare School (indoor games), Tui Glen School (rugby), Delaney Park(soccer) or Tawhai School (hockey).

Fundraising for Telethon was popular this year. Lunchtime activities (a copper trail and stall) raised \$128. "Kamahi decided to embark on an awareness programme rather than get carried away with the money side of things. As a result, we had visiting speakers who told the pupils about their organisations...Speakers came from the Crippled Children, I.H.C., Deaf Society, Outward Bound, etc."

" Two school inspectors visited the principal. Both were late and one was mistaken for a travelling salesman. "Not a bad guess?"



On the 27th July a huge gum tree at the school entrance was blown over in the wind. It landed on the crossing patrol lights and a parked truck. Luckily there was no injury to anyone, as it occurred at 7am. In the storms of February 2004 another gum tree blew over on the field. Again, no one was injured.



*Traffic Officer Lumsden with Room 12*



*Room 9 visited Wellington N.Z.P.O. and Botanical Gardens*

One of the many working bees held at the school over the years. This one in October 1985 concentrated on planting of trees and painting of the baths.



End of year activities included Rooms 1 and 2 going to camp at Kiwi Ranch for a week in November. Jessie McKenzie recalls walking the Rimutaka Incline (to time it) with Kathy Bruin, another teacher, before taking the children a week later. "We had to leave a car on the Upper Hutt side, drive across the hill, leave a car on the Wairarapa side, walk the Incline, drive back to collect the second car, and then drive home. Such enthusiasm! So few brains!!!! The blisters still remain!" This certainly illustrates how dedicated the teachers were to planning the children's activities.

But the teachers also knew how to have a good time. The last night of camp parent/teacher party was always a fun event. "Perhaps the less said the better." The end-of-year staff dinner in Eastbourne (with 'afters' held on the Days Bay Wharf) resulted in the D.P. trying to walk on water, but failing! One can only imagine.

The school concert this year was 'Aladdin', with two full-house performances held on the 5th December. "An excellent performance." The year finished with a school picnic at Days Bay and a roll of 193.



## 1986

Roll: 174 Staff:	Peter Jones (Principal)	Room 1
	David Kerse (D.P.)	Room 3
	Judy Campbell (S.T.J.C.)	Room 12
	Miss Jessie McKenzie	Room 2
	Mrs Helen Pentecost	Room 10
	Miss Gillian Ruffell	Room 11
	Mrs Islay Gallagher	
	Miss Kathy Bruin	



*Back row: Helen Pentecost; David Kerse; Islay Gallagher; Jessie McKenzie.  
Front row: Judy Campbell; Gwenyth Scott; Peter Jones; Kathy Bruin; Gill Ruffell.*

The staff celebrated Valentine's Day 1986 by wearing large red hearts and roses. (Jessie McKenzie's idea.) Dave Kerse, the D.P. this year, is well remembered for dancing around the playground, whilst on duty, with children following him, much like the Pied Piper.

In March, the school swimming sports were held. In the morning the seniors had their sports at the new Stokes Valley pool and in the afternoon the juniors had theirs in the school pool.

At the end of April, the junior school had a dance week. They had visits from a ballet teacher, a dancer from the Rock and Roll Club, and a dancer from the Highland Dance Club accompanied by a piper. Some of the senior pupils performed Samoan and Rarotongan dances and Mrs Prasad, one of the parents, showed the pupils a Maori poi dance.

"On April 4th, the Senior syndicate had a shared meal. Each pupil was put in to a group that had to decide on what they would eat, and what each person would bring. This is part of our outdoor education programme. The next step is for us to cook a meal and try to eat it." [from April Spartan, by Samantha Jones, standard four ]



*These lads are preparing coleslaw on their hobo stove!*

Stage two of the senior outdoor education programme involved groups of pupils cooking a meal on hobo stoves. Pupils did tremendous planning. Most of the groups made hobo stoves out of large tins with holes bored in the top. A variety of food was cooked including baked beans, steak, eggs, chips, sausages, spaghetti, hamburgers, stewed apples, bacon, fish fingers, omelettes, pikelets, chops, and potatoes. "No-one seemed to go hungry." [from May Spartan, by Samantha Jones, standard four]

Sadly, in July the school's caretaker, Boyd Boden, was admitted to hospital for an urgent operation and three months later he died at home. He was sadly missed.

Clean N.Z. Day held on the 3rd October saw all the classes picking up rubbish from local streets. Two Kamahi pupils, Talie Pasikale, aged 5, and Samantha Jones, aged 10, also won prizes for a litter-free zone" poster they each had done for a competition organised by the Stokes Valley Business Association.

The school held two concerts on the 4th November, to "full houses".



Rooms 1, 2 and 3 spent two days at Wellington Zoo on the 6th and 10th of October. The same rooms held an outdoor education week in November, involving activities like tramping in Rimutaka State Forest, canoeing in Stokes Valley Pool, orienteering, kitemaking, and bivouac making. One Thursday night the pupils slept in tents at school." ...some pupils got more sleep than others." They also played a game called 'Solo'. "Solo is an exercise where each pupil is given three jelly beans and they have to sit alone for half an hour without talking

to anyone, or eating their jelly beans. This was a hard task for some." [ newspaper source unknown]



The Stokes Valley Christmas Parade was held for the first time in some years. The children of Kamahi School dressed as storybook characters.



A carol concert was held at school to finish off the year.

19th December: Year ended with roll of 215.



*Mr Jones' class: Room 1*

## 1987

Roll 199 Staff:	Peter Jones (Principal was now in non-teaching position)
	Dave Kerse (D.P.) Room 1
	Margaret Ridley-Gibbons (acting A.P.)
	Christine Knox (1:20 teacher)
	Helen Angus (S.T.) Room 8
	Islay Gallagher (LTR) Room 9
	Gillian Waters ( nee Ruffell ) Room 10
	Kathy Bruin Room 2
	Shane Haua Room 3
	Gwyneth Scott Clerical assistant
	Ted Pardoe Caretaker



*Standing: Judy Hutton(Dental Nurse); Kathy Bruin; Ted Pardoe; Margaret Ridley-Gibbons  
Seated: Peter Jones; Lesley Walker; Shane Haua; Gill Waters (nee Ruffell); Christine Knox  
Front: Dave Kears; Helen Angus; Islay Gallagher*

In February, Room 1 class started growing seed that had originated from Tutankhamen's tomb. Mr Walker, the district science advisor, had acquired them when he was in Japan. By April, the plants had reached the ceiling (nearly two metres high) and by May they had produced purple pods containing peas. The class also worked on other projects about Egypt, and Tutankhamen and his tomb, including building pyramids, mummy masks and mummy cases. "Room one are also doing a unit on scientific crystal growing. They have grown many different coloured crystals, by mixing various chemicals...The crystals grew quickly and after a while hardened." [from April Spartan by Anna Bastin and Greg Lochhead, standard four]

Some of the children at Kamahi participated in the World Vision 40-hour famine in March. "Although ours is a 20-hour famine". They raised \$650.

A disco was held in the school hall for parents and children in April, to raise funds for a video/ T.V. Six hundred dollars was made.



## The First Adventure Playground (1987)

On the 29th June at 11am, after four years of voluntary work, Kamahi's adventure playground was officially opened. In attendance were Mrs Jo Laing, Mrs Lesley Smeaton, Mr Graham Smith, and Mr Alex Campbell. Jo Laing slid down the slide to cut the ribbon.



"Children are rapt". [school diary]

"Parts resemble an obstacle course, like the wall of chained tyres, but safety aspects were a key consideration- the playground surface, for example, is matted with wood-bark shavings." [newspaper article: source unknown]



### The history behind the playground:

In June 1972, the School Committee and H.&S. executive met with staff from the Training College to discuss an adventure playground. However, it wasn't until eleven years later, in 1983, that the decision was made to go ahead with the project and plans were sent to the Board for drafting and approval.

In February 1985, a load of tyres arrived for the adventure playground and a crane was used to erect the frames. February a year later a bulldozer moved large quantities of soil into position. By May 1986 the principal at least was getting frustrated with the slow progress when he recorded: "P.E.P. (?) workers recommenced the on again off again adventure playground"

In December 1986 one of the parents, Brian McNeil, began to work on the adventure playground. A bulldozer shifted more soil then, too. In May 1987, the slide for the playground arrived, followed a month later by four loads of bark chips.

Finally on the 29th of June, after four years of voluntary work and many more years of planning, the first Kamahi School adventure playground was officially opened.



Parent involvement was evident again at the mid-year parent/teacher interviews.

Ninety-two per cent of the children were represented. In July Rooms one, two and three went to Naenae Pool and used the "zoom tube".

"Term two is a busy one. On the first day back to school, a busload of pupils and parents went to the International Rugby game Ireland versus Wales. We got held up in the traffic on the way home and arrived back at school at 6:15pm." [from August Spartan by Anna Bastin and Richard Adams.]

First meeting of the (25th) Jubilee Committee was held at Lindy Marr's residence in September. The jubilee was planned for Easter Weekend 1989, allowing eighteen months for preparations.

Towards the end of the year the School Council organised new t-shirts for Kamahi School. "These should look smashing and we will have them later this term. We are hoping to wear them on the Kamahi School float during the Stokes Valley Christmas Parade."

" On October 1st, our school hosted a large group of Japanese Teachers from the Fukuoka Prefecture of southern Japan. We welcomed them with Maori and Japanese recorder music, and then they visited the classrooms while we were working. We were honoured that our school was chosen." [from Spartan by Anna Bastin and Richard Adams.]



In October one of the teachers, Christine Knox, shocked staff and pupils with an urgent admission into Wellington Hospital with a brain haemorrhage. She had been due to take maternity leave and collapsed while getting ready for her second-to-last day at school. Luckily, her husband was home and called the ambulance. Christine regained consciousness four days later to find that her baby daughter, Michaela, had been born, weighing just 3 ½ lb. Fortunately both made good recoveries.

At the end of November, the senior school enjoyed several outdoor activities. Room



one had a bike ride to Whiteman's Valley with Mr Kerse (teacher) and Mr Bruce Lumsden (school traffic officer), while room two and 3 had a five-mile tramp in the Rimutaka Forest Park. Room one went off to camp at Smith's Creek for four days. Rooms two and three biked to Petone foreshore, cooked a mid-day meal at school, and slept overnight at school, and room two biked to Pencarrow lighthouse. What an exhausting week!

In December Kamahi won the float competition in the Stokes Valley Parade. Many children took part either on the float or on their decorated bikes. A carol evening was held for parents and families. The children brought a present for either S.P.C.A., children in hospital, or elderly residents of Hutt Hospital.

The roll finished at 221.



*Bike trip to Pencarrow lighthouse.*



*Book Week Characters*



*Mr Kerse's class: Room 1*

## 1988

Roll: 213 Staff:	Peter Jones (Principal)	
	Helen Angus (Acting D.P.)	Room 4
	Kathy Bruin (Acting S.T)	
	Rachel Mackay (A.P.)	
	Anne Johnson	Room1 (reliever)
	Shane Haua	Room 3
	Gill Waters	
	Helen Pentecost	Room 8
	Corina Ridley (part-time)	
	Islay Gallagher	Room 11
	Barbara Milburn (D.P. from third term)	Room 1
	Lesley Walker	Secretary
	Ted Pardoe	Caretaker



*Back row: Helen Angus; Corina Ridley; Islay Gallagher; Shane Haua; Rachel Mackay; Kathy Bruin; Miles Keen.  
Front row: Pat Price; Lesley Walker; Peter Jones; Helen Pentecost; Barbara Milburn; Shirley Taylor.*

1988 began with industrial problems. The school closed for the morning of the 8th February while teachers attended a stop work meeting to discuss the State Sector Bill. Later that month, the caretaker was part of a two-day strike. On the 11th of March, the school again closed due to industrial action by teachers over the Bill.

During book week in June, Isabel Lowe and Phillip Webb, book illustrators, visited the school. The classes also made good use of the newly extended Stokes Valley Library. Later in the year, author Lynley Dodd came to speak to the children.

In July, it was noted that "The school's daily fitness programme is proving a success. All children take part in the exercises with vim and vigor." [Spartan 02/07/1988] This daily exercise still continues in 2004.

## Family Train Trip. (1988)



This was a new idea in fundraising and involved 370 children and adults and a train journey. They set off from Wellington station at 8:30am on the 27th March for a daylong trip through the Wairarapa to Woodville for lunch. There they enjoyed a picnic, with the Woodville School Council supplying barbecued sausages, sandwiches, cakes and

drink. Mr Mackay from the Kamaha Dairy supplied lollies for a lolly scramble. From Woodville the train made its way through the Manawatu Gorge to Palmerston North and back to Wellington, arriving back at 5:00pm. Everyone had an enjoyable time. Entertainer David Hollis was on board the train organising the children and singing. Easter Bunny also made it aboard to dish out Easter eggs. The profit of over \$2000 went towards computer equipment.



"In our school assemblies the classes are able to share the highlights of their class work. The senior pupils in turn co-host the assembly (a bit like 'Entertainment This Week') and full credit goes to the way they handle the programme and microphone." This tradition of pupil-led assemblies also still continues in 2004, giving the children much confidence. Even the newest child to the school is encouraged to get and up speak.

"As a lead-up to Telethon, a group of girls from Mr Haua's class organised a disco to raise funds. They planned everything from advertising, making tickets, cooking the cakes for sale, making drinks, and of course selling everything. For their efforts they raised a total of \$188. A most impressive total. Thanks Serina, Jodie, Katie, Angela, Rachel, Emma, Mandy and Caroline." [Spartan 01/08/1988]



*On the 28<sup>th</sup> November the standard fours camped overnight at Rimutaka Forest Park. "It poured and poured and poured and poured." Pictured are teachers Peter Jones and Barbara Milburn.*

In September, the junior classes did a most successful unit on jobs. Parents came to the school to talk to the classes about their jobs and children attended the various workplaces. "Mrs Lamach talked about making ceramics, Mr Smeaton about repairing washing machines and fridges, Mrs Taylor explained her job at the DSIR library, Mrs Watts about being a nurse at Hutt Hospital, and Mr Zward talked to the children about working at NZ Railways." Other parents involved included Mr Tulloch (geologist), Mrs Thompson (nurse) and Mrs Connor (secondary school teacher). The children of Mrs Pentecost's room visited the places of work of Mr McPherson (Television NZ), Mr Rama (Resene factory), Mrs Marr (Taita Central School) and Mr Alder (Associated Enterprises)."

