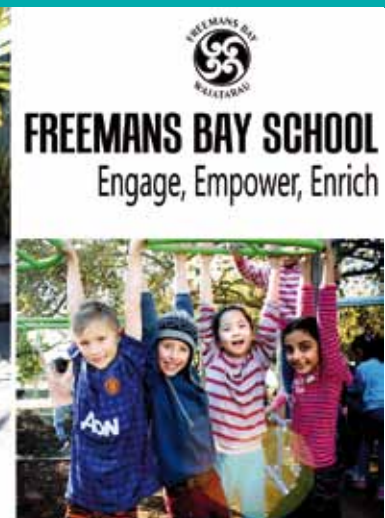


Napier Street-Freemans Bay School

The First 125 Years

1888-2013

Published in 2013 on the occasion of the 125th Jubilee of Freemans Bay School



Freemans Bay School is

A green oasis for play and learning

Informed by a strong Maori perspective

Where a United Nations of students

Become confident, caring and respectful learners

Who are at the centre of a 21st century learning environment

Engaged in a broad curriculum using the latest teaching methods

Involving all of our community to enhance learning.



Auckland Weekly News, 1924

Sir George Grey Special Collections. Auckland Libraries. AWNS-1924/0724-48-1



Sara Jenkins



Welcome from BOT chair

A 125th jubilee is an opportunity to reflect for a few moments on the past. When Napier Street School opened in 1888, Freemans Bay was a very different place. Sandwiched between the central city and the far western suburb of Ponsonby (whose few residents at the time were, therefore, Auckland's original Westies), Freemans Bay was already densely populated with Auckland's working class.

The bay itself extended inland as far as the beach below Drake St, and was bounded by cliffs in the west along what is now Beaumont St, and in the east by a long-ago-quarried headland north of Nelson St. The bay had been used for centuries by local Maori, who knew it by various names including Waiatarau ('place of reflecting waters'). Reclamation of the bay took 40 years, culminating with the opening of Victoria Park in 1905.

Many of the school's students came from the cheek-by-jowl cottages in the area bounded by Nelson St, Wellesley St, Union St and Wellington St. Most of those dwellings are long gone, demolished by the Auckland City Council's "urban reclamation" programme in the 1950s and 60s, and the few that remained were removed for the motorway in the mid-1970s. Until the motorway went through, Napier St was a major street linking Franklin Rd and Union St, parallel to and just as important as Wellington St.

For its first 90 years the school opened out onto Napier St – hence the name. Houses lined what is now the school boundary on Wellington St. Only Rupa's store remains. Houses also lined Hepburn St where the big adventure playground now stands.

Behind them was a long, deep gully, so the school occupied only the upper part now occupied by the "old" classroom block and the netball courts.

In the 125 years of the school's existence its student population has reflected huge demographic changes. In the late 1940s Maori all over the country began to move into the cities, and in Auckland many of them settled in Freemans Bay.

In the late 1950s the migration of Pacific people into Auckland began, and increased significantly in the 1960s and 70s. Again, many settled in Freemans Bay and their children attended Napier St School, often arriving without a word of English.

In the 1970s the worldwide trend towards inner-city gentrification began, gathering pace in the 80s and 90s until these days Freemans Bay is one of the most expensive parts of Auckland – a fact which would have astonished parents at the school only a couple of generations ago. Immigration rule changes in the 1990s have added another layer to the story, enabling people from countries the world over to move to New Zealand, most of them to Auckland, where many of them live – at least initially – in the new multi-storey apartment buildings in the CBD.

The result is that Freemans Bay School enjoys one of the most diverse student populations of any school in the country, which we celebrate as a strength. The school is also enriched by the presence of Whānau Ata, in which the curriculum is taught in



Peter Bateman

Welcome From BOT chair (continued)...

Te Reo Māori and according to tikanga Māori. Whānau Ata itself celebrates 25 years this year as a bilingual and now a full immersion unit, or rumaki reo.

My best wishes go to everyone involved in celebrating this vibrant and friendly school's first 125 eventful years, and my thanks to Sandra and to all our talented and dedicated staff for helping to make serving on the Board of Trustees as much a pleasure as it is a privilege.

Peter Bateman
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Sara Jenkins



Sara Jenkins



Sara Jenkins

School history by quarter century

1888 to 1913: The foundation years

The school's original wooden building was a two-storey octagonal design which featured a tower office in which the headmaster sat with a window looking into each of six classrooms. The design was intended to revolutionise school architecture but was soon found to have serious drawbacks and was not repeated elsewhere in Auckland.

The building was situated on a slope. The six upper rooms were used as classrooms, each one of which gave onto an exterior veranda, and also onto a central interior space used as an assembly hall. The four basement rooms were found to be unsuitable for teaching and were used for storage.