A grandparent's afternoon was held in November for the junior school. Grandparents came to the school and the children showed them their classroom work before taking them to the hall for a concert. All grandparents were presented with buttonholes made by the children. "The unit was so successful that one grandparent flew down from Auckland especially to be involved." [Spartan 29/11/1988]



Mrs Milburn introduced a magazine for her standard four class, a tradition she kept up for the four years she taught at Kamahi. These magazines were full of stories, poems, and artwork done by the children over the year. They included their memories of Kamahi School, highlights of their camp, diary entries, what they saw themselves doing in forty years' time and 'survival hints for Kamahi Pupils', e.g. "If you want to waste time, be a sports monitor" and "Don't arrive at school early or you will end up picking up rubbish."

## Kamahi Fun Olympics (1988)



**KAMAHI FUN OLYMPICS** - 29 September  
Whilst competitors in Seoul were battling it out, Kamahi pupils had their own fun Olympics to celebrate the occasion.

The opening ceremony saw the 9 countries assemble in alphabetical order ready to march into the main stadium. There was Atalia, Dusty Haven, France, Lemack, Melmac, Misfits, Narnia, New Zealand (just to be patriotic) and Zotic. Each had designed their own flag, uniform and national anthem. The opening speech was made by the Head of State (Principal) and the olympics torch entered the stadium with runner Jonathon Cleland.

No opening ceremony would be complete with pigeons. The Lower Hutt Homing Pigeon Society kindly provided these, and upon release, they headed skyward and then for home. The new entrants struggling to hold on to their helium filled balloons, gladly let go, and our opening ceremony was over. The fun olympics had begun. Children took part in team events, such as lemon rolling with pencils, passing a

tennis ball under the chin, and passing string under outer garments from one child to the next.

The individual events provided much entertainment and fun for both pupils and the many parents who turned up. The events included: shot put with ping pong balls, slow bike races, javelin throwing with home-made paper darts, discus using paper plates, running backwards races, gumboo throwing, tin can stilt races, standing long jumps, quoits, sack races, potato and spoon races plus a dressing and undressing race.

At the conclusion of the day gold, silver and bronze medals were presented to the winners by the Duchess of Dalton Grove, Mrs Foster, who acted with dignity and precision, and never flinched once in the course of duty. A great day was had by all.

**JUMPROPE:** ROOMS 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 are right into their jump rope programme. Many pupils have purchased their own ropes so they can practice at home. It is amazing what skills







The end-of-year function, held on the 13th December, started with a shared meal at 6:30pm and was followed with a Christmas concert-carol night. It was also the farewell for Peter Jones, who went to Rata Street School.

Closing roll 244.



*Stokes Valley  
Christmas parade:  
Kamaha float and  
decorated bikes.*



*Mrs Milburn's class:  
Room 1*

## 1989

Roll: 228	Staff:	Andy Lovell (Principal from term 2)	
		Barbara Milburn (Acting Principal term 1)	Room 1
		Rachael Mackey (Acting D.P.)	
		Helen Penecost (S.T.)	Room 8
		Helen Angus (S.T.)	Room 4
		Kathy Jordon (nee Bruin)	
		B Glanville (reliever)	
		G. Johnson (reliever)	Room 1
		Terri Dry (reliever)	Room 2
		Ann Harrison (reliever)	
		Raewyn Walton	Room 9
		Liz Monaghan	Room 11
		Islay Gallagher (reading recovery teacher)	
		Corrina Ridley (part-time teacher)	
		Lesley Walker	Clerical assistant
		Miles Keen	Caretaker
		M. Prasad	Cleaner

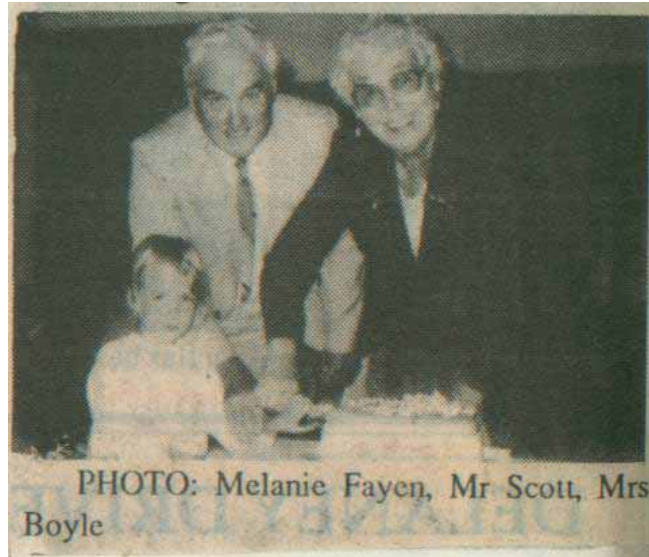


*Back row: Judith Hutton (Dental nurse); Terri Dry; Helen Pentecost; Kathy Jordon.  
Middle row: Raewyn Walton; Ann Harrison; Islay Gallagher; Corrina Ridley; Miles Keen.  
Front row: Liz Monaghan; Helen Angus; Rachel MacKay; Andy Lovell; Barbara Milburn; Lesley Walker.*

Kamahi School started 1989 without a principal and with a twenty-fifth jubilee to celebrate. Mrs Barbara Milburn stepped in as acting principal for the first term. She had joined the staff at Kamahi School in the second term of the previous year as deputy principal. A barbecue/picnic evening was held in February as an informal way to meet the teachers. Unfortunately, there was not a good turn out, partly due to the weather and also because of the fire ban on!

## Kamahi School's 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee (1989)

On the 23rd March Kamahi School celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with an afternoon celebration for the staff and pupils. The first principal, Alan Scott, and first junior head teacher, Evelyn Boyle, were among the guests of honour for the afternoon, during which pupils entertained with displays of dancing, skipping, and aerobics. "Spokesperson Lorraine Fitzgerald said a jubilee reunion had been planned for Easter weekend, but was cancelled for lack of response." [Newspaper source unknown]



Also in attendance was Mr Evans the Mayor of Lower Hutt, whose children had attended the school. "Mrs Boyle cut the jubilee cake, baked by Mrs Lumsden, and iced by Mr Murray, and was helped by the newest entrant to Kamahi School, Melanie Fayen." [Spartan]



3 weeks after the jubilee.

Kamahi School  
Stokes Valley

April 17th 1989

To the family of Mrs Boyle  
We were sorry to hear of the death of  
Mrs Boyle. It was so brave of her to  
come along for the Jubilee even though she  
was very sick. We remember her ...  
she couldn't walk very well  
she needed help to cut the cake  
she tried hard to speak  
she also shook a fair bit  
But in spite of everything  
she fought on  
we also remember  
her blue frock  
her nice smile  
her locket  
her enjoyment.

On behalf of Kamahi School  
Antony Harrison.

P.S. Enclosed please find two photos which  
were taken at the Jubilee afternoon.  
The man is Mr Scott Mrs Boyle's first principal  
at Kamahi School, and the is Melanie Fayen,  
our newest entrant.

At the beginning of the second term, Mr Andy Lovell took over as principal. At the time he commented "that he has been tremendously impressed with the warm welcome he has received from the parents, children and staff." [Spartan]

On the 29th April voting closed for the first ever Board of Trustee elections held. In July the Kamahi School Parents Teachers and Friends Association, or P.T.F.A., was established. This group of volunteers has, over the years, spent many hours fundraising and generally improving the school.

Rooms one, two, three, and four had a trip to Karehana Bay, Plimmerton for a rocky shore study. In October rooms two and four went to "Whareroa", the Landcorp farm property on the Kapiti Coast.

## Standard Four Camp (1989)

In 1989, the standard four pupils went for a three-day camp at 'Camp Ararangi' in the Wairarapa. They had experts from the Wairarapa Outdoor Recreation Trust (W.O.R.T.) responsible for organising their activities and they got to experience horseriding, canoeing, kayaking, and caving. They went for a bush walk on Mount Holdsworth and swimming at the Public Swimming Pool. They visited Opaki School one morning and from there, some of the local children took them to visit their farms. They were given the opportunity to feed lambs and try their hand at sheep shearing. This camp was used each year till at least 1991, with similar activities enjoyed each year by different groups of Standard fours and their parents.



*Caving 1990*

In later years other venues were used for the standard four camp.

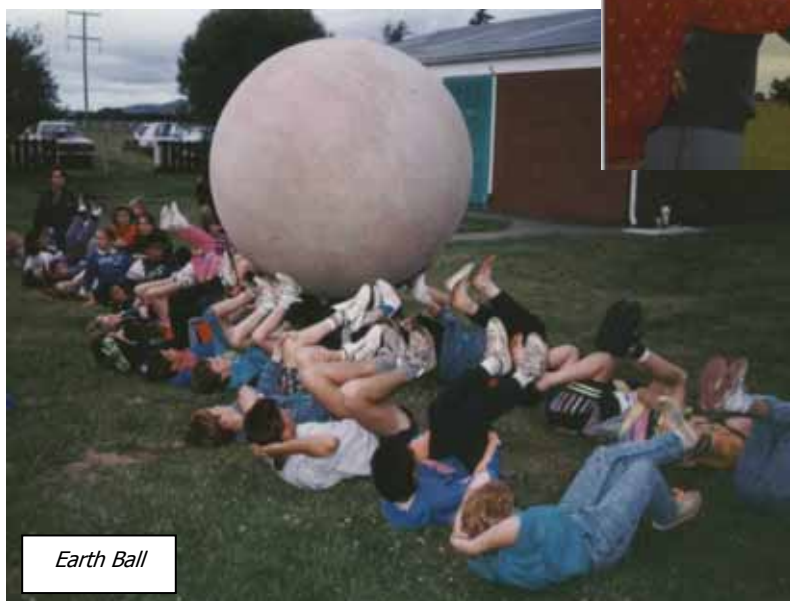


*Lake Henley 1989*

At camp the entertainment included the "earth ball" (see photo below), a "parachute" (a large cloth held by the group and used to toss balls in), concerts by the pupils and the adults, and attempts to get as many people as possible onto a desk. (The record apparently was 16).



*Farm visit 1989*



*Earth Ball*

## 1990

Roll 235 Staff:	Andy Lovell (Principal)	
	Barbara Milburn (D.P.)	Room 1
	Rachel Mackie	
	Dale Ritossa	
	Janette Arrow	Room 2
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Sally Just	
	Dale Gyton	Room 5
	Islay Gallagher	Reading Recovery
	Raewyn Walton	Room 12
	Liz Monaghan	Room 11
	Anne Harrison	
	Gillian Johnson	
	Shirley Nesbitt	Room 9
	Miles Keen	Caretaker



*Back row: Helen Pentecost; Dale Ritossa; Anne Harrison (T/A); Lesley Walker.  
Middle row: Janette Arrow; Gillian Johnson; Dale Gyton; Miles Keen; Raewyn Walton.  
Front row: Helen Angus; Shirley Nesbitt; Andy Lovell; Barbara Milburn; Liz Monaghan; Islay Gallagher.*

The year started with what Andy Lovell, the principal, described as a “bomb shell day” on the 2nd of February. Room five’s teacher, Miss Just, left requiring the pupils to be absorbed into the other classes “ as she was a “bonus” Year 1” teacher. This made the class numbers very high throughout the school.

Room 1: 33	Room 2: 28
Room 3: 33	Room 4: 34
Room 8: 32	Room 9: 30
Room 11:30	Room 12:14 (new entrants)

Excluding the new entrants’ classes that made an average size class in 1990 of 31 pupils compared with the 1969 average class size of 36 pupils. Today’s classes have an average number of 26.

In February the P.T.F.A. began organising school lunches. They had "decided to take a keen interest in what our pupils eat for lunch, in an attempt to influence the children towards a more healthy diet. As a result, a roster of parents is now organising bought lunches for the children, and this is (so far) proving very successful. As well as the usual menu, both plain and flavoured milk are selling well, and plans are well advanced for the introduction of fresh fruit and other healthy alternatives as the term goes on." [Spartan 20/03/1990]

A recycling campaign began in February, with collection facilities, for both plastics and aluminium, placed at the bottom of the driveway. Local residents were also encouraged to contribute. "The children have been very enthusiastic about their recycling project".

"The Standard three and four children will go for their first outdoor education experience for 1990 on Tuesday, February 13th. A large group of fit and enthusiastic parents (and one unfit and not so enthusiastic principal!) will accompany them on the hike up the Oromorongongo track in the Rimutaka Forest Park." [Spartan]

On the 6th March 20 children and ten adults went to the one day cricket match, India versus New Zealand with tickets the school had won through purchasing Kiwi Cricket Gear. "An exciting match to watch, although the debate about whether a New Zealand six had been allowed was still raging the next day." [Spartan 20/03/1990]

Also on this day, another group of children and parents took the opportunity to join in the Sesqui "Kids' Day" held at the Wellington Show buildings. This was to celebrate the Sesqui Centennial (150 years since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi). The event involved many different entertainers, including a balladeer, a storyteller, a magician, a drama group re-telling Margaret Mahy stories, a human mannequin, and face painting.

At the end of March Opaki School (near Masterton) visited. The form one and two children came to spend two days in the city with Kamahi families billeting them.

Opaki School had hosted the previous year's standard fours during the end-of-year camp. [Spartan 20/03/1990]

Two of the Kamahi teachers had babies within days of one another in March 1990. "While Kathy Jordan and Helen Pentecost assure us that



this was a mere coincidence, I notice that the rest of the women on the staff are avoiding a particular chair in the staffroom."! [Spartan 04/05/1990]

School 'houses' were introduced to Kamahi School this year. The children were grouped into four 'houses' and "are enthusiastically striving to prove that their house has the most responsible pupils in it." [Spartan] This concept did not continue.

"Gene Kemp, a noted U.K. children's writer, with a delightful sense of humour, replies each year to the bundle of letters sent from Kamahi and graciously donates copies of her recent titles to the school...Even Roald Dahl is moved to reply to the children in his own inimitable way. 'Dear children, far across the sea, how good of you to write to me. I love to read the things you say when you are miles and miles away. Young people, and I think I'm right, are nicer when they're out of sight. With love from Roald Dahl.'" [Spartan 28/05/1990]

31st May 1990 was "World Smoke -Free Day" "and the junior school entered into the spirit of the occasion by talking and writing about this special day. At midday they released 75 brightly coloured, helium-filled balloons into the blue sky, then lay on their backs on the netball courts, along with the rest of the school, to watch them drift away in an easterly direction. Mrs Walker, the office secretary, had carefully labelled each balloon with the school name and telephone number, in case the finders wished to contact us to tell us where our balloons had landed. Unfortunately we have, as yet, had no replies from finders of our "Smoke-free Day balloons." [Spartan]



New 'designer' sweatshirts proved extremely popular with a good proportion of the pupils choosing to wear them. "Fashion coup of the week, however, has been the arrival of the 'supersize' models for the principal and caretaker!" [Spartan]

In July the senior school started an elective programme. "The talent and willing assistance of parents and grandparents have once again made an electives programme possible for children in the senior school.