Further land was acquired

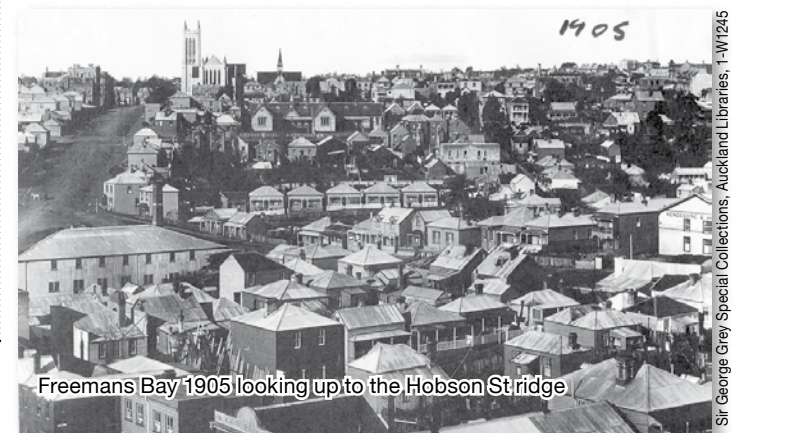
in 1912 and the following year a three-roomed brick infant building was opened. More adjacent land was purchased between 1920 and 1925.

In that pre-motorway era Napier St and Wellington St both ran from Franklin Rd to Union St. Houses lined what is now the Wellington St frontage of the school, and houses also lined Hepburn St on both sides in the block between Wellington and Napier. The school buildings were situated behind the houses on Wellington St, with the grounds facing north onto Napier St and the main entrance.

Between the houses on the city side of Hepburn St and the school lay a gully, which came to be used as a dumping ground for all manner



School circa 1900



Freemans Bay 1905 looking up to the Hobson St ridge



Auckland War Memorial Museum

of rubbish. The school took children up to Standard Six (now called Year 8) and would do so until 1976. Cooking classes were held at Richmond Road School, and end of year concerts were held at the Hibernian Hall at the top of Wellington St.

1913 to 1938: Working-class unity

In 1913 a competition among students was held to decide a school motto. The winner was student W. Rainbow's suggestion, *Do Well and Doubt Not*, which remained the school's motto until nearby Beresford Street School was closed and Napier Street School was re-named Freemans Bay School, more than 60 years later. A new two-storey brick building opened in 1926 containing

six rooms. It went on to last for 50 years. The old hexagonal wooden building was sold for removal in 1927.

The Freemans Bay area at this time was densely populated and was among the poorest and most tight-knit communities in New Zealand. Socialist ideals and movements flourished here. The school's roll grew to more than 600.

“DO WELL
AND
DOUBT NOT”



School motto



School photo 1928



School photo 1936

1938 to 1963: Demolition and disruption

Auckland's post-war expansion saw new, more spacious suburbs open up. The school roll fell so that by the mid-1950s it was down to 300

Post-war, Maori began to move from rural areas to inner-city Auckland, and nowhere was cheaper to rent or buy than Freemans Bay.

The chairman of the school committee in this period was Bob Elsander, who served in that role for more than 20 years, from 1939 to well into the 1960s. One of his key projects was to gradually fill in the gully, and in 1961 the mayor of Auckland, Dove-Myer Robinson, opened the new playing field situated on top of the gully.

In 1950 the Auckland City Council, concerned at the poor state of housing in Freemans Bay, declared an urban reclamation programme in which more

than 300 acres of existing housing would be cleared to create an industrial zone around Nelson St and new medium-density multi-storey communities elsewhere.

Demolition of more than 1000 houses carried on during the 1950s and up until the mid-60s, and the school roll shrank accordingly. In the end, less than a third of the area planned for demolition was actually levelled.

However entire blocks were left as vacant land for years, including two blocks adjacent to the school: one block to the west bounded by Wellington St, Franklin Rd, Napier St and Hepburn St; the other to the south bounded by Wellington St, Howe St, Beresford St and Hepburn St. The council eventually built social housing developments on these sites.



Napier Street School circa 1960. Wellington St runs along the top.



School netball team 1954



1963 to 1988: The Polynesian era

This period saw the large-scale arrival of immigrants from the Pacific Islands which, when added to the existing Maori population, made up a student community which by 1973 was 97% Polynesian.

In 1968 the council abandoned the urban reclamation plan, meaning owners of the surviving old houses now had some certainty that they would not be demolished. In the years that followed many of the old houses began to be repaired and renovated for the first time in decades.

In 1973 the 1926 main block was condemned as an earthquake risk, and a new infant block was built in 1974. At around the same time Napier St – which had lost most of its housing in the preceding 20 years – was

closed off for construction of the motorway to the harbour bridge. The houses along Hepburn St and Wellington St were also demolished in the 1970s (the only one left is Rupa's), and land was taken from the north-east corner of the school as motorway construction proceeded on the city side. Amid this chaos the students were taught in pre-fabs until a new senior block was opened in 1978 (the 1926 building had been demolished the previous year).

In 1976 the school lost its Year 7 and 8 students due to the opening of Ponsonby Intermediate School. At the end of 1977 Beresford St School was closed to allow Auckland Girls' Grammar to expand, and its students relocated to Napier St, the new combined school opening in 1978 as Freemans Bay School.



1988 to 2013: Gentrification and cultural diversity

In 1988 Whānau Ata received official recognition and funding as a Maori Immersion Unit. By the late 1990s much of the council's social housing had been sold to private buyers. The school's roll declined sharply as many often large families (renting) moved out and were replaced by owners with no or few children.

During this period immigration rules were relaxed, allowing migrants from a much wider range of countries to become residents of New Zealand. Many of them settled, at least initially, in the central city and enrolled their children at Freemans Bay School.

This process of immigration has continued so that today the school has students from more than 40 cultures from

across the world. The current administration block was built in 1996 and contained a community room, staffroom and library, as well as office space.

In 2008 the Ministry of Education required the school to set up an enrolment area, commonly known as a zone, comprising Freemans Bay and the entire downtown central business district. Existing students who lived outside this new zone – a significant proportion at the time – remained at the school but new enrolments could only be taken from students living in-zone. Over the next few years the out-of-zone students graduated so that now the majority of the student roll comes from in-zone.

By this time the junior block built in 1974 was discovered to be subsidizing and in need of urgent replacement. A new two-storey classroom block opened in 2010 and now



Wharf timber unearthed during Victoria Park tunnel build

houses Whānau Rau on the ground floor and Whanau Wai on the top floor.

Fund-raising for a hall began in 2002 and has been successful but a hall is yet to be built, because in 2012 the Ministry recognised the school's future building requirements to be so substantial that the school was placed in the Ministry's New Schools Build Programme. The hall will be built along with the

other new buildings planned.

In 2013 the school stands on the brink of its fourth re-invention, as all existing buildings except the 2010 two-storey block and the Reading Recovery room will make way for a new design over the next two or three years.



Aerial view of the school in 2006 -photo, Auckland City Council

Principals Past

E. T. Hart	May 1888-August 1892
Charles M. Carter	1892-July 1919
Nelson T. Lambourne	1919-March 1920
John M. Warn	1920-April 1926
Percy J. Sefton	1926-March 1930
Farquhar J. McKay	1930-1942
B. W. Hayson	1943-1948
Frank Thomas	1949-1959
Tom Davies	1959-1962
Arch Jelley	1963-1965
John Sinclair	1966-1969
N.W.I. Pearson	1970-1971
Allan Fenwick	1971-1984
Eric MacMillan	1985-1986
Val Griffiths	May 1987-1992
Judy Hucker	1992-2000
Malcolm Milner	2001-2007
Sandra Jenkins	2007-present

Judy Hucker Deputy Principal 1987-1989 Principal 1992-2000

Freemans Bay School has a special place in my heart.

I live in the community it serves, my family grew up here and I loved my time working with the children, their parents, teaching colleagues and staff, and boards of trustees.

The school faced major challenges during this time. The sale of the Auckland City Council flats had a major impact on school families and the community. The roll was growing and the buildings were inadequate and under code. We rebuilt the adminis-

tration and community room area, and covered in the courtyard so we could have gatherings, powhiri, assemblies, and festive occasions for the whole school. We constructed new classrooms and faced the problems of building on fill and dealing with complicated drainage issues.

The diverse nature of the school population meant that it was always an interesting, vibrant and creative place to work. The staff were innovative and committed to ensuring the children were immersed in an effective learning environment. Ruth Lorimer and Sue Dunleavy as Deputy and Assistant Principals played leading roles in curriculum development. Our focus was on teaching and learning that took account of the different needs of our pupils. We worked on assessment and evaluation. We used achieve-

ment data to plan teaching programmes which recognised what children knew and what the next step in their learning was. At this time I was supported by the Board to work in Wellington as an advisor on the national assessment and evaluation policy.

The bilingual unit had been established and in 1995 we extended Whānau Ata by establishing an immersion class to operate alongside the bilingual unit.

This was in response to the larger number of children graduating from the local Kohanga Reo. It was at this time that the parents of Whānau Ata formed a parent and student Kapa Haka group to support their children's learning of tikanga. This developed into a strong and vital group which practised weekly and contributed positively to the life of the unit and the school.

At this time we introduced Pacific Island language programmes in Cook Island Maori, Samoan and Niuean to support second language learners for whom these languages were their mother tongue.

I would like to acknowledge Maria Tia and Sally Gordon, the two Board chairs with whom I had the privilege to work. And of course no account of Freemans Bay School would be complete without mention of Mike, the marvellous caretaker for the past thirty years and more.