Small groups of children are participating in activities such as knitting, clay modelling, leatherwork, cooking, playing recorders, painting, chess, making video recordings, drama, tapestry work, and making "blown up" books for the library." [Spartan]

On the 31st October the whole school participated in a Sesqui-a-thon. (Reference to the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi signing celebrated in 1990). The children answered various questions about New Zealand and were sponsored. About \$1000 was raised.

The school year finished with a visit for four days in November by the Education Review Office (E.R.O.). "We got an 'A' pass". At the end-of-year concert the juniors performed the play "The Match Girl", the school sang carols, and the B.O.T. paid tribute to Andy Lovell, principal, on his departure to Rotorua. December roll 240.



## 1991

Roll: 215	Staff:	Mr Steve Carter (Principal from term 2)	
		Mr Jim Milburn (Acting Principal first term)	
		Mrs Barbara Milburn (D.P.)	Room 1: Standard 3-4
		Mrs Shirley Nesbitt	Room 9: Junior 1-2
		Mrs Helen Angus	Room 4: Standard 1-2
		Mrs Dale Ritossa	Room 2: Standard 3-4
		Mrs Gillian Johnson	Room 3: Standard 2-3
		Mrs Pat Price	Room 8: Junior 2-Standard 1
		Miss Dale Gyton	Room 11: Junior 1-2
		Mrs Raewyn Walton	Room 12: New Entrants
		Mrs Helen Pentecost	Room 8
		Mr J. Clark	
		Mrs L.Walker	Clerical assistant
		Mrs Islay Gallagher	Reading Recovery
		Mr Miles Keen	Caretaker



*Back row: Judith Hutton (Dental Nurse); Helen Pentecost; Islay Gallagher.  
Middle row: Dayle Gyton; Steve Carter; Miles Keen; Dale Ritossa.  
Front row: Raewyn Walton ; Gillian Johnson; Helen Angus; Lesley Walker; Pat Price  
Absent: Barbara Milburn*

1991 began with another acting principal in charge. This time it was Mr Jim Milburn, with his wife, Barbara as Deputy Principal. Barbara had been acting principal when Peter Jones had left two years previously, but missed her teaching role in that job. She suggested that this time her husband take on the position as he had recently retired and had years of experience as principal of various schools. At the beginning of term two, Steve Carter began as principal. He had previously been the principal of Pauatahanui School.



The schools of Upper Hutt and Stokes Valley were invited to enter pupils in a chess tournament at the Civic Hall in Upper Hutt on Saturday March 16th. There were 56 entries, with Kamahi's Steve Taylor winning the 9-year-old section, Adam Huaki the 10-year-old section, and Peter Marr runner up in the same group. The interest at school in chess began when Pete Johansen relieved for a term in 1988. His passion for the game inspired many of the students.



*From left: Steven Taylor, Adam Huaki and Peter Marr*

In June, 'Friday Feasts' were started as a way of fundraising for standard four camp. They consisted of a hot dog and 'Kool Kiwi' milk drink for \$2.00, and were prepared by standard four pupils and parents.

Music was being offered in the school with Mrs van Beers taking a weekly guitar group, Mrs Penny a recorder group, and Mrs Smith a keyboard group.

This year the elective programme, which again saw a high parent involvement, offered activities such as mask making, carpentry work, soft-toy, making wood work, chess, cooking, indoor cricket, art, claywork, knitting, weaving, and technical Lego.

In July members of the Board of Trustees, P.T.F.A., and staff formed a civil defence committee. It was necessary to start stocking up on rubbish bags, water bottles and food. Practice drills for earthquakes were held many times and guest speakers from the army, Civil Defence, and the fire brigade came to share their knowledge.

Also in July, a group of children went to the Michael Fowler Centre to see the 'Artsplash' Concert sponsored by the Wellington City Council. In subsequent years Kamahi was to be involved in these events, performing in the Artsplash massed choirs, the Dance Splash and producing art for the associated displays.



*14<sup>th</sup> August Red Nose Day*

Robert Triggett, of Room 2 at Kamahi School, pictured with old telephone books, which were collected to raise funds. Each book was worth 10 cents. Telecom asked primary schools to collect the books for recycling. "Kamahi School was one of the fastest off the mark, with the first load of more than 500 ready for Telecom." [Hutt News 28/10/1991]



In September a science challenge was held in the school hall for pupils and their parents. Experiments with water, paper darts, ball-bearings, and building of towers were some of the activities that made up the competition. Later in that month, Tui Glen and Kamahi School got together for skating at the Valley Roller Rink. The evening included lots of competitions.

Barbara Milburn retired at the end of this year. She is remembered for inspiring her pupils in their reading, and in her support of their writing. She was responsible for publishing the standard fours work as a school magazine each year.



## 1992

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Murray Powell	Room 1
	Barbara Milburn (D.P.)	Room 2
	Shirley Nesbitt (A.P.)	Room 9
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Dale Ritossa	
	Gillian Johnson	Room 3
	Liz Monaghan	Room 11
	Raewyn Walton	Room 12
	Helen Pentecost	Room 5
	Islay Gallagher	Reading Recovery
	Miles Keen	Caretaker
	Genevieve Oliver	Teacher Aide
	Prue Lucas	Office Secretary



*Back row: Islay Gallagher; Murray Powell; Steve Carter; Raewyn ?  
Middle row: Gillian Johnson; Prue Lucas; Fiona Knight; Miles Keen; Raewyn Walton.  
Front row: Helen Pentecost; Shirley Nesbitt; Genevieve Oliver (T/A); Helen Angus; Liz Monaghan*

The focus this year, in the senior syndicate, was cycling and the children became very skilled. The year six camp involved cycling to the station, travelling by train to Masterton, and cycling to the outdoor centre. All the usual camp activities were held along with some exciting caving moments. Murray Powell organised this camp with Fiona Knight.

Kamahi School entered its first Artsplash choir for the festival in Wellington with Gillian Johnson's leadership. The



The children and parents were thrilled with the performance in the Michael Fowler Centre. Artsplash has subsequently become a regular event for the school.



The olympic day was held again. The torchbearers were Cindy Ritossa, as the newest child at school, and Leyton Glover, as the oldest. All the children were given countries and made flags. After the Olympic sports, the medal ceremony was carried out using the specially constructed dais.



Room five was decorated in a marine theme and became part of 'Sea Week'. The children participated in activities with a sea theme and loved this thrilling place in which to learn.



Spring was celebrated with a flower show, in which the children took part in a number of activities like making sand posies, waterjars, vegetable animals, and buttonholes



*Spring Show:  
Sand posies*



*Staff team for the Quiz  
Night put on by the  
B.O.T. and P.T.F.A.*



Raewyn Walton's new entrant classes each year were treated to a barbecue at her home at Point Howard. Part of the treat was to sail in her boat. This outing was very popular with the children's parents.



*Mr Powell's class: Room 1*

## 1993

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Murray Powell	Room 1
	Gillian Johnson	Room 2
	Liz Monaghan	Room 3
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Dale Ritossa	Room 5
	Helen Pentecost	Room 10
	Shirley Nesbitt (A.P.)	Room 11
	Raewyn Walton	Room 12
	Islay Gallagher	Reading Recovery
	Chris Knox	
	Genene Oliver	Teacher Aide
	Miles Keen	Caretaker
	Prue Lucus	Office Secretary



*Back row: Gillian Johnson; Prue Lucus; Raewyn Walton  
Middle row: Dale Ritossa; Miles Keen; Islay Gallagher; Helen Angus; Genene Oliver (T/A)  
Front row: Helen Pentecost; Shirley Nesbitt; Steve Carter; Murray Powell; Liz Monaghan;  
Christine Knox.*

Kamahi entered its first teams in the B.P. Technology Challenge. School heats were held first to select representatives. The teams had to build a holder for a 'radioactive egg'. Two Kamahi pupils, Julie Rains and Chantelle Waring, won the Capital Discovery "Design a Marble Playground Challenge" and won Lego building blocks for the school. The judges were impressed with the pupils' knowledge of energy changes.





*Jump for Rope.*

Room 6 was used as a video room with the staging used as seating. At the end of term two a group of year twos joined the senior school for classes. This was probably the first and only time this has happened.

This year's Education Outside the Classroom (E.O.T.C.) involved cycling along the newly formed Hutt

riverbank path to Avalon Park for a picnic lunch. The stragglers were ferried up the hill by various parents, to ensure the outing was finished by 3.00pm.

A musical production, "Books Alive" was staged. All the syndicates chose a book on which to base a mini musical. Some of the pupils had solo singing parts.



About this time peer reading between pupils in senior and junior schools was introduced. A number of year six students received training as peer tutors, which enabled them to help other pupils with their reading (this scheme continues today). It is great to be able to listen to someone read but even better if you know what to do when they get stuck on a word. The peer tutors have a booklet that they fill in to gauge the success of what they are doing.



*Mr Powell's class: Room1*



## 1994

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Murray Powell	Room 1
	Gillian Johnson	
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Helen Pentecost	
	Shirley Nesbitt (A.P.)	Room 10
	Raewyn Walton	Room 12
	Islay Gallagher	Room 11
	Miles Keen	Caretaker
	Prue Lucus	Administrator



*Back row: Gillian Johnson; Christine Knox; Prue Lucus; Raewyn Walton  
Middle row: Helen Pentecost; Dale Ritossa; Lenore Leeper; Islay Gallagher; Gene Oliver;  
Front row: Fred Nuttall (assistant caretaker); Steve Carter; Helen Angus; Shirley Nesbitt; Murray Powell;  
Miles Keen (caretaker)*

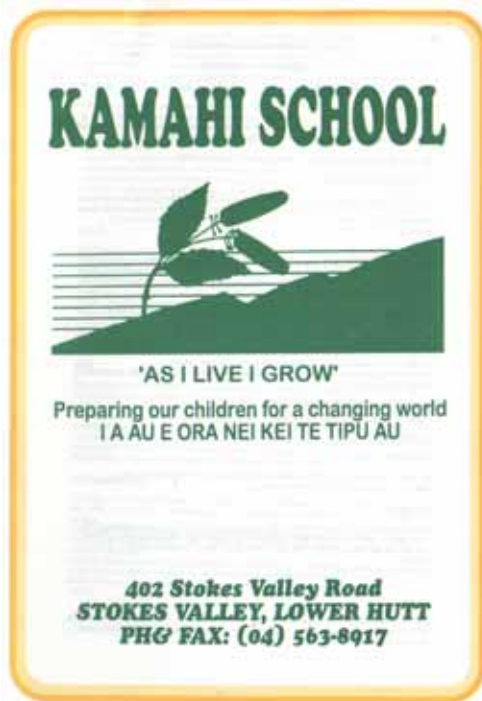
1994 was the International Year of the Family and the school commenced the year with a family lunch held at school. Another family day was held in October and a family fun night was held at Stokes Valley pool in November.



## The Second Adventure Playground (1994)

The first had become a safety problem and was removed. This one is positioned behind the school hall.





*New mission statement: Preparing our children for a changing world*

This year all four Stokes Valley schools' teachers came together to train as Kiwisports instructors. This took a term of training and culminated in a most positive and friendly Kiwi Sports afternoon for all the valley's children at Speldhurst Park. The teachers got to try out all the new things they had learnt and it prompted a rearrangement of the yearly Valley sporting fixtures.

This year, instead of a production, the school put on a gymstrada (or gymnastics to music). Each class put on a display and it finished with the entire school doing an aerobics routine.

Education Outside the Classroom (E.O.T.C) this year was aimed at introducing a sleepover at school for the year fours and fives. The pupils also pitched tents, cooked on hobo stoves and learnt about outdoor safety.

A biking and tramping experience for standards one to three (or years 3 and four) was held at the Rimutaka Incline and sleepovers were held

early in the year for standard one to four pupils.

The year sixes took on the task of fundraising for a special camp trip, to Camp Endeavour, in the Marlborough Sounds. A wonderful lunchtime gala was held and all the pupils had fun buying and selling things from the stalls. The camp itself was a huge success. The pupils each drove the launch, caught a fish, and explored the mudflats looking for the funny blue crabs that are to be found there. Waiting for the boat home, the pupils had to be dragged from the rock pools, which was especially pleasing because those pupils a week before said they couldn't go to camp because they might miss their favourite television programmes. The camp was organised by Murray Powell and Gillian Johnson.



*Standard 4s with Mrs Johnson and Mr Powell*

## 1995

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 1
	Gillian Johnson	Room 2
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Helen Pentecost	Room 12
	Shirley Nesbitt (A.P.)	Room 10
	Raewyn Walton	New Entrants
	Islay Gallagher	Room 11
	Pam Bushnell	Reading Recovery
	Helen Galloway	Office Manager
	Miles Keen	Caretaker
	Debbie Murphy	Teacher Aide
	Genene Oliver	Teacher Aide
	Georgina Duindam	Teacher Aid
	Diane McKellar	Teacher Aid



Back Row: Dale Rotissa, Islay Gallagher, Gillian Johnson.  
 Second Row: Debbie Murphy, Helen Galloway, Ramari Munroe, Helen Angus, Helen Pentecost  
 Front Row: Steve Carter (Principal), Genene Oliver, Shirley Nesbitt (Assistant Principal),  
 Heather Isaac (Deputy Principal), Pam Bushnell, Miles Keen.  
 Absent: Jill Cherry, Georgina Duindam, Diane McKellar.

The musical the 'Magic School Bus' was the production this year. Later the theme for the school's float in the Stokes Valley Christmas Parade was also the 'Magic School Bus'.

*"The Magic School Bus"  
 characters: Kieran Hume, Andrew  
 Roberts, Anita Bates, Samantha  
 Kelly and Suzanne Pentecost.*





1995 was the first year that Top School was held. On the 19<sup>th</sup> March, at Delaney Park, teams of pupils from each of the Stokes Valley schools were guided through a series of fun races. They were along similar lines to that of the popular Top Town. While the 'Top School' received some prize money, the emphasis was on participation, good team work, fun competition, and meeting the many challenges the day presented. Each year new activities and variations were introduced. In 2002, one participant wrote: "My favourite event was the maze. Someone from your team held the bucket and other people from your team had to throw the balls for you to catch in the bucket. Once you had four balls in the bucket you had to run through the maze. While you were running through the maze someone from the other team had to throw wet sponges at you. It was fun." [Ethan Mooney]



In September, the P.T.F.A. held a quiz night at the rugby clubrooms and raised \$1700. Teams aimed to answer as many trivia questions as possible, with spot prizes and raffles run throughout the evening. 'Choe from Wainui' made a guest appearance. Pictured is Elaine Hines, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, and the master of ceremonies, John Walker. A similar quiz night had been held in 1992.