My time at Freemans Bay School still brings back warm memories. One that stands out was of a student who had started school as a five year old in my class when I was DP and who came to see me on her last day as a seventh former and head prefect at Auckland Girls' Grammar. She said "Judy, you were there

on my first day of school and I wanted to see you today because this is my last day at school." This was a special moment for me and over the years it has given me great pleasure and satisfaction to see the children who went to Freemans Bay grow into confident, competent and fully engaged adults, some now with children of their own.



Judy Hucker



1996 the summer hat policy is announced

Malcolm Milner Principal 2001-2007

I became principal of Freemans Bay School in 2001. The school community mirrored the ethnic mix of Auckland and this diversity always made it a vibrant and interest-

ing place in which to work. I particularly enjoyed working with the Board of Trustees, with a special mention for Harry Howe who was board chair.

I remember the parent community as also being very supportive of all we were trying to achieve. We had some wonderful community events which became part of the school culture: pantomimes, fiestas, art evenings, even a visit from the

rock band The White Stripes, who performed – loudly – in the courtyard. Educationally the school made real advances in providing high quality learning through the

Learning Pathways and integrated curriculum. The staff were always keen to be involved in professional development and Billie Sturgiss and Sue Dunleavy, our very loyal and hard working deputy principals, ensured this learning was applied in the classroom programmes. Of particular note was the wonderful art that was created in every kind of medium imaginable.

During this time Whānau Ata also became a full immersion unit. This was a very positive decision for the tamariki. The kaiako under Whaea Machelles leadership developed a curriculum which was meaningful for all.

My fondest memories are of the children themselves. Seeing their great sense of accomplishment when they brought their work to my office for a Busy Lizzie stamp, sharing their jokes at Friday's assemblies,



Malcom Milner

tramping to the top of the Pinnacles, enjoying our powhiri, and attending Camp Bentzon at Kawau Island were all highlights.

I have many happy memories of my time at Freemans Bay, meeting some wonderful students and their families. Mike Knight and I used to enjoy our times at the crossing on Wellington Street meeting and greeting the locals as they came by. I wish Freemans Bay School all the very best as you celebrate 125 years of amazing service to the children of your community.

Eric McMillan Principal 1985-1986

I was principal at Freemans Bay School during 1985 and 1986. The school had been through some challenging times and positive change was required.

With the School Committee's support and enthusiasm we reorganized the three variable-space units into extended age-range units, and opened up the small classroom-type spaces that had been formed, particularly in the largest unit. We also integrated the special class into the mainstream.

The committee chair, Errolyn Haines-Jones, and the other committee members were strong proponents of these organisational changes,

which were completed quickly. The next major project was the

complete refurbishment of the library. With the support of the Schools' Library Service and parent volunteers we cleared out old

stock and replaced it with new books and modernised procedures.

Given strong support from Maori parents we established a unit which offered some measure of Maori language. Staffing was

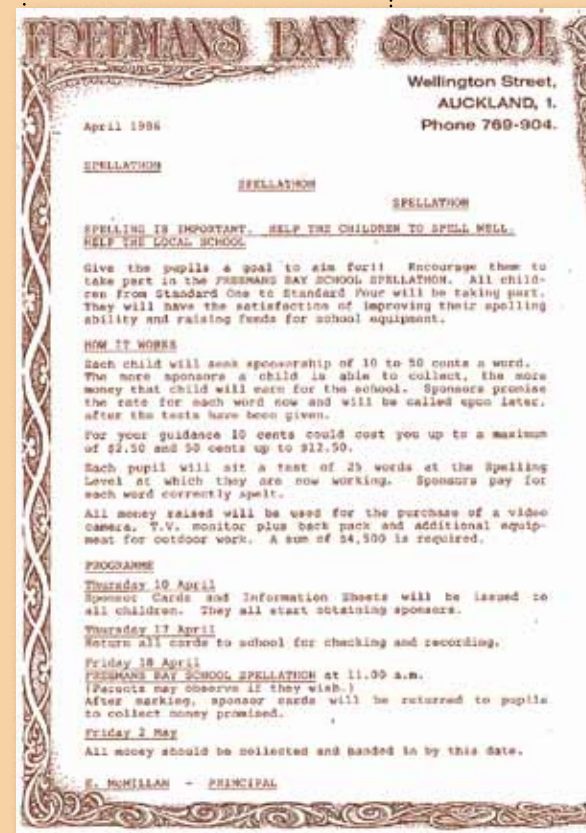


Eric McMillan

difficult, and the language component had to be supported by Māori-speaking teacher aides.

I acknowledge in particular the support and expertise of the three senior staff at the school: deputy principal John Scrimgeour, assistant principal Bev Thompson, and senior teacher Shirley Rourke. Each led a team of teachers in the three variable space units.