A grant from the Ministry of Education's financial assistance scheme was spent on developing a wilderness area next to the hall for more free play for the children. A path was laid linking the junior school to the adventure playground and a stage area was built.

The camp, for standard fours, was again held at Endeavour Resort in the middle of the Marlborough

Sounds and involved 54 pupils.



*Miss Isaac's class: Room1 with Miss Munroe*

## 1996

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 1
	Dave Cody	Room 2
	Gillian Johnson	
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Shirley Nesbitt (A.P.)	Room 12
	Tracey Watson	Room 11
	Pam Bushnell	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Raewyn Roberts	Room 10
	Bernice Singh	Relieving teacher
	Marilyn Sunderland	Cleaner
	Miles Keen	Caretaker
	Geneve Oliver	Teacher Aide
	Diane McKellar	Teacher Aide
	Mary Jones	Teacher Aide
	Helen Galloway	Office Manager



"1996 was once again an extremely busy year which saw further growth and development for Kamahi School. It was also a year of confirmation and acknowledgement which came in the form of a most positive visit and report from the Education Review Office in October." [Principal's annual report]

The four-term school year began, with holidays now falling in April, July, September, and December to January.

A gala was held on the 16th March, the first gala for some years.

One of the Board's major goals this year was to increase the school roll. As far back as 1991 the roll had been described as

'stable with falling trend.' At the 1st of July the roll stood at 180. The Board developed a school prospectus and planned a "beautification of the top of the drive".

Newsletter sponsorship was obtained. Donations as of September 1996 was 101% . Signs were arranged to go on the end of the classroom blocks. The Board asked that these be in Maori as well as English. [BOT minutes]

An olympic day, involving the local schools, was held again this year. A programme was provided for the more able pupils in "peer tutoring". This provided an opportunity for older children to work alongside younger ones. Standard four camp was held at Camp Wainui this year



*Rural Day*

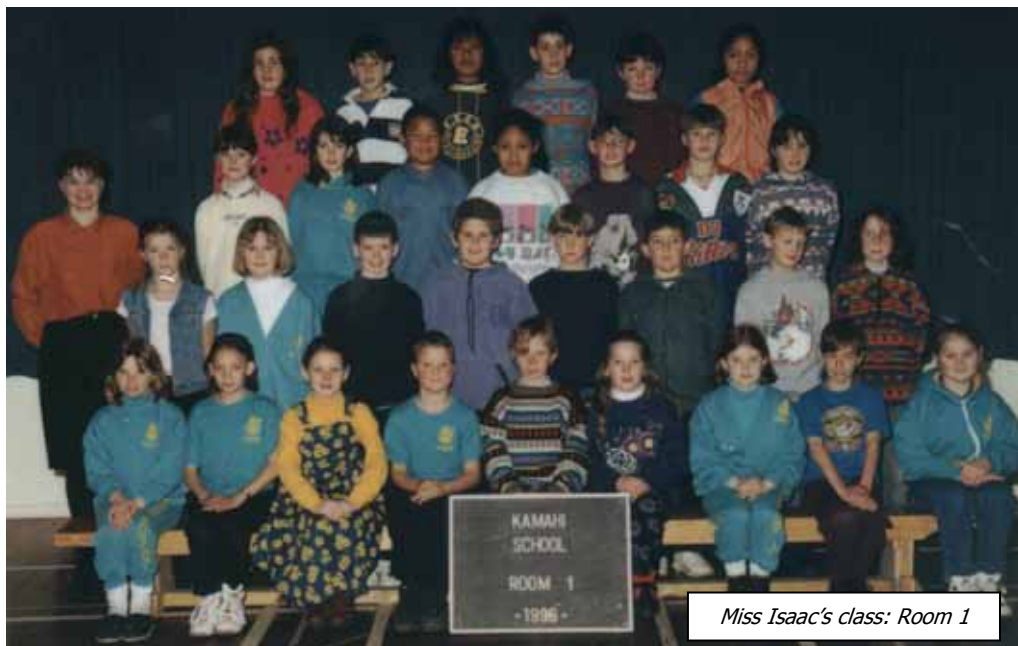




In July, some of the pupils performed in Artsplash and "performed brilliantly." Some were also involved in Dance Splash and artwork was submitted for display.



*Lafaele Pelasio received a 'Frances Clarke Memorial Award' at Government House in October 1996.*



*Miss Isaac's class: Room 1*

## 1997

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Miss Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 1
	Mrs Gillian Johnson	Room 2
	Mrs Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Mrs Helen Angus	Room 4
	Mrs Shirley Nesbitt (A.P.)	Room 12
	Miss Tracey Watson	Room 11
	Mrs Pam Bushnell	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Raewyn Roberts	Room 10
	Helen Galloway	Office Manager
	Mr Miles Keen	Caretaker
	Diane McKellar	Teacher Aide
	Mary Jones	Teacher Aide
	Helen Galloway	Office Administrator
	Deborah Hanson	Teacher Aide
	Debbie Murphy	Teacher Aide



"After some years of seven classes and a roll of approximately 180 to 190, the roll mushroomed in 1997. The school opened with a roll of 192. By 1st July the roll was 208 and by December over 220. The very positive Education Review Office report of late 1996 and younger families moving back into this part of the Valley appear to be contributing factors..." [Principal's report 1997]

The parent donations were down this year with only 77% paid. A stark contrast to the previous year's 101%!

In sports, a group of pupils participated at the Wellington Region Primary Schools Tennis tournament. There were no champions but lots of honest effort. Three gymnastic teams again had creditable performances at the interschool competition. Kamahi entered two teams in the Taita Junior Netball Competition for the first time this year. A 'Run-Jump-Throw' (or athletics) day was held with the schools of the valley at Kamahi. An unexpected surprise for the staff and pupils in the senior school with news that the NZ Representative Softballer, Mark Sorensen would be visiting to do some softball coaching/skill development with pupils.

Book Week was held in August with a visit from Rhondda Greig who took illustrating workshops and Christine Ross, childrens' author, who worked with all the classes. During the week 'buddy reading' was arranged for each day. This involved children from different classes reading to one another. The librarians ran competitions, and the media group (which had been involved in making the video with Saturn and writing for the Stokes Valley Times) interviewed both visitors. 'Books for Students' programme began this year, run by the Rotary Club. They donate money to be used to buy books for the pupils. Kamahi School presents every new child to the school their own book to keep.



The Playground Committee was disbanded after the wilderness area was completed. The Business Round Table and P.D.



*Junior playground*



*The wilderness garden*

workers installed two playgrounds, one for the junior school behind room 12 and horizontal/swinging bars behind Room 7. The Hines family generously

donated the junior playground. Three exterior tables were also donated through funds from the Stokes Valley Round Table.

'Shirley's Garden' was developed this year. This is the area of garden opposite the junior block and along the fenceline. Shirley Nesbitt, the assistant principal, who retired at the end of this year after many years teaching in the junior school, inspired the garden. "The way Shirley is approaching her retirement is simply amazing - this is a new phase of life with new opportunities and plans, and her continued vitality and zest for life is an example for us all." [newsletter]



*Shirley's Garden*

## “Move 97” School Production (1997)

‘Move ‘97’ was similar to the gymstrada of 1994, with classes ‘moving’ – they danced, did gymnastic routines, did folk dancing, and acted. All pupils and classes were involved and this was so popular it was necessary to stage an extra (fourth) performance. As a bonus the performances raised \$220.



A big fundraiser for this year was an Alison Holst cooking demonstration evening held on the 6th August. The P.T.F.A. and Holborn Kindergarten together organised this event which was held at the Horticultural Hall in Lower Hutt. It took just on five years, from when the initial approach was made, for Kamahi’s turn to come round. As well as the cooking demonstration, there were many great prizes raffled, including an InterIslander trip to the South Island, gift baskets from the Body Shop and Baskets to Remember, dinner at the Park Royal and a night at Portland Towers and The Novotel. Cookbooks, knives, and bowls were also sold. Approximately \$1600 was made from the night.

Another big fundraiser this year was the Horse Racing Derby Night held on the 22nd August, at the Stokes Valley R.S.A. As a lead up to this event the school community was asked to donate various items. There was a 'Dip Week', a 'Chippie Week' and a 'Peanut Week'. The theme was Race Day Fashions. Over one hundred people attended some of whom had gone to considerable trouble to dress for the occasion. "The evening wasn't slow in coming to life, with great interest in the races, spirited betting, some wonderful bidding for the ownership of the horses to feature in each race, and plenty of 'race day' spirit, festivity, and celebration." [newsletter] There were eight races and the evening made a profit of \$1800.

For the first time the Kamahi road patrol team won the road patrol shield for term three, out of 27 schools.

Several groups of pupils proved very worthy school representatives in the BP Technology Challenge. Their creativity and co-operation was commendable.



On the 28th November, Kamahi had the Life Education van on site for a week. The Life Education programme was, until then, only available to Wellington city schools, but this year ventured into Stokes Valley. The programmes they offered reinforced and complemented the health programmes taught in the school.

Camp this year for the Year sixes at the Boys Brigade campsite, 'Camp Wainui' in Wainuiomata. The 30 pupils, their teacher Heather Isaac, accompanied by a willing band of six adults, had an action-packed week with canoeing, bush walking, modules building, confidence-building, as well as all the usual camp activities.

From October, the school sold MAD Badges (Melanoma Awareness Day) for \$2. The badge contained a special patch which turned purple if the UV rays were high, warning people to cover up.

A mile-long fun run 'led' the Stokes Valley parade this year. This year the theme was road safety and the entry was not on a truck but involved walking.

The year finished with a carol singing evening in the hall. This was a chance to share in the spirit of Christmas as a school community. There was also an opportunity for pupils and families to donate a food item either for the SPCA or for the Community House's food bank.



## 1998

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 1
	Gillian Johnson	Room 2
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Helen Angus	Room 4
	Michelle Picard (A.P.)	Room 12
	Cherie St. Just	Room 11
	Pam Bushnell	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Raewyn Roberts	Room 10
	Karen Lockerbie Heatley	Teacher Aide
	John McGinchy	Caretaker
	Diane McKellar	Teacher Aide
	Mary Jones	Teacher Aide
	Helen Galloway	Office Manager
	Lisa Sinclair	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Debbie Murphy	Teacher Aide



Back Row: Gillian Johnson, Raewyn Roberts, Dale Ritossa, Helen Galloway.  
 Middle Row: Pam Bushnell, Cherie St. Just, Heather Isaac, Dianne McKellar.  
 Front Row: Helen Angus, Lisa Sinclair, Debbie Murphy, Mary Jones, Michelle Picard, Steve Carter,  
 John McGinchy.  
 Absent: Karen Lockerbie Heatley, Jill Cherry.

"1998 was in many ways a difficult and somewhat frustrating year. A series of changes emanating mainly from the M.O.E.[Ministry of Education] made for a very reactive year, as we grappled with new and far ranging changes." Those changes included changes to the Collective Agreement Contract, management units, Special Education 2000, the Health and Physical Education curriculum, the remodelling of the school's administration block mid-year, plus the outbreak of cyrtosporidium, and the flooding of the Hutt River "contributed to the feeling that the year was running us, rather that vice versa." [Principal's Annual Report]

On a positive note, "Kamahi traditionally performed well at interschool activites but in 1998 reached new heights.":-

- Kamahi first in "Top School";
- first in the interschool swimming competition;
- third in the "Tidiest School Competition" run by Hutt City Council, involving 35 local schools;
- second for the Year 4-5 group in the interschool B.P.Technology Challenge;
- six teams gained places at the interschool cross-country: two came first; one, second; and three, third;
- The efforts and achievements of the gymnastics teams, with Kyle Thompson gaining a second overall. "...an outstanding effort given he did not attend regular gym class."

Again there were quality performances by the 40-member choir in the Artsplash at the Michael Fowler Centre this year, and the dance group performed with distinction. School touch rugby teams and flipperball teams participated in interschool events for the first time.



The staffroom and office were enlarged, the medical room and principal's office relocated, and a meeting room created. It was the first year the school had gas heating on over the winter.

As a way of improving the collection rate of school donations, families who paid were put in a draw for a room for a night at the Wellington Park Royal. To be eligible for the draw, donations had to be paid in full by the end of term one. However, mid-year the comment was: "it is disappointing to note that there is a very high number of school donations yet to be received." Perhaps that incentive wasn't as successful as had hoped. The school's first foreign fee-paying pupil arrived in February from Korea, but moved on to Auckland in the second term.



In June, Kamahi School gained a 'Heartbeat Award' from the National Heart Foundation. The three requirements were a non-smoking policy, a good food handling policy and a good nutrition policy, all of which the school had.



*Year 6 Class of '98*



*The junior "Spice Girls"*



*Miss Isaac's class*



## 1999

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 4
	Gillian Johnson	Room 2
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Jo Weir	Room 1
	Michelle Picard (A.P.)	Room 12
	Cherie St. Just	Room 10
	Pam Bushnell	Room 11
	Raewyn Roberts	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Veronica Finn	I.T.Support Petron
	John McGinchy	Caretaker
	Diane McKellar	Teacher Aide
	Mary Jones	Teacher Aide
	Helen Galloway	Office Manager
	Lisa Sinclair	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Debbie Murphy	Teacher Aide



Back Row: Cherie St Just, Dianne McKellar, Lisa Sinclair, Debbie Murphy, Pam Bushnell, Steve Carter.  
Front Row: Raewyn Roberts, Jo Weir, Gillian Johnson, John McGinchey, Heather Isaac, Michelle Picard,  
Veronica Finn, Genny Jarvis, Dale Ritossa.  
Absent: Helen Galloway, Mary Jones.

As the end of the millennium approached, the children focused on the past as well as the future with the school production, "Back to the Future" and "Y2K" (year 2000) featuring in a song the school learnt.

The year six (standard four) camp was held at Forest Lakes this year. This venue was chosen for the full-catering facilities and the instructors fully trained in abseiling, horseriding, canoeing, etc.

In August 'Back to the Future' was the theme for the school production. Each class took a decade from the twentieth century and presented highlights of the time through drama, music, and movement.



For the Stokes Valley Christmas celebration the school ran a gourmet food stall. The millenium was the theme for the Christmas float.