Freemans Bay School was and remains a gem of a school supported by a diverse and talented community. You are to be congratulated for the continued development and growing strength of your school.



The White Stripes performing at school



Sara Jenkins



Staff and students, August 2013

Whānau Ata-Rumaki Reo

**Tūtakina i te iwi.
Tūtakina i te toto.
Tūtakina i te kiko.
Tūtakina i te uaua.
Tūtakina kia uu.
Tūtakina kia mau.
Tēnei te rangi ka tuutaki.
Tēnei te rangi ka ruruku.
Tēnei te papa ka wheuka.
E Rangi e, awhitia.
E Papa e, awhitia.
Nāu ka awhi, ka awhi.
Nāu ka āka, ka āka.
Nāu ka toro, ka toro.
Tupu he toka whenua,
tupu he toka Mata-te-rā.**

Te Puawaitanga o Waiatarau Kohanga Reo operated within the Freemans Bay Community Hall in 1982. Nin Tomas was part of a group of parents who approached local primary

schools and lobbied for Te Reo Maori to continue in primary so that the children from the Kohanga Reo could continue to learn Te Reo me ōna tikanga. After some negotiation Freemans Bay School expressed a willingness to offer support. They opened what was known at that time as a Family Group Class.

Parents and supporters once again lobbied, but this time with the Auckland City Council and the Department of Education to recognise the class as a bilingual unit, along with the funding for assistants who were proficient with Te Reo.

This struggle was not easy. It was long and frustrating. Finally, in 1988, recognition and funding was granted, enabling the school to hire a full-time kaiarahi i te reo. The employment of this

person changed the status of the Family Group class to a Bilingual class.

The roll flourished and by the end of 1995 there were four classes, two bilingual and two total immersion. From the onset to where we are today there have been numerous teachers who have been apart of the development and growth of Whānau Ata.

Along with the teachers there have been many, many parents and hundreds of students who have played an integral role in its success.

**Nā te manu i kai i te miro
Nōna te ngahere
Nā te manu i kai i te mātauranga
Nōna te ao**



Sara Jenkins



Sara Jenkins



Whānau Ata, New Entrants to Year 6. Teachers, Kohine Natari & Whaea Machelie



Former pupils of Napier Street School look back



Carrinda Page (nee Pell) 1940-1948

I lived in Cook Street and in Nelson Street. My favourite teacher was the infant/primer one teacher. She used to get me to play the lead roles in Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and to sing "Away in a Manger" at Christmas time. When I moved to standard two, I still played these parts in the plays.

Another favourite teacher was Mr Towers. I liked his poetry lessons and his rendition of the Smuggler's poem by Kipling. He had to leave due to ill health.

He was replaced by Bert Sutcliffe, MBE. He was a New Zealand test cricketer who captained the New Zealand cricket team for four overseas tours and was known as a successful

left-handed batsman. In 1949 he was named the inaugural New Zealand Sportsman of the Year, and in 2000 was named as New Zealand champion sportsperson of the decade for the 1940s. I still have his autograph.

Every morning we had the flag raising assembly. We were lined up from tallest to shortest and we had to stand up tall and straight at attention. We would usually sing a song, which would be conducted by one of the girls, and then march. I enjoyed the marching. We had to look straight ahead and swing our arms! We had dental nurses in the dental clinic and I hated it when it was my turn to go to the "Murder House".

My best school friends were Alice Bickley, Rita Milligan and Wah Ying Chau.

Lucy Foster (nee Pell) 1948-1954

I was brought up by my grandparents at 105 Cook Street. The family was split and the children lived in different households. I enjoyed my years at Napier Street School.

Mr Davies was my favourite teacher, he gave us interesting learning activities and he was not grumpy like the female teachers. I got to know him well as I was in his class for two years. I liked Mr McInnes as well. Both of them were very understanding and kind.

We used to stand on the pavement in bare feet, even on hot sunny days. We had to sing God Save the Queen after King George passed away, and we had a lovely young Queen Elizabeth. When I was in Standard 4 we

went on a school trip up north to Hukatere. We stayed on a farm. It was great fun!

My best school friend was Joyce Donelan, who passed away five years ago. We were together at the last school reunion in 1988. One of the guys was Gordon Sutton. In 1954 I moved to Epsom with my mother and stepfather and went to Normal Intermediate. I went on to Epsom Girls' Grammar until I turned 15.

My grandfather bred wire hair terriers, and my stepfather bought me a spaniel which I trained and showed, so dogs have always been part of my life. I started work in the office at the Farmers Trading Company, and then I trained as a vet nurse at the SPCA in New North Road, and worked in that field for 30 years. In 1991 I set up my own business grooming dogs.