*"Destination the Deep"*



*Rockwall*



*School disco*



*Whitireia Polytechnic Performing Arts Group*

## 2000

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal
	Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 1
	Gillian Johnson	Room 2
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3
	Jo Weir	Room 4
	Michelle Picard (A.P.)	Room 12
	Cherie St. Just	Room 10
	Pam Bushnell	Room 11
	Raewyn Roberts	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Pam Mayhew	I.T.Support Person
	John McGinchy	Caretaker
	Helen Galloway	Office Administrator
	Lisa Sinclair	Reading Recovery Teacher
	Lydia Winnie	Teacher Aide



Sporting success was again a feature of 2000.

- Kamahi won the inter-school swimming cup. The relay teams over recent years had rarely been beaten;
- One of the three school touch rugby teams, the Kamahi Shooters, won its grade in the TGI Touch League;
- The interschool triathletes did well with one first, one third and three fourth place getters.;
- The Kamahi rugby team did well in the Hutt Valley school's rugby competition. They played eight games, won eight, including the final, with 27 tries "for" and one try "against";
- Of the three netball teams that played at the Taita Courts, Kamahi 1 came fourth in its section; Kamahi 2 came third and Kamahi 3 was runner up in its section;

- At the inter-school cross-country, Kamahi had fine placings in all grades, with both teams and individuals doing well;
- The school flipperball team wound up its season with a play off for third and fourth in its grade after missing out on the final berth by a solitary goal. The play off was also lost by a narrow margin but didn't detract from a worthwhile season.

Other sporting events included rooms one to four try-a-thon, involving cycling, running, and swimming, with the emphasis very much on 'trying'. A jump rope session was held in September and was well supported by parents. Pupils were sponsored and skipping ropes sold. Inter-school Run, Jump, Throw was held at the school and was a very successful event.

In 1999, the school's playing field underwent extensive drainage work. This year the school was pleased to welcome back the Stokes Valley Junior Rugby Club, which resumed playing here, and welcomed the Stokes Valley Junior Soccer Club which, for the first time in a number of years, also used the field. This constructive use of the school field and facilities was encouraged.



Bob Kerr

March saw 'Book Week'. About a dozen parents came and read to groups of children. The number of fathers who came was most encouraging and were great examples. A Character Day was held, the library had an open time to celebrate the newly computerised library, and children's author and illustrator Bob Kerr visited. During the week a favourite was used from time to time: DEAR (drop everything & read) which is exactly what it says. There was also an opportunity for a group of



younger children to visit the SV Library to see a performance reading of Hairy Maclary.

By 2000 Kamahi had three ESOL students (English Speakers of Other Language) and the school had become a smokefree zone.

After extensive community consultation, the Board decided to re-introduce religious education to the school. Classes started in the junior school, and later on in the senior school. The school had been advised by parents/ guardians that only 17 children were not to attend these sessions.

Property improvements for 2000:

- A shaded area beside the swimming pool was completed over the holidays;
- A new garden box at the bottom of the drive was installed. It served as entry into a competition organised by a local beautification society. The pupils were involved in spreading a load of soil and in planting out the box. Plans were drawn up for improvements to the school driveway, including a path down one side. These improvements are still waiting to go ahead;



- Another kamahi tree, donated by Sue Lawton & Harry Funnell, was planted at the gate;
- shade sails were installed to cover the junior school playground and another to cover part of the court area between the flagpole and the hall lawn. The SV Memorial RSA generously donated \$3000 for this. In 2001, the shade sails were completed and working well until vandals struck. They were repaired but again were the target of vandalism;



- The school came second in the Tidiest School Competition, despite having "had an unusually bad period of vandalism. Kamahi School seems to be the worst hit in the Stokes Valley area.".The school was presented with two trees, which were planted in the grounds;
- The Hutt City Council came to check the pipes that were laid last year and found that one of the stormwater pipes near the stage was hooked into a sewer! This was fixed in September.

A request to land a helicopter in the school grounds was granted and was the cause of much speculation. The monastery at the top of the valley was building high up on a bush-covered hillside and needed somewhere to land the helicopter and attach a lifting chain.



Five-weekly reward afternoons became part of the school's assertive discipline programme. These were to acknowledge the many children who consistently behave well.



Children were again involved in Artsplash in the massed choir, the dance group, and in the art display at Capital E. "Places in Artsplash have always been keenly sought after and it is unfortunate that not everyone who wishes to be involved, can be." [newsletter].



The school mourned



the sudden death of Mrs Shirley Taylor. Up until April 2000 Shirley had been a learning resources person at the school, before she left for overseas. Previously Shirley had been a parent representative on the inaugural Kamahi Board of Trustees in 1989.

A coin trail was held as a contribution to the Gift Yourself community focus. All the letters in 'Toy Library', which was written in large capitals on the court, did not quite get filled with coins, but \$116.75 was collected and forwarded to the Toy Library to enhance its stock. A ride-on car was

bought.



2000 School Olympics

In September, the Life Education roadshow visited the school again. The parents session held saw 15 parents attend: the highest number the educator had ever had for a session.

In November, the school 'received' a "gold card from E.R.O. (Education Review Office) after their visit." [BOT minutes, 13/11/00]. "For the second consecutive time the school was given no recommendations or actions, the report reflecting the hard work and dedication to pupils, and the clear focus of both board and staff." [annual report]

The entry for the Stokes Valley Christmas parade had a summer theme, with pupils asked to dress in bright, colourful clothing and a hat. About 40 pupils turned up on the Saturday morning to help decorate the float and ride down the main road to the shops. Seventy dollars was made from the cake stall held that day.



A group of pupils visited Capital E to work in the ONTV studio



Miss Isaac's class





## 2001

Staff:	Steve Carter	Principal (Term 1)
	Margaret Colenso	Acting Principal (Term 2-3)
	Kathy Lye	Principal (Term 4)
	Miss Heather Isaac (D.P.)	Room 1:Year 5 - 6 class
	Mrs Dale Ritossa	Room 2:Year 5 - 6 class
	Mrs. Lynne Edmonson	Room 3:Year4-5 class
	Mrs Gillian Johnson	Room 4:Year 3 class
	Mrs Pam Bushnell	Room 9:Year 1 - 2 class
	Miss Cherie St Just	Room 10:Year 1 - 2 class
	Mrs Michelle Picard (A.P.)	Room 12: New Entrants
	Mrs Raewyn Roberts	Reading Recovery & programme support
	Mrs Kerry Whatton	Librarian



**BACK ROW:** Heather Isaac, Dale Ritossa, Gillian Johnson, Marilyn Simpson, Steve Carter  
**MIDDLE ROW:** Helen Galloway, Michelle Picard, Pam Bushnell, Lynne Edmonson, Cherie St Just, Raewyn Roberts  
**FRONT ROW:** Kerrie Whatton

2001 was another year of changes. In April ,Steve Carter resigned as principal to take up at position at Turatura School in Hawera. For terms two and three the school had Margaret Colenso as relieving principal. In October, Kathy Lye became the sixth principal of Kamahi School. "The board and staff worked together to ensure that we would get someone with the right mix of experience and enthusiasm to lead our school and I am in no doubt that we have found a very special person in Kathy." [Dean Burt, Chairperson's annual report] One of Kathy's early comments was "it was immediately apparent to me that we have a very special school community."

Sport seemed to again play a large part in 2001, with Kamahi pupils doing well in their chosen sports.

- The touch rugby team, Top Guns won its grade, undefeated, in the TGI Touch competition. And one of its players, Rachel Savelio also won the Player of the Future award for her efforts in the grade. The Warriors team was runner up, losing only one game during the season. Later in the year a touch rugby team took part in a tournament at Fraser Park where it performed extremely well, both on and off the field, and came second over all;
- The inter-school triathlon held in April involved a swim at Stokes Valley Pool, a run at Delaney Park, and a cycle around adjoining streets. Kamahi pupils won places;
- In the interschool cross-country all the Kamahi teams did well with the following winning their group: year four boys; year five girls; year six girls and year six boys;
- Five gymnastics teams entered the primary school gymnastics competition with the boys' A Team winning the boys competition. Kamahi School performs well in most sports but this was the first time that they had won gymnastics
- The three netball teams participated enthusiastically this year and showed lots of skills improvement and understanding of tactics in netball as the season progressed. They finished in the middle of their grades;
- Not to be outdone, the staff indoor netball team, that played each week at Valley Indoor Sports, also had some wins and few losses. The team was made up of "awesome defenders, zappy centres, and cracker jack shooters";
- Unfortunately, at the inter-school swimming, for the first time in many years, Kamahi did not win the cup for the most points;



*One of the "highlights"(?) of Steve Carter's time at Kamahi: being attacked by a police dog!*

Top School was held at Kamahi on the 11th March and was the first chance the school had to host this event. After many years of using Delaney Park Top School began using each of the four schools in turn. The Stokes Valley Rotary Club again organised an excellent Top School for the students. The fundraising done in conjunction with this event (e.g. selling sausages, drinks, raffles, and entertainment)



raised approximately \$1000. "A great day was had by all that attended. The beautifully fine weather, good support from the community, and an excellent spirit were features of the day." [school newsletter]

## 'Where in the World is Mr Carter?' School Production (2001)

The production in July was 'Where in the World is Mr Carter?' The story goes that Mr Carter had left with the P.E. shed keys. But where had he gone? Each class did an item about a country, and Mr Carter was eventually tracked down! "It certainly gives the students a chance to be in the limelight, build their confidence, and become more aware of how they project themselves to others. It also shows that the new arts curriculum is in action at Kamahi School." [newsletter]



*Thailand and  
Mexico*



Reading Recovery was a programme already well established at the school at this time and continues to be so. It is an effective early intervention programme designed to reduce dramatically the number of children with literacy difficulties in schools. It is a second chance, prevention programme delivered at the end of the first year of school. Young, low achieving children have daily individual teaching, which brings them to average levels of achievement for their class in a short time. All children are tested on a range of tests at six years of age. This determines who goes into reading recovery programme.

This year, for the annual famine promoted by World Vision, one option was to undertake a 'technology famine' - no phone, TV, computer, etc. A total of at least \$445 was raised.

The Kids up the Road Puppeteers from CCS put on several performances in May. These puppeteers had visited several times before over the years and always provided a good experience for the children, while teaching them about people with disabilities. Destination Earth visited later in the year. Pupils responded with a great deal of enthusiasm to this amazing educational programme. The children dressed up in animal skins, like stone age people, saw skulls of creatures from this time, and learnt about elk stew. An excellent interactive learning opportunity to compare life amongst mammoths and sabre-tooth cats, and life today with warm homes and takeaways just down the road. In June, the Whitireia Polytech Performing Arts Group also visited the school.

In May, the school community was shocked to hear that Mr John McGlinchey had died suddenly. John was the caretaker at Kamahi from October 1997 to October 2000.

The year six camp was held at Forest Lakes in December. It was unfortunate that the Christmas parade was cancelled this year due to poor weather conditions.

Scooters, skateboards, skates etc were, and still are, allowed at the school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The children are allowed to play with these at lunchtime in designated areas.

Specialists who visited the school this year: BEST team members for one pupil, RTLB team (Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour), speech therapists, vision and hearing testers, health nurse, dental nurse, resource teacher of literacy (RTLit), Child, Young Persons, and Family Services (CYPFS), physiotherapist, police education advisor, and diabetic nurse.



## 2002

Staff:	Kathy Lye	Principal
	Heather Isaac (DP)	Room 1: Year 5-6
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3 Year 4
	Gillian Johnson	Room 8: Year 3
	Annie-Marie Gordon (A.P.)	Room 10: Year1-2
	Pam Bushnell	Room 9:Year 2-3
	Helen Joyce	Room 11: Year 1
	Raewyn Roberts	Reading Recovery
	Janet Doyle	Learning Resource Person
	Mishelle Campbell	Room 2: Year 5-6
	Fran Heath	Teacher Aide
	Marilyn Simpson	Teacher Aide
	David Andrew	Caretaker
	Helen Galloway	Officer Manager



The year started with a picnic tea in February. It was a time to get together and informally chat with class teachers.

The year six pupils were, for the first time this, given the opportunity to operate a student council. The year six pupils voted anonymously for those they thought would be most suited for the responsibilities. Staff were not involved in this in any way. Each term a new student executive was elected. The student executive is still a part of the school in 2004.

A new garage for the caretaker was finally completed. Prior to this a shipping container positioned at the bottom of the drive had been used. The Quinn's Post Community Trust funded various projects within the school including security lighting, a sound system (consisting of three microphones, a mixer, tape, CD player and amplifiers), representative uniforms and \$7000 towards a new playground. The school prospectus was redone in colour and "looks fantastic". [BOT Minutes]

Teddy Bear's Picnic 20th March: "The hall was filled with blankets, children, and bears of all shapes and sizes. One child, full of smiles, mentioned to me [Kathy Lye] that they were starving because their bear had eaten all their lunch." [newsletter]



Every now and then toys go through a wave of popularity. In 2000 it was Pokemon cards, which were collected and traded between pupils. This year the 'in' thing was Bey Blades, a type of spinning top. In 2003 Yu-gi-o cards collections were to be popular.



Several pupils have made it into the inter-zone cross-country race held in November. It was a new competition that ran on a trial basis this year. Kamahi is in a 'cluster' of seven schools, which were represented in the inter-school competition. The inter-zone competition fielded top athletes from the cluster competitions.

At the inter-school swimming sports "we came second in the pupil medley and lots of people from Kamahi came in first, second, and third places in the other races. In the pupil-parent relay Zoe Young, Robin Walker, Mrs Young, and Mr Mercer all flew through the water. Mr Mercer looked like he was almost walking on water. We won the parent-pupil relay." [ Lucie Klijn and Sam Brodie]

There were five teams registered to play netball. Three of them with the Hutt Valley Netball playing at the Taita Netball Courts, with the other two teams playing in the Silverpine Competition based at Silverstream and Pinehaven Schools. The latter were made up of year three pupils, the first time the school had entered such young players. A flipperball team was also entered in competitions.



A spellathon was held, with testing on May 27th. All those who got all their spelling words correct went into a draw and those who returned their sponsorship money on time went into a second draw. Kamahi School pupils raised \$428.70 for World Vision this year.

During term two, all schools in the country were given the opportunity to apply for extra funding, called 'Enhanced Programme Funding' (EPF) from the Ministry of Education. Those applying had to specify how much money they required and the programmes they wanted to enhance or introduce with any funding they received. Kamahi was successful in getting \$75,000 for the next three years towards extra reading recovery, literacy support, and training programmes.

This year 'year six buddies' was introduced. Each new entrant is assigned a year six pupil for the year. They get together every Friday for a range of activities. Many end up forming a close bond.

The rock wall visited again this year. The year three to six pupils were watching anxiously as bad weather had previously caused two planned visits to be postponed. The rock wall came with instructors who did an excellent job of ensuring that the children were safe and that the risks involved were perceived risks only.