Ken Campbell 1946-1955

I grew up on the corner of Nelson Street and Wellington Street, above the Four Square shop. It was one of three shops in a row, the others two being the fish shop and the Black Cat Dairy. Most of the kids walked to school, although the Form 1 and Form 2 kids were allowed to ride bikes.

Our teachers encouraged us to develop an interest in the trades. I remember when the Auckland Harbour Bridge was being built that the engineers came to talk to us about its construction.

When the trolley buses were put in on Wellington Street we had a presentation all about how they worked. This sparked an interest for me in engineering, which became my area of employment.

Mr Thompson was my favourite teacher. He was my standard four teacher. Most of our teachers were ex-military who took up teaching after service in the Second World War. Their style of teaching was similar to their experience in the armed services: strong discipline and rule by fear. Corporal punishment was dished out with the strap.

Mr Thompson used to walk around and talk to us kids at lunchtime and he was very keen on sport. We respected him, he was kind but firm. He also encouraged sports and set up the gymnastics club. The gym club was often invited to demonstrate our routines to other schools, to encourage them to also run gym clubs.

The Queen Carnival was definitely the highlight. The whole community was involved in this event, which raised funds for school equipment. The Queen

Carnival was a competition. There were two divisions: the primer queen and the standard queen. To win you had to have the best costume and decorated float for the parade, which went along Union Street and Wellington Street. Everyone dressed up for the grand parade. The boys dressed up as soldiers and cowboys and the girls as princesses. I remember that Penny Buchan and Linda Botica won the primer and standard prize. The school was able to buy Singer sewing machines, woodwork tools, gym gear and lots of other equipment because of the annual carnival. Our cash-strapped community dug deep and pulled together for this exciting event.

When we got to Form 1 we went to manual at Vermont Street and the girls went to Richmond Road for cooking. We had clubs at school too, like gym, art, rope and sewing.

The boys loved the woodwork club, it was held in one of the old wartime air raid shelters. We made fruit bowls, boats, machine guns and book cases. Some of us took our skills home and made trolleys and street carts.

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953, we all had a public holiday and received a medal with a little blue band. I still have mine and also my brother's (he has since passed away). I am very proud to have two of these coronation medallions.

My best friend was Edwin (Teddy) Pownell. He lived on Nelson St. His grandparents had a trucking firm and his father was a carpenter. Teddy became a motor mechanic and later worked for Air New Zealand where he was also their union representative.



Wellington and Hepburn streets 1964

Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 580-10940

Reflections from Mike

Caretaker Michael Knight - known to generations of students as Mike - is the longest serving member of staff. He looks back on his 33 years at the school.

I used to be a furniture maker at Karl Katte's workshop in Westmere. When I started here in March 1980 there were only 102 kids on the roll, mostly Maori and Pacific Island, with a few Pakeha. And I remember there was one Chinese girl.

In those days there was only the old junior block (demolished 2009) and the senior block, which also contained the office, library and staffroom. There were only a few trees then.

There was an adventure playground made of steel, then it was replaced with the highest playground you've ever seen. Made of wood. Must've been just before safety laws came in. It was up by the gum tree near the top courts.

There was only one alarm. It was in a big box and you had to get the key into it just right the first time, otherwise it would go off. Helluva loud. One day some people pinched it and were driving over to the Shore with it. The thing went off when they were on the Harbour Bridge. Apparently they panicked and threw the whole thing into the water.

Around 1985 the roll started to pick up. In '96 the current administration block was built. At one stage I put up a sign saying "Eden Park No. 2 Stand" because that's what it looked like half-built.

In the 80s we had a lot of sports here. Other schools would visit to play rugby and netball. Now these events are

bigger they're held at public parks. We also used to have the odd concert. They were always held in the old Whanau Rau building. I ended up in one of them: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

In the late 80s and well into the 90s we used to get street kids hanging around the school at the weekend. One of them lived under the Reading Recovery room for about a month. Each night he'd come back and sleep there. Eventually the police crawled under and found his stash, including a notebook where he'd written down everything he'd stolen. I think he did time.

Before the roof went on above the courtyard in the late 90s there were raised flowerbeds in there. I used to plant radishes in them.

Whānau Ata used to go on marae visits in those days too. The parents had a kapa haka

group that met every Thursday night. One time they went to a marae way down near Wellington. Sometimes the school would organise an overnight camp on the field. One time for the Hero Parade along Ponsonby Rd the school offered the field as car parking, for \$5 a time. The entire field was packed, and the whole netball court too. There were still 20 cars there late the next day.