The rock wall was approximately six metres high. On one side it was on a steep vertical slope, on the other it was like climbing up a rocky overhang where you had to rely on your own strength to stay attached to the wall. "The pupils really enjoyed challenging themselves... Some students whizzed up that wall faster than spiderman could! A great experience for all those involved. The younger children gazed in awe. although I could see one or two champing at the bit to have a go." [newsletter]



*Pool Party 1<sup>st</sup> November*

An opportunity arose to acquire a playground that was no longer in use. One afternoon in June, nine intrepid adults and two teenagers braved the rain and removed the parts of the playground. They were to be integrated with the new playground equipment the PTFA were raising funds for.

In September the year five and six technology team came third in the known challenge in the BP technology challenge held at Naenae Intermediate.

Destination Earth visited in May with the theme 'Mission to Mars'. Its visit complemented the work that was being done in science. All classes were focusing on issues to do with planet earth and beyond.

## Kamahi Art Gallery (2002)

In August pupils cross-grouped (i.e. mixed with different age groups) to produce works of art. The seniors were doing a Technology Unit on framing and produced unique frames in which to display the artwork. On the 2nd September the Kamahi Art Gallery opened, with the kind support of The Professionals of Lower Hutt, in an empty shop in Stokes Valley opposite New World. The art gallery opened in the evenings with each class displaying their work on a different night. Artworks were for sale, with one dollar equaling \$1000 Kamahi dollars. Parents had first right of purchase. All classes also visited a real art gallery in the weeks before so they have had some first hand experience.



The level of support shown for the pupils of Kamahi School during this art gallery week was tremendous. Each day nearly sixty pictures had to be removed from frames and new ones reframed, hung in the gallery, and named. A number of people from the local community have stopped by and passed comment about the quality of the children's work. The response from parents, family, and friends was tremendous, with a 96 per cent turnout. (This was better than the response for parent teacher interviews.)



Year six pupils had a great time at Forest Lakes in November. They were able to do kayaking, the waterslide, abseiling, and horse riding, to name a few activities. "The mud slide also proved very popular with the parents who were helping on the camp, providing free entertainment for the kids!" [Hilary Neighbours]

This year the CREST award scheme was introduced to the school with five year six pupils taking part. Each pupil undertook a technology project of their own choosing, involving research, visual presentation and an oral presentation at the end. Some of the projects undertaken were "wind turbines and windmills", "electricity" and "which fabrics are best to make raincoats from."





The junior school had been working through a theme on keeping safe and as part of this was visited by the fire brigade. Each pupil got a chance to hold the hose, which caused great excitement.

The end of year school celebration was held on Wednesday 18th December at 6.00pm and was held at the Stokes Valley Community Hall to allow as many parents as possible to attend. Unfortunately, the turnout was so great that many were left

to stand! The year six pupils and their parents then returned to the school hall for a new tradition: a farewell, sit-down meal. This included a "Graduation Ceremony" with the presentation of a certificate and commemorative pen for each pupil.



Fridays in December were made for fun. The first Friday was Wacky Clothes Day. Children were invited to come to school wearing what they liked, back to front or inside out! The following Friday was Wacky Hair Day. Normally children are not allowed to come to school with coloured hair but with parents' permission they came as they liked - the wackier the better.

"The end of 2002 saw us in good heart with enthusiasm and new ideas in mind for 2003." [annual report]



*Miss Isaac's class*

## 2003

Staff:	Kathy Lye	Principal
	Heather Isaac (DP)	Room 1: Year 5-6
	Kim Odlum	Room 2: Year 4-5
	Dale Ritossa	Room 3: Year 4-5
	Gillian Johnson	Room 8: Year 3
	Annie-Marie Gordon (A.P.)	Room 11: Year 1
	Pam Bushnell	Room 9: Year 2-3
	Ana Coffey	Room 10: Year 1-2
	Janet Doyle	Learning Resource Person
	Raewyn Roberts	Reading Recovery
	Gail Hall	Teacher Aide
	Fran Heath	Teacher Aide
	Marilyn Simpson	Teacher Aide
	David Andrew	Caretaker
	Helen Galloway	Officer Manager



2003 was an extremely busy year for the Kamahi community. As well as the usual school activities, this year saw a visit by a television crew, the opening of the new junior playground, the school production, a gala day, and the announcement by the government that the schools in Stokes Valley were to be included in a 'network review'.

The year began with a Hurricanes' Day in February. The pupils were invited to wear yellow and black and the Hurricanes rugby team visited. It was great to see so many pupils and staff wearing yellow and black. Later in the year a rugby shirt signed by all the Hurricanes' players was donated to the school for a raffle which raised \$1137.

Over the holidays the main courts and the junior courts were dug up and replaced with asphalt. The exterior of the school was also painted. The place was certainly spruced-up.

The school was invited by the Soroptimist International Club of Upper Hutt to take part in their annual swimathon in March at Stokes Valley Pool. A team of twenty swimmers between them swam 558 lengths.

For another fundraiser the school was approached by Holborn Kindergarten to go halves with them in a contract they had to clean the Westpac Stadium. This was worth \$450 to the school for just over an hour's work for about 15 to 20 people. The school community, mainly staff and their families, did this stadium clean-up several times over the year.

Top School at Tawhai



The cookies promotion was held again this year as a PTFA fundraiser for the new junior playground. Cookie sales made approximately \$1500.



Miss Heather Isaac and Mrs Kathy Lye developed the idea of running a Gold Kamahi Citizenship Award, along the lines of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The programme was introduced to the year six pupils this year and has four aspects. They are service to school, service to others, personal growth and leadership. It was designed as a home and school programme, with some help and guidance from both. It is the pupil's choice to be involved and to complete the programme. The focus is on making a difference. Miss Kim Odlum is currently co-ordinating this programme. In 2003 eight year six students gained awards.

The inter-school cross-country teams did well out of the seven schools that participated. Some year four girls were called in to fill gaps in the year five and six girls' teams.

In May, Lunch Clubs began. It was a chance for teachers to share their skills with different groups of children and the clubs included drama, dance, art, soccer, miniball, CREST, citizenship, netball and gym.



The school enjoyed a presentation by Destination Earth called Under the Canopy - a look at what exists under the tree line in a rain forest. "The children were bubbling with talk as they came out of the hall."

## “What Now” 2003



On the 26th March the school received a visit from the ‘What Now’ children’s television team. During their time here they surprised Cassandra Angus, who was having a birthday that day, played a game with her, and presented her with some gifts.

They played a game with the

pupils from room two, involving a large piece of paper and three buckets of water. The behaviour of the pupils was exemplary, a comment passed on more than one occasion by the television crew who regularly visit schools. The highlight for most of the pupils, however, was when their principal was “gundged”. A ‘reward’ for sharing a birthday with Cassandra? One child summed up the day: “This is my best school day ever.”!



*A birthday treat for Kathy Lye*



Six pupils were selected to be Kamahi Heroes this year. As part of the playground behaviour programme, it was their task to help other children in the playground. They helped with turn-taking on the play equipment (especially the tyre swing), they were there to play with, to listen, and in particular to help the little ones.

The annual Run, Jump, Throw event underwent a change this year. Some pupils represented Kamahi for athletics, while others participated in the run, jump, throw.

To help the children think beyond their own world and do something for others, small sprays of flowers were put together at school and given out in the Stokes Valley shopping centre as a way of recognising Mother's day. Not only were people surprised and delighted, but three women rang the school to voice their gratitude and pleasure at the manners shown by the pupils.



Kamahi School had four netball teams this year, a miniball (junior basketball) team, and a flipperball (junior water polo) team. Sponsorship from King

Toyota enabled the purchase of basketball tops for the miniball team.



On the 7th June another Book Character Day was held. The theme this year seemed to be "Harry Potter" with many children (and some staff members) choosing to dress up as characters from these books. There was also an art competition with the children displaying their work at assembly. Later that evening a disco was run by the PTFA, also with the book character theme.



## “Welcome to Our World” School Production (2003)



Meet the Green family (left): Koro (Grandad Green) is waiting for the children to arrive home from school. Cheryl Green is yet to finish work, so Max, Shane, and Isabella decide to watch a little after-school TV before doing their homework. The shows included (clockwise from below): The Muppets, Bob the Builder, Happy Days, Star Trek, Willie Wonka and the Golden Goose, The Flintstones, and Hi Five.



Children of Kamahi School were invited to perform in either an individual or group item at this year's talent quest in October, with the finalists performing at the school gala. As the advertisement read: "First there was American Idol. Then there was Australian Idol. Now, new to Stokes Valley, we have...Kamahi Idol!"

For the first time in many years Kamahi School had a gala. It was held on the 1st November from 4.00 –7.00pm and promised something for everyone.



There were approximately 31 stalls and non-stop entertainment. A few of the stalls on offer included card swapping table (for those

cards normally banned at school), wacky hairdoes, face painting, candles, plants, Kamahi Café, fishing, white elephant, toys, books, clothes, plants, candy floss, barbecue, curry, beads, sewing, and chicken wheel. Over \$4,000 was raised, a wonderful achievement by the school community.



The new junior playground was installed in September. The playground equipment had already been paid for and the contract for installation signed before the network review was announced and spending 'frozen'. The decision was made to go ahead as planned, as much fundraising had gone into getting this playground, and it was felt that it was worth having if only for 15 months.

The playground was officially opened in December, with the children singing 'Bob the Builder'. Then Hilary Neighbours, representing the PTFC as treasurer, Graham



Stephens, past PTFC president, Bronwyn Thompson, Board of Trustees representative and Graham Peters, property manager, were introduced in order to show the children how a whole range of people have worked to get the playground. Ana Gaskill, as the youngest pupil, cut the ribbon, with the support of her year six buddy, William McLaren. Helium

balloons floated off, much to the excitement of the children, who then sang 'School is Number One' with enthusiasm as the new entrants had a play on the new gear.

Year six pupils went on a retreat day to Camp Wainui in February. This was an inaugural event and was designed to set expectations and goals for pupils in their last year at primary school. Some of the activities included the high ropes, the spider's web, the poisonous peanut butter pit, the swing bridge, and a treasure hunt.

New Zealand Community Trust donated sunhats for all the children in the school.

They were named for each child and remain at school. This has made it very easy to ensure all children wear a sunhat when outside.



*Basic music skills are taught as part of the curriculum. Learning the recorder was a good place to start. Room 2 in action.*

The Life Education Unit visited again and was used as a resource to support what was being taught in school. The programmes covered were rooms 10 and 11



'Harold's Picnic', rooms 8 and 9 'Food for Life', and rooms 1, 2 and 3 'Body Journey'.

The Christmas float this year had the theme 'Welcome To Our World'— looking at how far education had come.

The end-of- year celebration assembly was held at St Patrick's College hall in Silverstream at 7.00pm. The assembly was a chance to celebrate the year together with families. Part of this assembly involved the traditional farewell to the year six pupils, culminating in them being given a standing ovation as they process from the hall.





## Network Review and the end of Kamahi School

On the 14th August 2003 the Minister of Education, Trevor Mallard, announced a review of Upper Hutt and Stokes Valley schools aimed at ensuring that local students would continue to receive quality education well into the future. "Whilst Upper Hutt and Stokes Valley schools generally have excellent records and are well managed, the projected population decline in the 5 -12 year age group means we have to take steps now to ensure this quality can be maintained for the next 10 to 15 years. This review is about making sure education resources are spent on teaching children, and not on maintaining underused or empty buildings". [Trevor Mallard]

Less than two months before, it was noted in the school newsletter that rumours had again been circulating the valley about school closures. In the June copy of 'The Stokes Valley Times' it was noted: "No Review Here. The Ministry of Education has no plans in the pipeline to close any Stokes Valley primary school. That was the answer the 'Times' was given following several enquiries to this paper on the subject." Spokesperson for the ministry said that the area was not being reviewed and there were no grounds at this stage to look at individual schools in Stokes Valley.

The Boards of Trustees from the four Stokes Valley Schools met in August to discuss the network review and all agreed to work together to ensure that the needs of the Valley were put ahead of the needs of any one school. This was unusual in a review, with many other schools fighting their neighbouring school to be retained, and was a reflection on how united the Stokes Valley community is.

Initially, the Ministry of Education suggested two schools in Stokes Valley, one at the northern end and one at the southern, and no year seven and eight classes. Community meetings were held in October to discuss the options and attempt to get a consensus. A Stokes Valley-wide written survey was carried out to determine what the community wanted from its schools, and what to fight for in the review. Unfortunately, there were numerous opinions. Some wanted two schools, some three and many wanted no change.

In February 2004 the Minister of Education announced his preliminary decision for Stokes Valley: two schools, one at Tawhai, the other at Stokes Valley School sites. The four Stokes Valley schools took up the offer of a mediator who came and met staff and families from each school before making his recommendations to the minister. The final decision was announced on the 6th of May: retain Tawhai School and Tui Glen School (still offering years seven and eight) and merge Kamahi School with Stokes Valley School on the Kamahi School site ready for the start of 2005.

Barbara Hay, the current principal of Stokes Valley School, was appointed in July the principal of the "new school" and has initiated many activities to encourage mixing of the staff and pupils of the two schools. The community was asked for suggestions to name this school. The most popular suggestions were Korau School, Speldhurst School, Stokes Valley School, and Stokes Valley Road School. The clear winner however was "Koraunui School". Koraunui is the original name for the valley, and means 'An abundance of large tree ferns'. A pupil from Stokes Valley and Kamahi Schools announced the new school name officially at Dance Splash at the Michael Fowler Centre on 5th August 2004.

## 2004

Staff: Kathy Lye	Principal until July
Neil Booth	Relieving Principal from July
Heather Isaac (DP)	Room 1: Year 5-6
Kim Odium	Room 2: Year 4-5
Dale Ritossa	Room 3: Year 4-5
Gillian Johnson	Room 8: Year 2-3
Annie-Marie Gordon (A.P.)	Room 12: New Entrants
Pam Bushnell	Room 9: Year 2
Diane Christenson	Room 12: Year 1
Raewyn Roberts	Reading Recovery
Fran Heath	Teacher Aide
Kerry Whatton	Librarian
Graham Peters	Property Manager
Helen Galloway	Officer Manager



The year began with a family picnic at Harcourt Park in Upper Hutt on the 13th February. The children travelled by bus and parents and siblings were invited to join them there.





Storms in February brought down this gum tree on the school field, slightly damaging the fence. Properties around the school were badly affected by flooding but the school was otherwise unscathed.

Parents Tutors for Reading was initiated this Year and involved a training programme for parents who were willing to come into school once a week to listen to children read. The training programme taught the strategies children need to become fluent readers. Ten parents and grandparents took this on.