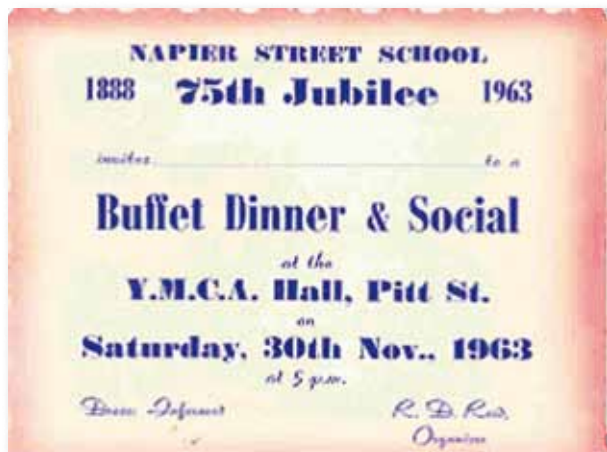
I like everything about the job. It's great to have the kids around and to see them growing up, then leaving, and then some of them come back with their own children. It's good to see them come back. "Oh, Mike, you're still here!" they say.



Mike stands by the mature rubber tree he planted as a sapling in 1983.

Peter Bateman

It's good to see them come back. "Oh, Mike, you're still here!" they say.



What do today's students think of Freemans Bay School?

Freemans Bay School is awesome. It's environmentally friendly school and it respects every culture. It has friendly students and teachers, and you can definitely make lots of friends. Freemans Bay gives you lots of opportunities like going to camp, trips and fun activities during Funky Fridays.

Freemans Bay School is special because we celebrate lots of different events throughout the year such as art week, pool party and the Italian Festival. Friendships at Freemans Bay are awesome because our school is so multicultural. Our school is very lucky because we have access to a wide variety of technology. That's why our school is cool!

At Freemans Bay School we play with each other nicely. We enjoy computers, playing with shapes, running the cross country and climbing on the tree.



I like Freemans Bay School because you get to play and learn new things a lot. I like school because I get to play in the sandpit and on the field. The third thing I like is the playground, the last is jump jam!

At Freemans Bay we enjoy meeting new friends and learning new things and having fun. A highlight is camp because we get to do really, really amazing stuff, learn about trees and how to face our fears.

We love FBS because we have made lots of good friends here. We have a great library and playground. We get the opportunity to go on some great adventures together.



Sara Jenkins

I a au i tīmata ki Whānau Ata ki te kura nei, ko te mea pai ki ahau ko ngā hoa. Nā te mea ka tere riro ahau i ētahi hoa hou. He tino rawe te kura o Waiatarau. I a au e rima taku pakeke, kāore ahau i mōhiotia ki tētahi mea, engari ināianei ka mōhio ahau he maha ngā mātauranga rerekē.

When I first started at Whānau Ata, Freemans Bay School, my favourite thing were my friends because it was easy to make new friends here. The school is awesome. When I was just five years old, I didn't know anything, but now I know lots of different things.

He mīharo te Kura o Waiatarau nā te kaha tautoko i ngā reo katoa, pērā i te reo Māori, te reo Pākehā me te reo Haina. Ko te mea rawe rawa atu ki ahau ko Whānau Ata. Ka haere mātou o Whānau Ata ki te noho marae i a tau. Ko tētahi atu mea pai, ko te Freemans Bay Schools Got Talent.

Freemans Bay School is amazing because they support all languages, like Maori, English and Chinese. The best part for me is Whānau Ata. We in Whānau Ata get to go on a noho marae every year. Another thing that I like about Freemans Bay School is Freemans Bay's Got Talent.



What do today's students think of Freemans Bay School?

We have so many people from all over the world and we learn about different countries and cultures. We go on trips and camps, we work on computers and use many technologies, and we do lots of sports. The students and teachers are fun and care for everyone. Everyone is respectful to each other, and we support individuality in our school.

We like Freemans Bay School because you can have fun when learning. You can learn different languages like Chinese and Te Reo Maori. The children are friendly and helpful. The teachers help us to learn every day. We especially like our camp day and field trips.

Freemans Bay is a school where you can make new friends and learn together. There are always new activities and games that are fun to play.

I love Freemans Bay School because every day we learn and play and I like it when my teachers say I am doing well.

We love Freemans Bay School because it is an awesome place to learn and play. We love our teachers and our friends and have a great environment and amazing technology.

At Freemans Bay School there is lots of space for the children to play. The teachers are kind and they help to make learning fun.

I enjoy the teachers and the people. I also like Funky Fridays because we get to do lots of fun stuff, like dance. We also get to do fun things like go on camp. At Freemans Bay we get to do subjects we love, like art.

We like learning with computers and doing sports. We enjoy learning alongside people from different countries and learning their culture. It is also great because the duty teachers and the mediators help to sort out problems. Others play with us if we have no one to play with.

We like Freemans Bay School because of all the new friends we have made and also our teachers.

We like doing sports like cross country because we can run. We eat fruit every day when we read. If we are nice we can have lots of friends.



The next 25 Years

Current principal Sandra Jenkins looks ahead.

Kia Ora, Malo e lelei, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Anyong Haseyo, Namaste, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Ni Hao, Sawadee, Konichiwa, Greetings! Tena koutou e te whanau, he mihi ki a koutou katoa.

When I arrived at Freemans Bay School in 2007 the school roll was 357. As at 1 July 2013 the roll was 426, and we expect to have 500 students by the end of 2014. Around one-third of our families are new migrants to New Zealand, who mostly live in apartments in the inner city. We are very proud to be so multi-cultural. I often say to new families that we are like an international school, except you don't have to pay the fees!

In 2007 we identified that the Whānau Rau building was subsiding due to being built on a concrete slab over fill. This prompted the Board of Trustees to lobby the Ministry of Education to fund a new classroom block and to demolish the subsiding building. The two-storey building opened in 2010 as a modern learning environment, with classrooms wrapped around a multi-purpose shared Awhina space.

The Board had the vision to create a central courtyard in place of the demolished Whānau Rau building. This landscaped area is a space for playing and for people to gather during community events. The courtyard links us with the history of Freemans Bay, with the installation of nineteenth century wharf piles discovered during the excavation work for the Victoria Park Tunnel. This beautiful and highly functional courtyard has become the heart of the school.

Building condition assessments on the older school buildings has led the Board of Trustees to work with the Ministry of Education to begin shaping an all-new school in the next few years. This will include new classrooms to meet roll growth to 2015



and beyond, a new administration block and library, and – at last! – a hall. Freemans Bay School will become a modern learning environment that will meet the learning needs of students well into the twenty-first century.

The Board of Trustees, staff, parent community and students continue to be very supportive through the process of rebuilding the school. Board chair Peter Bateman and the school leadership team, including deputy principal Sarah Gillanders, Janis Powley, Anne Cawley, Susan Ye, Bronwyn Edmunds, Mabelle Dick and Janene Maskell, continue to be at my elbow with wise counsel.

We have been lucky to have the property expertise of Basil Denee and Craig Moller on the previous and current Boards to support the management of these building projects. The parent group, ably led by Paula Hollick and Karen Vincent, continues to support the school with fundraising and community events. These fun events help to build a city community with the school at its heart.

Our staff provide a school curriculum that engages, empowers and enriches students' learning. Engage is about being focused and committed, empower is about students being in charge of their learning, and enrich represents our broad curriculum which encompasses the arts and sports as well as the three Rs.

At Freemans Bay School we have made a strategic effort to strengthen future-orientated learning to ensure our students are prepared for their continued learning and work life in the twenty first century. All classrooms have interactive computer boards,

ipads, a range of netbooks, and access to digital cameras and ipods. We have many visitors to see our curriculum in action and have featured recently on television programmes both here in New Zealand and in Korea.

We are lucky to have links on our staff to the school's rich past. Margaret Leaming continues to work part-time at Freemans Bay School. In the 1970s she was the first female school inspector with the Department of Education and in the 1980s she advocated behind the scenes for the establishment of Whanau Ata. Matua Ross Gregory did his first teaching section at Napier Street School in the 1960s and provides support as our kaumatua today.

I'd like to acknowledge the vision and hard work of those involved with Napier Street School and Freemans Bay School in the past and the present. We are fortunate to have a rich history of great leadership and supportive communities around us. It is a privilege for me to be able to play a small part in the school's journey as it continues to forge an exciting future, supported by a committed Board, staff, parents and students.

**He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!**

***What is the most important thing in the world?
It is people! It is people! It is people!***



Freemans Bay School Staff 2013

Back Row

Sharon Yap, Jordan Archibald, Te Rauhi Brown, Janis Powley, Roimata Manaia, Susan Maddren, Lily Jones, Machelie Dick, Michael Knight, Bridget Lummis, Margaret Whittaker, Emma Owen, Anne Cawley, Amy Vaughan, Janene Maskell, Sandra Pa'u

Front row

Nerina Howe, Michelle Ulrich, Susan Ye, Hannah Capel, Dale Tifflin, Ayesha Cooper, Chander Kumar, Jo Watson, Grace Wang, Jane Sun, Judith Rawhiti, Sandra Jenkins

Absent

Sarah Gillanders, Tina Fisher, Wendy Rowley, Bronwyn Edmunds, Paul Simmonds, Severine Chelot, Sara Jenkins, Kellie Shimmin



Editorial team

Peter Bateman, Anne Cawley, Dale Tifflin, Sandra Jenkins.

Design

Alec Morgan

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1988 100th Jubilee booklet
1963 75th Jubilee booklet
Urban Village: the Story of Ponsonby, Freeman's Bay and St Mary's Bay, by Jenny Carlyon and Diana Morrow, published 2008 by Random House New Zealand Ltd

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Napier Street-Freemans Bay School



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125th
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