*The year six group went to Camp Wainui for a retreat day. During the day they looked at leadership skills and how to work as a team.*



*School triathlon*

In March, the Soroptimist Club organised its very last swimathon for the community. Nine pupils took part and they swam a total of 658 lengths. The money they raised went to purchase tennis rackets for the P.E. shed for lunchtime use and books for the library.

A school-wide Dr Seuss unit was held for the first few weeks of term three. One of the goals of this was to present the pupils with some male role models who enjoy reading. The whole school also had an opportunity to go and see the movie 'The Cat in the Hat' on the 8th April, courtesy of the P.T.F.A.

A school-wide Dr Seuss unit was held for the first few weeks of term



*Mr Roberts Q.C. takes time out of his day to read a story to the children*



*Dick Weir story-telling*

What had been known as 'Top School' for some time, this year became "Top Team". Each team was made up of two students from each of the four Stokes Valley Schools. This year it was held at Stokes Valley School.



The school this year had two teams playing netball with the Hutt Valley Netball at the Taita courts, a flipperball team that played at Naenae Pool, and a miniball team played at Walter Nash Stadium.

Kamahi and Stokes Valley Schools had a choir for Artsplash this year that practised together, under the leadership of Gillian Johnson and Daphne Stedman. On the night of the performance several people commented how well the children performed and how colourful the combined colours of Stokes Valley (red and black) and Kamahi (green and yellow) looked. 'Ana Coffey, who taught at the school last year, returned to help Elise Anderson from Stokes Valley School put together a combined schools' (Stokes Valley and Kamahi) dance troop for Dance Splash.

They incorporated three styles into their performance, with a Hip Hop group, a modern dance group and a kapa haka group. With the costumes and lighting the effect was impressive.



*H.R.S NZ Ltd supplied the school with brand new wet weather gear for the road patrollers*



*Mini Beasts, a science related presentation, visited the school in September. It was paid by the P.T.F.A. The children found it very informative.*



Parents have always played a big part in school activities. In one week in June it was noted just how many volunteers there were. Eight adults did parent-tutor reading –for one hour each. Two parents came in to help a group of eight children make pikelets. A netball team, the minball team and the flipperball team had practices taken by staff and parents. Parents helped transport choir members and Dances Splash participants to Stokes Valley School for practices. Parents and members of the

community came to instruct in religious education, assist with the extension programme, and help the junior school with its technology unit by ironing pillowcases the children had painted designs on. Two parents were rostered on to cook and sell the weekly sausages on Friday, as well as those rostered each morning to supervise the road patrol. There was also a meeting of parents involved in the Kamahi Care Centre. Quite an impressive list!

In May, Kathy Lye resigned to begin a job at the Education Review Office. Neil Booth, retired principal of Hutt Intermediate, became Relieving Principal in July. He will take the school through to its closure at the end of 2004. From his early impressions of the school, one of the aspects Neil commented on was the care and support which the senior children exhibit when they are on office duty and in their capacity as a 'buddy' to new entrants. "This is something special to our school."



On the 31st October the school will celebrate its forty-year history with past pupils, staff, and parents returning to the school for luncheon and get-together. The present school community will also be involved with a concert and refreshments. A final good-bye is planned for the last day of school.





*Miss Isaac's class*



*Miss Odlum's class*



*Mrs Ritossa's class*



*Mrs Johnson's class*



*Mrs Bushnell's class*



*Mrs Gordon and Mrs Christenson*



## Kamahi Care Centre and Kamahi Kids Holiday Programme

Bronwyn Thompson was co-opted on to the Board of Trustees in 2000 to investigate after-school care as the school community had expressed a wish to have such a facility. However, later that year it was noted that: "Despite an excellent effort by Bronwyn to establish this programme [there is] a very disappointing result with the lack of parental support, particularly given the initial positive indications from the community."

It wasn't until April 2002 that the Kamahi Care Centre was finally up and running thanks to Kathy Lye and Bronwyn Thompson. "This is an exciting development in Kamahi's school life" [newsletter]. The Kamahi Care Centre (K.C.C.) had the use of room six but went to the hall kitchen for afternoon tea and some activities. In July it was noted that the centre was "going well, however extra help needed." [BOT minutes]. Lynda Holmes was supervisor in the afternoons, Karlyne Marsh worked the morning shift and Natalie Jones was reliever. Later Susan Chapman was appointed supervisor with Emma Candy as assistant.

In August 2002 KCC became OSCAR (Outside School Care and Recreation) registered and Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) approved. The latter allows families the opportunity to get funding from Work and Income New Zealand. "This was a huge task taking hours and hours of work. The school community is indebted to Bronwyn Thompson for the many hours of work put into making this dream a reality." [annual report 2002]

A year later Kamahi Kids Holiday Programme ran for the first time for one week of the September holidays. They had a roll of five full-time students and "the programme went well." [BOT minutes, 09/10/2003]

In October of the same year, K.C.C. received a grant from Department of Social Development to help with purchasing equipment. It was also decided by the Board of Trustees to install a kitchenette in room six, which was completed in July 2004.

In February 2004, Helen Galloway began as co-ordinator for Kamahi Care Centre. The roll had grown to about an average of 12 children per day. Neil Booth, acting principal from July, noted "When I arrive at school I often visit our Kamahi Care Centre and am impressed with the management and organisation, which has developed such a warm and supportive environment, thanks to Susan and Emma."

In August 2004, a field worker for OSCAR visited the centre. The report sent back to the school said: "I would like to commend you and your staff for your ongoing commitment to out of school care and recreation. The children in your after-school programme appeared to be happy, relaxed, and comfortable with their environment."



Kamahi Care Centre is now at full capacity (i.e. 20 children) on Mondays after school, with about 16 on the other afternoons. They are open from 7am to 8:30am and from 3pm to 5:45pm.

## Information Technology

In 1985 the school received a new Brother electronic typewriter for the school secretary and in 1988 the first computer was acquired, an Amiga 500.

By September 1990 it was noted: "In addition to the three word processors and the Amiga computer we already have in the school, we have been fortunate to have had two 'consciousness-raising' sessions with two of our dads. Mr Sorensen showed our junior one to two children how to use a 'touchpad' keyboard and they had a great deal of enjoyment with several programmes involving simple reading and mathematics. Mr Pannu brought along three IBM computers and set them up in the hall for the standard two children, who had a very profitable "computer workshop" with him, learning to use the 'First Choice' software for word processing." [Spartan ]

The school won a fax machine in September 1990.



*Room 4 using the computers in the hall*

Kamahi computerised its records and accounting system in 1991 "in response to the increased administration imposed by Tomorrow's Schools". [Spartan 20/02/1991]



In 1994 a special publishing room was set up in Room 6 for any pupil who had written work to publish. In 1996 it was decided to develop room five into a permanent I.T. (Information Technology) room linking it to the library so that both print and electronic media was available to the pupils. Five IBM computers were installed in August. A modem, CD-ROM drive, and five Windows '95 were purchased in October. A concertina door was also put in between the library and I.T. suite in October.

The Information Technology Suite was completed in 1997 with:

- Cabling (data and power) installed for 12 computers.
- Internet connection in October 1997
- An I.T. support person employed from October 1997.

In 1998 two laptops were purchased – one for the principal and one for the staff. Later that year the Stokes Valley Round Table donated a scanner. Also this year, a Y2K software check was done.

Network Day in May 1999 saw network cabling done throughout the school giving access to all the classrooms. Helen Angus, Mary Jones, Shirley Taylor and Pam Bushnell completed the library automation project using "Access it" software.

In June 1999 a school website was established by Veronica Finn, the I.T. support person at the time: [www.kamahi.school.nz](http://www.kamahi.school.nz).



The Park Royal Hotel donated computers, which gave a total of nine operational computers in the I.T. suite. A mobile phone was also purchased this year as "the staff require one to take on school trips, camps etc." [BOT minutes, 19/07/1999]

In 2000 a server (computer) for the school was purchased to increase the efficiency of the network. A video camera, digital camera and six C.D.players were purchased also. In May 2000 Kamahi changed to Saturn for telephone/television/cable/ internet.

In 2001, Shell New Zealand Ltd donated computers (14 in all), printers, fax machines, and other computer accessories. "Their donation is warmly received and will be put to great use within the I.T. suite and classrooms by both pupils and staff." [newsletter] The school changed its e-mail address from [kampupil@hug.co.nz](mailto:kampupil@hug.co.nz) to [admin@kamahi.school.nz](mailto:admin@kamahi.school.nz). This facility was available for notifying absences or contacting staff, etc. The school also purchased a datashow this year.

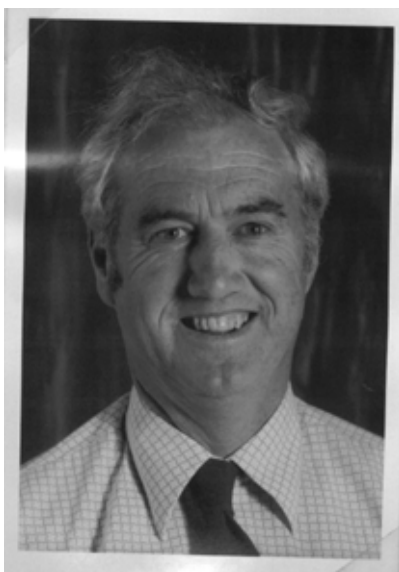
In 2002 Transpower N.Z. Ltd donated 10 computers. Microsoft Office Suite was now available on the computers. In May, Telecom and Rocom donated two cellular phones for school and Kamahi Care Centre use. These phones were very "up market" and much appreciated by the staff. Victoria Link made a donation of network equipment which was used to extend the school's network capabilities.



A working party was set up this year to review the I.T. needs from both a software and hardware perspective. Initially it was thought that computer equipment may need to be leased in order to adequately resource this valuable area of learning. However, the generous donation of equipment and the tireless efforts of the working party meant that not only is the school now very well resourced in this area, it also owns the equipment. A new printer was purchased for the office and new server software. Training for staff was given in various aspects of I.T., from how to get the best out of the digital camera, through to more specialised training in some of the software used in the school.

By 2004 the computer suite had reached a total of thirty machines capable of catering for a whole class of children, with a support person, Sharon Sunderland, employed to help both pupils and staff.

## Headteachers and Principals



**Alan W. Scott**

February 1964 to August 1976

Appointed to Fraser Crescent School

Later moved to the Hawkes Bay.

Died August 1997



**Jim Walker**

February 1977 to October 1983

Retired.

Died May 1999



**Peter Jones**

January 1984 to December 1988

Became principal of Rata Street School.

Current principal of Tawa Intermediate School.



**Andy Lovell**

June 1989 to December 1990

Moved to Rotorua.

Current principal of Raumati School



**Steve Carter**

Term 2 1991 to May 2001

Current principal of Turatura School, Hawera



**Kathy Lye**

October 2001- July 2004

Currently working for the Education Review Office, Wellington.

## School Committee

The School Committee was responsible for the day-to-day management of the school eg. ensuring there was enough coal for the boiler, or ordering art supplies. They made requests to the Education Board to get funding for maintenance, equipment and staffing. "All powerful Board Officers" dealt with these requests. The School Committee had very limited financial control. Fundraising and "working bees" tended to be carried out by the Home and School Association.

The inaugural meeting of the Householders' and Ratepayers' was held at Stokes Valley School in November 1963. The following people were appointed commissioners to serve the school until the elections were held the next year:

Mr B. Mills (Chairman)	Mr P. Hartley (Secretary)
Mr G. Howard (Treasurer)	Mr K. Honare
Mr R. Jullian	Mr T. Wallis
Mr N. Smith	Mrs D. Robinson
Mrs R. McKendry	

This group was elected as the School Committee in April 1964. Mr P. Hartley, on his transfer from the district, was replaced with Mrs R. McKendry, as secretary from the beginning of August, 1964.

"Monthly meetings of the commissioners were held during the year together with numerous sub-committee meetings, and every member of the committee conscientiously made every effort to be present at these meetings.

"Many meetings were held with Education Board Officers, to discuss our problems. Through these initial contacts we were successful in having the school up-graded as far as provision of equipment was concerned.

"We were able to help secure improvements in the basic plan for schools of this type, namely: the provision of an outside light at the end of the building to save possible broken ankles etc when parents are attending evening meetings; the provision of a tap at the dental clinic to save the caretaker carrying water in buckets from the school to clean clinic windows and the milk stand; the provision of more opening windows in the classrooms to help give better ventilation and cooler conditions in the warmer weather." [From the report of the first annual meeting of Householders' and Ratepayers', 1965 written by Keitha McKendry]

The committee introduced a voluntary levy for the school families to pay. Most homes paid and it brought in about £220.

The Committee was re-elected in 1965 with 35 people attending their A.G.M.

In July 1966 the school inspectors noted: "The Committee has been very active and in addition to the many negotiations with Board necessary with the problems of a new school, have been helpful in the provision of such items as infant apparatus, library books, S.R.A. equipment, radio and speakers, football jerseys and basketball gyms, etc.

The Committee members were:

1967	Mr Mills (Chairman)	Mrs McKendry (Secretary)
	Mr Stephens (Treasurer)	Mrs O'Brien
	Mr Ross	Mr Smith
	Mr Honare	Mr Evans
	Mr Donnell	
1969:	J. Ross (Chairman)	R. Peach (Secretary)
	B. Godman (Treasurer)	R. Henderson
	E. Dunn	W. Coleman
	A. Donnell	B. Cappleman
	V. Van Dorrestein	
1971:	Mr M. Calvert (Chairman)	Mr P. Dawes (Secretary)
	Mrs M. Norris (Treasurer)	Mrs Dell
	Mr P. Odlin	Mr K Semple
	Mr G. Anstis	Mr W Stoup
	Mr K. Domney	
1973:	Mr P. Dawes (Chairman)	Mr K. Semple (Secretary)
	Mrs M. Ross (Treasurer)	Mrs P. Publitz
	Mr G. Brown	Mr A. Chapman
	Mr G. Hastings	Mr Wynn-Jones
	Mr R. Williams	
1975:	Mr Paul Davidson (Chairman)	Mr Brian Ellis (Secretary)
	Mrs Margaret Ross (Treasurer)	Mrs P. Publitz
	Mr R. Tonks	Mr R. Harris
	Mr R Williams	Mr D. Bucknall
	Mr R. Hogan	

No other names have been recorded for the subsequent years. In 1983 it was felt that the School Committee and the Home and School Association (H&S Assoc.) were working very much in isolation. The decision was made to combine both groups so that the work traditionally done by the H&S Assoc. would reflect the goals the Committee had for the school. The 'School Council' replaced the School Committee in 1983, which was replaced by the Board of Trustees in 1989.



*Neve (left) and Tara dressed in school sport's uniforms. Tara is wearing the smock her mother wore when she was at school*

## Home and School Association

This group was established as a fundraising and social group for the wider school community. The Home and School Association (or H.&S.) initially met once or twice a term and held talks on various education topics. Much of what the Home and School Association did is now carried out by the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (P.T.F.A.) which was started in 1990.

The first Home and School meeting was held on the 23rd of March 1964. 85 people were present, representing 65 families, with some apologies (!)

Committee elected:

Mr. M. H. Veitch (President)	Mrs. J. E. Ross (Secretary)
Mr. K. H. Sutton (Vice President)	Mr. M. Morgan (Staff Rep)
Mr. G. Howard (School Committee Representative)	Mr. D. Marshall
Mr. R. Hay	Mr. L. Coker



Gala Day 1965: Mr K. Sutton (President H&S), with Mr Dowse (Lower Hutt Mayor) and Mr Scott (Head teacher)

There was another good turnout for the annual meeting in 1965, with 87 people present. A 'Baths Investigating Committee' was set-up. In 1966 with 80 people attending the annual meeting a "Gala Committee" was formed. Mr K. Sutton was president again this year.

A record 103 were present at the annual meeting in 1967. Business included provision for a gala, bottle drive, socials and six meetings a year. Officers elected were:

Mr E. Pirie (President)	
Mr M. Veitch (Senior Vice President)	
Mr L. Frickleton (Junior Vice president)	
Mrs J. Ross (Secretary)	Mr R. Hay
Mrs A. Frickleton	Mrs S. Goddard
Mrs B. Batie	Mr P. Jenkins
Mrs L. Frater	Mr R. Doidge
Mr P. Odlin	Mr R. Hay
Mr R. Stephens (Treasurer)	

The fundraising ideas were many and varied. In 1968 the H.&S. decided not to hold a gala, but to concentrate on manning the Industrial Fair gates and a coffee/soup stall. In August 1970, \$100 was raised by H.&S. members on the gates of the National Dog Show. By June 1971 \$1,764 had already been raised by the H.&S. with a "good keen Executive." In 1972, the H.&S. tendered and painted two N.Z.B.C. rooms. It was a massive effort resulting in about \$350 profit.

Mr D. Williams was re-elected president in 1973 with an executive of 18. Forty people were present at the 1974 annual meeting. President Mr C. Gorman with a "strong executive." The fundraising target of \$3,000 was exceeded by \$165.

At the A.G.M. of Home and School in February 1983 the newly elected Committee gave public support to proceed with the formation of a School Council, combining the H.&S. and School Committee.



## School Council

On the 18th April 1983 the first elections for the School Council were held. Prior to that a beautification scheme planned by a group of H. & S. had got started but work was stopped by the chairman of the School Committee as he did not approve. This was to add determination to bringing a closer liaison between the two committees: - the H.&S Association and the School Committee, which had been operating quite independently. It was decided to combine the two committees and form a School Council. A special meeting was held and the School Council was elected. No names are recorded.

In 1985 the Council had 20 non-executive members. No names were given.

The Council in 1986 were:

Mrs Lorraine Fitzgerald	Mrs Mary Connor
Mr Malcolm Foster	Mrs Lindy Marr
Mrs Judith Hudson	Mrs Jennifer Williams
Mrs Margaret Cleland	Mrs Morna Cooper
Mrs Linda Perkins	Mrs Phyl Glover
Mrs Martha Prasad	

There was a pre-School-Council-election-social in 1987 held in the school hall for parents and friends. As well as being fun, the evening was to help raise funds for a School Video and T.V. [Spartan] The event raised \$600 but no mention of the election

Mr G. Smith (Chairman)	Mrs P. Glover (Treasurer)
Mrs L. Marr (Secretary)	Mr G. Mackay
Mrs Fitzgerald	Mrs M. Connor
Mrs J. Taylor	Mr C. Carey
Mrs J. Hudson	Mrs M. Cleland
Mrs B. Betteridge	Mr L. Williams
Mr M. Foster	Mr A. Tulloch
Mr P. Williams	Mrs C. Peebles
Mr B. Dewar	Mrs L. Jones

In 1988 at the A.G.M. it was noted "All school committee returned. Very poor turnout of parents (one other than committee present)"

In 1989 the School Council was replaced with the Board of Trustees as part of Tomorrow's Schools and the increased focus on communities deciding how their schools were run. Kamahi School had been fortunate to have such strong community involvement already, with its School Council.



*School hall taken about 1990 (above) and the newly completed ramp and steps taken 21<sup>st</sup> October 2004.*

## Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (P.T.F.A.)

On the 13th July 1989, a meeting was held in the school library to elect the committee for the Kamahi School P.T.F.A. "The primary function of this association will be to promote activities and gatherings designed to develop interpersonal relationships within the school family, between teachers, parents, and the wider community. An emphasis will also be placed on the value of participation by friends of the school such as neighbours, grandparents, or retired folk who do not necessarily have direct contact with the school otherwise."

A year later it was noted "Kamahi School is fortunate to have an extremely supportive parent body and the activities of the P.T.F.A. reflect this support. Recent activities include a mid-winter family disco, a family skating evening, the erection of a community notice board, and the annual fund-raising pizza extravaganza." [Spartan] The Pizza Extravaganza involved the P.T.F.A. making 2000 pizzas to sell to the community. They made \$2000.

By 1994, there was a concern about too few members in the P.T.F.A. However, they continued to do a great job. "Year by year it becomes increasingly more difficult to

make our operational grant cover all expenses.

Fixed costs seem to rise each year making the discretionary dollars less and less. Without help from



*One of the many working bees organized by the P.T.F.A.*

P.T.F.A. extras would not be a reality." [Elaine Hines Chairperson's Annual Report 1994]

Due to poor turnouts and two resignations, the P.T.F.A. was again threatened with closure in 1995. However there was enough support at a meeting on the 1st May, to enable it to continue. The format was slightly modified with a chief liaison officer instead of a president. The P.T.F.A. managed to raise over \$4300 for the year. They held a very successful quiz night at the rugby clubrooms and a car raffle. The later was a major fundraiser every year for about 10 years. Books were sent home to all the families for selling, and the P.T.F.A. sold more tickets on the streets. In 1995, this raised \$2500.

By 1997, members of the PTFA were numbering nearly 20. Close to \$4700 was raised this year through fundraising. An Alison Holst evening (jointly run with Holborn Kindergarten) and the horse racing evening (at the Stokes Valley R.S.A.) were the major fundraisers for 1997. [See main section for more details] The P.T.F.A. also sold wall hangings (teatowels) with self-portraits of each of the children on them. P.T.F.A. members built a new retaining wall around the room seven garden replacing the crumbling brick one. A car raffle was run again this year and in November, the P.T.F.A. had the Stokes Valley swimming pool for the annual swimming night. The first car boot sale, run by the P.T.F.A., at the school, went well. It was hoped to continue them fortnightly but this did not happen. In 1997, Denise Dewar resigned after 10 years, the past seven on the P.T.F.A.

"The success of the events committee and P.T.F.A. depends on everyone's contribution for the benefit of all Kamahi students. All the extras that our school provides would not be possible if we all took the 'I'm too busy' approach. Thankfully our school has some parents who are prepared to give valuable time to help make a difference and separate us from the crowd." [Elaine Hines Chairperson's Report 1997]

In 1998 the P.T.F.A. explored the possibility of changing the school uniform. In September, a McDonalds' evening was held. Tickets were pre-sold for a meal at McDonalds and volunteers served the food. In November, a school disco was held with entry either a tin of food for the civil defence supplies or one-dollar. Over 100 tins were received. Also this year the P.T.F.A. ran monthly housie evenings at the local Cosmopolitan Club, in conjunction with the other schools in the valley.

The P.T.F.A. had 'compost drives' in 1999 selling garden products to the community. A horse racing evening was held again, this time at the Stokes Valley Cosmopolitan Club, and raised \$2200.

The P.T.F.A. ran two school discos and the annual pool night at Stokes Valley pool in 2000. They sold food, drink and raffle tickets at these events. They had another two compost drives and continued to sell sausages, Moosies and Juicies (iceblocks) at lunchtime on Friday's. Calendars were made by the children and sold as a fundraiser by the P.T.F.A. at the end of the year and this has been a regular event each year since. They made \$600 from the calendars the first year. Also this year they sold named swim bags and sun block

In 2001 the P.T.F.A. chairperson was Graham Stephens, with secretary ,Tracey Tunnell, and treasurer, Hilary Neighbours. The P.T.F.A. continued to sell sausages, Juicies and Moosies every Friday to the pupils. The price of the latter had been increased to 80 cents. (Sausages remained at \$1.) Selling of spring bulbs was one fundraiser done this year (which raised \$270), as well as organising food and entertainment stalls at the Top School Competition. School discos in June and November were run by the P.T.F.A. who made money on the food and drinks sold. 'Positive-Negative Photos' (black and white) were also done as a fundraiser.

In 2002 the P.T.F.A. again struggled to get enough members. The difficulty in recruiting new members and getting people to attend meetings was noted. However a list of people offering their services was available for one-off tasks, which seemed to work well. Spring bulbs and Easter buns were sold as well as the calendars and black and white photographs. Kamahi School took part in the largest nation-wide school fundraising campaign ever - a school cookie campaign developed by the New Zealand Parent Teachers Association to help schools raise funds for much-needed projects. \$1200 was raised for the junior playground from this fundraiser. Sausages and Juicies continued to be sold on Fridays. The latter was increased to \$1 each.

In 2003, despite having no committee, as such, the willing parents of Kamahi managed to keep up with fundraising making a total of over \$6000 this year. Spring bulbs, cookies, hot cross buns, calendars and the usual sausages/juicies and moosies were sold. They helped with the school Gala, the interschool Run, Jump and Throw and a school disco.

The current P.T.F.A. have met twice this year to decide on fundraising events and what to spend these funds on. Hilary Neighbours acts as P.T.F.A. treasurer. The weekly sausages and Juicies continue to be good money-earners. The P.T.F.A. has been able to pay for several visitors to the school this year including 'Mini Beats', 'The Farm Show' and Dick Weir (storyteller). They also paid for all the children to see the movie 'The Cat and the Hat' in Lower Hutt and have helped with the funding for the Jubilee Celebrations in October.

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees (B.O.T.) took over the governance of the school, from the School Council, with the beginning of Tomorrow's Schools in 1989. It inherited much of the statutory power of the education boards, including hiring staff, dealing with property matters and full financial control of the school through 'bulk funding'. The trustees were and still are representatives of the school community, who provide leadership in setting the goals for the school, and are accountable for the way the school is run.

The first Board of Trustee elections were held on the 29th April 1989. There were six parent representatives, one staff representative, and the principal. The first B.O.T. was Mr Andy Tulloch (chairman), David Fitzgerald, Phylis Glover, Angela Offord, Sharon Zwart, Keith James, Raewyn Walton (staff), Brenda Henderson (P.T.F.A.). One of their first tasks was to take over the financial running of the school, when bulk funding began in February 1990. "Our Board of Trustees has been working very hard to get ready for their responsibilities. The budget is the major concern at the moment."

In 1991, David Fitzgerald was chairperson. "In response to the increased administration imposed by Tomorrow's Schools, Kamahi has computerised its records and accounting system and Mr Ian Clark has accepted the position of part-time bursar." [Spartan 20/02/1991]

Elaine Hines took over as chairperson in 1993 with David Fitzgerald, Lloyd Laurent, Debbie Costello, Angela Offord, Brenda Henderson, Raewyn Walton (staff).

In 1994 David Fitzgerald and Angela Offord resigned after six years on the Board and were replaced by Waring/ Inglis/Matthews? Julia Tohiariki took over as bursar.

Between 1994 and 1999 the Board and the P.T.F.A. joined forces and together organised some major fundraisers including the quiz night, the horse racing evening and the Alison Holst evening.

The decision was made, in 1995, to reduce the number of parent representatives on the Board of Trustees from six to five. However, later that year Sue Reid was co-opted on for four months to help finalise the school's prospectus. The B.O.T. was Steve Mooney (chairperson), Stewart Brodie, Elaine Hines, Debbie Costello, Mere Toss-Davidson. Jill Cherry took over as bursar.

In 1996 Shirley Nesbitt became staff representative and Dean Burt was appointed after Debbie Costello resigned.

Alan Freshwater was elected in 1997 to replace Mere Toss-Davidson. Alena Burt was appointed the board secretary replacing Debbie Morgan.

Heather Isaac was staff representative in 1998, and Board elections saw seven nominations for the positions. Steve Mooney (chairperson), Stewart Brodie, Dean Burt, Elaine Hines, and Yvonne McIlvenny made up the B.O.T. Genny Jarvis became the third bursar in 6 months after Jill Cherry and Janet Talbot. Ian Reid was co-opted onto Board to help with shade project for pool area, junior playground and area in front of hall.

Gillian Johnson was the new staff representative in 1999. On the 17th May at the Kamahi School A.G.M., 10 years of trusteeship was celebrated with invitations sent to all past and present Board members and staff.

In 2000 Stewart Brodie resigned and Rachel Harvie was appointed. Bronwyn Thompson was co-opted on, to investigate after school care. Noel Chadwick took over as bursar in July. After 18 months of development the B.O.T. completed the new school charter, and a strategic plan for the years 2000 - 2004.

The new Board in 2001 was Dean Burt (chairperson), Debbie Sullivan, Rachel Harvey, Tony Neighbours (Property), Bronwyn Thompson (Kamahi Care Centre), and Cherie St. Just (staff). Rose Schrijvers was appointed board secretary.

Raewyn Roberts took over as staff representative in 2002. Rachel Harvie resigned and Tupu Williams was appointed.

Rebecca McLaren was appointed from August 2003 replacing Debbie Sullivan. Viv Sutton became the new Board Administration Person.

Following the 2004 elections Derek McInnes was elected chairman with Dean Burt, Rebecca McLaren (finances), Tony Neighbours (property), Karen Treloar, and Kim Odlim (staff). Catherine Ravenhall was later appointed after Karen resigned.

This Board will cease to exist on the 31st of December. The Board of Stokes Valley School, now known as the Continuing Board, will run Koraunui School until March 2005, when new elections will be held.



## School's Roll over the years

These figures have been taken from the roll at the beginning of each year up until 1992 when the 1st of July figures are used. These are the rolls the Ministry uses to determine funding for the next year. As each year progressed obviously the numbers increased as New Entrants arrived. The highest the roll ever got to be, was in December 1969 and again in December 1972 when 407 pupils were enrolled at Kamahi School.

The roll in October 2004 is 184.

